



THE GRAPEVINE

POULSBO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FROM THE PASTOR

Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen indeed!

We really Lented our Lent this year.

In Sunday worship, we listened to the voice of Ched Myers in *Binding the Strong Man*, as Myers opened to us the scripture and Jesus' dismantling of the systems of injustice and releasing those who were captive to them.

On Wednesdays, we listened to voices of Jesus and others

- ⌘ that described the injustice of our privilege, especially the privilege of NOT being subjected to many injustices,
- ⌘ that described our complicity in injustice, hearing about unjust things that have been enculturated and codified into our lives, things that not only don't affect us but might even benefit us,
- ⌘ that described the kin-dom of God as all-inclusive, and we listened to voices of those we have excluded,
- ⌘ that reminded us to stay alert to our tasks, our vocation – the lifting up of our beloved neighbor.
- ⌘ that reminded that we are both/and people. We are saint and sinner at the same time. We are complicit in marginalization and oppression at the same time as we are workers in God's kin-dom, dismantling oppressive systems and lifting up our neighbor.

But we are Easter people. What does that mean for us? Do we get to just say, "We're forgiven!" and leave it all behind? Do we get to come out of these listenings and go back to our lives as they were?

We are Easter people. Resurrection. *New life.*

"What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." ~Romans 6:1-4

If the question of Lent was "what have we done?", then the question of Easter is "what now?"

What will you do with this new life you've been given in Jesus? What will you do with this new knowledge you have and these new voices you continue to listen to? As Mary Oliver writes, "What will you do with your one wild and precious life?"

Yes, we really Lented our Lent this year, but perhaps that can make Easter feel particularly Eastery. We are freed to go and do. We are forgiven to do better. We are resurrected from the ashes of our sin to bring in the kin-dom of God with energy, with joy, with love.

Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen indeed!

In service,
Pastor Alison

APRIL, 2024



VISION
STATEMENT
People gathered and sent in the love of Christ.



GENEROSITY MOMENT WITH PR. ALISON

What Does Generosity Look Like for Gen Z? How is your congregation engaging Gen Z in generosity?

Published Mar 06, 2023

By [Center for Stewardship Leaders](#)



Today Grace Pomroy, Director of the Stewardship Leaders Program at Luther Seminary, is talking with Samuel Christensen, current Luther Seminary student and member of Generation Z (Gen Z) about their approach to generosity. While Gen Z is often talked about in the media as “kids” or “youth,” it’s important to note that the oldest of members of Gen Z will be turning 26 this year. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), Gen Z includes anyone born after 1996. They have entered seminary as well as the workforce and are quickly changing the face of generosity today.

Grace Pomroy: What pronouns do you use and why does this matter?

Samuel Christensen: I use pronouns like “he” and “they,” and I feel most cared for when people switch back and forth between the two. For example, “He is a student at Luther Seminary. They will graduate this year.” It can feel a little clunky at first, but a little practice and some concerted effort go a long way. Sometimes it seems like the recent proliferation of pronouns and genders came out of nowhere, and the whole concept might not connect with all of us; yet for a lot of people, especially the young and diverse people with whom our church wants to connect, pronouns are really important. Using and understanding the names and pronouns individuals have chosen is a great way for communities to embody the often trite mantra, “all are welcome.”

Grace Pomroy: Thanks for sharing this. Stewardship is about caring for something that belongs to someone else. I think calling each other by our chosen names and pronouns is a form of stewardship, too! As you said, it’s a great way for churches to actually live into their “all are welcome” slogans. I’d love to hear more about what generosity looks like for you. Why do you give to the church and/or other nonprofits?

Samuel Christensen: I give because God first and continuously gives to us. This is not an obligation or a requirement, but a grace-filled response. We see this giving lived out in Christ, who talks about money more than almost anything else in the Gospels. We are called to give not only as a way to love those around us, but as a way to grow deeper in our own faith as well.

Grace Pomroy: I love the both/and of giving you mentioned—it’s not just for our neighbors, our giving is for us, too. How do you prefer to give (i.e., via credit card, check, text message, etc.)? Are you a spontaneous giver, a regular giver, or a little bit of both?

Samuel Christensen: I almost always give regularly and electronically, usually in the form of an automated withdrawal from my bank account (probably because I almost never have cash or checks with me). Giving in this way helps me ensure I am consistent in my giving: since the money moves automatically, there is no chance for me to forget or say “oops I didn’t set money aside this month.”

Grace Pomroy: I’d love to think more about giving specifically to the church. What encourages you to give to the church? What discourages you from giving to the church?

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Samuel Christensen: I have a lot of friends who have been hurt by the church—sexually assaulted by a minister, told they would never fit because they were gay, shamed for living with a partner before marriage, the list really goes on and on. I, too, have been hurt by the church. It is difficult to give to an organization when your trust has been so broken. And yet, I give to the church. Why? Because young people need spaces where they can experience unconditional love, because sick and lonely people deserve comfort and companionship, because the world so desperately needs hope and new life—and I think the church is uniquely equipped to meet such needs.

Grace Pomroy: Wow—I hear the beauty and the brokenness of the church today all wrapped up in the last answer. Can you say more about the values that guide your giving?

Samuel Christensen: Justice, reparations, and belonging.

Grace Pomroy: We've talked a lot about stewardship in this interview so far, but I'd love to hear more about what it means to you.

Samuel Christensen: For a while, stewardship was just this foreign word with scary associations, like "ten percent" and "pledge cards"—and it was *only* about the church. Recently, stewardship has started to grow in my mind, becoming larger than just the money I give to the church. Sometimes we talk about stewardship like God only cares about what you do with that holy ten percent. I think God cares about what I do with not only all of my money, but all of my thoughts and actions as well. For example, how am I stewarding the stories others have shared with me? How am I stewarding the planet we call home?

Grace Pomroy: I hear you saying that stewardship is about money and so much more. It's about all of life, not just what we give away. I'm curious if you can tell us more about how you decide how much to give to the church and/or other nonprofits?

Samuel Christensen: I often explore this question when I find myself in new financial situations. To start, I make a list of organizations to which I have given or want to give and think about how much I would like to give to each of them. I then compare my income with my bills and saving goals, seeing how much is left over after I take care of the necessities. From there, it is honestly just a balancing game until things feel right. If you didn't know, seminary students don't make very much, so most weeks there is not ten percent of my budget to lop off the top and give away. Sometimes I move to save less and give more. Other times I have to give less or to fewer organizations than I had hoped.

Grace Pomroy: As we bring this interview to a close, I'd love to hear about how your giving has changed over time?

Samuel Christensen: Well, it actually exists now, so that's a start! There was not a lot of emphasis placed on giving as I grew up, so it has really been through my discernment journey that giving has become important. I now look at my giving not as something I should have "all together," but as a spiritual practice that helps guide and form my relationship with Christ and the world around me. In many ways, the process of giving has become just as important as the gift given.

Grace Pomroy: Thanks so much for taking the time to share your story with us, Samuel! Curious to learn more about generosity and Gen Z? Here are some of the resources I've found on the topic:

- ⌘ [Blackbaud Institute: The Next Generation of American Giving](#)
- ⌘ [Forbes: Why Gen Z Might Become One of the Most Charitable Generations Yet](#)
- ⌘ [Qgiv: Generational Giving: Generation Z Giving Trends, Preferences, and Patterns](#)
- ⌘ [Barna: Why the Generations Approach Generosity Differently](#)

MARCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

- ⌘ Our scholarship accounts have been moved from Thrivent to Morgan Stanley.
- ⌘ Addressed community input about groups using the Christian Center feeling more welcome if we referred to it differently. We decided to try on the name Gym at PFLC for a while. Internally, we may still refer to the space as the Christian Center, and we have no plans to take down the cross or hide that PFLC is a Lutheran Christian religion.
- ⌘ Still in need of people to fill council vacancies: Vice President and Supporting Ministry head
- ⌘ Updated the council procedures to reflect how we function relating to ministry funding variances.
- ⌘ Voted to allocate more funds for onboarding the new bookkeeping service. Still within administration ministry funding plan parameters passed by the congregation at the January annual meeting.
- ⌘ Discussed various building needs.

SACRED JUSTICE

DANI PRIEST, FACILITATOR

Lent provided the Sacred Justice team with an ideal setting to share with you many texts and stories that have called us to further work in race and social justice, the work of sacred justice. We have copies of the books and articles in the PFLC library and other formats for you to further explore if you were inspired to read more, do additional research, or explore topics new to you. [\(You can look at the resource spreadsheet here – there are tabs at the bottom to indicate the type of resource included, so you can easily find something to do\).](#)

We spent our meeting time together in March reviewing the land acknowledgement with which we open our worship services. These statements of genuine recognition of historic harm and call to acknowledge those impacts evolve as work is done with affected First Nations. We will continue to research, discuss and explore this topic.

In April, we look forward to exploring the summer calendar and all of the gatherings and events throughout our area that are centered in equity and where we can share the message of God's love and acceptance. I personally have been profoundly moved by the few people who simply ask for you to pray for or with them, and I have been more than willing to give a few memorable hugs. Please consider volunteering at our PFLC booths!

Dani



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 if you are interested in helping, contact the church office. 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 is livestreamed at 9:00am every Sunday. Participate in 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 live worship, Facebook users need to "like" and follow PFLC's page.

FROM THE MINISTRY HEAD

When we fasted from using the word "Lord" in our liturgy this past Lenten season, I will admit to being agitated, thinking, mistakenly, I would somehow have to "give up" my Redeemer's Sovereignty. Since then, a number of considerations have been presented to me in quite unique and singular settings. First, when I complained to a friend, a seasoned church council member, he gently reminded me that possibly, we may be prepping for a new hymnal and this could be another liturgical setting. Oh good. Options. And no, I don't have any inkling of a new hymnal, but that idea settled me, knowing we get to vary the liturgy from time to time.

Making dinner plans with my Spanish exchange student, I mentioned that we needed to thaw the chicken. "What's 'thaw?'" My mental thesaurus engaged...um...un-freeze? "Oh," she said, "we don't have a new word for that we just say freeze or unfreeze." There are lots of words for which there is no adequate translation when bridging 2 or more languages. Speaking of the heavenly realm, it would seem we need as many examples and words as possible to share the Good News.

My concern was that just referring to God as God might diminish God's position as our Creator – god with an upper case G or lower case. I didn't want to relegate our God to sharing the same status with the other gods – which we are not to have in the first place... I mean, how can we sing Handel's Messiah without singing King of kings, and Lord of lords. Then it hit me. In addition to Alison's informative explanation, I was reminded of a TED Talk on how language shapes the way we think. There are over 7000 languages globally with different sounds, vocabulary, and structures. Cultures that may not even have the concept or vocabulary for King or Lord, let alone carrying the pain of oppression from those carrying that title. In fact, one of my favorite Advent songs is the Huron Carol, or 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime. Imagine trying to share the Birth of Christ to a people who have no King, no domesticated animals so shepherds are an unknown, the clothes are animal skins not swaddling cloths, no Magi, gold, frankincense & myrrh. And yet, God in that hymn is Gitchi Manitou. A First Nations translation of the New Testament refers to Jesus as Creator Who Sets Free, the Chosen One, and avoid the use of the word God altogether, instead using a designation of God as Creator or Great Spirit.

It is my hope that this reflection was useful for you. If we are to fulfill the Great Commission, share the Good News of the Gospel of Christ, and meditate on ALL God's ways, it seems fitting, this spring, to revisit the Name Above All Names, the many attributes of our God and how God was made known to so many people and nations in scripture.

In the Love of Christ,
Cynthia Gilman

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 FORMATION 2024

Got Questions?

All youth and creative type people are invited to meet in Room 201 on Sunday, April 21 & 28 at 11:30am to explore some creative faith formation ideas. We will be looking at ways to ask questions and tell our stories of faith. How about making a video about your favorite bible story? Maybe record some conversations with people about their favorite memories or bible stories? Start thinking now about what you might like to do. So many possibilities! Email [Paul Davis](mailto:PaulDavis@pflc.org) with ideas or questions.

ATTN: GRADUATING SENIORS!

Each year our Learning ministry offers vocation-ships to our graduating seniors. This financial gift is provided to graduating high school seniors in order to enhance and encourage their sense of Christian vocation in the world. Each of us is chosen by God to use our unique gifts to serve our neighbors. These gifts are given by the Holy Spirit through baptism and in relationship with God and this gathered worshipping community. Please email pauldavis@pflc.org to request an application. Completed applications are due back to Paul Davis **by May 19**.

LIBRARY SELECTIONS FOR APRIL

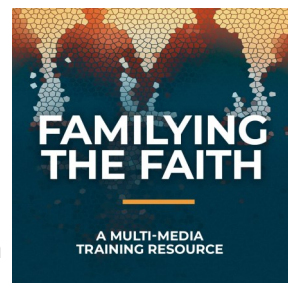
- ⌘ **Stories of People Who Loved God** by Sue Raney and John Barrett: a companion book to "Stories of God's Love." "The Bible tells us that God loves us and longs for us to love Him. Here are four great stories from scripture about people who showed their love for God by obeying Him."
- ⌘ **The Legend of the Easter Lily** by Lori Walburg: a young boy "learns the true meaning behind Easter eggs, the empty tomb and the hope found in Jesus."
- ⌘ **With Open Hands** by Henri J.M. Nouwen: "This revised edition features beautiful new prayers composed by the author and helpful question for reflection to conclude each chapter." The author has updated the entire text to reflect changes in the world and the church."
- ⌘ **Lilies** by Richard Bird: for the gardeners and just in time for Easter. This is an illustrated identifier and guide to cultivation. The first part of the book is an instruction to growing lilies and the second part an illustrated catalog of the species.
- ⌘ **Bible Trivia** developed by Brian and Kandyce Esch: NOT a book – a GAME for the whole family! Questions and answers are from both the old and the new testament. There are separate questions for children and adults. Check it out and have fun!



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.

Familing the Faith: Effective Ways to Equip Parents as Faith-Influencers is a wonderful new resource from our friends at *Vibrant Faith*. You can purchase the eBook for only \$10 right [here](#).



Here is a preview from the introduction:

Parents are the primary faith-influencers in the lives of young people, and that influence overshadows all other factors (children's and youth ministers, peers, parachurch leaders). But though we know this truth, the church has largely been unable to "bend the trajectory" that represents conventional ways of capitalizing on this inherent influence.

- ⌘ What will it take to tackle this intractable challenge and show real impact?
- ⌘ How do we plant a new culture of home-centered, church-supported faith-growth practices and habits among families and congregations?
- ⌘ What motivates people to shift their habits and practices?
- ⌘ What catalyzes parents' own depth of relationship with God?
- ⌘ And how do we help plant faith-forming habits in parents in the midst of their everyday life?

Our mission as the church is to partner with parents, and people who are like parents, to focus on enriching the soil of the home. And we believe the way forward is an approach captured by the word **FAMILYING**.

Vibrant Faith has also launched a "Familing the Faith" that you can find on Apple or Spotify.

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 Tuesdays at 6:30pm. The group gathers to read and discuss the upcoming scripture text while enjoying a favorite brew. The group has once again relocated to Western Red Brewing on Jensen Avenue.

Please email Paul Davis at pauldavis@pflc.org for more information.





POWERED BY **PLU**
ANTI-RACIST
LEADERSHIP EDUCATION



Presents
THE
PEOPLE'S
GATHERING

A Revolution of Consciousness Conference

Spring 2024 Theme:

"Yes We Can, Can!"

Unleashing Your Potential for Anti-Racist Leadership

A 2day Professional Development Experience

VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE: APRIL 11TH 8:30A-4:30P

Transformative workshop that cultivates fearless, informed, and tenacious anti-racist leaders. \$150

LUNCH & LEARN: APRIL 12TH 10-2PM

Lunch & Learn tickets include: catered lunch, lecture, book signing, and swag bag. \$250

S P E A K E R S



April 11th
"Unleashing your Potential for Anti-Racist Leadership"

Jahmad Canley
DEI Expert & Culture
Transformation Consultant



Facilitator:
Melannie Denise Cunningham MBA,
PLU Director of Anti-Racist Leadership
Education



April 12th
"What We've Become: Living and Dying in a Country of Arms"

Dr. Jonathan Metzler
Author and Professor of Sociology & Psychology
at Vanderbilt University

Register today: <https://www.plu.edu/continuing-education/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/the-peoples-gathering/>

REGISTER BY APRIL 4



Agenda for Saturday, April 27, 2024

9:00am - 10:00am	Registration
10:00am - 10:30am	Welcome & Worship
10:30am - 12:00pm	Synod Mission Plan
12:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Workshops - Session One
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Workshops - Session Two
3:00pm - 3:15pm	Blessing & Sending

- Workshops - Session One**
- 1pm - 2pm**
- Living Stones - We're Still Alive
 - Conversations in Black & White
 - Transforming Conflict: How to listen and communicate
 - Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery
- Workshops - Session Two**
- 2pm - 3pm**
- ELCA Youth Gathering: Getting the Most Out of the Gathering!
 - Companioning the Bereaved: An Introduction to Grief Care
 - Young Adults Community
 - So We and Our Children May Live
 - Shalom Project

SYNOD EDUCATION GATHERING

PFLC is hosting a Southwestern Washington Synod education event Saturday, April 27, 10:00am – 3:30pm. There are a variety of workshops planned to go along with worship and a presentation by Bishop Richard Jaech. Registration deadline is April 10, \$30 which includes lunch. For more information see this link: <https://cvent.me/ZBVEAL>

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 — 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 sharonbrown0512@gmail.com. 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 meet in the Social Hall on **April 11**. If you would like more information, contact Lisa Hutcheson at amcourtright@comcast.net or 360-620-8219. **The Knit Wits are requesting donations of pink and purple yarn.** They are out of these colors! Donations of other colors are also accepted.
- ⌘ **DEBORAH/LYDIA CIRCLE:** Social Hall, 2:00pm, 2nd Thursday—Deborah/Lydia Circle meets for Bible study on **April 11**. The Bible study is in the current edition of Gather Magazine. 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.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!

We meeting at T-Mobile Park in Seattle for an afternoon of Mariners baseball on Saturday, June 1st, first pitch is at 4:15pm. We reserved 50 tickets and they are selling fast so don't wait to sign up. They are only \$10 each! Email pauldavis@pflc.org to sign up and for more info.

The deadline to sign up and pay is April 28. Don't miss out on this great chance to enjoy a great afternoon at T-Mobile Park. Friends and neighbors are welcome!



PLAY BALL!



VIKING FEST PARADE—MAY 18!

Would you like to be in this year's Poulsbo Viking Fest parade? If smiling, handing out candy, hand waving, and having fun sounds good to you then we need YOU! Meet at PFLC at 1pm on May 18th and we will walk to Lions Park for the start of the parade route. Email Pauldavis@pflc.org or sign up by the office. If you can't come and want to donate individually wrapped candy (no chocolate or items that could melt) for the parade we would gladly accept them. 😊 Happy Viking Fest!



VIKING FEST PARKING

Viking Fest is May 17-19 and our Boy Scouts will be operating the parking lot fundraiser. They will be collecting \$10/car to park in the PFLC parking lot on Friday, May 17 and Saturday, May 18. There will be no charge to park in the PFLC lots on Sunday, May 20 if you attend worship (ok, even if you don't attend worship). Please stop by the Cub Scouts' hotdog booth in the food court if you get hungry while wandering the festival. All proceeds go to support scouting activities.

TUESDAY NIGHTS ARE SCOUTING NIGHTS!

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.

OLYMPIC LUTHERHAVEN

Annual Clean Up Day! Saturday, April 20th from 9am—2pm, starting on the camp side. It is time for some spring cleaning at [Olympic Lutherhaven](#). There is much work to be done to get the camp ready to open for the summer. Morning snacks and a hearty lunch will be provided so please email pauldavis@pflc.org to sign up. Stay tuned for updates on the work that will need to be done, tools that are required, and opportunities to help up regardless of ability.



Another way you can support OLH is by donating funds during the Kitsap Great Give on **April 16th, 2024**. The Kitsap Great Give is a 24-hour "give-day" event that unites our community through a special online donation platform to support the many nonprofit organizations that make Kitsap a great place to live – for all of us.

<https://www.kitsapgreatgive.org/organization/olympic-lutherhaven-inc>

BELIEVE

I BELIEVE...

PFLC SUMMER CAMP AT OLYMPIC LUTHERHAVEN
JULY 26-28

DO I BELIEVE?

WE BELIEVE...what do we believe? What do you believe? What don't you believe? What do you believe about God? Who do you believe in? How has your faith changed over the years? Do my actions shape my beliefs, or does my belief shape my actions? These and other questions of faith will be explored during PFLC's weekend at [Olympic Lutherhaven](#) on Wildcat Lake this summer. This weekend is for you, your friends and your family (whatever that looks like).

Come and share what you believe and listen to the beliefs of others as we learn and grow in faith together. There will be time for teaching, for learning, for playing, for resting, and for eating!

Registration is now open and for planning purposes the **deadline to register is April 21**. You can register on the bulletin board at PFLC or email [Paul Davis](#) with any questions.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?



WHAT DO I BELIEVE?

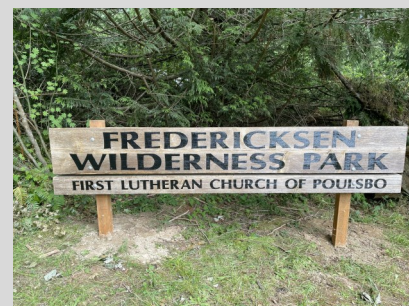
I BELIEVE...HELP ME WITH MY UNBELIEF

FREDERICKSEN WILDERNESS PARK

Fredericksen Wilderness Park on Big Valley Road is 60 acres of forest, trails, wild life, and disc golf. Any time 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.

FROM THE MINISTRY HEAD...

I confess. I use social media. I wish that I was super cool and virtuous and was able to say "Oh, I don't do that" but I can't. I keep up with my family far and wide through Instagram and Facebook and follow historians, authors, theologians, and comedians on Threads. I learn new things about my community and world in all those places. Yes, and they can be a complete time suck. Both/and, friends, both/and.

All that to say I was scrolling through Threads the other day and someone commented about the amount of litter on Washington roadways, marveling at how much was there while we claim an environmentally aware persona. All that is true. Washington is usually at the forefront of climate and planet-forward policies, and yet the amount of trash I see driving, even on HWY 3 is disheartening. I thought about that for a minute and I chose to respond. My comment was something to the effect of "Yes, you're right. And apart from making the observation, what are YOU doing to be a part of the change? If we all do our part, we can make a difference, one piece of litter at a time." The original poster never responded, which was super duper with me, as the point wasn't to get into a back and forth, but to remind them and myself that we all are both a part of the problem AND a part of the solution. Both/and, friends, both/and.

It's April and our focus is care for our community, most specifically, creation care. This month, our extra offerings will go to Lutheran Community Services NW. Our acts of service focus is to find one habit to change this month to care for this beautiful community we are so lucky to live in. Do you bring your own cup when you grab a cup of coffee at one of our ubiquitous shops in town? Most places will fill from-home cups, but not all. Keep asking, though, maybe soon everyone will. Can you bring your own containers for leftovers from restaurant meals? Do you use disposable utensils more than once? Remember, things are only single-use if you only use them once. No matter what habit you choose to build on this month, if we individually do our own little part, then collectively we can make a bigger difference.



LUTHERAN
**Community
Services**
NORTHWEST

Health. Justice. Hope.

On another note, when I delivered our Souper Bowl Sunday canned goods at ShareNet in Kingston, the person receiving our donation exclaimed "Oh, your church did this last year too!" Our efforts are noticed and appreciated. Well done, good and faithful servants!

WORK PARTY AT FREDERICKSEN WILDERNESS PARK

Wildwise school will be hosting a work party and pot luck at Fredericksen Wilderness Park (FWP) on Saturday April 6, 10am-2pm. PFLC has recently partnered with Wildwise School to provide the space they need for learning. This is an opportunity for the school to give back, and you are invited to help and find out more about this unique school.

FROM THE MINISTRY HEAD...

"Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone." - Luke 4: 14-15 (NRSV)

"Witness," as a word alone, can work as a noun or a verb. For each of us it has a context, given our lives, our culture, our upbringing, our experiences and so forth. As Lent, among various things, is a commemoration of Jesus' 40-day fast in the wilderness, his temptation by the Enemy, and His being ministered to by angels, what might be a context into which we can place Him and this word?

The Bible tells us that Jesus was physically alone during this time. This solitude may have been the only time between then and the cross when he was able to experience an extended solitary experience with his Father. Certainly, he had to rely on God for the sustenance he needed to keep his human body functioning in some way. Other than the Gospel authors writing about it, we aren't presented with anyone who witnessed this time except for Jesus and his Father. So **THAT** particular concept of the word "witness" isn't really the point....no one else saw this.

His subsequent temptation is described serially from this fast, but it's not like Jesus had an appointment on his calendar for the Enemy's arrival and how long the temptations took place. We are told that the wilderness fast took place and the temptations arrived thereafter. So now the witnesses (that is those present...) are the Father, Jesus, and the Enemy. In the course of the temptations, the experiences of each of these are different. The points of view to the action entail various interactions, but the true witness is on Jesus' side.... he and the Father stand against the various and sundry angles of attack that the Enemy uses to try to get Jesus to succumb to the attractions of this world. Again, the Gospel writers tell us of this process, but no one is there to observe this, so that level of experience is from afar at best, but certainly the witness to the Enemy of Jesus' utter reliance on God sent him packing (for the time being....), and the implication in the Gospels is that, after this was all done, the angels came and ministered to him. We aren't told specifically what that was made up of, but it provided Jesus with refreshment, encouragement, and all other things he needed to head back out of the wilderness and begin the long road to Jerusalem and the cross.

What was seen and experienced by others was Jesus after his return. **His witness.**

Consider what he went through to get to that point. His experience, now truly part of him, is a huge part of what he brought with him to others throughout the rest of his ministry.

Likewise, my and your experiences make a large part of what we bring to our daily walk and how we are with others, and with God. Even once we pass Lent and Holy Week (and Easter...), we are encouraged to walk and **BE** as the Holy Spirit gives us grace.

CELEBRATIONS, SYMPATHIES, AND MORE

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/1	Knud Hendrickson	4/14	Michael Fancher
4/3	Micheline Aske	4/17	Kara Widhalm
4/5	Gladys Parrish	4/19	Ashton Eyer
4/9	James Pringle	4/20	Scott Pringle
	Eric Kerttula		Lisa Hutcheson
	Lily Sanchez	4/27	Julia Ratcliff
	Kyle Green		Bill Beaudoin
4/11	Cameron Hagenbrock	4/28	Madeline DeMarco
4/13	Mike Regis	4/29	Steve Holzhey
	Ar dys Richardson		Alex Johnson

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4/5	Greg & Debbie Allison
4/7	Jerry & Robbie Larson
4/24	Bill & Terry Beaudoin
4/40	Jerry & Becky Deeter

SYMPATHIES TO:

- † The friends and family of Alice Vandestein (John Stamm's cousin), who died on February 22.
- † Kay Lynne Koskela at the death of her husband, Roger, on February 24.
- † Linda Romstad and family at the death of her husband, Roy, on February 25.
- † The family of Jacqueline Lowe, who died March 1.
- † Jim Almond and family at the death of his sister, Cheryl Almond, on March 6.
- † Lisa Miller and family at the death of her father on March 11.

Thank you to the following people for the beautiful spring flowers that decorated the sanctuary for Easter:

- ⌘ Amy Kvaalen in honor of Lars Kvaalen and in memory of Caden Young, Pat & Carol Young, Ostin & Olivia Kvaalen, Ruth & Oscar Kvaalen
- ⌘ Ron & Carol McClung in memory of Lois McClung and Jean Strum
- ⌘ Hildur & Lynn Gleason
- ⌘ David & Ann Wetter in memory of John David Bostrom
- ⌘ Sharon Brown in memory of our departed loved ones
- ⌘ John & Gerry Stamm in memory of our parents: Bob & O'Neal Bourne and Innis & Helen Stamm
- ⌘ Becky & Jerry Deeter in memory of Brue & Sue Guldjord, Tina Davis, Rory Guldjord

Dear Pastors,

We have lived here 25 years, attended funerals of pioneers like Louise Shields and other Garden Club members in your lovely church towering over Poulsbo. We walk the waterfront often and our hearts are gladdened by the resounding chimes ringing praise to God. Thank you. Your music is a treasure and reminder to pray. Don't ever stop.

Your admirers,
Larry & Janet Wallace
(formerly from St. Olaf's but now at St. Cecilia's)

Editor's note: The card with this message came with a large pot of tulips that decorated the sanctuary for Easter.

VISION STATEMENT

People gathered and sent in the love of Christ.

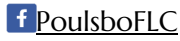
PFLC GUIDING PRINCIPLE

How can we best demonstrate the love of Christ?



POULSBO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



THE GRAPEVINE

APRIL, 2024

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
Hannah Ronning, Custodian

CHURCH COUNCIL & MINISTRY LEADERS

Blake Reiter, President
TBD, Vice President
Terry Beaudoin, Secretary
Elise Kerttula, 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: 9:00 & 10:30am

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.