



The Illuminate

A publication of Family of Christ Lutheran Church

Family of Christ Vision Statement

Family of Christ is a family of God where all are welcome as we worship and grow in spirit and in life by...



- ~ **Connecting the scriptures** with our Christian faith and life experiences
 - ~ **Serving** and caring for our neighbors and communities
 - ~ **Building** relationships between people of all ages **and walks of life**
 - ~ **Transforming** our world by teaching love, grace, peace, and kindness
 - ~ **Moving purposefully** into God's future
- and we ask God to help guide us.

Pastor's Reflection

Once upon a time I remember a class discussion where the question was posed, "What makes a house a home?" The answers were varied and interesting. They went something like this: "A house is not a home until the family or friends gather at the table. A house is not a home until memories are made there, love is shared and forgiveness given." One person said, "A house becomes a home when it is a place of solace, refuge, comfort and rest. Home is that place where you go to be restored, renewed, and to grow. Another said, "A house becomes and remains a home as long as love resides there." The consensus was if some combination of these things were not present, then a house was little more than a dorm. You can imagine the discussion and reflection that followed. But just as one might expect, the professor was leading up to a bigger question. He asked,

What does make a church The Church? In our class, interestingly, the answers were very similar. In church, we gather around a table, we tell the family stories—i.e. the Holy Scriptures—we encourage one another, forgiveness is offered and received. But, "What

What makes a church The Church?

makes a church The Church?" There are the theological answers, "the Gospel is proclaimed, the sacraments are rightly administered, worship occurs regularly..." But I wonder, is that the whole story? I think the key to what makes a church The Church is all of this and more. I think it has a great deal to do with our motivation and what we do with what we have found. Doctrine, bible, rituals, and sacraments are very important. However, I have a feeling there is much more to the story.

I wonder if for a church to be The Church, the love that is found and lived out there is much more than human emotion and efforts can contain. I wonder if it meets us in our humanness but carries us into the amazing sacrificial holy love of God through Jesus Christ in utterly surprising ways. I wonder if it is no less and no more than the continuous incarnation of that same amazing and holy love lived out in the context of the community, and then brought into the world to be incarnated again and again in word and in deed.

What makes a church The Church? Perhaps it is all of the above and more. As we approach the season of Pentecost—that wonderful time when we recall the Holy Spirit blowing through our ancestors of faith and giving rise to The Church—I wonder what reflecting on how we answer the question for today will bring to new life in us. *I wonder...*

"What makes a church The Church?"

What makes a church The Church?



Building Relationship...

How do we grow Family of Christ?.....Participate, invite, and welcome!

Did you know in the weeks before Easter FOC members distributed 400 door hanger invitations throughout Felida? We did, and even while many of our families were away for spring break, our worship was blessed with many visitors and we had an increase in our worship attendance for Easter. That is awesome! Door hangers are great and non-threatening, but face-to-face invitations are even better. Warmly welcoming our visitors is the key to encouraging those who come for the first time to consider making FOC their church home. Invite our guests to coffee fellowship after worship. Sit with them, listen, share and introduce a few folks. Just be careful to not overwhelm. Then when a guest comes for the second time, greet them by name—if you forget their name, ask. Just say something like, “remind me of your name” I promise they won’t be offended. We are blessed with an awesome congregation with many wonderful ways to come together in worship, prayer, fellowship, learning and service. Let’s work together to be all that God created us to be by sharing what we have with our neighbors. In the meantime, **Pray, Invite, Welcome, Share, Serve, Tell.**

It’s time for spring cleaning as we get ready for our May Day Sale!

Clean out all those useful items you no longer need and make a difference in some one’s life at the same time! Do you have a few hours you can give to help with our May Day Sale on Saturday May 2nd? We need cashiers, and lots of folks to assist our guests. Contact Judy Enders if you can help. All the proceeds from the sale go to support our Social Ministries. Read article on page 4.



Connecting the Scriptures ~ Building Relationships ~ Transforming our World...

Adult Christian Education Ministry

Adult Christian Education Offerings and Small Groups

Sunday: “Heresies and Heretics Cont.” A seminary professor once said, “One person’s great new idea is another person’s heresy.” It was his way of saying change and progress within religious traditions are often viewed with suspicion and contempt by traditionalist. On the other hand, traditionalist have a way of calling us back to our roots and asks important questions before jumping on the bandwagon of each new thing. In fact, the heresy, heretics, controversies and scandals prior generations provide good fodder for conversation as we consider the Church within our rapidly evolving context. Join Pastor Kit as we take a look at some of the major “heresies and heretics” in Christian history and ask how they might inform the contemporary conversation of the Church. Meet Pastor Kit in the Library @ 9:45!

Monday Night @ 7:00 – Bible Study at the home of Jerre & Sharon Crisp.

Tuesday 10:00 A.M. – Tuesday morning Bible Study Join us as we take on the text for the upcoming Sunday Pastor Kit will meet in classroom 4.

Wednesday 1:00 P.M. – Small Group Bible Study @ Donna Lucky’s.

Wednesday Family Night Bible and Book Group led by Edie Dietzen & Linda Marousek



May Birthdays

- 2 Bethany Winz
- 5 Greg Shaw
- 8 Adelaide Vernon
- 9 Kerry Goerl
- 10 Jamie Leatherwood
- 11 Charlotte Doyle
- 15 Morgan Beems
- 15 Betty Perry
- 15 Sonja Sims
- 15 Tanner Wuetrich
- 17 Edie Dietzen
- 20 Al Jaffe
- 21 Neal Adolf
- 22 Trudy Swan
- 27 Andrew Harris
- 28 Ken Goerl
- 30 Debbie Broers
- 31 Bob Collier

♥♥ May Anniversaries ♥♥

- 1 Gary & Sue Endresen
- 4 Dale & Betty Perry
- 5 John & Marilyn Bearham
- 22 Travis & Teresa Marble
- 28 Bill and Bev (Bergau) Wagner

Centering Prayer Group

Sunday Evenings at 7 pm,

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.

Interested? Check it out every Sunday at 7 pm in the sanctuary.



May Social Concerns



Instant Soup

Because **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** is located in Ridgefield, it really does help our neighbors. This months requested food is instant soup. Place your donation in the basket by the north hall entry door. Thank you!

Holy Yoga in May



Holy Yoga will resume here on Friday May 15th (on break May 1 & 8) and will continue on Fridays throughout June. Classes are from 10 am to 11:15 am. Cost is \$5 per class to pay our instructor, Debbie Lenihan. Debbie is skilled in chair, therapeutic, prenatal and postpartum yoga. Classes are for all abilities ages teen to adult. (Sorry no childcare is available.)

Wear comfortable clothes, bring a mat and water bottle.

Summer Worship



One Worship Service Beginning June 21st @ 9:30 am

Million Meals

April's Million Meals in gathering brought in \$ 727! That will provide 9,088 lbs of food and as many meals. At the time of this printing, we have donated enough funds to provide 1,634,413 meals! Our next in gathering is May 10th.

Chili Cook Off May 6th



Come one, come all to the Annual Chili Cook Off in the Family Room on Wednesday, May 6th from 5:00pm to 6:30pm. There will be two awards given to the folks with the most votes. Make your favorite recipe and enter!

OWL's May 5th

Our next senior activity & events planning meeting, OWL's (Older, Wiser, Lutherans) will meet on Tuesday May 5th at noon. Bring a brown bag lunch and come fellowship and help us plan!



Save the Date June 14th

Our Annual Council Elections meeting will be between worship services on Sunday June 14th.

Please Collect Water Bottles

We will again be giving away water bottles at the Felida 4th of July Parade. Last year we had 500 & could have given more! Please start buying cases of water to donate to the cause, I found a sale already at \$2.99. Please keep them at your home for now; they will be labeled at church with invitations to our neighbors the week prior to the parade. Volunteers will be welcome to hand out bottles at the parade. This is a real community gift!

Questions? Contact Kim Koon @ (360) 721- 8500.

Senior Lunch Bunch May 21

The next Senior Lunch Bunch will be Thursday May 21st. We gather at 11:30 am at Benny's Pizza Cafe on St. John Rd. Sign up sheet is in the Family Room.



May Day Sale

Our huge May day rummage sale will be held **May 2 from 8-3 in**



the Family Room. Please begin bringing your items for the sale Monday, April 27 and all week until Friday noon. We would ask that items be brought before Friday noon so they will be priced and put out on the tables. Please make sure your items are in working condition. We are asking you not to donate TV sets, computers, phones, baby car seats, clothing or large furniture as we have no means of getting rid of them if they don't sell. If you have questions about an item, please call the church. (We have suggestions of where you can donate large items.)

We will need people to come all week to sort and price, also to work the day of the sale and clean up following the event, and especially to cashier during the sale. We will need 2 at each shift to add up and bag items for our guests. If you would be willing to take a load of leftover items to dispose of after the sale, that would be most helpful.

The proceeds of the sale go to charities and emergency funding for those in need. This is our only fundraiser for the year and we hope we can count on all of you to help. Thank you, *Social Justice Concerns Ministry*



Vacation Bible School planning is underway. Check out Susan Dollinger's article on page 6 for details. BUT don't stop there, spread the word. Invite your

friends. Ask how you can support our ministry among the children of our community. Come and join the fun!

Get involved! You will be blessed!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS "FAMILY NIGHT @ FAMILY OF CHRIST"



FROM NOW UNTIL MAY 20TH you can take the night off from cooking, and relax and enjoy the fellowship while you enjoy a hot dinner prepared by loving hands. Folks that can, pitch in and help with clean up. Dinner will be served from 5:00 until 6:30 pm. **The cost is \$4 per person, no family pays more than \$13.** (No one is left out, so if cost is a factor, please talk to Pastor Kit). After dinner, join in on one of the scheduled activities.

There will be:

- * *"Ring of Joy" Intergenerational Ringers ~ 5:30-6:00*
- * *Little Christians* for children PreK-4th grade join together for lots of fun ~ 6:00-7:00 pm.
- * *"Route 56"* Specially developed class for our 5th & 6th grade youth ~ 6:00-7:00 pm.
- * Confirmation with Pastor Kit ~ 6:00-7:00 pm. *8th grade students begin working on their faith statements with Pastor Kit. Confirmation Service is tentatively scheduled for Pentecost Sunday.*
- * *Adult Bible Study Book Group* lead by Edie Dietzen & Linda Marousek ~ 6:00-7:00 pm.
- * *Chancel Choir Rehearsals ~ 6:30-8:00 pm.*

Sanctuary: Safe Conversations on Gay Issues

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 19th, at 7pm. We meet in the library.

The Sanctuary Group has been meeting for about five years to discuss and explore a variety of issues relevant to gay folk and their loved ones. An important part of our mission is to reach out to our gay neighbors with a warm invitation to worship, as well as to provide a supportive presence within the congregation for family members of gay loved ones. Everyone in our congregation and community is welcome to attend.



Preschool

Preschool News

May 2015

End of the year...

It is hard to believe that the end of our preschool year is already upon us. Time seems to be moving faster and faster. We have had a very fun filled year downstairs with the Preschool Ministry here at Family of Christ. A lot of friendships have been made and a lot of hearts have been touched by the love of Jesus Christ through this wonderful ministry.

Zoo

All of our classes visited the Zoo right before we broke for Spring Vacation in April. This trip was done over the course of two days, the first day was great in regards to the weather. We all stayed dry and were able to enjoy the Zoo for multiple hours. The second day visitors weren't quite as lucky. We arrived at the Zoo around 10:00 and by 10:30 we were all a little WET!

It was a quick trip through that day. One thing we have discovered by going to the ZOO in early Spring is that the animal activity is so much greater in the cooler weather than towards the end of Spring.

Preschool Carnival

What a successful event once again! This event seems to be a favorite of many of our children and their families. It is always so much fun to see the joy on their faces as they are traveling the hallway playing the various carnival games - "fishing for treasure" "the toilet toss" "plinko" "face painting" etc... And we all know that a carnival is not complete without a balloon twisting clown. Once again we had 2 performances by the infamous BJ the Clown!

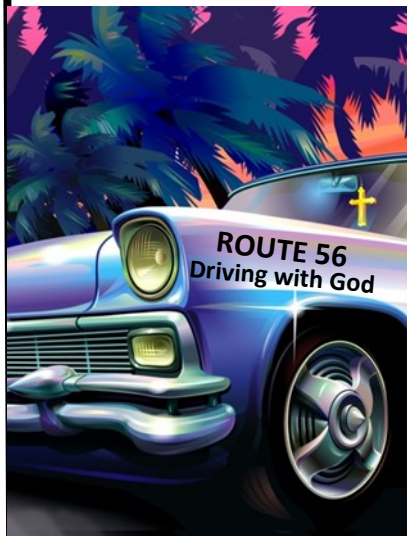


Lunch with Bishop Eaton

On Friday April 18th I had the opportunity and pleasure of sharing lunch with Bishop Eaton at the Church Wide Offices in Chicago. I was in Chicago for an ELEA (Evangelical Lutheran Education Association) Director's Boot Camp. The Church Wide Offices graciously opened their doors to the ELEA providing us with meeting space for one day of our training sessions. During lunch Bishop Eaton joined us, see picture below, engaging us in conversation as well as conducting a question and answer period.



Have a Safe & Happy Summer ~ Jackie Ochsner
Preschool Director



LET YOUR SPRING CLEANING HELP OTHERS

Route 56 will be ending the year with a service project for the schools.

Did you know that many schools in the Vancouver School District have students who have trouble affording the basic school supplies? Schools like Hazel Dell and Sacajawea would really appreciate your gently used supplies which they distribute to the classrooms and to the teachers. This is a great project to help out schools in this area.

Many times at the beginning of the year we go through our children's bags and find that a few markers are missing or they have only a few crayons left and then buy a new set for the upcoming school year. Or maybe you have 3 staplers lying around and only need one? So what should you do with those left over school supplies? Route 56 will sort them and distribute them to the schools in need. We will also happy accept new school supplies as well. A container is available by Susan's door.

Suggested list of supplies:

- Pencils
- Pens
- Colored Markers (please make sure they work)
- Lined paper/Typing paper/Construction paper etc.
- Paper Clips
- Staplers/Staples
- Pencil Pouches
- Coloring books
- Watercolors
- Sharpies
- White out (please make sure it is not dried out)
- Calculators
- Glue sticks (please make sure they work)
- Glue (Please make sure the cap isn't glued shut)
- Craft Paint/Tempura paint (Please make sure it isn't dried out)
- Paint brushes
- Scissors (kid sized and other sizes)
- Pencil sharpeners



Weird Animals

Where Jesus' Love Is One-of-a-Kind

Vacation Bible School at Family of Christ is on July 27th-July 31st with a special Sunday Funday on Sunday August 2nd.

Be a part of the fun! It takes many hands to put on a VBS and we are looking for 5th graders through adults to help us put this event on. We are looking for people to help with crafts, stories, games, and to be crew leaders the week of July 27-August 2nd.

Next VBS planning meetings:

Tuesday, May 12th at 9:00-10:00 AM or 7:00-8:00 PM AND

Tuesday, May 26th at 9:00-10:00 AM or 7:00-8:00 PM (You only need to come to one of these meetings).

VBS is a great way to get involved with the children of Family of Christ and the community. Registration will be available soon. Watch for announcements!

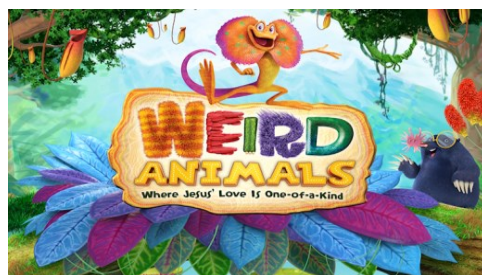
Please talk with Susan Dollinger, or email Conglifemin@foclutheranchurch.org for information.

Vacation Bible School Supply List

As the planning is underway for this summer's VBS, to get started, we need some supplies for decorations & a few craft items.

Please look in your mailboxes for the list of supplies that are needed. There is a barrel next to Office D (with lists) where all the items can be dropped off.

Thank you!





Connecting the Scriptures...Building Relationships

Spiritual Practices for Busy Lives

With life as crazy busy as it is today, we hunger for the short little windows of peace when we can all get together and reconnect. Why not be deliberate about scheduling those windows into the week and using them to not only grow close as families, but to nurture faith. Faith5 from Faith Incubators is a deliberate process that connects what happens at church to home life. The Faith5: Share, Read, Talk, Pray and Bless is one easy way to get started. Each evening as you gather together, take a little time to share your highs and lows with each other. Listening to each other, celebrating the highs and supporting through the lows can make a huge difference and help everyone to feel connected. Then, take a moment to share a brief bible verse or story--to make it simple, use the insert from the Sunday bulletin readings. See what you notice in the text, imagine what it might have been like to be there when the event happened or to receive the letter from Paul or Peter. Talk about how the text might connect to your family. Close by sharing a family prayer and blessing. Faith5 does not have to take a huge amount of time, but used regularly can become a very special time that the whole family looks forward to. Try it for a few weeks; I'm pretty sure if you do you will want to make it a permanent part of your family life. Faith5 works great between friends too!

Blessings,

Pastor Kit

The OWLS wish to thank all who participated in the first ever Craft Day and those who have tried out Holy Yoga in April.



Senior Lunch Bunch & OWL's visited the Hulda Klager Lilac Garden in April

ANNUAL LADIES LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 23rd, Noon



Time to put on your garden gloves and head for the dirt! This year we will be "Gardening" with special guests Eloyce O'Connor and Erin Harwood from Garden Delights CSA & Herb Farm. This mother-daughter Master Gardener duo will share their techniques on growing chemical free herbs, preserving, and enjoying them. We will sip their delicious teas with our tea sandwiches, salads, and dessert. We asked our guest speakers to bring their products for possible sale after the program. Please sign up in the Family Room by Sunday, May 17, if you plan to attend. Questions, call Marilyn Howe at 360 597-4219.

Would you like to get involved at Family but don't know where to start? Contact one of these volunteers coordinators listed below to help with the ministry they schedule help for. Get involved, you will be blessed!

Greeters: Edie Dietzen

Ushers: Les Stark

Acolytes: Connie Marshall

Assisting Ministers & Cantors:

Jeanne Downing

Readers: Rick Caton

Communion Hosts: Cheri Herzog

Coffee Hosts: Cheri Herzog

Office Help: Traci Rogers





Getting ready to release the painted lady butterflies in Gertie's Garden.

3rd & 4th Grade Sunday School Class Making Easter Decorations



As we begin winding down the last few weeks of the 2014-15 Sunday School season, we are looking forward to finishing our 'Walk with Jesus' theme. Our last Heifer International ingathering will be May 3rd where we will learn how Irrigation Pumps, Fish, and Water Buffaloes are important. In April, we learned a bit about goats, pigs, and cows and had a tasting buffet of the various cheeses from goats and cows, and from pigs, bacon & ham. At the end of May, we will tally up the year's Sunday School offering and submit a check to Heifer International on behalf of our Sunday school students.



The Sunday school students sang 'Lord I Lift Your Name on High' for the congregation on Palm Sunday at the 11:00 worship. What a wonderful performance to watch and sing along with them!

Our Bible Buck store opens May 17th where the kids can redeem the bible bucks they have earned over the past few weeks.

There will not be any classes May 10th & 24th.

Our last Sunday school lesson will be May 31st and on June 7th we end our season with our annual Sunday School Celebration with an ice cream social, teacher appreciation, and a fun intergenerational game of Bible Jeopardy! Get ready to compete with the students!!

~Cheri Herzog
Sunday School Coordinator



Opportunities Abound! By Pastor Kit

We are on moving purposefully into God’s future by making a difference!

It’s time for spring cleaning as we get ready for our annual May Day Sale! Clean out all those useful items you no longer need and make a difference in someone’s life at the same time! All the proceeds from the sale go to support our Social Ministries.

Do you enjoy gardening? At FOC we are blessed with a beautiful facility and grounds. It takes lots of hands sharing the work to keep our grounds beautiful and inviting. If you have a few hours a week or month to pull weeds, clean out a plant bed, or just pick up the debris that “floats in on the wind,” your help will be greatly appreciated!

Are you looking for a meaningful way to be a blessing? How about volunteering at the Friends of the Carpenter Second Chance Thrift Store! Second Chance is in desperate need of Saturday volunteers! Due to illness and changing circumstances, Second Chance has lost a few of their regular volunteers. Over the past several months, they have had to reduce hours of operation, especially on Saturday. This means fewer sales and reduced income that goes to support Friends of the Carpenter’s Friendship Center ministries. Do you have a few hours to give? Stop by Second Chance and fill out a volunteer application. While you’re at it, go shopping. They have lots of wonderful items available!

Have you signed up for Simply Giving?

Electronic Giving is a convenient way to automate your offering. It’s a great way to practice first fruits giving and to stay on track with your support of our shared ministry.

Collection basket offerings fluctuate significantly from week to week, especially during summer vacations, but when contributions are automated, the church receives the funds it needs to operate on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

It is easy to get started! Sign-up easily on our website or contact our Financial Secretary, Greg Shaw.

finsecretary@foclutheranchurch.org

Remember, You can change or cancel at anytime.

FAITH ACTION NETWORK

A Partnership for the Common Good

**Faith Action Network (FAN) - Annual Spring Summit
Sunday, May 31**

**Potluck and workshops, 1-2pm; FAN summit 2-4pm
Vancouver Heights United Methodist Church
5701 MacArthur Blvd, Vancouver**

Each spring, after state legislators have adjourned, people of faith gather across the state with others from their region to set priorities for the year. For example, this year’s priorities included dismantling the culture of violence, reducing wealth inequality, and preventing homelessness.

Our event this year will begin with a potluck. Meat will be provided so please bring a side dish or dessert to share. You can eat your meal with others who share a common passion and/or want to become better educated about one of five issues:

- ⇒ Homelessness in Clark County
- ⇒ Wage theft
- ⇒ WAmend Initiative <http://www.wamend.org/>
- ⇒ Environmental issues in Clark County
- ⇒ Sex Trafficking/ Immigration

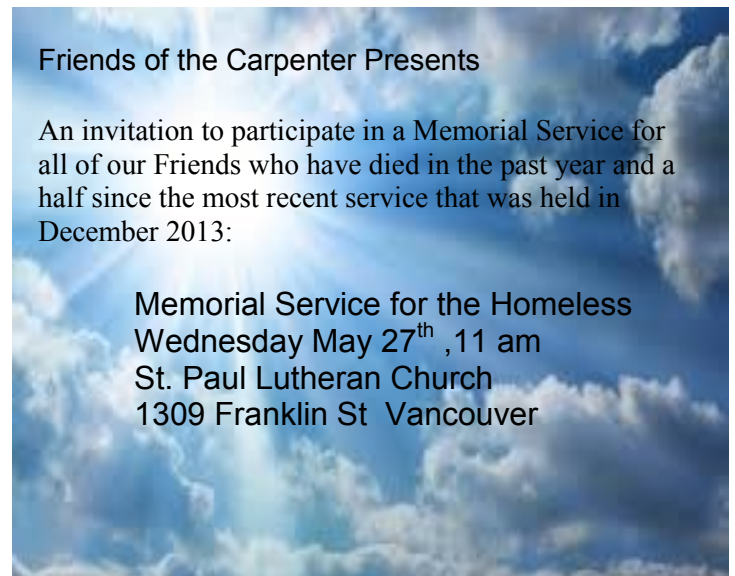
After the potluck conversations we will come together as a larger group and talk about this year’s legislative session, plan for the rest of the advocacy year, and hear about local and statewide campaigns for justice. Please join other people of faith for this inspiring and important gathering. Together, we are a powerful voice of the faithful building a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

For more information contact Sonja Vegdahl
Svegdahl@gmail.com.

Friends of the Carpenter Presents

An invitation to participate in a Memorial Service for all of our Friends who have died in the past year and a half since the most recent service that was held in December 2013:

**Memorial Service for the Homeless
Wednesday May 27th, 11 am
St. Paul Lutheran Church
1309 Franklin St Vancouver**





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

March 25, 2015

"For he [Christ] is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us." - Ephesians 2:14

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We need to talk. Ferguson, Missouri; Norman, Oklahoma; Madison, Wisconsin; Staten Island, New York; and Charlottesville, Virginia: recent events in these and other places prove we are not living in a post-racial society. I know it's difficult to talk about race because too many Americans do not want to believe racism still exists in our country. Yet, as always, Christ promises to be alongside us, even in the most difficult of times, working for our reconciliation. Because of God's promise, we can and must have a deep, honest and even painful conversation about racism.

This month our country commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March and its significance in the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Lutherans were in Selma to join more than 70,000 people to remember and honor the courage of the veterans of the civil rights movement. Selma symbolized the very best of the human spirit to work cooperatively for change at any cost. Conversely, it also demonstrated the lowest levels of hatred, violence and resistance to change.

Overt forms of racism are no longer legally sanctioned, but the legacy of racism, sadly, endures. Institutional policies and practices still privilege some while limiting access and opportunities to others. Today, the Voting Rights Act has been weakened by the removal of federal oversight of local voting laws and millions of poor and people of color fill the cells of our criminal justice system.

We have said, "Racism – a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice – is sin, a violation of God's intention for humanity." (*Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*, 1993) Ongoing racial justice conversations are occurring and work is happening. But in cases where these are not, we shouldn't wait until another racial event is widely reported before we talk. Here are a number of ways:

- Listen to and learn from the experiences of people of color in your communities.
- Contact the Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries and the Racial Justice Ministries at the churchwide organization. Connect with your synod anti-racism team.
- Be in conversation with your synod bishop and staff. Many of our synods are equipped to help connect you with local resources on anti-racism education and racial justice ministries.
- Learn more about our ongoing racial justice work. This church has helpful guidance in our criminal justice social statement and in the race, ethnicity, and culture social statement.*
- Advocate for local, state and federal legislation and regulations that guarantee to all citizens the right to vote. Join the ELCA e-Advocacy Network at www.elca.org/advocacy.

As a church called to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we must continue to listen deeply, to speak out about racial equity and inclusion, to respect and uplift the dignity and humanity of every person and to join with others in organizing for change. In baptism we have become part of the body of Christ and in Christ there is no barrier between us. I pray that our Lord will use us and this moment to make this baptismal promise a reality in our lives and in this church.

God's blessings,

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

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