

Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church

July Banner
2022

(763) 537-4523
Faithlilacway.org
5530 42nd Ave N,
Robbinsdale, MN 55422

The Wildfire
PigRoast
Fundraiser for
EveryMeal was
a Smashing
Success!

See page 3



Pastoral Article

Our FLW Faith Practices, Neighboring Practices team has been meeting together with a cohort of other Wildfire congregations since September 2021. You may be wondering - what have we learned?

I think we have learned - or relearned - the importance of our faith. As one person shared with me years ago, you can't have a good discussion about faith with your neighbor if you aren't grounded in your own faith. "Faith Practices" are about what we do in our daily lives to connect with God because God wants a relationship with each of us. This is not a new or radical idea. But just as the greatest pianist of all times needs to practice, so we too need to *practice* our faith through daily prayer, scripture study, worship and acts of loving service so that the Holy Spirit can work in us and through us.

We are also learning about "Neighboring Practices." In response to the commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself," a lawyer asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus responded by telling the story of the Good Samaritan and then asks the lawyer, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Jesus' commandment to "Go and do likewise" is clear. Now it is our job to figure out "how." How can we be good neighbors? This is the "Neighboring Practices" part of our work as a team and as a congregation. One of the things that we learned - is really super simple and yet incredibly important: "Get to know your neighbors."

The FLW council and the Faith Practices Neighboring Practices Team had a picnic with the Greater St. John Missionary Baptist on our lawn to get to know one another better. It was a pretty simple event - and yet we learned that what we have in common (we are all one in Christ) is much greater and more important than the ways that we are different. It was a great event - however, it is only a beginning. Just as with faith practices, neighboring practices need to be ongoing - and are not just for the leadership team but are for the whole congregation. And so here is your invitation:

You are all invited to participate in big and small gatherings with our Greater St. John Neighbors and our RobbinsWay neighbors and all of our other neighbors too. Save the date for the Big Band Bash on Wed. August 24th. See back page. We are inviting all the neighbors to that event and you are invited to bring your neighbors too! Also, come on Sunday July 24th to hear our guest preacher, Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices Director Nick Tangen. He is passionate about faith and neighbors and the new and old ways that God is calling us into relationship and community. See page 6.

With faith and in joyful anticipation,



Vicar Article

The time has finally come for the youth mission trip to Arecibo, Puerto Rico. We depart on July 16 and return one week later on July 23. This will be my first airplane trip since January 1, 2019. I have not at all missed the hassles of airline travel which I am sure have not improved since the pandemic. However, in my life I have found that the inconvenience that one may encounter in travel is almost always offset by what is learned by visiting a new place.

I have never been to Puerto Rico so I am really intrigued by the opportunity to visit a United States territory with a rich history where Spanish is the primary language. I have been fortunate to see some very impressive sights as a traveler but what I tend to remember the most from trips are the interactions that I have with the local residents. We will be engaged in community focused service work in Arecibo. During the week we will be working with the Salvation Army, Boys and Girls Club, and other non-profit organizations. Also, compared to a typical YouthWorks mission trip there are more cultural activities scheduled and traditional Puerto Rican food will be included in the menu.

Puerto Rico has suffered terribly in recent years. When Puerto Rico has experienced natural disasters it has not received nearly as much federal assistance as U.S. states do when they are hit with a natural disaster. The people of Puerto Rico were also affected adversely by the Puerto Rican government debt crisis which resulted in taxes being increased on the people of the island while public services and public pensions were cut. Puerto Rico has now officially exited from bankruptcy as of March 15, 2022 but there is still significant hardship being experienced there. Working in the community with Puerto Ricans will enable us to hear about how they have endured adversity as well as their hopes for the future.

Please pray for us while we are away on our mission trip. We will be sharing our experiences in the Sunday morning worship service on July 31.

Vicar Kyle Anderson

Volunteers Needed!

We can't do the work of Faith-Lilac Way without volunteers. We need YOU! Please sign up or contact Pastor Pam or Vicar Kyle or the church office.

- ⇒ Ushering
- ⇒ Reading a lesson
- ⇒ Communion Server
- ⇒ Office help
- ⇒ Helping with streaming worship team
- ⇒ Delivering meals to school kids
- ⇒ Singing
- ⇒ Outreaching



ELCA Responds to Crisis in Ukraine through Lutheran Disaster Response ~ July Mission of the Month!

The crisis is not over - and we, through the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) are still there, caring for those who are in need. Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Moldova, and our partners the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis created by Russia's war against Ukraine. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region.

What you can do:

Pray: Please pray for those in Ukraine, Russia and neighboring countries that have been affected by the war in Ukraine. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need.

Give: Your gifts designated for "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

The Wildfire PigRoast Fundraiser for EveryMeal

Great food! Toe Tapping Music! Fun Raffle Prizes



Thank you to our volunteers (See picture of Linda Fernelius serving and Sue Ferkingstad selling raffle tickets on the cover) and everyone who came. It was a lot of fun and we raised over \$7,000 for EveryMeal*. EveryMeal provides food for the families of kids and our volunteers put it in the kids backpacks to go home. (*This is a partial number since not all the churches have reported their ticket sales yet and it was wonderfully attended we expect even more!).



EveryMeal Garage Sale!

There is another fundraiser for EveryMeal approaching later this summer. The money raised for EveryMeal will continue to provide food for kids and their families and is now especially important with the expiration of the program that has guaranteed all children with free school meals during the pandemic.

The Wildfire congregations will be hosting a garage sale at Elim Lutheran Church. Set up will take place on Wednesday August 17. The sale will occur on Thursday August 18 and Friday August 19. We welcome donations of items for the sale. Clothing will not be accepted but the donation of general household goods is encouraged.

Please contact Linda Fernelius for more information about the sale and how you can participate.



Prayers

Holy God: be with our country as we celebrate our Independence Day - grant us joy and safety. Surround with your care people who are fighting to maintain their freedom, such as in Ukraine. We give you thanks for the freedom we enjoy in our country and even more for the freedom we have in Christ. Help us to use our freedom to love and serve our neighbor.

Holy Spirit, reveal your healing presence to all who are ill, hurting, dying, or in need of care, including: Lois Anderson, Donna Benson, David Bjorkquist, Helen Brandon, Carol Brown, Jacqueline Butkowski, Larry Geer, Carolyn Lageson, Joyce Merkel, Edith Thielmann, Lucas Wiste, and Vic Woolgar. Be with those who mourn, including the family of Margaret (Casey) Pendzimus. All this, and whatever else you know that we need, we ask in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Acknowledgments

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Thank you for your gift of \$200 to Lutheran Disaster Response. Your spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far in the future. You are creating new beginnings!

Thrivent Fleece Blankets: Thanks to Thrivent for granting FLW \$250.00 to purchase polar fleece blanket materials for Camp Noah. 5 people cut and tied the blankets early June. The blankets will be given to children attending the camp which is specially designed to provide space for healing following a catastrophic event.

What's Happening in July!

Evening Book Club

The evening book club will be reading *Love Thy Neighbor: A Muslim Doctor's Struggle for Home in Rural America* by Ayaz Virji, MD. Dr. Virji left a comfortable job on the East Coast and moved to Dawson, Minnesota to address a shortage of doctors in rural America. Dr. Virji began to question his decision when he and his family began to face anti-Muslim sentiment. In telling his story Dr. Virji shows us both the human consequences of our toxic politics and the potential for a renewal of understanding. Pastor Mandy France who is the wife of our former intern Kelly France befriended Dr. Virji.

We will meet on Wednesday July 27 at 7:00 PM at FLW. If it is a pleasant evening we will meet outside on the 42nd Avenue side of the building. If it is rainy or really hot then we will meet in the FLW library.

Tuesdays at 2 PM in July

After a couple of weeks off for the July 4 holiday the Tuesdays at 2 PM group will resume meeting on July 12. Here is the schedule for July:

July 12 is Bible study led by Vicar Kyle. No preparation is necessary.

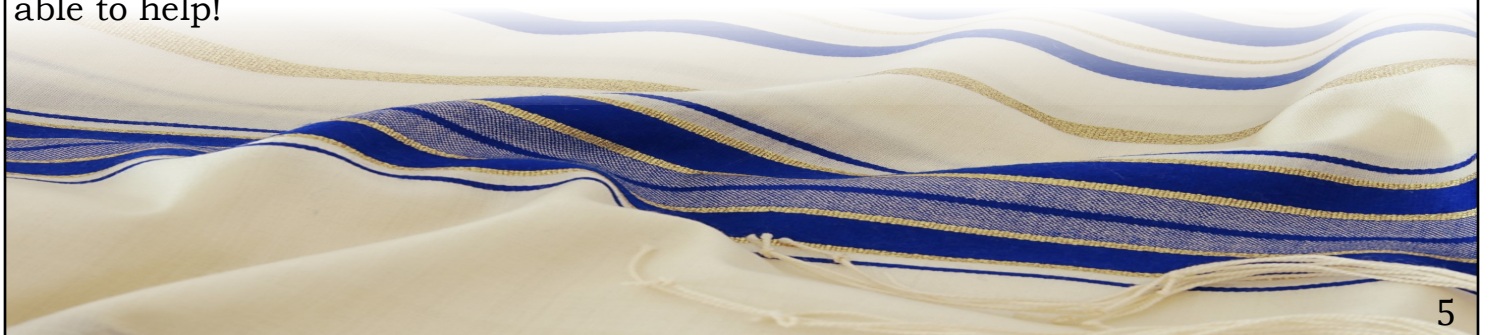
July 19 is an afternoon social with beverages and snacks. Please drop in for fellowship and good conversation.

July 26 will be a book discussion. The book is *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* by Ryan Stradal. What does that have to do with faith? Come and see! (Our discussions are fruitful!)



Prayer Shawls

Do you knit or crochet? If yes, we need you! Some of our knitters and crocheters have retired and our supply of prayer shawls is diminishing. We have special yarn that makes the prayer shawls extra soft. Please see Pastor Pam if you are interested and able to help!



July 24 Meet our Guest Preacher Nick Tangen, Director of Faith Practices and Neighboring Practices



As part of the Thriving Congregations project funded by the Lilly Endowment, Nick Tangen is leading a new emphasis at the Minneapolis Area synod, the combination of faith and neighboring practices. As the Director of Faith Practices & Neighboring Practices, Nick serves as the primary coach and facilitator for the Faith Practices Neighboring Practices learning community, of which Faith-Lilac Way is a part. Nick says, “I am so invested in the vision of community-rooted congregations

who see themselves first and foremost as faithful neighbors. When we can engage our community with authenticity and a deep awareness of the freedom we have in Jesus, I think we’ll find a little more courage to step outside of the social and cultural barriers that have been holding us back for so long.” Nick will work closely with a team of leaders to evaluate and track the learnings and outcomes over the next five years. He lives in NE Minneapolis with his spouse Kristin, and loves camping, backpacking, and spending time in the outdoors.

Vacation Bible School!



Super Fun, Super Size
Super Heroes
Wildfire Ministries




Monday – Thursday August 1 - 4, 5pm to 8pm

Parents information:

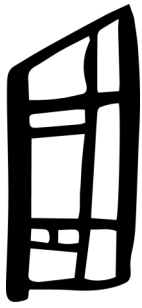
- **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2022**
- 5pm dinner. 5:45pm Opening and 7:30pm Closing
- All are invited to Closing Worship at 7:30
- Daily pick up at 8pm
- Cost \$25.00 (\$50 max per family) Talk to your pastor for scholarship information
- **What to expect:**
 - * VBS will focus on 4 heroes of the Bible: Mary, Deborah, Daniel, and David.
 - * Snack will be provided (please note any food allergies)
- **What to bring:**
 - *Shoes you can run in
 - *good attitude
- Pick up daily at 8pm

FEARLESS · HELPFUL · COURAGEOUS · STRONG

Where: Elim Lutheran Church
Contact FLW Church office to register!

July Birthdays!

Nina Joygaard.....	1st
Steve Stobbs.....	3rd
Lary Kuder.....	10th
Brenna Vierzba.....	12th
Joyce Zabinski.....	21st
Tom Overman.....	22nd
Kathy Feyen.....	24th
Tiana Love.....	24th
Marion Hinz.....	25th
Katie Hydeke.....	25th
Brittni Johnson.....	29th
Helen Brandon.....	30th
Daniel Fernelius.....	30th
JoAnne Perkins.....	30th



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ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

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Twin Cities MN
Permit NO. 1589

SAVE THE DATE! Wednesday, August 24

**6pm Food & Fellowship
7-9pm Big Band Bash**

Join us for grilled brats,
free beer, root beer, and
great music!

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

