

Faith Lutheran Church



Serving Christ in the Heart of the Umpqua

August 2025
Issue 8

Faith News

Welcome

We are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace everyone as a whole person, with questions, doubts, complexities and all. We are moved by God's grace to welcome all who have ever felt marginalized, no matter your gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, ethnicity, marital status, or faith background. We welcome you as we worship, learn, and share Christ's love together.



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by Nadia Bolz-Weber

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They say a picture is worth a thousand words ... This one evokes many from - Are they at a magic show? Wonder if they are watching an acrobatic act ... What a great show! And many, many more of course, which leads me to a fun game I'd like us to play. How many funny descriptions can you come up with? I'd like to share some of our replies in next month's newsletter so start sending them in.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In-person & live streamed at 9:30am

Livestream:

<https://streamlabs.com/faithlutheranchurchroseburg>

PASTORS LETTER

While the pastors are on vacation, they are sharing a letter from Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber for our Newsletter.

What to do if the world is ending

(answer: plant a tree)

Nadia Bolz-Weber

When I was a girl, my mother wisely would warn me, “don’t get your hopes up. You don’t want to be disappointed”.

She’s right of course. She didn’t want me to build something up in my mind to the point that the reality of the thing could only disappoint. *Getting your hopes up*, she would tell me, *is a sure way of being let down*. I see where she’s coming from now that I have raised children of my own. I hate to see them disappointed and would love to help them manage to not have that experience. But I think that what she was trying to rid me of wasn’t hopefulness at all. It was harmful expectations.

Hope is different than expectations. Our expectations are what often keep us from being present to the gift of what IS. Not to mention, expectations are sometimes just the other side of entitlement, and there really is very little joy in getting what we believe we have coming to us anyhow.

That’s why I think maybe it’s important to see how expectations differ from expectancy. Expectancy is what the imprisoned prophet Jeremiah had when he said *The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah*. This prophet sits in prison as Jerusalem is being taken over by Nebuchadnezzar and everything is collapsing around him and he defiantly holds fast to the outrageous promises of God. There is violence and fear and foreboding all around him and what did this prophet do right before this part of the text? Bought land. In an outlandish act of hope he purchased land in the lower 9th ward knowing Katrina was coming **because he would not give in to the idea that this is all there is**.

Despite the chaos and despair around him Jeremiah wrapped himself around God’s promises and on behalf of his people would not, could not, did not let go. When this prophet was persecuted for preaching God’s truth he did not run away to some monastery for a life of quiet contemplation. He did not try and get a cozy job in the new regime. He bought land. In a defiant act of hope he bought land. He refused to let the threatening clouds rolling over the present darken his view of what was possible in the future.

It reminds me of Martin Luther's famous response when *he* was asked what would he do if he knew the world would end tomorrow. He said "I'd plant a tree"

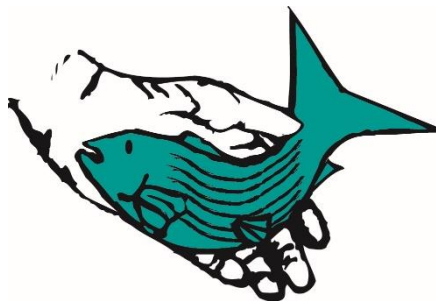
The promise that God is not done and we will not be left alone still holds. This hope to which we cling is not a naive hope. Nor is it an escapist hope. But quite the opposite. It's the hope of people who have heard the dangerous rumor that there is life beyond death and hope beyond suffering and that love eventually conquers the soul-crushing bullshit we humans keep perpetuating.

It *is* dangerous to say that our hopes are not something in our grasp, that there is a future created not by ourselves but by God. It goes against every Western individualistic message of self-propulsion we have ever received. And we don't just say it, we celebrate it. It's a completely bonkers thing we do as Christians - particularly in this culture. We say that our hope is not in the Dow Jones but in the God of Abraham and Sarah, our hope is not in the nonprofit industrial complex, but in the God of Jeremiah and Mary Magdalen, and perhaps most importantly, **our hope is not in our own ability to be hopeful** but in the God of and Teresa of Avila and Teresa of Calcutta. This is what it means to stand in the midst of a troubled world and raise our heads in expectancy pointing to from where our help comes.

As I've said before, as a people of a story we can have one hand reaching back to touch the hope of the prophets and one hand reaching out to the promised redemption of the world...and when we do this, we can be open and vulnerable to the present, without the present crushing us.

Then we buy land and plant trees. Or whatever the metaphorical equivalent is.

In it with you,
Nadia



Each Sunday throughout the summer we will be collecting food for the FISH Pantry.

Please bring your donations to the Sanctuary so it can be brought to the front during worship.

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

This month *Crafting with Jenn* will have a new time and day to meet. They will meet on **Sunday, August 24th at 12:30pm**, and the *fourth Sundays* of each month afterwards, in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30pm.

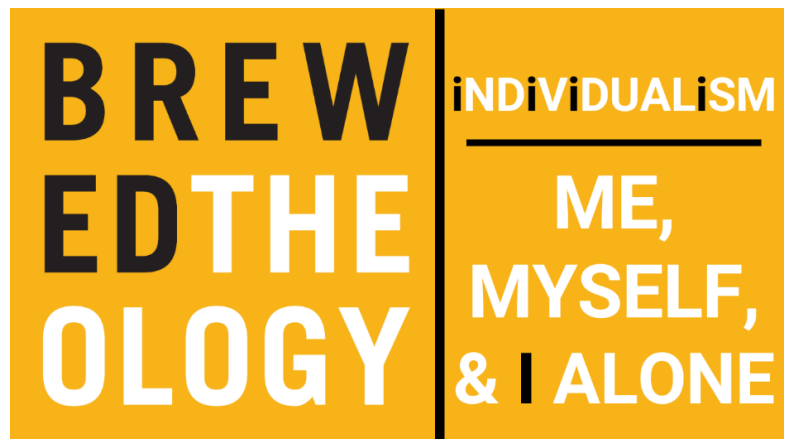


August's craft
will be:

*"Painting Your
Pet"*

Jenn's Pet Painting classes have become a hit all across town! This class is free to attend so bring a friend for a nice, fun afternoon activity in air conditioning.

Brewed Theology august 28 in
Brix upper room --
Gather at 2:00 and 6:00 --
Conversations start at 2:30 and 6:30.
This month we are talking about
Individualism and how it affects our
relationships with God and with
others. Looking forward to seeing
you!



Save the dates...

Pastors return to office on **August 12, 2025**

Crafting with Jenn – Pet Portraits - **August 24, 12:30pm**

Morning Prayer and **Bible Study** on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am at
St. George Episcopal Church 1024 SE Cass Ave Roseburg

Brewed Theology will meet
August 28th at 2:30 and 6:30 in Brix Upper Room.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO ...

STARDUST THEATER TRIP

In July we were treated to a trip to the Stardust Theater in Coquille by Jerry and Cindy Kent and the Outreach committee, to see *"Recipe for Disaster, Camilla's Culinary Quandary"*

There was plenty of laughter and fun to go around as everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you to the Outreach Committee and the Kents for a wonderful outing and fun time for all.



USEFUL INFORMATION

The FISH of Roseburg JULY 2025 Service Summary



FOODSERVICE: This month, the FISH Pantry was Open 17 times for 34 Hours

Totals for the Month

Families: 1028
Persons: 2776

Family Size:

1	460	5	72
2	165	6	60
3	115	7	93
4	86	8+	37

Age Groups:

0 – 4	159	25-44	650
5-17	563	45-64	536
18-24	200	65+	380

288 Anonymous clients for the Homeless Outreach Project

Areas of Service: Roseburg Area 518 Households (50%),
Outside Roseburg: 510 Households (50%)

North: 196 South: 173 East: 14 West: 127

Miscellaneous Information:

Pantry Volunteers: 56 Volunteer hours: 597

Total Food Donated: 23,335lbs

GAS SERVICES: FISH provided 4 gas vouchers totaling \$100

SHELTER SERVICES: FISH provided 4 persons equaling 2 nights of emergency shelter:
Totaling \$156.00

DOORDASH SERVICES: FISH provided 38 at home deliveries

See our website for current news about the FISH – <http://fishofroseburg.org>

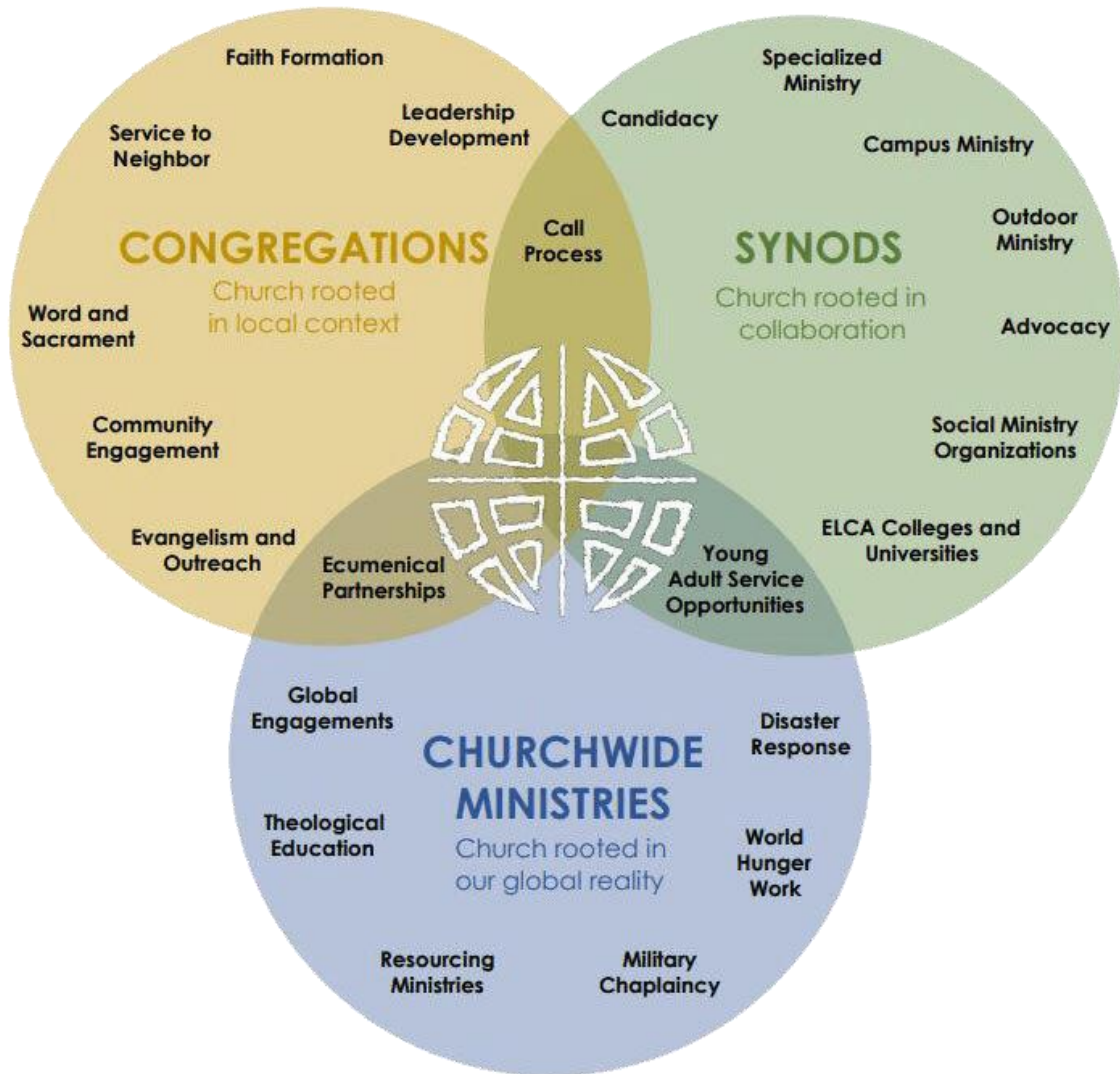
The FISH of Roseburg is an agency of the Greater Douglas United Way

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*****Faith Lutheran Church will be collecting food every Sunday throughout the Summer for the FISH Pantry. Please bring your donations to the Sanctuary so it can be brought to the front during worship***



2025 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY



Answers

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John | 11. 6 | 21. Hagar |
| 2. None | 12. 6th | 22. Esau |
| 3. Genesis | 13. Adam | 23. Ishmael |
| 4. 66 | 14. Eve | 24. Abraham |
| 5. 27 books in the NT | 15. Garden of Eden | 25. Sarah |
| 6. Matthew | 16. Cain, Abel, Seth | 26. Isaac |
| 7. 3 John | 17. Moah | 27. Sarah |
| 8. 39 books in the OT | 18. Shem, Ham, Japheth | 28. Into the desert |
| 9. Psalms | 19. 8 | 29. Rebekah |
| 10. Revelation | 20. Sarai | 30. Jacob and Esau |

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church.

The triennial assembly—the highest legislative body of the ELCA—is composed of an allocated 845 voting members, serving on behalf of the 2.7 million members of the ELCA. The ELCA's 65 synods elect voting members to serve at churchwide assemblies

Two key elections will happen at Churchwide this year:

- ELCA's presiding bishop: The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, the first female presiding bishop of the ELCA, was elected in 2013 and reelected to a second term in 2019. She will retire at the end of her current term.
- ELCA's secretary. Deacon Sue Rothmeyer, elected secretary in 2019, will retire at the end of her current term.

Churchwide voting members will also consider:

- The proposed social statement [*Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All*](#) and its proposed implementing resolutions. The statement addresses critical questions about life in society including the purpose of civic life, God's call to be active in civic life, the appropriate use of power in government, the harms of Christian nationalism and the public role of rostered ministers in speaking about political issues.
- Proposed editorial changes to the social statement *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust* in response to the memorial "[Reconsideration of Social Statement on Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust](#)," which was approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. The proposed changes are language updates to bring the social statement up to date and in line with current law and the church's emerging understanding of the diversity of what makes a family.
- Reception of the 2024 Lutheran-Orthodox [Common Statement on the Filioque](#). *Filioque* refers to the words "and the Son," which divided the Eastern and Western churches when they were added to the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed in 1054.

Memorials from the ELCA's 65 synods that address social justice issues and matters relating to the structure of the ELCA. Topics include: missing and murdered Indigenous women; Indian boarding school remembrance; discourse on Israel-Palestine and an end to the occupation of Palestine; recommendation No. 1 from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC), addressing immediate action on dismantling racism; restoration of USAID funding; and reconsideration of the ELCA social message on end-of-life decisions.

Pastor Matt's 30th Ordination Anniversary



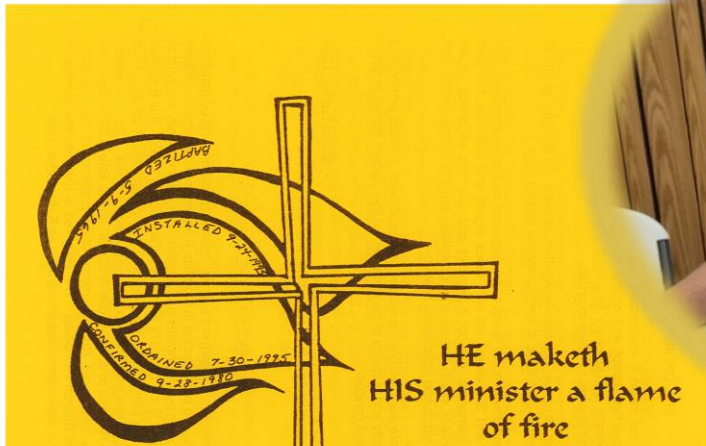
On July 20, we had the honor of sharing the 30th anniversary of Pastor Matt's Ordination.

The WOF and In-Reach committees came together and prepared a beautiful feast for all to enjoy.

Thank you to all that participated in this celebration and especially to the Women of Faith and In-Reach committees!

As usual, you go above and beyond to make our events "extra" special.





Bible Trivia

Questions and Answers

for kids

1. What four books tell about Jesus' life on Earth?
2. Which book did Jesus directly write?
3. What is the first book in the Bible?
4. How many books are in the Bible?
5. How many books in the New Testament?
6. Which NT book has Jesus' Sermon on the Mount?
7. What is the shortest book in the Bible?
8. How many books in the Old Testament?
9. What is the longest book in the Bible?
10. What is the last book in the Bible?
11. How many days did God take to create the world?
12. What day did God create man?
13. Who was the first man?
14. Who was the first woman?
15. Where did they live at the beginning of the world?

16. Who were their three sons listed in the Bible?
17. Who did God tell to build an ark?
18. Who were Noah's three sons?
19. How many people were saved on the ark?
20. Who was Abram's wife?
21. Who was Abram's handmaid?
22. Who did Isaac favor of his two sons?
23. Who was the first son he had?
24. What was Abram's name changed to?
25. What was Sarai's name changed to?
26. What was the second son Abraham had?
27. Who did Abraham have his second son with?
28. Where did Hagar and her son leave to?
29. Who did the servant choose?
30. What were Isaac's sons' names?



God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 8,500 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." on Sept. 7. Across the country, thousands of members will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work with our hands! Contact us for more information:

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Roseburg, OR 97471
541-672-2231



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 <u>8:15a</u> Crossroads <u>9:30a</u> Worship Service 10:30a Birthdays & Anniversaries Celebration <u>10:30a</u> Gospel of Matthew Book Study <u>7:00p</u> Mt. Nebo AA Mtg	4 <u>10:00p</u> Watercolor Fellowship	5 <u>Noon</u> Alanon – Brown Baggers	6 <u>10:00a</u> Morning Prayer St G <u>6:00p</u> Women's AA <u>6:30p</u> Alanon – Easy Doers <u>7:00p</u> NA Meeting	7 <u>1:00p</u> Lydia's Ladies Quilting <u>7:00p</u> Mt. Nebo AA Mtg	1 / 8	2 / 9
10 <u>8:15a</u> Crossroads <u>9:30a</u> Worship Service <u>10:30a</u> WOF Meeting <u>10:30a</u> Gospel of Matthew Book Study <u>2:00p</u> Sawdust Theater <u>7:00p</u> Mt. Nebo AA Mtg	11 <u>10:00p</u> Watercolor Fellowship	12 Pastors return from vacation <u>Noon</u> Alanon – Brown Baggers <u>6:00p</u> U.V.N.P.S. Mtg	13 <u>10:00a</u> Morning Prayer St G <u>10:30a</u> Bible Study - St G <u>6:00p</u> Women's AA <u>6:30p</u> Alanon – Easy Doers <u>7:00p</u> NA Meeting	14 <u>1:00p</u> Lydia's Ladies Quilting <u>7:00p</u> Mt. Nebo AA Mtg	15	16
17 <u>8:15a</u> Crossroads <u>9:30a</u> Worship Service <u>10:30</u> WOF Bake Sale <u>10:30a</u> Gospel of Matthew Book Study <u>7:00p</u> Mt. Nebo AA Mtg	18 <u>10:00p</u> Watercolor Fellowship <u>4:15p</u> In-Reach Meeting	19 <u>Noon</u> Alanon – Brown Baggers	20 <u>10:00a</u> Morning Prayer St G <u>10:30a</u> Bible Study – St G <u>4:30p</u> Embracing Diversity Meeting <u>6:00p</u> Women's AA <u>6:30p</u> Alanon – Easy Doers <u>7:00p</u> NA Meeting	21 <u>1:00p</u> Lydia's Ladies Quilting <u>5:00p</u> Council Mtg <u>7:00p</u> Mt. Nebo AA Mtg	22	23
24 <u>8:15a</u> Crossroads <u>9:30a</u> Worship Service <u>10:30a</u> Gospel of Matthew Book Study <u>10:30</u> Chicken Sunday <u>12:30p</u> Crafting with Jenn Reida <u>7:00p</u> Mt. Nebo AA Mtg	25 <u>10:00p</u> Watercolor Fellowship	26 <u>Noon</u> Alanon – Brown Baggers	27 <u>10:00a</u> Morning Prayer St G <u>10:30a</u> Bible Study – St G <u>6:00p</u> Women's AA <u>6:30p</u> Alanon – Easy Doers <u>7:00p</u> NA Meeting	28 <u>1:00p</u> Lydia's Ladies Quilting <u>2:00p</u> Brewed Theology <u>7:00p</u> Mt. Nebo AA Mtg <u>7:00p</u> Brewed Theology	29	30
31 <u>8:15a</u> Crossroads <u>9:30a</u> Worship Service <u>10:30a</u> Gospel of Matthew Book Study <u>7:00p</u> Mt. Nebo AA Mtg						



2025