

WEEKLY NEWS ~~ MARCH 31, 2023

COVID 19 MASKING FOR WEEK BEGINNING

March 31, 2023

OPTIONAL

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Humans of Gloria Dei,

Recently, the synod staff came to Pastor Katherine at Faith, and I, saying, “We have this Friendship Process we’re trying out, would Gloria Dei and Faith like to give it a try?” We engaged the conversation and in February, both Councils discussed and voted to move forward with this process.

I want to name up front the questions and fears of “Is this the synod forcing us into merging?” The answer is NO, absolutely not. Of course, congregations can decide to move that direction but that is not the intention.

What is the Friendship Process?

A process of looking at the ministries and interests of two neighboring congregations to see where and how we might work together, share resources, time, and energy, **growing our ELCA Lutheran impact in the community. We are better together and can have more presence as Lutherans if we work together.**

This particular process model has a specific beginning and end, during which we spend time together in conversation, looking for commonalities and differences and respecting both. At the end of the time, we make decisions about if and how we want to continue the partnership.

We make the process our own, the synod has provided an example. The synod will help as we invite them in, but ultimately, this is our process of building intentional relationship between the congregations.

Long range *could* be sharing staff but maintaining identity of both congregations in a parish model, but this is not expected, assumed, or forced.

This is **NOT** the Oregon Synod saying we **MUST** do this.

This is **NOT** a process with the end result of merging or one congregation absorbing the other

Remember: A healthy partnership between two congregations comes from interest and commitment from within each congregation. A healthy partnership does not develop because a pastor or synod thinks it should happen.

What’s next?

We are putting together a team representing each congregation that will lead us through this process. This Friendship Team will guide us through series of monthly gatherings of conversations and activities as we discern how we might want to move forward in partnership in ministry.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions you might have. I am excited about the possibilities! Stay tuned for more information and a schedule of gatherings.

In Christ,
Pastor Alyssa

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Maundy Thursday, April 6	6:30 pm worship at Gloria Dei
Good Friday, April 7	12 noon Ecumenical worship at Gloria Dei
Ecumenical Easter Sunrise, April 9	6:30 am worship at Sunset Bay beach
Easter Sunday	10:00 am worship at Gloria Dei
Community Easter Dinner	12:30 pm – 2 pm at Faith Lutheran, North Bend

MEET INTERN BRECK COGSWELL!

Breck Cogswell (she/her/hers) is a continuing year M.Div. student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, originally from Fort Smith, Arkansas. She studied Music, Religion, and Church Music at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and her primary ministry interests include intergenerational ministry, narratives and care around grief, death and dying, liturgy/music ministry, and LGBTQIA+ affirming faith spaces. In her free time, catch her reading, crocheting, cooking, or hanging out with her bunny, MoMo. She is thrilled to begin getting to know this congregation and to partner in ministry with Gloria Dei!



TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY EASTER DINNER

The people of Faith Lutheran in North Bend have extended a very cordial invitation to the people of Gloria Dei to join them in their Traditional Community Easter Dinner. The Dinner is Easter Sunday, April 9, from 12:30 pm – 2 pm at Faith. There is no charge for the meal and all are welcome!

OFFERING ENVELOPES HAVE ARRIVED

If you want offering envelopes, please talk to Barbara in the office (541-267-2347).

LEAFBLOWER

The Gloria Dei leaf blower appears to have taken a vacation. If anyone knows where the leaf blower might be resting, please let the office know!

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED

There are 2 coffee fellowship teams that need one more volunteer each. The commitment is generally serving 3 times a year. Please contact Kathy Whitwer if you would like to serve on a Coffee Fellowship team!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our students are excited about promoting **40 Days of Giving** for ELCA World Hunger this Lenten season. We're decorating containers for families to take home and use to collect coins throughout the season. This year, we're raising money to purchase seeds, fruit tree saplings, garden tools, and agricultural training to support individual family gardens and larger community gardens in needy areas of the world. We hope everyone will participate in this small way. Adding a few coins in our container each day will help us remember how blessed we are: we have delicious fruits and veggies, we have the joy of gardening. Our small Lenten sacrifice will be a big blessing to others! Check out the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, where our progress is being tracked! **Please bring your containers back next Sunday on Easter if you have not already brought them in. Thank you!**

SAVE THE DATES!

Vacation Bible School will be July 17 – 21. Please arrange your vacation days around this week. We'll be needing lots of volunteers those mornings, 9:30 – noon. Our curriculum will be “*Operation Restoration: Mending God's World*”.

FREE COVID-19 TEST KITS

The Federal Government is once again shipping free test kits to people upon request. Visit this webpage <https://www.covid.gov/tests> to order, or call [1-800-232-0233](tel:1-800-232-0233) (TTY [1-888-720-7489](tel:1-888-720-7489)). Gloria Dei has also been given two cases of Covid Test Kits. Kits will be available in the Narthex for those who would like to take some home to use.

QUILTING AT FAITH LUTHERAN

The Quilt-A-Thon at Faith Lutheran has been postponed until April 15.



Soul Shop: Ministering to Faith Communities Affected by Suicide

May 12, 2023

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

It's estimated that one out of every two people in a given congregation has personally been affected by suicide. Soul Shop trains faith community leaders to offer support, hope and connection to those in their congregations.

Co-sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Soul Shop equips participants with the resources and guidance they need to foster hope and healing in their community.

Program Details

Who Should Attend?

Faith-based leaders

Location

North Bend Presbyterian Church
2238 Pony Creek Rd
North Bend, OR 97459

Cost

\$15 per person

*Financial assistance available.

Register

afsp.org/oregon

Questions?

AFSP Oregon Chapter
oregon@afsp.org

soulshopcoosbay.attendase.com

SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

Suicide Prevention Training especially for faith communities is being offered locally! If interested, please register, or ask questions if you have them!

FROM THE SYNOD

Spring Oregon Synod Lay Education Course: Engaging Conflict for Growth: In Ourselves, Relationships, and Communities

Conflict is normal in all relationships, including congregations, so why can it seem so hard or complicated? How can we do our part to facilitate healthy and constructive conflict, while mitigating unhealthy and destructive conflict? And how do we tell the difference?

Pastors John and Joan Beck will join us for this six-week, on-line course in which we'll approach conflict through three lenses: personal, biblical, and systemic. Participants will leave with a set of practical tools for use in their own setting and relationships, as well as frameworks for further exploration. We'll draw lessons from and for conflict in personal, family, and community life, while emphasizing conflict in congregations.

Beginning April 13, the class meets for six Thursday evenings in a row from 6:30-8 pm. The course is designed with a Lutheran lens and inclusive heart; all are welcome. Course participants and/or their congregations are encouraged to donate, as they are able, on a sliding scale between \$20-\$160, but donations are not required to participate. [Register here.](#)

GIVING ONLINE

If you prefer to give online, visit our website, where you can choose our secure giving site (green GIVE button):

<https://www.gloriadeifamily.org/>

OR USE OUR QR CODE



LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE: 54 in person, 15 online



STEWARDSHIP IS...preparing the way of the Lord!