



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.

Gospels and Parables

During the past few weeks, we have heard Jesus teach his followers using parables. I believe that he did this, because telling stories was a good way for him to help each listener make the Good News a part of his or her own story or experience. As we are swept up in the narrative, we ourselves become part of a new parable -- the parable of our lives. Taken all together, our individual experiences of the kingdom, our personal stories of God's work and witness in our lives, end up creating a new gospel.

We are greatly mistaken if we think our Christian tradition stems from only four canonical gospels. Along with "The Gospel According to Matthew, Mark," "Luke" and "John," the church has almost 2,000 plus years' worth of other gospel books to celebrate. "The Gospel of Augustine," "The Gospel of Martin Luther," "The Gospel of John Wesley." All these "gospels" have remained vital parts of our tradition because of their eternally rechargeable parable power.

Other gospels may not be quite so well-known, but they work just as persuasively in our lives. How many of you know that the personal parable stories making up "The Gospel According to Grandma," or "The Gospel According to Dad," or "The Gospel According to That Kid at Camp Whose Name I Can't Even Remember," may have affected your lives in a small way or not so small way?

All of us are in the process of writing our own gospels -- our own accounts of experiencing the Good News of the coming kingdom in our midst. Writing a gospel, through the very act of living, is part of being a disciple of Christ. It is why Jesus gave the power of the parable to all those listening to his words.

Lately, as we continue to live in these interesting times of mask wearing and social distancing, I find myself wondering about the kind of stories the people of First Evangelical Lutheran Church might be able to share about how they have experienced God while staying at home. I think it would be truly amazing if people would consider writing down what they have been doing to keep their faith in the Lord a priority in their lives lately. Have you been joining us for online worship or drive up worship? Have you had a chance to try a zoom Bible study or Coffee hour? Have you been able to share your God given gifts with others by being a reader for our videos, a parking lot attendant, a pen pal, a videographer/editor, or perhaps you have done something else you would like to share. Please consider sharing your parables with us so that we can look back at this time of exile and remember all the ways God has been with us.

God Bless you all,
Pastor Ryan



Re-opening Plan Update

Hello FELC,

Normally this time of year Council would be taking a break in July and then come back in August to plan for the upcoming program year. But, with the continuing pandemic and continually evolving information, Council decided it was best to meet and review the latest updates. Unfortunately, the data continues to trend the wrong way for us to consider re-opening, so Council chose to continue to keep the building closed through the end of August for all in-person activities.

We will not be considering any indoor activities until the county moves to at least phase 3, and with the state re-opening plan on hold, we do not know when that will happen. But I am happy to report that we were finally able to test out our radio transmitter in a trial-run for drive-up Worship on July 11th, and it went well, all things considered. We then held our first official drive-up Worship the following Sunday the 19th and continue to offer this option every Sunday at our traditional 10am start.

If you have not yet attended drive-up Worship, I highly encourage it, as it's great to see people again, even if it's through the car windows and behind masks. If you want more details about how drive-up Worship works at FELC, you can see this page on our website:

<https://firstlutheranmv.org/worship/drive-up-worship/>

You can also find the bulletin for each week on this page. Unfortunately, we are unable to distribute anything right now, so you'll need to print your bulletin or look at it on your phone/tablet/device, and if you'd like to participate in Communion, you'll need to bring your own elements. If you'd like to help with Worship, contact Holly or Pastor Ryan for opportunities, and if you'd like to help with directing cars in the parking lot, [you can sign up here to do that](#).

If drive-up Worship is not for you, you can still watch our online Worship videos, which we will continue to produce in some way for the foreseeable future, even with other in-person options coming back. We also continue to have our radio broadcast on Sundays at 8am on KAPS 660AM if you want to catch up on the prior week.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you that are contributing in some way to all of these options, as it would be impossible to continue to offer them without all of the time and talents you give to FELC.

In His name,

Benjy St.Germain
FELC Council President



Thank you for all you give to First Lutheran Church. As of July 31,2020, we received a total of \$136,930.89 and spent \$138,245.72 so the negative balance for the year is now - \$1,314.83. Through your generosity and with the payroll protection program loan/grant, we have been able to meet all obligations to date but the grant will be ending soon so please keep FELC’s financial stewardship in mind.

Jeanette St Germain Treasurer

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL COMPARISONS REPORT			
FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	July 2019	July 2020	July 2020 Budget
Total Income	158,741.30	136,930.89	165,499.94
Total Expenses	151,942.17	138,245.72	179,216.37
Income compared to Expenses	6,799.13	(1,314.83)	

Security System Update

We had previously announced that we would be purchasing a security system for the Church after some unfortunate incidents earlier this year. The Trustees worked diligently to research different options and at the June Council meeting Guardian Security was approved for a purchase and installation of the system. The installation started on July 27th and was completed on August 3rd.

The system has been installed and tested and is ready to start being used, but we have not started arming it yet. We know this is a major shift in how people access and use the building at FELC and we want to make sure we are ready for this change. There will be some grace period in terms of false alarms, but we incur charges for them by responders after a certain amount. COVID has greatly reduced the activity in the building right now and so in this case, it is a blessing in disguise to make this major change.

The next step will be to distribute the alarm codes to everyone who will need access to the building. Employees and Council will be receiving codes first, and then we will distribute codes to the committees and groups through Council. So, if your committee needs access to the building in the near future, please contact your Council Board to make sure that you will have a code and know how to use the system.

We will be starting to arm the system sometime in August and will be posting notices both online and at entrances to the building to warn people to not enter unless you are able to disarm it. We will do our best to make it clear when it is turned on, but we ask you to keep it in mind every time you come to FELC. If you have any questions about this, please contact us

Thanks,
FELC Council



Serving in Worship -*Sign up for days & times that work best for you...*

As you may have read, we have begun using an online software tool to help streamline the process of volunteering, by the name of “sign up genius”. The beauty of this type of sign up is that you are empowered to choose times and opportunities that work well for you. You are able to look back at the sign up anytime & see what spots have been filled & where assistance is still needed.

FELC now has opportunities to serve as parking attendants. Parking attendants serve by welcoming people to worship and ushering them to a parking place. Please see our August sign up by clicking on the following link- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DABAA2CA6FE3-drive>

The volunteer opportunities for online services are emailed out once a week and contain a link to the online sign up. If you would like to be included in our weekly invitations, please send an email office@firstlutheranmv.org or leave a voicemail at 360 424-6832

Thank you, Holly



Getting to Know...

JIM BONHOLZER

You may have seen “Mr. Showbiz” in church or at coffee hour, but did you know that he had something to do with the drive-in theater in Anacortes? You can still see one of the screens from Highway 20 by the Ford dealership.

It all started when he and his family made the move from North Dakota during the Dust-bowl to his aunt’s house in Tacoma, quickly settling in West Seattle. Jim was about 13 years old and had a paper route with the Seattle PI. It was during this time that his friend, a sign changer at local theater, the Portola (now the Admiral), needed help with the sign changing. Jim took the opportunity and became the sign changer and helped the projectionist when needed. He was happy to be their gopher and run errands. It also helped that he was able to get a free show—a perk that really had him interested in the job!



During his young years he moved between the Portola, Granada, and Admiral theaters working as a doorman and then assistant door man. He was so good at his job that one time, he even wouldn’t let the Granada Theater owner in, John Danz. As Jim explained it, it was because: 1) he didn’t have a ticket and 2) he parked in front of a fire hydrant. It wasn’t until he was called into the office that he was met with the owner: the man he wouldn’t let in! Yikes! In his defense, he didn’t know who the owner was and only knew him by name. It was right then that he was offered a job there for as long as he wanted. Way to make an impression Jim!

By the time Jim was in high school, he was assistant manager of the Admiral Theater. This became the jumping point for managing theaters all throughout the state of Washington. Jim had also joined the Air Corps where they sent him to St. Louis to learn cryptology, also known as a “code-breaker”. When Jim wondered how he could get to fight in the war he was told he was in the wrong section. He wanted the eastern side, so naturally, he transferred. Once he got to North Carolina for training to prepare to go overseas, the war was over. Jim was quite active during the war in keeping social. Due to gas rationing, he would gather groups of kids, rent a U-Haul truck and go skiing in Snoqualmie Pass. They would be up by 3am and back home by 8pm. Then get up and go to work in the morning.

Jim eventually married, had children and began managing theaters in the Aberdeen/ Hoquiam area. He then returned to Seattle working at the Palomar Theater, a stage theater, working as assistant manager. It included working the door and introducing variety acts. He later moved into the “office” side of theater life. A job he initially didn’t think he would like, but did. He had a direct line to all the major studio reps and booked cartoons, news reels, and any content that was to be screened. After doing that for a while, he reached the end of the line and moved to the Columbia basin for a General Manager position... only to get a call a few months later offering him a job in Seattle managing drive-in theaters from Seattle to Spokane. Jim had to speak to his boss open and honestly about his situation as he didn’t want to “leave him in a lurch”. But, his boss couldn’t let him pass it up and tore up his contract saying, “Go, take it, it’s the greatest job offer!”

It was a fateful boating trip that brought him to Anacortes, a little town he had never heard of. He explored the island and drove around looking for large lots to start up his very own drive-in theater: a dream of his. Jim didn’t want to be the competition, he just wanted something of his own. When he found a spot, it was too expensive to purchase at the time. But years later after owning and running The Fruitvale drive-in in Yakima (among others), Jim made that Anacortes landowner an offer, and the rest is history!

The Circus drive-in was the first in Anacortes. A Bremerton company sent him a log building for the concessions and bathrooms and he and his brother put it together. Jim was able to provide heaters when it got colder and figured out how he could start the show earlier in this PNW light. Something no other drive-in could do at the time. Ask Jim about it, but it has something to do with changing the lenses! He always tried to make sure he waved to his customers on their way out to thank them for coming. If someone couldn’t afford to pay for the movie, Jim would find them a job around the drive-in to do in exchange, such as turning off lights, checking the speakers for functionality, or picking up garbage. Jim and his family were very successful with this new adventure and it was a family affair. His wife, Lorraine, was in charge of the concession stands, often traveling between theaters. His son, Jim Jr., managed the Fruitvale drive-in until his untimely death in an automobile accident. His daughter Laurie also helped with the concession stands while in high school. The theater business had Jim and his family traveling all over the globe. Jim said he has been on every continent “at least twice!”

Jim celebrated his 90th birthday in 2016 at the Admiral Theater with many friends and relatives. He has been featured in different blogs and interviews, such as one with [Komo’s own Connie Thompson](#) and one with the [South Seattle Historical Society](#).

Jim says he’s one of the luckiest people alive because he’s still alive! He had a great wife (she passed in 2008) and family, and he found a job that he loved going to everyday as no day was ever alike. If you would like to know more about this, reach out to Jim. He would be happy to talk about it. If it weren’t for our current pandemic, you would find Jim enjoying the sun in Maui where his daughter Laurie lives. For now, long talks on the phone, drives to the riverbend to enjoy a meal in his car or read the paper is how he is keeping busy.

Thanks, Jim for sharing your story!

**Will you share your story with us?
E-mail krmnstgee@gmail.com**



August 2020



Dear Beloveds of the Northwest Washington Synod,

I recently read the book *The Splendid and the Vile* by Erik Larson about Winston Churchill during the blitz. I was surprised to learn that

Churchill was appointed prime minister on the day that German forces stormed into Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg. He did not even have time to move into the prime minister's office. Instead, he began directing the war effort from his previous office. (And I thought that my first year had tumultuous events!)

On August 1, 2020, I will have completed my first year as your bishop. I have been excited, thrilled, sad, frustrated, energized, and challenged – perhaps you have been, too. I have been so grateful for everyone in this synod – the staff (Andy, Dianne, Susan, Traci, and David), the rostered ministers, and the members of our congregations/ministry sites. I have enjoyed working in the wider ELCA and with other faith leaders throughout the U.S. and the world. This call is truly a gift.

At the beginning of my call as Bishop, through prayer and conversation, I discerned what I believed God was calling us to emphasize as a synod during this first year:

- Leadership
- Community
- Youth and Young Adults
- Faithful Innovation

In collaboration with other individuals and groups within the synod, we began working on these emphases. And some good work is happening.

That said, I did not predict COVID-19. I did not predict churches stopping in-person worship nor

did I understand how long this pandemic time would last. I did not anticipate how this pandemic would impact each person and each congregation in this synod. I am slowly realizing that it will be a long time before we shake hands, hug, sit closely, and sing together again.

I also did not expect that in these last months we would have marches in the streets, voices being raised, and laws being changed as people said, "Enough! Enough to systemic racism and brutality against people of color. Enough!" I did not anticipate that there is new possibility in this world towards true peace and justice if we all do the hard work God is calling us to do.

This is an exciting – and challenging – time to be church. But what opportunities we have! God is calling us to new ways of living, new ways of doing, and new ways of being. Truly, God is calling us to new life in Christ! As we hear in Romans 6:4 -

"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."

So, what will come in my second year as your bishop? If it is anything like this first year, a lot will happen! I anticipate that there will be highs and lows, joys and sorrows, confession and forgiveness, surprises and wonders. Through it all, though, I trust that God will be with us - in, with, and under – as we move forward together.

Every day I give thanks for you. I am so grateful to be with you on this journey. I thank you for your trust in me as your bishop and I thank God every day for the Spirit who calls us, gathers us, and sends us out into the world. May you rest, breathe, and act in God's love, justice, and true peace.

In the Hope and Love of Christ,
Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



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.



Back to School Pictures:

I would like to keep adding to our clothesline of back to school pictures. I think we all agree that it has been a lot of fun to see these smiling faces in the Fall. Even if we don't know quite what the future holds for us right now, I would like to keep this going! I am reaching out to the younger members of our church, too! Yes, even the 30-45+ bracket and your kids! I see you on Facebook, so I know you can send me some pictures by email.

Let's do this! ~Karmen St.Germain

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FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Mailing: PO Box 777
Mount Vernon WA 98273

Worship Services

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Church Office—office@firstlutheranmv.org

Website w/calendar www.firstlutheranmv.org

Join us on [Facebook](#)

Phone: 360 424-6832 - For Pastoral Emergencies, please listen to voicemail message for phone number of on call pastor

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.

To reach our Staff:

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Our Congregational Leaders

President— Benjamin St. Germain

Vice President— Brad Pickett

Secretary— Sharon Lauch

Treasurer— Jeanette St. Germain

Trustees

Blaine Wollan, Brad Pickett, Donn Hollenbeck

Deacons

Gary Wiegand, Bob Ramborger, Doug Carter

Parish Activities

Frances Wraspir,
Karmen St. Germain, David Jones