



THE GRAPEVINE

POULSBO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FROM THE PASTOR

Poulsbo First Lutheran Church (PFLC) has been welcomed! At our annual meeting in January, we voted to adopt a Welcome Statement and share it with Reconciling Works (RW) working for welcome, inclusion and celebration of all people in the body of Christ.

They in turn have welcomed us into the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community of ELCA congregations. This graphic is posted on their website (<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>) which links back to our PFLC website, so that people looking for a place to be, and worship, and find welcome and belonging will know for sure that they are welcome here.

This is a huge step for PFLC. So many people feel the warm welcome and openness to their participation here, and by adopting a Welcome Statement like this, each one of us is given the chance to practice welcome and hospitality. And we each can take that welcome with us into the community.

Reconciling Works has gone through changes of their own over the last couple of years in the wake of a renewed consciousness of racial inequities and violence after George Floyd was killed and the violence against people of Asian descent in the misinformation around COVID. What began as a specific effort to advocate for inclusion of all people with all gender identities and sexual orientations (LGBTQIA+), has evolved to include specific welcome to People of Color (POC, or BIPOC = Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and a call to congregations and members to work for putting an end to racism and discrimination.

This seems to me to be the work of the kingdom of God. Around here and in many places, we have even changed the word from "kingdom" to "kin-dom" eliminating the power structure inherent in a kingdom in favor of a unifying metaphor of kin – family. The family of God, the kin-dom of God, extends to all people, as St. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12 in his teaching about the Body of Christ which has many parts but all are part of the same body, even and especially in all our human diversity.

Thank you to all who participated in the study group, to all who attended a Caring Conversation either in person or online. Thank you to everyone who has shared their story and to those who have shared their questions and suggestions. Even at the annual meeting we had very beneficial discussion not about whether certain folks are truly welcome, but about how to most clearly state that "all are welcome!" This kind of conversation is a strong-in-faith kind of talk. Not *whether* to welcome, but *how* to "best [welcome and] demonstrate the love of Christ." (PFLC Guiding Principle)

We can all work with that! We can all celebrate inclusive welcome and not having to worry about ourselves or anyone else. We can all come together to worship God, celebrate Christ's love for us and the world, and roll up our sleeves as Jesus leads us out into the world to love and serve our neighbor.

Thank you one and all for your continued participation in the faith and life of the Poulsbo First Lutheran Church community.

Peace,
Pastor Kent



MARCH, 2023



VISION STATEMENT

People gathered and sent in the love of Christ.



Our church **Library** located off the hallway toward the Social Hall, has sections of books dedicated to LGBTQIA+ and/or BIPOC learning and themes.

MARCH GENEROSITY MOMENT

Have you ever considered giving something up for Lent?

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

What would it look like if we actually listened to Jesus and gave *ourselves* up for Lent?

So many of the choices we make every day are made out of habit, without careful consideration to the consequences for ourselves, for our neighbor, or for the earth.

How would giving ourselves up for Lent change the choices we make around the food we eat?

 Around fuel use at home and in our vehicles?

 Around the food we purchase?

 Around the media we consume?

How would giving ourselves up for Lent change our daily encounters:

 With our family?

 With our coworkers?

 With our community and neighbors?

 With our siblings experiencing "less"?

 With our siblings experiencing othering?

How would giving ourselves up for Lent change the choices we make around spending:

 In our "necessities"?

 In our "disposable income"?

 In our donations and kindnesses?

On Ash Wednesday, we considered all the ways we thoughtlessly act in the world. And Jesus calls us to deny ourselves and do better, for the sake of the world and for the sake of the kin-dom.

And Jesus reminds us that he is with us in all our choices, that he forgives us for our selfish focus, that he creates in us clean hearts daily, and that giving ourselves up for Lent leads to a truly magnificent Easter, as we bask in the resurrection we daily do not deserve but seek to live up to.

I invite you to consider the above questions and live this Lent deliberately, making intentional choices based on God's generosity and love.

Ash Wednesday Confession & Absolution

L: Most holy and merciful God,

C: we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company in heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

L: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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L: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

L: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

L: Almighty God looks upon us with mercy and by water and the word joins us to the saving death of Jesus Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, God raises us with Christ to new life. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the X Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen



COUNCIL

BLAKE REITER, PRESIDENT

COUNCIL UPDATE

Council had ongoing discussions about sharing space with Samaritan Center counseling group, working with the Historic Downtown Poulsbo Association toward a parking partnership proposal, and considering how to best communicate invitations, celebrations, and the love of Christ. The council referred a proposal for partnering with the Quaker community on Bainbridge for supporting a refugee family to the Serving Ministry and chair Elizabeth VanderEsch. The council also approved Boy Scout Troop 1571's request to run the parking concessions for Viking Fest in May and set the price at \$10 per spot.

PFLC has several important leadership positions that need to be filled: **Treasurer**, **Financial Secretary**, and **Supporting Ministry Head**. We also need **money counters** during the week. If you are willing to serve in one of these positions or want more information, email pralison@pflc.org.

If you would like a copy of the latest council minutes, please email Melinda at welcome@pflc.org or you may find them in the folder on the bulletin board across the hall from the main office.

AS WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Just as we receive communion in two kinds, the PFLC community worships in two places, expanding the ways God can speak love and grace to the world.

As we gather onsite for worship:

Your worship planning team continues to consider current practices with an eye toward improving our encounter with God in word and meal in worship. Some practices we would like to engage in need some helping hands, so please note The Serving Opportunities in Worship box below. We are trying different ways of engaging children in worship, including having the chapel play area available. Children do worship with a joyful noise, and that is a welcome sound!

As we gather online for worship:

The worship service will be livestreamed at 8:30am every Sunday. Access the service at pflc.org or [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pflc) at that time. After the service is over, the recording will remain available on our website and Facebook under "videos" until the following Sunday. In order to receive notifications for and links to live worship, Facebook users need to "like" and follow PFLC's page.

LENT WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

The theme this year is a season with the Lord's Prayer. When Jesus was teaching on the Mount, he spoke about prayer and said, "Pray then in this way...." We will be using the Evening Prayer vespers service, Light of Life. Worship will be both onsite and online, 6:15pm on Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday worship with procession with palms, April 2, 8:30am onsite and online; 11am onsite
Maundy Thursday worship with handwashing, April 6, 12:15pm onsite; 7pm onsite and online
Good Friday worship, April 7, 12:15 onsite; 7pm onsite and online
Easter sunrise worship starting in cemetery, April 9, 6:30am onsite
Easter festival worship, April 9, 8:30am onsite and online; 11am onsite

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES IN WORSHIP

- ⌘ Paul Davis is looking for more people to help with the livestreaming of worship and special events. We have an awesome team of volunteers but can always use more!
- ⌘ Onsite worshippers: please consider serving. You can be **an usher** (bulletin hander-outer and counter of people), **an acolyte** (candle-lighter people), or/and **a worship assistant** (lead the talky parts in worship and serve communion), or **help clean up after worship, set up the coffee table after 8:30 service or clean up the coffee after 11:00 service**. There are sign-ups with descriptions of each volunteer position at the back of the sanctuary and in the narthex.



LEARNING GOALS FOR PFLC:

- ⌘ Provide opportunities for community for PFLC attenders
- ⌘ Provide opportunities for the people of God to live out their faith and engage their community (near and far) through service and witness
- ⌘ Proclaim the love of God to kids and adults; to encourage kids and adults to proclaim the love of God to each other
- ⌘ Equip parents to be the primary faith-giver for their children
- ⌘ Give teenagers the community they need during adolescence
- ⌘ Equip teenagers to articulate their faith
- ⌘ Equip adults to articulate their faith



FAITH EDUCATION 2023

Sunday morning faith education classes for all ages starts at 9:45am. Check out the new options available for your families!

- ⌘ **K-5th grade:** Lisa Hutcheson leads these kids in Room 203
- ⌘ **6-8th Grade:** Paul Davis leads this group in the Mountain View Room.
- ⌘ **High School and beyond:** Pastor Alison gathers these students with the other adults.
- ⌘ **Adult Study:** Pastor Kent leads this study in the sanctuary. This group will continue to learn about Matthew's story of Jesus.

MARCH LIBRARY SELECTIONS

Five-Minute Devotions for children by Pamela Kennedy: "From polliwogs to humpback whales, short stories celebrating God's world as a family."

Names of Women of the Bible by Julie-Allyson Ieron: The author "shows us that God's work through women is worthy of study and celebration."

The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams: "This novel tries to rectify a glaring oversight in the historical accounts of the *First Oxford English Dictionary* ... the contributions of women... without whom the English language wouldn't have evolved as fully and colorfully as it has."

The Desert Mothers by Mary C. Earle: "Spiritual Practices from the Women of the Wilderness."

Not My Idea by Anastasia Higginbotham: The author's direct, radical, compassionate approach to talking about whiteness."

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME

Your homes continue to be the most important place for faith formation. I pray you are able to use at least some of the options below for connecting with your family and friends in caring conversations.

FAITH 5 is one of those resources that works in a variety of ways and locations.

How does it work? Thanks for asking! Share, Read, Talk, Pray, Bless. Share your high and low for the day. Read some scripture and see how it applies to your day. Pray for each other, and then end with a blessing. How easy is that? Find out more at faith5.org



God's Story Our Story is another great way to help engage your family and friends in short devotions, longer caring conversations, and random service projects. You can find it on the confidential page of the PFLC website ([click here](#)) along with the children's bulletin, and more!

Pray as You Go is an online prayer site that offers several options for listening to a new meditation Sunday-Friday each week. It offers soothing music, a prayer, a scripture, and a couple of questions to ponder all in 10-12 minutes. You can access this wonderful tool here: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

I would like to partner with you in your faith formation, so if you have any questions or want to share some ideas on faith formation at home or away please contact me.

Your partner in faith,
Paul Davis
Pauldavis@PFLC.org.



"It is better to think of church in the ale-house than to think of the ale-house in church."
— Martin Luther

BIBLE AND BREW is a weekly bible study on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm. The group gathers to read and discuss the upcoming scripture text while enjoying a favorite brew. The group is now meeting in the back room of Western Red Brewing on Jensen Way. Please email Paul Davis at pauldavis@pflc.org for more information.

PLU NEWS

By Lora Shinn
PLU Marketing & Communications Guest Writer

Join Pacific Lutheran University on March 16, 2023, from 4 to 6 p.m. for the annual Koller/Menzel Memorial Lecture. The night will feature a bioethics discussion with University of Washington professor Tim Brown and Stanford University professor Hank Greely.

The two esteemed speakers will offer unique perspectives on the evening's discussion topic, "Enhancement," exploring the implications of technology-driven enhancement in biomedicine.

Professor Tim Brown from the University of Washington's department of Bioethics and Humanities will share a presentation titled "The Moral Enhancement Project: Fear, Anger, and Agency."

Brown is a founding member of and long-term contributor to the Neuroethics research focus within UW's Center for Neurotechnology (systems that record and stimulate the nervous system), he also leads diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts within the International Neuroethics Society.

Brown's interdisciplinary research includes the potential impact of neurotechnologies on end users' agency and embodiment, and the potential to exacerbate or create social inequities. Brown works at the intersection of biomedical ethics, philosophy of technology, (black/latinx/queer) feminist thought, and aesthetics. He recently won an essay contest for a piece titled "Moral Bioenhancement as Potential Means of Oppression."

Professor Henry T. (Hank) Greely will speak on "Human Biological Enhancement: Fears, Realities, and Significance."

Greely chairs the Stanford Center for Biomedical Ethics's steering committee and directs the Center for Law and the Biosciences, and the Stanford Program in Neuroscience and Society. Greely is also a professor of genetics at Stanford School of Medicine.

Greely specializes in the ethical, legal, and social implications of new biomedical technologies, including genetics, assisted reproduction, neuroscience, and stem cell research. He received the Stanford Prize in Population Genetics and Society in 2017. His newest book, *CRISPR People: The Science and Ethics of Editing Humans*, was published in February 2021.

Presented by the PLU College of Humanities, Interdisciplinary Studies and Social Sciences, the annual Koller/Menzel lecture focuses on creative writing or ethics, the special interests of PLU student Heather Koller, who died of bone cancer in June 1994, shortly after graduation. The Lecture was endowed in 1994 by Heather Koller's parents, Carol and Brant Koller, and sister Jennifer. Later, the lecture's title expanded to include retiring professor Paul Menzel, Koller's mentor and friend. Past lecture guest speakers have explored the morality of war, global poverty, and choosing death.

Please join us in the Scandinavian Cultural Center in the Anderson University Center, as the event will not be live-streamed.

Koller/ Menzel Memorial Lecture

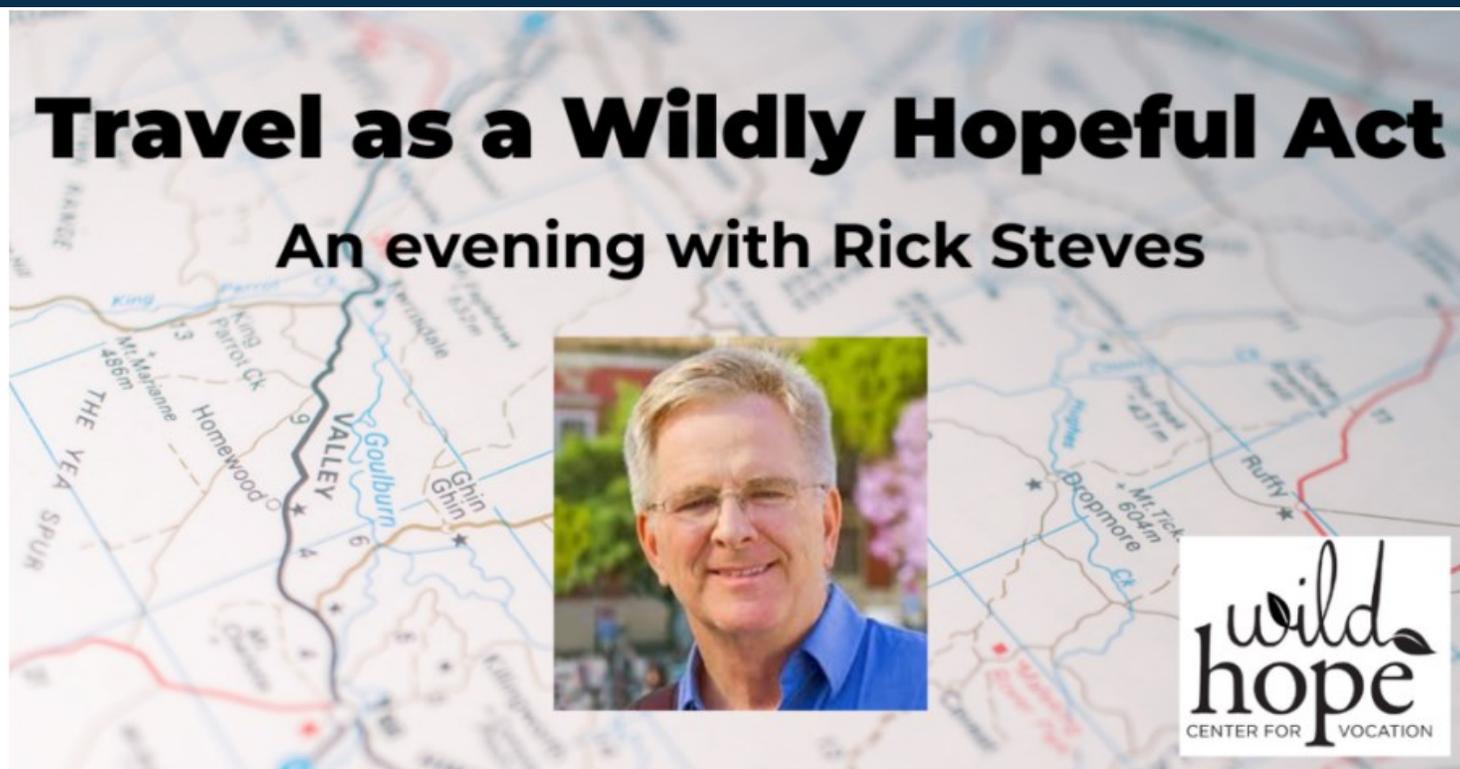
March 16, 2023

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Scandinavian Cultural Center in the Anderson University Center



Image: Koller/ Menzel Memorial guest lecturers Tim Brown, University of Washington (left) and Hank Greely, Stanford University (right)



MORE PLU NEWS

The [Wild Hope Center for Vocation](#) is pleased to welcome **Rick Steves**, the nation's leading authority on European travel, to the PLU campus and community, a vibrant center for global education.

Time: March 22, 2023

Date: 7 p.m.

**Location: [Chris Knutzen Hall,](#)
[Anderson University Center](#)**

For more about Steves, [visit here.](#)

The presentation is free and open to the public. Space is limited so arrive early to ensure a seat. We hope you can join us!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

FROM THE MINISTRY HEAD

PFLC sure does know how to pick 'em!

The 2023 PFLC Souper Bowl of Caring was a touchdown AND the extra point! While the congregation successfully predicted the Kansas City Chiefs as the victors of Super Bowl LVII over the Philadelphia Eagles, the real winners are the folks at FishLine in Poulsbo and ShareNet Food Bank in Kingston. The game stats are as follows:

Kansas City Chiefs
50 items + \$516.12

Philadelphia Eagles
46 items + \$51.34

At the end of the game, \$567.46 goes towards our annual commitment to Fishline and 96 items of food will be added to the pantry shelves at ShareNet. Well played, team. Give yourself a high five for being an ALL-STAR member of the community.




Peace Lutheran School AUCTION
MAY 5, 2023



SUPPORTING:
Student Scholarships
Upgrading Technology
STEM & Robotics

HOW YOU CAN HELP:
Purchase a group/church table for 8: \$300
Donate a auction item (contact the school): 360-373-2116
Come! Enjoy dinner, wine/beer and support students!

Peace Lutheran School (PLS) in Bremerton serves PreK - 8th grade students and families. PLS provides a small school setting for students with an exceptional academic curriculum while providing a caring and spiritual environment. The auction helps raise money for student scholarships, upgrading technology including STEM and robotics. No student should be turned away due to cost.

If you are able to support the auction on May 5th here is how!

- ◆ Donate a gift certificate, a gift basket, or a tangible item.
- ◆ Consider a financial gift.
- ◆ Bring the church! Purchase a VIP table for only \$300 (seats up to 8 people).
- ◆ Attend and bid on over 120 silent and live auction items! Auction tickets are \$30 and includes dinner and drinks!

TO RSVP or to find out how you can support Peace Lutheran School, contact the school: 360-373-2116. PFLC has a strong connection to this school as two families (Zeigler/ Pringle) currently attend PLS, Sheri Juszczak and Pastor Alison are educators there, and Dani Priest, Emily and Ryan Shane, Julia and Anna Ratcliff, and Ariel Hovey are all former students.

WOMEN'S GROUPS

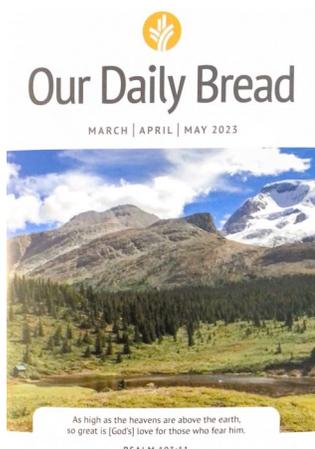
Below are some groups for women to come together and engage in action that makes a difference in the world, including bible study, knitting for the homeless, and creating quilts for people in developing countries.

- ⌘ **PFLC QUILTERS:** Fireside Room, 10:00am, Tuesdays —The PFLC QUILTERS are working on quilts to be sent later this year. If you have questions, please call Pauline Ostheller at 360-598-2239 or email lady.osth@gmail.com or you may contact Sharon Brown at 360-731-5014 or ahbrown@comcast.net. The quilters always appreciate donations of fabric or batting for their quilts. Please call Pauline or Sharon to make arrangements to donate items. If learning to quilt is on your to-do list give one of the ladies a call!
- ⌘ **KNIT WITS:** Social Hall, 2:00pm, 2nd Saturday—The KNIT WITS are now meeting in the Social Hall. If you would like more information, contact Lisa Hutcheson at amcourtright@comcast.net or 360-620-8219.
- ⌘ **DEBORAH/LYDIA CIRCLE:** Social Hall, 2:00pm, 2nd Thursday—Deborah/Lydia Circle will meet for Bible study using the Bible study in Gather Magazine on **March 9, from 2-4pm**. Two copies of the magazine are in the folder by the WELCA bulletin board in the Social Hall, or you may find the study online at gathermagazine.org. To receive a reminder email before the meeting please contact Helen Humes at 360-509-2105 or hhumes2002@hotmail.com.

EASTER EGG HUNT!

APRIL 9TH

There will be an Easter egg hunt for children up through 5th grade on Easter morning, April 9 at 9:45am. We will gather on the front steps to the church and then head out to the hunting grounds. I am counting on sunshine that morning so the plan is to hold the hunt near the top of the cemetery. Everyone is invited to come out and share in the joy of little ones tracking down the elusive Easter egg. If you have any questions or want to help fill and/or hide the eggs, contact Paul Davis at pauldavis@pflc.org. If you want to donate individually wrapped candy or small toys to the cause please drop them off in the office.



DAILY DEVOTIONAL

The March/April/May edition of Our Daily Bread is available for you to pick up in the narthex. If you are unable to come to church to get one, contact the church office to have one sent to you.

SPORTING SEASON

GO TEAM! DO THE THING! SCORE THE POINTS!

Spring is coming and that seems like a good time to go to some sporting events. We are planning to organize some group outings this year and would like your input on where to go.

First up will be a pickleball tournament that you can play in at PFLC in the Christian Center, April 21-23. Details are still being worked out. For now put it on your calendar to save the date.

Professional sporting events we are looking at in the coming months:

- ⌘ OL Reign in May—this is Seattle's women's soccer team
- ⌘ Seattle Sounders this summer
- ⌘ Mariners in August
- ⌘ Tacoma Rainiers
- ⌘ Seattle Storm

Please email Pauldavis@pflc.org or Allison Pringle at pringle.family2008@yahoo.com to let us know how many events you would be interested in attending—or if you have other teams you would like to support.



Back in 2019 a group from PFLC ventured up to the mountains to a place known as Holden Village. This summer could be the time to head back up the mountain for some rest and renewal. Would you like to go?

If you have not heard of Holden before, it is a Christian retreat center in the heart of the Okanagan-Wenatchee National Forest of the Cascade Mountain range north of Central Washington.

While at Holden Village you will have the opportunity to create your own rhythm each day according to your interests. There are youth programs, faith formation classes for all ages, hikes, crafts, daily worship opportunities, recreational option, napping options, and lots of great food. You can learn so much more by visiting their website: holdenvillage.org

Check out the website and email pauldavis@pflc.org if you are interested in taking a trip up the mountain this July.



TUESDAY NIGHTS ARE SCOUTING NIGHTS!

The Christian Center is now full of Scouts every Tuesday.

Cub Scout Pack 4571 is open to boys and girls from Kindergarten—5th grade and meets from 5:15-6:30pm. For more information you can contact Cub Master Sarah Krugerud at pack4571poulsbo@gmail.com.

Scout Troop 1571 is open to boys and girls ages 11-17 and meets from 6:30-8:30pm. For more information you can contact Scout Master Lucas Reber at Troop1571poulsbo@gmail.com.

FREDERICKSEN WILDERNESS PARK

Let's go play! Would you like to learn how to play Disc Golf? On Saturday, March 11 at 1pm Paul Davis will be hosting a disc golf clinic at the Park. Don't have any discs? Not to worry, we have extra discs to share for this training day. But you will want to bring some water and maybe some snacks. If you just want to check out the Park and take a walk in the forest, that is great too. Come one, come all!

Fredericksen Wilderness Park on Big Valley Road is 60 acres of forest, trails, wild life and disc golf. Anytime is a perfect time to take a walk in the forest! Take some time out of your busy day and enjoy some time in nature.

While you are out enjoying the park please follow these few simple rules:

1. Drive slowly when entering and exiting the park.
2. The gate will be locked at sundown.
3. As always —if you pack it in, pack it out.
4. No smoking or open flames of any kind.

Find out more on our Facebook page! Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/PFLCFWP> to "Like" and "Follow" the page.



OLYMPIC LUTHERHAVEN

SABBATH RETREAT



Come all you who are weary. Lauren Eyer and Paul Davis invite you to a weekend sabbath retreat at Olympic Lutherhaven on Wildcat Lake. This weekend will be **June 30 – July 2**. The end of the school year before the start of summer busyness seemed like a great time to rest a while and catch our breath. The main focus of the weekend will be sabbath rest, but there is still work to be done and we could use some help. Would you like to be the camp cook, or the organizer of some art projects or activities, maybe you would like to bring your guitar and lead some music. If you have other ideas on how you can help please email Pauldavis@pflc.org.

FROM THE MINISTRY HEAD...

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. - Matthew 4: 1-2 (NRSV)

“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. - Isaiah 58: 3-9 (NRSV)

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. - Matthew 6: 16-18 (NRSV)

The history of Lent as a liturgical season and a period of spiritual introspection and renewal is pretty well researched and documented in church history. While not something that Jesus instituted as such, his example of 40 days in the wilderness fasting and praying provides the model upon which much of the Christian community base the timeline and, to one degree or other, the practices of their community and inner life.

Being a witness in this world, what does this time look like? Certainly, there are more opportunities to commune with each other (extra services and the like...) during this time, but what does this "fast" look like to you, to your community, and to others? *I believe that it doesn't "look" any different than any other time during the year from the observational (external) point of view.*

The scriptures I share here speak to me as a conversation:

- ⌘ A succinct description of Jesus's fast in the desert.
- ⌘ The kind of fast that God sees as an actual fast, not some kind of demonstration, but with a point.
- ⌘ Further exhortation on God's "requirement" for life, but perhaps with the opportunity to sit with what this means a bit more during this time (fasting can give you more time for contemplation).
- ⌘ Jesus's guidance, from the Sermon on the Mount, on how this fast (or any fast) is to be perceived.

I encourage you to sit with these words, this message of hope, love, and justice, as we travel together through this season, and continue to **BE** the witness that God has created you to **BE**!

CELEBRATIONS, SYMPATHIES, AND MORE

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1	Karrie Stemmler Hildur Gleason	3/17	Wilson Zeigler Allyson Dirik David Wetter
3/2	Kevin Eyer	3/18	Pat Edgren
3/3	Kitty Urban Joan Edwards Helen Heins	3/21	Melinda Madamba
3/5	Cheryl Van Bokkelen	3/22	Clara Hendrickson
3/6	Kris Read	3/24	Meghan Wooldridge Jay Stemmler
3/7	Gracie Overby	3/26	Marje Fossum Scarlett Madamba
3/9	Jessica Reiter	3/29	Chris Jung
3/10	Joyce Moum	3/31	Robb Young Donnalee Jacobson
3/15	Roger Heng		
3/16	Thore Fossum		

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3/2	Albert & Nancy Pack
3/12	Mike & Debbie Collier
3/17	Dave & Kara Widhalm
3/20	Robert & Lisa Macht
3/21	Jim & Evelyn Levey
3/27	Roger & Kay Lynne Koskela

SYMPATHIES TO:

- † The family of Don Tipton, who died February 15.
- † Mike Sattler, Doug Oakman, and family at the death of Debbie Oakman on February 15.
- † The family of Lou Laurence, who died on February 21.

BAPTISM

Leah Doris Reiter was welcomed into the body of Christ through Holy Baptism on February 26. Leah's parents are Jacob & Kendra Reiter. Her sponsors are Allison Kamholz and Jessica Reiter.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Terry Beaudoin (pictured on left) and Amy Kvaalen (pictured on right) were received as new members on January 29. Both sing in the choir, and Amy is volunteering in the church office. Please welcome them when you see them.

SPRING FORWARD!
Daylight Saving Time begins March 12



VISION STATEMENT

People gathered and sent in the love of Christ.

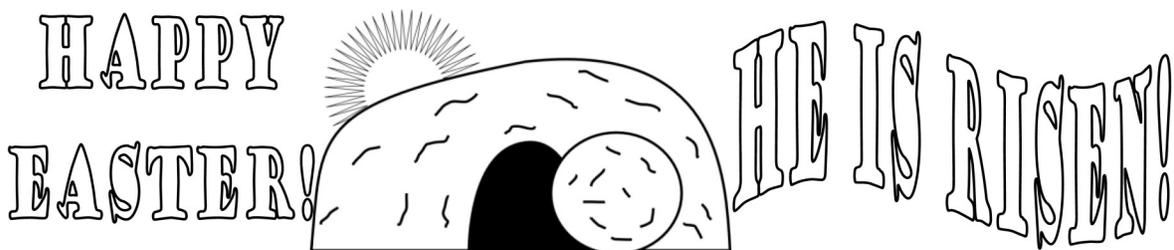
CORE VALUES

Jesus is Lord—Worship—Compassion—Service

40 DAYS OF LENT

COUNTDOWN

	 Ash Wednesday	Give someone a compliment	Pray for Community Helpers	Take a walk with your family
				1st Sunday of Lent
Plant some flower seeds to bloom for Easter	Pray for peace in the world	Write or tell a story for someone today	Talk to someone you haven't seen for a while	Do something nice for a friend
				2nd Sunday of Lent
What colors did you notice at church this week?	Help someone without being asked	Make a donation to the Food Bank	Sing a song you know or make one up	Pray for your teachers
				3rd Sunday of Lent
 Play a game with your friends or family	Pray for our Pastor	 Make a Thank You card for someone today	Eat a healthy snack today	Help with dishes or dinner
				4th Sunday of Lent
Who was in the Bible story at church this week?	Pick up and put away today	Share a smile with someone who needs cheering up	Find a way to tell an adult how special they are	Pray for our Church
				5th Sunday of Lent
 Dye some Easter Eggs	Pray for people who don't have anywhere to live	 Draw a springtime picture	Donate clothes that are too small to charity	Celebrate Spring!
				What was the music like in church this week?
 Palm Sunday	Holy Week			
What was different at church this week?	Pray for your family and friends	What part of Easter are you looking forward to?	 Maundy Thursday	 Good Friday
				Holy Saturday





POULSBO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

18920 4TH AVENUE NE
POULSBO, WA 98370
PHONE: 360-779-2622
EMAIL: welcome@pflc.org



THE GRAPEVINE MARCH, 2023

MINISTRY STAFF

Alison Shane, Pastor
Kent Shane, Pastor
Paul Davis, Director of Faith Formation
Melinda Madamba, Office Manager
Debbie Collier, Music & Choir Director
Miriam Haddon, Organist & Choir Pianist
Alison Hutcheson, Nursery Staff
Hannah Ronning, Custodian

CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Blake Reiter, President
Cecilia Sanchez, Vice President
Sheri Juszcak, Secretary
TBD, Treasurer
Paul Jose, Facilities Ministry
Lauren Eyer, Learning Ministry
Elizabeth Vander Esch, Serving Ministry
TBD, Supporting Ministry
Jeff Hora, Witnessing Ministry
Cyndi Gilman, Worshipping Ministry

To contact the church office, please call
360-779-2622.

Office Hours: Mon-Thur, 10am-2pm,
Fri, 10am-noon

Staff may be in the building outside of these
hours, call the office for availability

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 11:00am

Participate online at pflc.org or
[PoulsboFLC](https://www.facebook.com/PoulsboFLC) on Facebook

Please submit articles by email to
welcome@pflc.org.

Articles are subject to editing.
Submissions due by the 20th of each month.