



# Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church



**Annual Meeting and Congregational Potluck ~ January 28, 2024  
Following 9:30 AM Worship**

Bring a dish to share if you are able and join us for a delicious meal, wonderful fellowship and a productive Annual Meeting.

(P.S. We always have more than enough, so if you are not a cook, or don't have time - come anyway!)

**January 2024**  
**Banner of Faith**

**763.537.4523 | [faithlilacway.org](http://faithlilacway.org)  
5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422**

# Pastor 's Article

## Happy New Year!

Are you one to make New Year's resolutions? How are you about keeping them? It can be a challenge. "According to a 2016 study, of the 41% of Americans who make New Years resolutions, by the end of the year only 9% feel they are successful in keeping them."<sup>1</sup> So perhaps "New Years Resolutions" are not for most of us.

However, one thing that I did last year that was helpful was choosing a "word" for the year. Last year, my word was "trust" and my initial Bible verse was from Proverbs:5:6 "Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding." I first learned that verse as a camp or Sunday school song – perhaps some of you know it as well. As I focused on the word "Trust", I found that there were other "Trust" verses that were worth pondering too. From Romans 15:13: *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* There are also many "trust" words in the Psalms such as Psalm 91:2 I will say of the Lord, *"He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*

In this past year – and most likely the upcoming year – I have found it helpful to focus my "trust" in the Lord and not in myself or in anything else! In this world that asks for our loyalty and our resources in so many ways, I have been glad to focus on God as the one in whom I trust – and not in anything else.

In this new year, I invite you to join me in choosing a word and a scripture for your focus. I haven't chosen my word yet (I may stick with "Trust") but ask me after January 1!

Blessings to you in this New Year. Let us trust in the Lord!

1<https://discoverhappyhabits.com/new-years-resolution-statistics/>

*Pastor Pam*

## Welcome to Epiphany!

In January we enter the season of Epiphany. Epiphany is the church season following Christmas and before Lent. It begins on January 6<sup>th</sup> the day commemorating the Magi or "wisemen" coming from the East to see Jesus. In some places, remembering the gifts of the wisemen, this is the day that gifts are exchanged (instead of at Christmas). The season of Epiphany ends on the day before Ash Wednesday, which in 2024 will be February 14. Yes, this means that we will have Ash Wednesday on Valentine's day. Perhaps this will be a chance for God to say: "You are mortal – and I love you" all at the same time.

But what is an ephipany? The Women of the ELCA have a wonderful resource that explores this topic (see below) and offers some exercises to explore. In summary, "an ephipany" can be an manifestation of something – like the Magi coming to the realization that Jesus was the Messiah. It can also be "a moment of sudden revelation or insight," an "aha" moment. Our Sunday scriptures during the season of Epiphany feature several of these "epiphany moments" including baptism, the call to discipleship and prayer.

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/resources/Epiphany.pdf>

# Vicar's Article

## Happy New Year, People of Faith!

I want to extend an invitation to everyone at Faith Lilac Way to join in conversation as participants in my internship project beginning this January. This is a learning opportunity for all of us. The topic of conversation will be racial injustices that persist in Minnesota.

There is no preparation necessary, and no assigned reading or homework. Each week we'll watch a video that sheds light on a particular problem and its underlying causes, and then discuss what we learned, explore how it impacts us, and try to imagine ways we might help to address the root causes or minimize their impact, whether as individuals, or as a community that cares about our neighbors (who are also children of God) and our neighborhoods. If you don't know what structural or systemic racism is, come and find out. Ask questions. Be curious. Prior knowledge is not required. This is a beginning conversation. We will all learn together. Everyone is welcome. Every voice matters, and enriches the conversation. By participating, you will be helping me learn to create safe, respectful spaces and facilitate open, honest dialogue involving complex, controversial or sensitive subjects—an important skill for my pastoral toolkit.

There will be three Sunday morning sessions after worship: 1/14, 1/21 and 2/4. We will begin in the library at 10:45 AM and finish around 12:15 PM. You do not have to commit to attending every session. Come to as many as you are able. Each session will cover a different topic. If you can't attend in person, but want to participate, contact me or the office, and I will make sure you can attend via zoom. Remember, I work from home sometimes (depending on weather or road conditions), and might miss a call to my office. So, feel free to email me ([vicar@faithlilacway.org](mailto:vicar@faithlilacway.org)), or call / text my cell phone 507-279-7527) to opt in or for more information. I'm looking forward to our conversational journey together.

Wishing you peace, health and laughter in 2024.

Vicar Karen

### Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Prays Together:

#### Gracious God,

- + Bless our work this month with our Mission Partner Cherish All Children.
- + Be with those who have ongoing health care needs including: *David Bjorkquist, Helen Brandon, Carol Brown, Jacqueline Butkowski, Larry Geer, Sarah King, Carolyn Lageson, Joyce Merkel, Betty Schmidt, Linda St. John, Jackie Woolgar, and Vic Woolgar.*
- + Inspire our Wildfire Partnerships and lead us to envision new possibilities for mission in our neighborhood.
- + Guide our congregation when we gather for our annual meeting. May our decisions be guided by you.

## Announcements

### **Join us for Treats and Talk on Sunday Mornings!**

Join us in the library after worship on Sunday mornings for treats and conversation.

### **Information for our Congregational Meeting January 28th**

As your council has been thinking and praying about our ministry and our budget, there are a few items that we would invite you to pray about with us.

#### **Luther Seminary Internship Program**

Faith-Lilac Way has served as an internship site for students at Luther Seminary for the past 15+ years. This ministry has been a blessing to the congregation, to the fifteen interns that we have worked with and to your pastor. This has been an important and vital part of our ministry.

However, some things have changed. There are now fewer interns who are restricting to the Twin Cities area. This is in part due to the fact that there are fewer seminary students now but it is also due to the changing way that Seminary students are taking courses at Luther. Some students are "distance learners" which means that they stay in their home context and do not move to the Twin Cities - and so they do internship closer to home. Other students are part of the MdivX program which is a two year program that incorporates the internship into the class experiences. That program has different requirements for internship. In addition, the cost of an intern continues to rise (it is still a stipend and not a full salary). However, as our expenses are continuing to rise and some building maintenance projects are coming due and our budget is not expanding at the same rate.

As a result of all of these factors, the Council is recommending that we push "pause" on the internship program (after our current intern graduates in Mid-August). There will be more discussion of this at the Congregational meeting in January.

### **WELCA-Back! Rescheduled Event!**

Women – you are invited to a gathering of women on **Thursday, January 11th at 5:30 PM** at Linda Fernelius' home. We will be reimagining ideas for ways women at FLW can connect, engage, serve and have fun together.

Bring an item to create a delicious Romaine Salad to enjoy together. Salad greens will be provided.

See Linda Fernelius or Jessica Hughes for details. And yes, you can bring a friend!

### **Online Live Streaming and Recorded Worship Service**

For those who prefer at home and online worship and have wondered how to access it, we're here to help! Start by going to [www.faithlilacway.org](http://www.faithlilacway.org) On our main web page, click on Worship Online With Us, this will take you to the ONLINE WORSHIP page. Click on the LIVESTREAMS button to watch worship services. If you log on shortly before 9:30am, you will most likely see the date of the service displayed. When service begins you will be able to hear and see Sunday's worship service. If you wish to take communion, please have your elements of bread and wine or juice gathered prior to the start of service.

If you weren't able to watch a Sunday service at 9:30am, you would be able to access the recorded service a day or two after the worship service. Follow the instructions above and on the ONLINE WORSHIP page, the video will be accessible by clicking on the forward arrow.

There is no charge for live streaming or recorded services access. Need assistance? Contact the office and we'll be happy to help! 763.537.4523

Thank you!

Dear Pastor Pam,

We are so grateful for the love you and your congregation share with our neighbors in need around the world. May this Advent season bring you peace and joy.

In gratitude, Emma Wagner, Lutheran World Relief

## Property Update!

**Our new door has been installed and after a few tweaks, it will be working as we'd hoped! You may have noticed a difference in style with the door having only half glass. This style was recommended for its increased safety and lower cost.**

**We like that!**

### Servant corner - opportunities to serve your church and community

#### Needed:

- Like climbing ladders? Inside Worship Banner and star hangers needed for worship team;
- Willing to run a snowblower around the church sidewalks? Join the team and sign up for one week at a time;
- Willing to do handyman tasks? Join our property team (or help a neighbor - we receive some requests by members too);
- Occasional light office work;
- Kitchen help for funerals or other events.
- YOU! Have an idea of something that you can offer? Let us know!

### Mission of the Month: Cherish All Children

Dear friends at Faith-Lilac Way – thank you for your dedicated support through your Mission of the Month gifts! In partnership, we will continue working to keep children and youth safe from sexual exploitation and trafficking, supporting their growth into healthy relationships.

Here are some 2023 highlights you helped to make possible:

We trained and presented to 450 people. Especially impactful are the Confirmation class and parent gatherings, encouraging ongoing conversations to keep youth safe as they navigate these critical years.

We shared our work and resources at many large group events such as Synod Assemblies; Women of the ELCA triennial in Phoenix, AZ; Children, Youth & Family Leaders gathering; Rotary Clubs and more!

Our [Safe & Healthy Relationships Youth Guide](#) is being used with Confirmation classes and Youth groups along with supportive resources for families to work together in keeping young people safe. Traducción al Español ¡Muy pronto! (Spanish translation coming soon!)

For January National Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention month, Cherish All Children will host an annual community education event January 20, 10:00am – noon. More information about this hybrid event is coming soon – we hope you'll join us!

*Blessings & Peace to you!*

*Joy McElroy*

*Cherish All Children Executive Director*



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January			
Richard Anderson	1	Gary Feyen	21
Debbie Bren	4	Nancy Shallcross	21
Jeffrey Tiber	5	George Lynum	23
Emma Wilage	6	Tim Swanson	25
Timothy Lindgren	7	Ella Evans	28
Ellen Wood	8	Terri Hyduke	28
Brooke Tiber	9	Joseph Thompson	28
James Lyons	13	Bill Halos	29
Dennis Davis	14	Pat Kurki	30
Beverly Halbrooks	18	Cole Stobbs	31
Victoria Swanson	18		

We apologize if your name is missing. Please call the office, we are probably missing your birthday in our system.



### You're invited!

Bingo at Robbins Way  
January 17th, 2024  
4:30pm

Snacks, prizes and lots of fun!

### Treasurer's Report to FLW

This is a quick summary of how we are doing financially. These are the numbers (actual and budgeted) for January-November for this year.

#### INCOME

Actual	Budgeted
\$242,073	\$253,172

Our giving is down by **4%** from what was budgeted.

#### EXPENSES

Actual	Budgeted
\$265,087	\$260,496

The expenses are slightly over budget **by 2%**.

Paula Lindgren, FLW Treasurer

## Happy New Year

### Congratulations Pastor Joanna Kathol!



### Be a part of the Snow Team!

This year we are creating a "Snow Team" of dedicated volunteers to take care of snow-blowing the sidewalks around the church. Sign up in the church Narthex or call the church office to sign up for a week at a time to keep the sidewalks clear and safe. 763.537.4523



## Identifying 2024 Mission of the Month

Your input and suggestions for 2024 are welcome and an item for our Annual Meeting Agenda to discuss as a congregation. Here is what we are currently supporting:

### **Cherish All Children\***

Cherish All Children works with churches and communities to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking. The heart of this ministry lies in churches where staff, leaders and members work together to act on behalf of children and youth. We provide education, resources and tools to both adults and youth to promote healthy and safe relationships, guided by our Christian values. Faith communities are powerful agents for social change, and we invite you to join us in protecting all God’s children.

### **NEAR\***

A non-profit volunteer organization, NEAR responds to the needs of people in our community. Through a cooperative effort of twelve area churches, volunteers provide food relief to residents of Crystal, New Hope, Robbinsdale and attendees of all member churches.

### **Lutheran Disaster Response**

Lutheran Disaster Response brings God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

### **Every Meal**

Our actions deliver a positive impact on children and the community through measurable results, continuous improvement, and lasting impressions. Our decisions are focused on the goal of filling food gaps for children living in food insecurity. We always strive for program growth to provide more meals to more children through community engagement, innovation, infrastructure (systems, processes and people) and informed decisions.

### **Wildfire Every Meal**

The Wildfire organization consists of eight ELCA churches within our surrounding community ‘Cross of Glory, Elim, Faith Lilac Way, First Lutheran Church of Crystal, Holy Nativity, House of Hope, St James, and Valley of Peace. This is a collaborative effort between these churches to raise awareness and money that provide funds and people resources that make delivering food to help close those food gaps a reality.

### **Luther Seminary**

Luther Seminary is a community centered in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to educate leaders for Christian communities. Nearly 600 Christian leaders from around the world attend Luther Seminary to engage with extraordinary faculty. Here, you’ll chart your own course with expert guidance from people who have been educating Christian leaders for many years. You’ll be challenged with meaningful, rigorous courses, suited to your goals and relevant for leading today’s church.

### **ELCA World Hunger**

Working with and through our congregations, in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Lutheran churches overseas and other partners, ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

We can really only support one mission per month... some of them (\*) we support more often. If there is a mission you are passionate about and would like to recommend for 2024, please bring your suggestion to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024.



One recommendation that has been submitted for consideration is Small Sums. This organization outfits individuals experiencing homelessness or housing instability that have found a job with the required work items needed to start a new job. Items such as appropriate work wear and work shoes, tools for the job such as a barber clipper, professional licensing test costs, and bus passes. <http://www.smallsums.org>

We look forward to working out a plan for 2024!

### **Wildfire Partnership Opportunities**

One of the areas that Wildfire churches are exploring this year is how we can grow in our mission and ministry together. Members of each Wildfire congregation will be meeting January 20th for a retreat in which we prayerfully explore questions about where our mission and ministries overlap and what ministries we can do better together? We will prayerfully ponder:. What are ways that we can support God’s mission - which is already happening - in our neighborhood? How can laypeople (non-clergy) build relationships with one another and collaborate with each other in new ways? Wildfire has been active for about 15 years and we are wondering where God is leading us next?!



*Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church*

January 2024 Banner of Faith

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5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422

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**Annual Meeting and Congregational Potluck on January 28th!**

Please join us at FLW on January 28th as we will be having our Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting is important for Faith Lilac Way as we look toward the new year and our ministry together. After worship we will have a **congregational** potluck brunch in the fellowship hall. You are invited to bring a dish or side of your choice to share if able but all are welcome to eat!

Don't forget to bring your recommendations for Mission of the Month!

**9:30 AM Worship**  
**10:30 AM Potluck Brunch in the Fellowship Hall**  
**11:00 AM Annual Meeting Begins**

Questions about the Annual Meeting? Join us for Treats and Talk on January 21st as we have a time for conversation and questions about the Annual Report and proposed 2023 budget.