



The Banner of Faith

Faith Lilac Way Lutheran Church

5530 42nd Avenue North
Robbinsdale MN 55422

Faithlilacway.org

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June



“In the beginning God created....
and it was Good!” Genesis 1

A Note from *Pastor Pam*

Dear friends in Christ,

In this time in which we are beginning to see or at least dare to hope for the end of the pandemic, I think that the church has some important things to offer the community and world around us.

Intergenerational Community. The pandemic forced us to isolate for a time – and this made me, at least, appreciate the community and connection that I took for granted. The church as a whole, and FLW in particular, offers a Intergenerational community of care and this is what the world - and the community around us – needs.

United in Christ. Faith-Lilac Way has a shade of purple in its' name and I think it is fair to say that we are a “purple” church. That is to say, FLW's membership and participants have a wide variety of opinions on many topics – from what music you like, what social media or news you listen to how you vote. But, we are united in Christ. We are one in Christ Jesus who loves us all. Because of social, political and other divisions in our country, those places where people can respectfully interact with others whom they don't agree with on everything are becoming fewer and fewer. The community needs this – and the church has this to offer.

Good News! Good News is what we have - and what the world needs. The Good News of God's love is meant for all of our siblings in Christ whether they are 101+ or still in the womb. It is for people of all colors and shades of skin. God's love is for people of every ethnicity, every nation, every culture, every heritage, every income bracket, every subgroup. In the beginning of the pandemic, John Krasinski highlighted some good news stories from around the world on Youtube. I loved those! I found that I yearned to hear good news in the midst of all of the bad news and uncertainty that faced us in the early times of the pandemic... and still plagues us today. Bad news sells newspapers. But what people in the community and in the world need to hear – and what we have to offer – is **Good News!**

I don't know what the future will bring – I am hopeful that we will indeed see the end of the pandemic sooner than later. I am also hopeful that we, as a church can learn from this experience. One thing that I hope we can learn is that we have room to grow and change and adapt as we learn to listen to one another and the neighbors around us. We have room to grow and, as an intergenerational community in Christ, we have good news to share! And that's Good News!

Yours in Christ – who makes us one,



A Note from

Vicar Kristin

What's in a Name?

It seems strange to me that after ten months on internship at Faith-Lilac Way, I am still learning people's names. Okay, I will give myself a little grace. This year has been a little strange. Just when I had mastered the names of all the "regulars" from the parking lot service, people I had never met began regathering in the sanctuary and suddenly... I don't know people's names again! Forgive me, if I do not get it right, the first or second (or third) time!

All of this has got me thinking about why people's names are so important to me.

I will never forget a time I had in the hospital, just after my daughter was born. I had had a difficult labor, and when I got into my postpartum room, my doctor asked me whether I had a name for my baby. My husband wasn't at the hospital yet, so at first I hesitated to say the name we had picked out for her. But then I found myself calling out her name and bursting into tears. It was as if saying her name out loud was a proclamation that she was already known and loved by God.

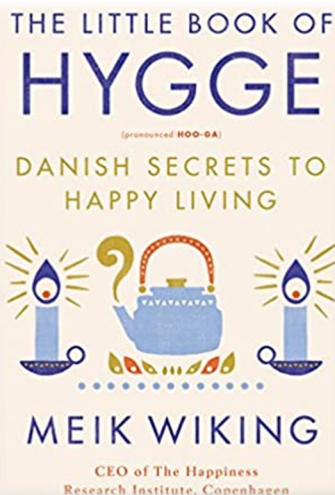
There is something sacred about saying someone's name out loud.

One of my favorite passages in the Bible comes from Isaiah:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, and you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God. You are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you. (43:1-4)

Perhaps you can think of someone in your life who needs to know that their name is important, that they are uniquely known and called and beloved. Maybe it is a friend or a family member or even someone you don't know particularly well. Perhaps your name is the name that needs calling out today. Call it out! Either out loud or in your heart.

Spring blessings to you, friends. I hope to see you soon, either in the parking lot or in the sanctuary, and call out *your name*.



Summer Book Club!

Come one, come all for book club on June 9th, at 7 pm. We will be discussing *The Little Book of Hygge: The Danish Way to Live Well* by Meik Wiking. Email Vicar Kristin at vicr@faithlilacway.org for location and more details.

Mission of the Month

June's Mission of the Month is: Cherish All Children

Cherish All Children partners with churches and communities to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking. The heart of our ministry lies in churches, where staff, leaders, and members work together to act on behalf of children and youth.

Cherish All Children offers presentations, resources and tools for 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 raising healthy generations. To help support this work, write Cherish All Children on the memo line of your check or envelope or make a donation online for the Mission of the month. OR... support the Cherish All Children 5K Fundraiser.



Cherish All Children 2021 Virtual 5K

Support Cherish All Children, FLW's Mission of the Month, by joining us for the Cherish All Children 2021 Virtual 5K! You can make a significant difference in keeping children safe from sexual exploitation and trafficking. The goal is to build a team of

FLW's members and head out after June 27th Sunday's service to run or walk the 5K in the church's neighborhood. You can enlist other family and friends to join or sponsor you by donating.

Learn more and sign up for this free event at cherishallchildren.org/race. Cherish All Children will send you a Cherish All Children 5K race t-shirt as an important member of our fundraising team.

If you're unable to participate and would like to make a gift to support CAC's work, you can simply donate to FLW's June Mission of the Month (Cherish 5K) or visit donate.lssmn.org/Cherish5K. Thank you!

Reach out to Sue Ferkingstad to sign up or if you have any questions at sueferk@msn.com.



Acknowledgements

Thank you for your generous gifts to our many mission partners! Here are some updates on what they are doing.

We join together to keep the safety of children and youth at the forefront of all we do. Thanks to your generous gift of \$330, **Cherish All Children** continues to partner with dedicated churches and individuals to ensure young people grow up free from sexual exploitation and trafficking. In these times when youth are more reliant than ever on social media, your support allows us to reach youth and caring adults with training and resources to keep young people safe and create a safer world.

NEAR thanked us for our financial support during this time of critical need.

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to **ELCA World Hunger**, you are sharing this amazing grace with others. You are helping people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Thank you to the Hennepin **County Horticultural Club** for their work on the East side of the church. They have added beautiful flowers, a new grate and dirt to provide better drainage away from the building. It looks great! Vere and Ellen Vollmers (pictures) and a faithful group of gardeners did this work and added additional flowers to the gardens. If you see someone working in the church garden, be sure to stop them and tell them how much we appreciate their work in caring for God's beautiful world!



Updates and Events

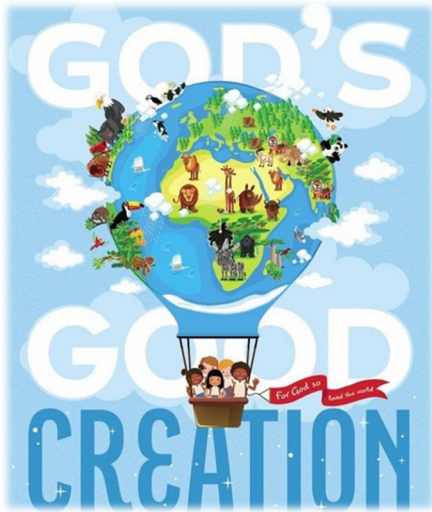
Faith-Lilac Way Vacation Bible School!

Sunday, June 13 - Thursday, June 17

5-6 PM @ Faith-Lilac Way

Join us outside in God's Good Creation!

God created the world... and it was good! That is how the Bible begins and this is how we will begin our Vacation Bible School this year. This month we will be sharing the good news story of God's creation and God's love for the whole world with children and youth (see the VBS article or contact us for details). We have room for friends and neighbors too!



At FLW, we will gather outside (as much as possible) to learn about God's great creation and other Bible stories, sing songs, make crafts and learn about how even the littlest creatures are an important part of God's world. We will also learn how the church, through ELCA world hunger, helps care for God's world. Registration is open for children and helpers! Contact the church, or Vicar Kristin or Pastor Pam to sign up.

Prayers:

By the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. Restore and bring to wholeness those in our faith community with ongoing health concerns, including: Ramona Anderson, Donna Benson, Craig Blackman, David Bjorkquist, Jacqueline Butkowski, Diane Carlson, Bob Fernelius, Larry Geer, Brad Hesselund, Carolyn Lageson, Joyce Merkel, Margaret Pendzimus, Herb Scheelk, and Vic Woolgar. Hear our sighs and grant healing to all in need of healing.

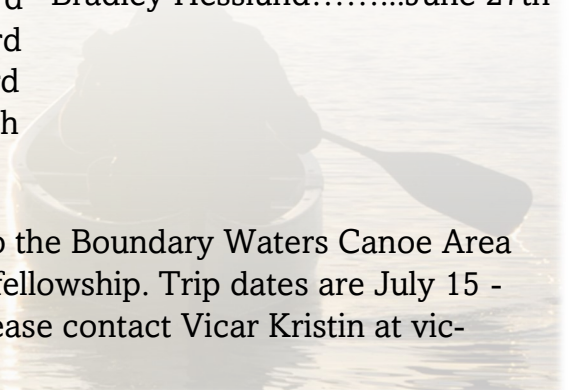
Send your Holy Spirit over the face of the earth. Heal our divisions and teach us to care for our neighbor and the world you love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Birthdays

Laurie Schumacher...June 1st	Drake Davis.....June 17th	Jacqueline Butkowski....June 25th
Robert Nelson.....June 4th	Stuart Lane.....June 22nd	Erin Pithan.....June 28th
Ramona Anderson...June 5th	Jordon Luoma.....June 22nd	Steve Kuntz.....June 30th
Kaitlyn Bahneman...June 9th	Pam Engquist.....June 23rd	Bradley Hesselund.....June 27th
Melanie Bahneman...June 14th	Tom Evans.....June 23rd	
Aili Evans.....June 16th	Renee Kalberg.....June 23rd	
David Lindgaren...June 17th	Marty Moores.....June 24th	

Youth Summer Trip Update:

This summer, middle school and high school youth are headed to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA) through WAPO Wilderness for canoeing, camping, and fellowship. Trip dates are July 15 - 19, 2021. There are still a few spots left! If you are interested, please contact Vicar Kristin at vic-ar@faithlilacway.org for the details.



FLW Joins Synod Thriving Congregations Program

Faith-Lilac Way, along with other Wildfire churches, has been invited into a Minneapolis Area Synod Thriving Congregation program for September 2021-2023. The project is supported by the Lilly Foundation's Thriving Congregations initiative.

The Minneapolis Area Synod's Thriving Congregation program will focus on congregational cohorts learning and working together to identify faith practices and neighboring practices that deepen the spiritual life of the congregation through more significant engagement with the surrounding community, places where God's presence precedes our engagement. As Bishop Ann Svennungsen says, spiritual disciplines and social involvement are often seen as very different dimensions of the work of the church, but in reality they are more likely two sides of the same coin. We are invited to be a part of the first learning community from September 2021 – 2023 which runs parallel to an initiative by Augsburg University.

Wildfire Churches Host Community Voices

Wildfire Churches present Community Voices, a series of eight monthly in-person and livestreamed forums, each featuring one or more state, local, school or non-profit leaders in conversation with a pastor from one of the Wildfire congregations. The Speakers will share serious challenges facing residents in our community and how congregations and individuals can help create solutions.

Find us on the website at <https://www.wildfirechurches.org/>



Celebrating Pride Month!

Wildfire's Community Voices presents Ellie Krug, a transgender activist, author, and educator who lives in Minneapolis. Ellie is the author of *Getting to Ellen: A Memoir about Love, Honesty and Gender Change*. Read Ellie's short bio at <https://www.wildfirechurches.org/meet-ellie-krug>

Faith-Lilac Way Covid19 Plan Update

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently changed their guidance. They announced that fully vaccinated adults can safely resume activities indoors or outdoors without masks or distancing, in gatherings large or small. In addition, the Governor of MN has lifted the mask mandate.

As a result, the FLW Council voted that, "we will not require masks for fully vaccinated people inside worship. However, if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask either for your own sake or the sake of the neighbor who is not yet vaccinated, we want to encourage you to do so. We ask those who are not yet fully vaccinated to continue to wear a mask, if you can, to protect themselves and others who are not vaccinated.

We no longer will ask people to pre-register for worship or take wellness checks. We will invite people to sign in if they worship inside so that we can quickly contact them if necessary. During this transition time, we encourage people to physically distance and we will keep the pews labeled to help facilitate physical distancing."

Please ask Pastor Pam for details.



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All Are Welcome

This month join us online, in the sanctuary, or the parking lot for our Sunday Services.

9:30 AM Worship in
Sanctuary and Parking
Lot - Simultaneously

10:30 AM Coffee and
treats in the Parking

Lot!

(masks are optional)

11:00 AM Zoom Bible
Study

Visit us at **faithlilacway.org** to see all our weekly services, sermons, bulletins, and monthly banners so that you can stay updated with Faith-Lilac Way!

Check out Wildfire's Website for opportunities we offer with our Wildfire partners:

www.wildfirechurches.org