



# Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church

## October Banner 2022

(763) 537-4523 | [Faithlilacway.org](http://Faithlilacway.org)  
5530 42nd Ave N, Robbinsdale, MN 55422



God's Work  
Our Hands!



# Pastoral Article

Dear friends in Christ,

What brings you joy?

I feel joy when I walk in my neighborhood, noticing which flowers are blooming. I feel joy when I see someone from church that I haven't seen throughout the pandemic. I feel joyful when we sing God's praises in church. And, I feel joy when I give.

I didn't always feel that way. When I was twenty something I went on a retreat and one of the talks was "The Joy of Giving." I was skeptical. Was this the "catch" at the end of a wonderful retreat? Was I going to have to submit to an arm-twisting financial appeal? I had very little disposable income at this time and wasn't about to give what little I had away. So, when it came time to listen to this talk, my armor was up.

But it wasn't an appeal for "my" money. Instead, a woman told about her own transformation in the way that she understood money and all the gifts that God had given to her. She wasn't asking me for "my" money at all. Instead, she was telling about the joy that she felt when she was able to give out of the resources that God had entrusted to her. She talked about the joy of giving. I appreciated her talk, but I didn't really understand it until I was at a child's birthday party. Have you ever watched a little child opening a gift? It's so much fun to see the joy and the surprise of a child as he or she tears open a present. And this time was no exception. I remember it vividly because when he opened the gift, he exclaimed, "Just what I've always wanted!" He was three. I don't remember what the gift was - a toy of some sort. His joy was overflowing. And that was wonderful. But what struck me was not his joy, but rather the face of the giver of that gift - it radiated with joy. This person was filled with the joy of giving.

It gives us joy to give because when we give freely of the time, talents and resources that God has entrusted to us, we are sharing a piece of who we are. We are sharing what God has given us. And when we do this, God says to us, "Just what I always wanted!"

May you be filled with Joy!



# Vicar Article

Hello and grace and peace to you, Faith Lilac Way!

During my first month at Faith Lilac Way I have seen God present and active in so many ways! God has been present in weekly worship and in the conversations and fellowship afterwards. I have found God present in the various committees and volunteers who are passionate about doing ministry both at FLW and in the surrounding community. The other day I got to join Miss Linda and 3 year old Ziva for Sunday School, and I saw God present as we sang a song about God's love flowing deep and wide.

Most recently I saw God active and present as several neighboring congregations gathered together for God's Work Our Hands. In just a couple of short hours we tied seven blankets for children at Camp Noah, we assembled over 90 kits for newborn babies and their families, and prepared to make plastic mats for the homeless. We also made birthday cards for kids at Camp Noah and wrote letters to our elected leaders about hunger and other needs in the community. It was powerful to see all the work done by God's people—God was certainly present!

This month in October we will begin to talk about "Living Faith." We will learn more about how our faith transforms us as well as how we live out our faith actively in life and the world around us.

So my question for you this month is this: How do you live out your faith? Maybe you pray daily for others or maybe you invite friends and family to church. Maybe your faith inspires you to donate food or other items to local charities. Whatever you do to live out your faith, know that what you do matters.

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." –Colossians 3:17

## Prayers

Holy God,



*Vicar Joanna Kathol*

We lift up to your care all who suffer from illness, disease, or who are in need of care. From our church community, we ask that you be with: Lois Anderson, David Bjorkquist, Helen Brandon, Carol Brown, Jacqueline Butkowski, Larry Geer, Carolyn Lageson, Joyce Merkel, Edith Thielmann, Lucas Wiste, Jackie Woolgar, and Vic Woolgar. Comfort all who mourn the loss of a loved one including the Christensen family on the death of Linda's sister Jean and Lisa Jordan and Brittni (Johnson) Henkel and family on the death of Brittni's husband Derek.  
Amen.



# What's Happening in October!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Mission of the Month: ELCA World Hunger

God richly provides for daily bread — the earth can produce enough food for everyone. Yet, many of our sisters and brothers still go hungry. More than 820 million people - that's about 11 percent of people in our world today - are hungry. As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

As a congregation, we support ELCA World Hunger during the month of October as a mission of the month. Make your check payable to FLW with ELCA World Hunger or Mission of the Month in the memo line or envelope if contributing with cash or another way.

Please visit this link to donate.

[https://community.elca.org/elcaworldhunger?](https://community.elca.org/elcaworldhunger?_ga=2.242441994.927192361.1663274739-1262232809.1663274739)

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## Other Opportunities to Support the Community:

**NEAR Foodshelf** in Need of Donations—The NEAR Foodshelf helps to provide meals to school children in Robbinsdale and their families. Their supplies are low and we are collecting food items such as canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, boxed pastas and sauces. All donations can be placed in the NEAR Foodshelf box in the entryway at church. Thank you for your help in feeding our neighbors!

**Tying Fleece Blankets for Camp Noah** – On October 16th, join us as we gather around the tables in the library to cut and tie fleece blankets for children at Camp Noah. Camp Noah serves children who live in communities that have been impacted by disaster.

## Lift Every Voice and Sing!

Praise God and add your voice to the church choir! The choir rehearses in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and all are welcome to come as they are able. No prior singing experience is needed.



# Women's Gathering

**For Such a Time as This ... YOU are Created**

**Saturday, October 8 from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Spend the day connecting with women as you refill, energize, and rediscover joy in daily life. Inspiring sessions will support you in navigating your callings, engage meaningfully in your community, and grow in faith. Pamper yourself!

Peace Lutheran Church 20 Northdale Boulevard NW, Coon Rapids Complimentary lunch, chair massage, childcare, coffee, breakfast treats, and a free (artistic!) gift. Register today! <https://tinyurl.com/WomenGathering2022>

## Wildfire Health & Wellness is Growing

### Can you help?

Please prayerfully consider serving on the Wildfire Health & Wellness Team. The Wildfire Health & Wellness Team Members:

- ⇒ Assist with planning occasional health and wellness focused classes (e.g. Mental Health) 101, Yoga for All Ages, Grief Support
- ⇒ Help promote and support planned events in your congregation
- ⇒ Meet as needed (and determined by the group) approximately six times per year

Interested? Curious? Deacon Kirsten Kessel from First Lutheran is leading this ministry. Contact the office for her contact information.

## Acknowledgments

### Thanks for Joining us at the Robbinsdale Meet & Greet!

Thank you to those who attended the Robbinsdale Meet & Greet on September 12th and to those who helped run our booth. It was a great chance to meet our neighbors and be a part of the community!

### God's Work Our Hands

Thank you to everyone who attended or donated supplies to the Wildfire God's Work Our Hands day in September! The service projects completed will benefit many in our community!

## October Schedule

### Tuesdays at 2pm Group

All are welcome to join us Tuesdays at 2pm for a time of community, conversation and yummy treats in the church library. Below is the schedule for October.

**October 4th** – Book Club Discussing *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger

**October 11th** – No Meeting

**October 18th** – TED Talk & Conversation (no preparation needed)

**October 25th** – Book Club! *Dinner With Edward* by Isabel Vincent

# Faith and Blue: Oktoberfest Event October 8

NEAR, along with police officers from the Crystal Police Dept. will be holding a community event at the NEAR Food Shelf on Saturday, October 8th from Noon-2pm. We will have Rootbeer, food, activities and entertainment. More details to come!

# Join Us for Robbinsdale's Give-and-Get Halloween Event on October 27th!

Find a costume and gather your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews and join us in Downtown Robbinsdale on Thursday, October 27th from 4pm-6pm for a fun Halloween event! The Robbinsdale Chamber of Commerce is hosting a fun and safe Halloween trick or treating event where local businesses and churches are encouraged to set up booths and interact with the community and pass out candy. It will be lots of fun and a great way to get to know our neighbors in the community! This event also benefits the community by collecting canned food items for local food pantries.

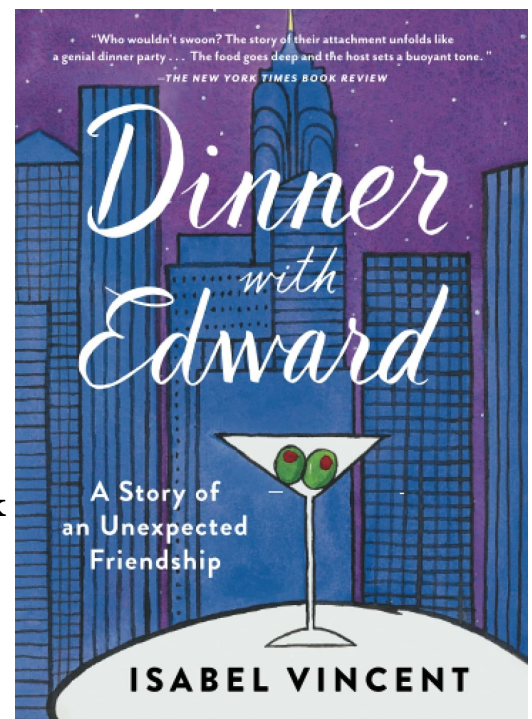
Faith Lilac Way will be participating in this event and we could use your help! Talk with Pastor Pam or Vicar Joanna if you can help set up, pass out candy or interact with families at the booth. You can also donate a bag of candy for the event in the church office, though we request no peanut butter or nuts due to food allergies. Thank you!

# Join Book Club!

*Dinner With Edward* By Isabel Vincent

Discussions on Tuesday October 18th at 7pm or October 25th at 2pm

"When Isabel meets Edward, both are at a crossroads: he wants to follow his late wife to the grave, and she is ready to give up on love. Thinking she is merely helping out her friend, Edward's daughter--who lives far away and asked her to check in on her nonagenarian dad in New York--Isabel has no idea that the man in the kitchen baking the sublime roast chicken and light-as-air apricot soufflé will end up changing her life. As Edward and Isabel meet weekly for the glorious dinners that Edward prepares, he shares so much more than his recipes for apple galette or the perfect martini, or even his tips for deboning poultry. Edward is teaching Isabel the luxury of slowing down and taking the time to think through everything she does, to deconstruct her own life, cutting it back to the bone and examining the guts, no matter how messy that proves to be. Dinner with Edward is a book about sorrow and joy, love and nourishment, and about how dinner with a friend can, in the words of M.F.K. Fisher, 'sustain us against the hungers of the world'"



# Stewardship and Living Faith

Fall is the season in which we as the Church talk about stewardship. Oftentimes when we hear the word “stewardship” we automatically think about money. We ask ourselves questions such as, *Am I giving enough money to the church? Can I afford to give more?* It is true that finances are an important part of our stewardship conversation as we think about our resources and the missions we hope to accomplish. At the same time, though, finances are only one part of stewardship.

So what else is stewardship? In short, stewardship is the way in which we recognize with thanksgiving all of the blessings in which God has given us—our time, talents, finances and possessions—and we think about how we can use these resources to glorify God and serve the neighbor. Said in another way, stewardship is well-rounded and encompasses all areas of our lives, it is a lifestyle—it is *Living Faith*.

As Christians, we are called to live out our faith and to share the Good News of Christ’s love with others. When we find ways to do these things we are doing stewardship! Faith is not passive but it instead motivates us to use our resources and our very selves to serve God and neighbor.

Stewardship is the opportunity for us to join in relationship with God and to thank God for all that God has first done for us and continues to do. So as we enter our stewardship season this month, take some time to reflect on the many gifts, talents and resources God has given you, and how might God be calling *you* to partner with God in mission this next year.

Living Faith—Thanks be to God!

## What is Living Faith?

...serving God and others because we believe and have hope in the unseen.”  
- Sue Ferkingstad

...Reflecting God’s love to others by showing kindness and service to all people.” -  
Vicar Joanna

...living life without fear and trusting that God will be there for you no matter what happens. It also means to be an example of living a faithful life and helping others on this earth.”  
- Tom Thompson

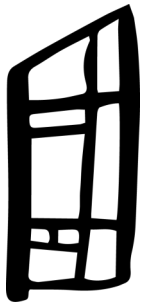
...A congregation of believers engaged in worship & stewardship.” - Marge Lane

...The daily faith to drive forward and try again to be the people and community members that we want to be and that God wants us to be.” - Clint Hughes

...Living your life the way God created you, knowing your gifts and limitations and celebrating that.” - Ann Marie Skoglund-Anderson

...Practicing your faith in daily life, daily talking to, praying and being in relationship with God.” - Gary Feyen

“Living Faith is...



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### **Living Faith and Telling Our Story We Want Your Input!**

Do you love stories?  
We'll be doing some  
storytelling in the  
coming weeks and we  
need your help! Pick up  
a notecard (outside the  
sanctuary at church but any piece of paper  
will do) and take a moment to answer these  
two questions:

- \* Faith Lilac Way matters to me because.....(tell a story!)
- \* Why does the Church (near and far) matter to the wider community?

Answers can be placed in the gray box outside the sanctuary, mailed to the church or emailed to the church office. Thank you for helping to tell our story!

