

Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church

March Banner 2022

(763) 537 4523 | Faithlilacway.org

5530 42nd Ave N,

Robbinsdale, MN 55422

Full
to the Brim
An expansive lent

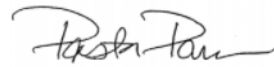
Pastoral Article

FULL to the BRIM! This is our theme for Sunday mornings and for daily devotions for Lent. Lent comes from the word for Spring. Just as we await the warmer weather and the growing season of plants and the thawing of the ice in the outside world around us, so the Lenten season of six weeks is a perfect time to reflect on where we are in our life journey.

Our lives have been forced to contract throughout the pandemic. We have endured restrictions on our comings and goings and our gathering together. But now, as we anticipate expanding our circle again, I invite you – if you have been away – to also think about expanding your circle back into church (or watch with us on our livestream). Either way, may this Lent be a time for you to consider how you can draw closer to God. How can your life become more expansive? How can you live a life that is “full to the brim” with goodness, love and mercy? In order to live this expanded life, does something need to change? Are there new habits you want to explore during these six weeks of Lent? How can we live a life that is expansive and reflect the fullness that comes from God? Knowing that you are God’s beloved child, what does a “full to the brim” life filled with meaning, purpose, faith, awe, beauty and healthy relationships look like for you? These are the questions that I want to explore this Lenten season.

We will be using some new art and liturgy from *A Sanctified Art* during this season of Lent on Sundays. Let us know what you think! We will be delving deeply into Psalm 23 during our midweek worship.

Come and See. Come and Hear. And may your life be filled to the brim with God’s love, hope and joy.



Prayers

Holy Spirit, spread your healing wings upon those who have ongoing health concerns including: Lois Anderson, Donna Benson, Carol Brown, Jacqueline Butkowski, Larry Geer, Carolyn Lageson, Joyce Merkel, Margaret Pendzimus, Lucas Wiste, and Vic Woolgar.

Pastoral Acts

- We celebrate with Kaitlyn Bahneman who affirmed her faith in a special Affirmation of Baptism service on February 13, 2022.
- We give thanks to God for Herb Scheelk as we celebrate his life and mourn our loss on February 26, 2022 - Visitation: 10pm | Service: 11pm
- We give thanks to God for Laurie Schumacher as we celebrate her life and mourn our loss on March 4, 2022 - Visitation: 1pm | Service: 2pm



Mid-Week Lent Worship

Shepherd Me O God - Psalm 23 - A Gift for Us

“The 23rd Psalm is one of the best known pieces of scripture by Christians all over the world. It is a text that is quick to the lips in hospital rooms, at funerals, and in daily moments of need. The ancient words of this song have a way of sticking with us, nestling into our bones, and singing us home.” So writes Rev. Dr. Rolf Jacobson, the author of this study of Psalm 23.

During the season of Lent, we will be turning to this Psalm every week for our midweek services and we will be inviting you to return to this scripture again and again, allowing it to enter your daily vocabulary at home, work, school, or community. If you have not memorized this scripture, or if you memorized it years ago and the words are no longer on the tip of your tongue, you are invited to learn this scripture this Lenten season. As we recite these words together, we will encounter a God who shepherds all of us, and discover in ourselves a need for the love of a shepherd to tend our needs.

Reading the Psalms is one of the faith-practices that we have been studying in our Faith-Practices, Neighboring Practices cohort. Each week, during the study of the 23rd Psalm, we will also be exploring another faith-practice (see chart below).

We will be exploring this scripture and these faith practices with two other congregations, First Lutheran and Family of God. The preachers will move from one congregation to another. Here is the schedule for Faith-Lilac Way:

Wednesday	Preacher	Theme	Spiritual Faith Practice
March 6	Pr Paul Burow	The Lord is with Us	Bible Study Dwelling in God's Word
March 13	Pr. Colin Grangaard	The Lord Provides	Sabbath Worship and Rest
March 20	Intern Pastor Raul Garcia	The Lord Leads and Guides Us	Baptism as Spiritual Practice
March 27	Deacon Kirsten	The Lord Gives us a Place of Honor	Holy Communion & Hospitality
April 3	Vicar Kyle Anderson	The Lord Pursues us with Grace; We respond in Faith	Confession and Forgiveness & Gratitude

Vicar Article

What are you giving up for Lent? This is a question that Christians wrestle with each year. In the past I have given up various things, some of which have had an impact on my life and changed my behavior and outlook permanently and in other cases it was back to business as usual after the arrival of Easter.

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving have been the hallmarks of Lent for many centuries and these practices are rooted in Matthew 6:1-18. Giving something up for Lent seems like a good thing to do especially in our modern world where many of us including myself live in material comfort. When you are like me who has way too much stuff, starting with a small sacrifice is at least a first step toward living in solidarity with the poor.

The pandemic has caused me to challenge the traditional practice of giving something up for Lent. In the middle of March 2020 we were in the early days of Lent and without warning we were all asked to give up many different things all at once. The world has changed forever and some of the things that I gave up in March 2020 I do not miss at all and other things I miss dearly. After the passage of two years my life is in some ways better and in some ways worse. The one thing that I do know for sure is that I am not really in the mood to give up anything so soon after giving up so much at one time in March 2020.

At the time of this writing I do not know if I am going to do anything special for Lent 2022 but I do know that my perspective on Lent has changed. Rather than looking at Lent as a time for sacrifice I am now looking at it as a time for learning, reflection, and commitment. So in thinking about Lent 2022 I invite you to try something new or learn about something that you want to understand better. Jesus not only is our Savior but Christ is also our Teacher. If we can learn new things in Lent 2022 and then teach what we learn to others then in my view we will be practicing Lent in a way that has both meaning and impact.

Vicar Kyle Anderson

Stations of the Cross: Pandemic Hope by Mary Button

What are those pictures on the wall?!

Come and see! Take a look at the hallway wall (where the membership pictures used to be) to see a new art display for the season of Lent. You can wander down the hallway and/or join the Adult education class to explore this artwork and the reflective prayers and scriptures. *Stations of the Cross: Pandemic Hope* lifts up images and stories of hope, resiliency, and relationship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Featuring the dedicated work of healthcare, sanitation, and mortuary workers in moments of tenderness in the face of disease and death. *(Please do not be "put off" by the title "Stations of the Cross." Jesus' walk to the cross is for all people.)* Each station is paired with stanzas from Emily Dickinson's poem "Hope is the thing with feathers." Dickinson was a deeply compassionate and introspective writer who created beauty out of isolation.

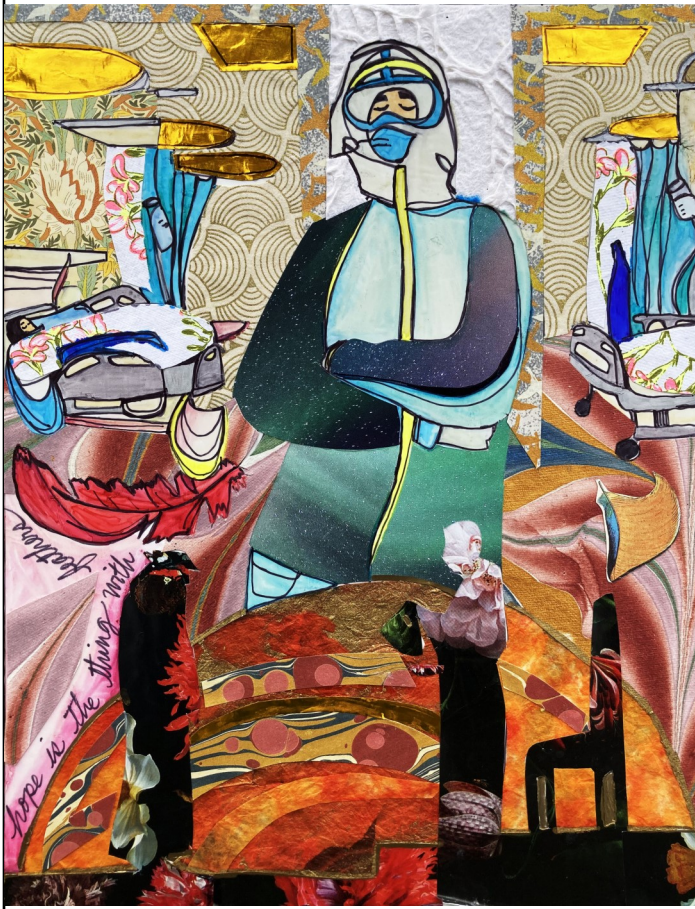
2022 Youth Trip

We are planning a youth trip for this summer in collaboration with our Wildfire partner First Lutheran Church of Crystal. The trip will be a mission trip to Puerto Rico and is scheduled for July 17 through July 22. This is a tremendous opportunity to experience a different culture as we serve the local community. We will be based in the coastal city of Arecibo for the week. The mission work will include fighting against poverty by partnering with local organizations and in our service there will be an emphasis on building relationships. Some of our youth who have been in Spanish immersion classes are looking forward to testing their language skills and others are simply hoping to relax in a warm tropical climate at the end of each day of service.

In the coming weeks we will be conducting some fundraising activities to help pay for the cost of the trip. Starting Sunday March 6 the youth will be selling delicious, mouth-watering treats after Sunday worship. We would really appreciate it if you would consider supporting our youth as they raise funds to make this once in a lifetime experience possible.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about this trip should contact Pastor Pam or Vicar Kyle.

Adult Classes - *Lectio Divina and Visio Divina*



Lectio Divina, which is Latin for “Divine word.” is a 6th century Benedictine practice for dwelling deeply in the Word of God. Likewise, Visio Divina, which is Latin for “Divine seeing,” is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery.

We will be using artwork and scripture from our Sunday morning lessons and from the Stations of the Cross artwork that is displayed in the hallway.

Hope Beyond Loss Wildfire Grief and Loss Support Group

Grief and loss hits all of us - especially now. But you do not need to deal with it alone. Move from loss to hope. A new group - from Loss to Hope - begins in March on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 - 3:30 PM at First Lutheran Church of Crystal (7708 62nd Ave N, Brooklyn Park, MN 55428). Mark your calendar for March 3, 10, 17, and 24. A \$20 donation is suggested for the four week session.

Scholarships are available.

Please contact Pastor Pam or Vicar Kyle for more information.



Connections Project

Vicar Kyle would like to thank those of you who have agreed to make contacts with the members of our Faith-Lilac Way community. We are off to a great start but we need several more volunteers to make phone calls. As we all know the pandemic has been a very tough time and it has been difficult to maintain connections with people. We are hoping to contact every household in the Faith-Lilac Way community to see how people are doing and to connect with everyone. Ideally everyone will make a call and receive a call.

My hope is that these calls will be made over the next several weeks so if you are able to make just one phone call per week it will help greatly. Please contact Vicar Kyle if you are interested in reaching out and making contacts.

2022-2023

Intern Update

The day after the annual meeting, we received a gift and a challenge. The gift was enough funds for FLW to fund a full time intern through 2022. (Our 2022 budget only covered a half-time intern for the 2022-2023 year.) The challenge was for the congregation to raise the rest of the funding in 2023. The council accepted the gift and the challenge on behalf of the congregation. Pastor Pam will be interviewing candidates in February. The Seminary usually determines placements in April.

Vicar Kyle Anderson will remain with us as a fulltime intern until August 7th. The next intern would start later in August. We will keep you updated!



Covid Guidelines for Services:

Jesus calls us to love and care for each other, especially those who are vulnerable:

- **Masking is required for unvaccinated people**
- **Masking & physical distancing is recommended**



All Are Welcome!

Join us online every Sunday at faithlilacway.org where we have all our video services, printable bulletins, and sermons to read along with! Also visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/faithlilacway where we post updates and encouraging bible verses to brighten your day!

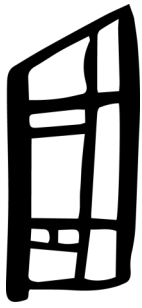


For those who are comfortable visiting the church, the sanctuary is open to all! Every Sunday at 9:30 AM we have worship in the sanctuary as well as in the parking lot! See page 6 for more information and options to join us in worship!

March Birthdays!

Amanda Vallis	1st	Brenda Thompson	24th
Rylee Vierzba	1st	Taylor Ipsen	29th
Cindy Brausen	2nd	Samantha Swanson	30th
Julie Stobbs	5th	Mary Weilage	31st
Rebecca Holland	6th		
Ashley Updegraff	6th		
Michelle Wood	7th		
Mark Wietzke	8th		
Rory Joygaard	11th		
Amery Vierzba	11th		
Lydia Foster	12th		
Sally Fuchs	14th		
Mary Peloquin	15th		
Diane Bahneman	19th		
Alyssa Anderson	20th		
Linda Fernelius	20th		
Debbie Overman	23th		
Edith Thielmann	24th		





Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church

March Banner 2022

(763) 537 4523 | Faithlilacway.org

5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U S Postage Paid
Twin Cities MN
Permit NO. 1589

Mission of the Month – Minnesota FoodShare Campaign

Food and Fund Drive to Benefit NEAR Food Shelf March Campaign

NEAR needs your help to provide food support to our community. March is the time of the year when Minnesotans come together to raise funds and collect food for food shelves in their communities.



Minnesota's charitable food system (food shelves and food banks, meal programs, etc.) continues to run at capacity. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated this, making it critical to focus on creating a more just and equitable food system that meets the needs of all Minnesotans. Currently, the food rescue partners that NEAR depends on have had to scale back on their food donations. To offset this, we purchase specific food items that we need in order to serve our clients.

Donations made during the March Campaign are important because additional grant money is awarded to food shelves based on how much food and money they can raise during the campaign. Both cash and food donations would be greatly appreciated. Please make checks out to NEAR, or your church, with NEAR in the memo line. Monetary donations can also be made securely online at: www.near@nearfoodshelf.org, click on the Give to the Max icon. Food donations will be coordinated and collected at the individual churches.

We thank you in advance for your prayers and support of NEAR! May God bless us ALL!