



# First Lutheran Church

.....  
Called to proclaim and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ,  
we are nurtured, prepared, and sent to be the light of Christ in our world.

## *Selfless Hospitality and Service*

Recently we have begun to study the book of Genesis in our Wednesday morning Bible study and, as we were talking about Adam and Eve's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, I shared a quote that my dad shared with me. "We must always try to remember that the letter I is at the center of the word Sin; and it is also the key to understanding that our rebellion against God stems from our human nature to focus only on ourselves rather than on others." In fact, a Pastor and author, Alvin Rogness touches on this in one of my favorite devotionals, *The Word for Everyday*, when he writes about Adam and Eve. Their sin caused them to, "turn in upon themselves, (and in doing so they lost God's presence), they lost each other, and this is later evidenced in Cain's cynical retort to God after he had murdered his brother Abel, 'Am I my brother's keeper?'"

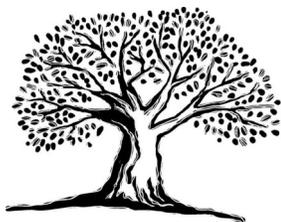
Thankfully Jesus, who is often referred to as the "New Adam," came into this world to demonstrate what it truly means for us to follow God's will and to live out our faith. Our Savior is worshiped and celebrated for his love, for his forgiveness, for his great sacrifice, and for being selfless throughout his ministry as he did what he could to turn people away from their egoism, their exclusive mindsets, and their selfishness. The next time you are reading the New Testament I would encourage you to pay attention to how the Lord lived his life during his time on this Earth, according to the Gospels. I'm certain you will discover that he lived his life for God and for others!

Before his death, Jesus reminded his followers that they were to love God and others as they loved themselves. During their time together he also taught them the importance of helping others in need by using the power and resources available to them through God's Spirit. And let us try not to forget that a number of his parables were about finding the lost and bringing them back to God. So, in Genesis when Cain sarcastically asks God, "Am I my brother's keeper," Jesus would have probably responded with an emphatic, "Yes! Yes you are!"

Where am I going with this newsletter article? It is my hope that all of us at First Evangelical Lutheran Church can embrace the idea that we are called to be there for one another in the good and the bad, we are called to seek out the lost and to lovingly do what we can to bring them into God's fold, and we are called to love everyone including our enemies and those different from us. So, as you come to worship, as you attend a small group, Bible study or committee meeting, I would encourage you to think about who is missing and to consider reaching out to them to see how they are doing? Perhaps you might even let them know that you have missed seeing them. Take some time to meditate, to pray, and to reflect on how you might (with God's help) invite them, or encourage them, to join us as we continue to seek to be the hands and feet of Christ here in the Mount Vernon area. After all, it is the will of our Heavenly Father for us to act as our brother/sister's keeper and we are to work on turning our attention outward rather than inward.

God Bless,  
Pastor Ryan

Called to proclaim and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ...



## Fall Worship Times

### Indoor Worship

(for those who have their COVID Vaccine)  
Sunday Morning at \*10:00 am

**Drive-up worship** (An outdoor service—open to all )  
Sunday Morning at \*11:30 am

**Holden Evening Prayer** (An outdoor service—open to all )  
October 11 at 7pm

We Need You!

### Indoor Worship

If you would like to sign up to serve in worship in the month of **October** click [here](#). You can check back anytime to see what spots have been filled and where help is needed.

### Drive-up Worship

If you would like to sign up to serve in worship in the month of **October** click [here](#). You can check back anytime to see what spots have been filled and where help is needed.

Please call the church office if you would rather be assigned to serve. When you contact us, please let us know what service you attend & how you would like to help. We will plug you in to the schedule. If on the other hand you would rather pick and choose your dates, you may still do so using the link to sign up genius. It is pretty user friendly but feel free to contact the church office if you would like help navigating the system.

### Pastor Ryan's Office Hours:

Monday (Day Off)

Tuesday: 11:30am-5:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00-4:30pm  
(Confirmation at church 7:30pm-8:30pm)

Thursday: 10am-4:30pm

Friday: 10am-4:30pm

Saturday: Available by Appointment

Sunday: 9:00am-1:00pm

*(Please note that pastoral care is prioritized and may affect office hours. Your flexibility and understanding is appreciated.)*



## Reformation Sunday October 31

The color of the day is Red, so please feel free to wear red to help us celebrate. Currently Pastor Ryan is working with the families of our Confirmation students to determine how the Rite of Confirmation is going to be offered this year. We will either be having it at the drive-up, at the in-person service, or we will have a special service for only the students and their families and share a video recording of it on our church Youtube page. It is Pastor Ryan's hope that we can have a special Coffee hour on that day at 11:00am.

<b>YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL COMPARISONS REPORT</b>			
<b>FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>	<b>September 2020 Actual Amounts</b>	<b>September 2021</b>	<b>September 2021 Budget</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	173,305.30	161,480.31	197,780.37
<b>Total Expenses</b>	188,990.41	178,468.33	214,225.89
<b>Income compared to Expenses</b>	(15,685.11)	(16,988.02)	



As of September 2021, we received a total of \$161,480.31 and spent \$178,468.33 so the balance is negative -\$16,988.02. We have now exhausted the PPP carry-over from last year so are using fund balance in addition to weekly/monthly giving to meet all benevolences and obligations. Please keep this shortage in mind when considering your financial stewardship to FELC.

Thank you,  
Jeanette St. Germain, Treasurer

### 2022 Budget Planning Meeting

All are welcome to attend the 2022 budget planning meeting that will be held on October 14th at 6:00 pm at the church. Before that meeting, please check your budget and meet with your council representative to discuss if any changes should be made. The preliminary budget created on the 14th will be presented to the Council on October 19th for their approval. Once approved by the council, the preliminary budget will be posted for your consideration and will go to the congregation for final approval at the November semi-annual meeting.

Thank you,  
Jeanette St. Germain  
Treasurer



## All Saints Sunday, Nov 7

This year, for All Saints Sunday, Pastor Ryan would like to honor the Saints in people's lives by encouraging members and friends of First Lutheran to submit the name of a Saint they would like us to lift up during the prayers of intercession. Please add your loves one's name to the list just outside the sanctuary. You may also call or email the church office to add a name to the list read.

In addition to our traditional way of remembering those who have gone home to be with the Lord this past year, we are also giving you the opportunity to lift up other saints from your life in honor. You are invited to bring a photo of your loved one and add it to the display board in the narthex. On All Saints Day we will display the pictures in the sanctuary during the service. We would also like to give you the opportunity to share how or why you view them as a Saint. Please consider bringing a short biography (no more than 2 paragraphs please) about the Saint in your life to display alongside the picture. Thank you for participating in this special reflection on the many saints who have gone before us and been an inspiration.

*We are nurtured, prepared...*



## Outdoor Sunday School

Hi Sunday School Families! Join us on October 17th, for the first of our new monthly outdoor Sunday School experiences, in between the indoor and outdoor service.

David and Kristina Jones  
Sunday School co-superintendents



## Have a Prayer Request?

If you have a prayer request & would welcome prayer partners please send your requests to the church office [office@firstlutheranmv.org](mailto:office@firstlutheranmv.org). Members of the First Lutheran Prayer Ministry would be happy to join you in prayer.

*Please make sure to have permission to share the prayer concern via the prayer chain before sending it in. We want to be sure to honor the privacy of all.*

Thank you to all of our "Prayer Warriors." It is pretty special to know that there is a group of brothers & sisters in Christ who are willing to join in prayer.

## Would you like to join our Prayer Ministry?

Prayer Chain Members receive emailed prayer requests & lift the recipient up in prayer. If you are interested in being a part of this Ministry please talk to Holly, in the church office 360 424-6832.



The Men's Bible Study will meet on Sunday, October 17th, at District Brewing in downtown Mount Vernon at 3:00pm. Bob Ramborger will be leading our study this month. Remember, we meet on the third Sunday of each month and all men are welcome. Pick up a libation downstairs and then head up to the second level. District Brewing is located by the tulip statue on the Riverwalk, across the street from the Trumpeter restaurant.

David Johnson



## Coffee Hour

We hope you enjoyed the Rally Day Coffee Hour on September 26th, sponsored by the Rouse family & the Parish Activities Committee. The coffee & treats were plentiful as was the fellowship.

We hope to incorporate a Coffee hour fellowship outside (either in the covered walkway area once a month this fall. Please note we will need some volunteers to make it happen. If you have been missing our coffee hour and would like to help bring it back on a monthly or even weekly basis please email us, or call the church office, and let us know you are willing to host. It is really up to the congregation.

For this time of fellowship (during COVID), we will be using disposable coffee cups and prepackaged treats.



To our prayer shawl ministry,

Thank you so much for the lovely shawl. The colors are so warm and comforting. It'll definitely remind me of Mum! Thank you for your kindness.

Lindsey du Toit



## Keep Skagit Warm

As fall moves in and the nights turn cool, we are reminded that some of our neighbors don't have adequate clothing to keep them warm. The month of October Social Ministry is focused on gathering hats, mittens and gloves, warm socks, and coats (size 4T through adult) for our community.

Kid-sized items will be donated to our neighboring elementary schools, Jefferson and Little Mountain. Adult coats and accessories will be donated to Community Action.

As always, thank you for your support and for your generosity. With your help we are spreading God's love to the community.

Heather Romano  
Social Ministry



Hello Neighbor,

Skagit Habitat for humanity has selected a new location on the corner of Blackburn and Laventure that 4 local families will soon be calling home. We are excited to be in your neighborhood and we wanted to let you know about this exciting new addition next door. We won't be building for a few months but lots of work is happening behind the scenes. Once we start building, our construction team, made of almost entirely volunteers, will be at the site Wednesdays-Saturdays. We are so grateful for the work your congregation has done with us in the past and for those still individually volunteering with us still today. We would love for you all to be as involved as you want and we can provide updates on the progress periodically as well. You can also volunteer, help us welcome the families into the neighborhood, or just drop by to say hi and see what's going on.

I put a map below showing the location where the four new homes will be built.

We look forward to being so close by.

### Hannah Oliver

Volunteer Coordinator

Cell: 360.420.3649 Office: 360.428.9402 ext. 3

**Skagit Habitat for Humanity**

1022 Riverside, Mount Vernon, WA 98273



Update on the Construction: In the last week we have put in a fresh new sidewalk along the fire lane and we are making progress on infrastructure. The reason we will not be building the actual homes for a few months is because we are waiting on the engineering design from PSE before we can move forward.

*Sent to be the light of Christ in our world.*



It's Fall, the perfect time to make Sloppy Joe's for Friendship House!



### **A Request from our Neighbors at Jefferson School**

Tim Newall, Principal at neighboring Jefferson school called last week to see if there was any way we could help them with a challenge that our neighborhood has been experiencing. During this time of COVID there has been a large increase in families choosing to drive their children instead of having them ride the bus. This influx of parents at pick up time has resulted in cars backing up onto La Venture Rd. The request from Jefferson was to snake their pick up line through our parking lot to help traffic flow smoothly in the neighborhood. After conversations with our council president & pastor and a setting a few guidelines for use, we approved their request. If you happen to stop by the church in the afternoon between approximately 2:45 - 3:10 you may notice our partnership in play. A little bit of **Grace** on our part has affirmed our long relationship with our neighboring school and has kept traffic flowing in the neighborhood. Thank you for your smiles, waves, and grace if you stop by the church during this time frame. If you have any questions feel free to call the church office 360 424-6832.

Did you know First Lutheran Church has been providing a Sloppy Joe meal to Friendship House for over 30 years?!

Our recipe (copies may be found printed in the narthex or use your favorite) freezes wonderfully and can be made anytime during the month:

#### **Friendship House Sloppy Joe Recipe** *Serves 24*

Hamburger - 4 pounds  
Onion - 2 cups chopped  
Tomato sauce - 3 - 15 ounce cans or 2- 29 ounce cans (add 1-15 ounce can of stewed tomatoes along with 2 cans tomato sauce if preferred)  
Garlic salt - 1 Tablespoon  
Chili powder - 1 Tablespoon

Brown hamburger with the onion. Drain off excess fat. Season hamburger with garlic salt and chili powder. Add tomato sauce/stewed tomatoes.

Cook over low heat and simmer 30-45 minutes. Chill and freeze in gallon sized zip lock bags.\* Please place in the church freezer in the kitchen.

\*Each recipe should fill 2+ gallon zip lock bags about 6 Cups each. Simply make a batch, freeze it and place your donation in the church kitchen freezer. Batches that are frozen flat in a gallon bag stack very nicely.

**Thank you for your donations & for helping us with a constant supply each month!**

October 2021



## From the Bishop:

At first glance, it does not seem as though Teresa of Avila, noted Spanish Roman Catholic saint from the sixteenth century, would have much to say about today's world. You see, she is well known for her mysticism, her ecstatic prayers, several quotes that she might or might not have said, and her reforms in the church. All of these things are interesting – but what do they have to do with the 21<sup>st</sup> century and what is happening in the world today? In the last few days, though, I have been thinking about what she writes at the beginning of her work, *The Interior Castle*.

At the beginning of this book Teresa admits that she is tired. On the first page she writes, "I'm writing this book under obedience and I'm already finding it hard. God hasn't given me any desire for this work, and my head is so full of noise I can barely compose a letter about the most ordinary business, much less a book about prayer."

I am so thankful for Teresa stating it bluntly. Teresa is unsure if she'll succeed, she is not sure she has it in her to do what she is being asked to do, she is nervous and distracted. In other words, St. Teresa sounds a lot like all of us – especially when we are being asked to do something that is different or hard or difficult.

Truthfully, it can be daunting as we continue to navigate this pandemic, as we continue to navigate the changes of the world and the changing church, as we strive to live into what God is calling us to do. It is difficult, as Teresa fully expresses, to push past our fear or our unease or our malaise to do what God is calling us to do. It is pretty impossible to do a new thing without God's help and guidance.

And so, as I reflect on Teresa's difficulties, our difficulties, I am also drawn to scripture – specifically Isaiah 43. In the first part of Isaiah 43 we read:

But now thus says the Lord,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.  
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.  
For I am the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

The prophet writes that God created us, God formed us. We have no need for fear because God knows each of our names. God calls each of us. We are God's. No matter the circumstance, no matter the trial, no matter the fire. This is what Teresa understood and it is what we cling to when we struggle and when we wonder if we can go on. I invite you to hold Isaiah 43:1-3 closely as we hear these words from Isaiah 43:18-19.

Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

As we hold close the promise that God creates us, forms us, names us, calls us, and holds us, only then can we hear the promise in these words that a new thing, a new day is coming. That God will make a way. May we hold close the words of St. Teresa and the prophet Isaiah. May you feel God's love surrounding you when all seems overwhelming. And may you rise in the strength of the Lord knowing that God's love surrounds you and fills you – and a way is being made as we all go forward together in Christ.

+Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee  
[bishop@lutheransnw.org](mailto:bishop@lutheransnw.org)

# First Lutheran

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Please Save the date  
**November 14**  
Semi Annual Mtg.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

This is Christ's church.  
There is a place for you here!  
The ELCA is the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person-questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

## FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2015 E. Blackburn Rd.  
Mount Vernon WA 98274  
Mailing: PO Box 777  
Mount Vernon WA 98273

**Church Office**—office@firstlutheranmv.org

Website w/calendar [www.firstlutheranmv.org](http://www.firstlutheranmv.org)

Join us on [Facebook](#)

Office is open Tues & Thurs 9:30-3:30

Phone: 360 424-6832 - Please leave a message

Pastoral Emergencies, please listen to voicemail message

### To reach our Staff:

**Pastor- Pastor Ryan Rouse**— Ph- 360 603-6379

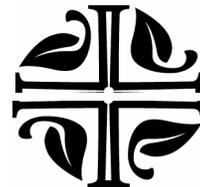
Pastorryan@firstlutheranmv.org

**Holly Oliver, Office Ph**— 360 424-6832

Parish Administrator-office@firstlutheranmv.org

**Pete Olson,**

Worship Accompanist-peterdonne@yahoo.com



You are created uniquely by God and you are welcome here.

Your Abilities· Age· Culture· Economic Status· Gender Expression/identity· Life Circumstances· Marital Status· Questions· Race· Sexual Orientation· are welcome here.

## Our Congregational Leaders

**President**— Bob Ramborger

**Vice President**— Donn Hollenbeck

**Secretary**— Mary Anne Ramborger

**Treasurer**— Jeanette St. Germain

### Trustees

Donn Hollenbeck, Jeff May, Vacant Position

### Deacons

Doug Carter, Bill Simon, Heather Romano

### Parish Activities

Frances Wraspir, David Jones, Vacant position