

JANUARY 2020



Faith Lutheran Church

# NOTES OF FAITH

*As followers of Christ, we learn to love and live to serve.*

**Sunday, January 5 at 9:00a**

All ages please meet in the sanctuary for a Christmas Carol Hymn Sign!

Choose your favorite hymns and we will lift out voices together.

The Christmas season is officially Dec 25-Jan 6 so we still sing our joyful Christmas hymns!

**They set out;  
and there,  
ahead of them,  
went the star  
that they had seen  
at its rising,  
until it stopped  
over the place  
where the child was.**

**Matthew 2.9**



Mark Salman

Sunday, January 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM

## THREE CENTURIES

Mark Salman ~ piano • Jeffrey Cohan ~ flute  
Roxanna Patterson ~ viola • Roberta Downey ~ cello

Intimate chamber music from three centuries with Carl Maria von Weber, Friedrich Chopin and a world premiere by Seattle composer Huntley Beyer.

**Faith Lutheran Church**

8208 18th Ave NE in Seattle • (206) 523-9636  
Suggested donation \$15, \$20 or \$25 • Youth 18 and under free

www.candlelightnw.org  
- A reception will follow each performance. -



# A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

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## What is the Purpose of the Church?

Since 2003 I've coached high school sports and/or group fitness, minus a two year hiatus in seminary when my class schedule wouldn't allow me coach. Currently I teach a couple of strength and conditioning classes at Vertical World. I enjoy the community, the mental release, and it brings me enjoyment.

What I love most is meeting different people with varied backgrounds and getting to know them better in a different environment. Many in my classes know that I'm a pastor and occasionally I'm asked questions. Recently one woman requested to meet because she has some things she wanted to think through. She's around my age, an atheist who grew up in Jewish home.

On a recent Saturday afternoon we had a fascinating conversation over coffee. She told me about her Jewish heritage and traditions and I told her about my Lutheran background and theological understanding. As I spoke of the Trinity she said she had never heard about the Holy Spirit. How beautiful to talk about the work of the Spirit in the midst of our lives while living it out.

Neither of us were trying to "convince" each other or convert one another. We weren't there to debate, but rather to engage in wondering. We each had genuine questions and we were able to have a deeply meaningful conversation. During the course of the conversation she asked one incredibly powerful question: "What is the purpose of the church?"

How would you answer that? No rush, just ponder that question for awhile. There are many layers to this question, in my opinion, and there is not one answer nor is there a particularly "right or wrong" answer. It can be asked on a personal, spiritual, communal, and theological level. The answers will probably vary from person to person and group to group. So, I ask you to think about, "What is the purpose of the church?" Maybe share with others in your different circles about how you might answer this question.

Personally, I think many of our responses are found within our stories. In this new year let your minds wander, re-remember your stories of faith, and open up to the calling and work of the Holy Spirit in our midst as you ponder, "What is the purpose of the church?"

Pastor Shannyn  
[pastor@faithseattle.org](mailto:pastor@faithseattle.org)



## WOMEN OF FAITH

“So Long, 2019! Hello, 2020” Here we come, ready or not! A Blessed & Happy New Year to each of you!

### FAITH’S BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

**Mary-Martha Circle** will meet on Monday, January 13th at 7:00 P.M. at the church. The hostess will be Dallas Presley. The Bible Study, led by Estelle Morley, will be from the January/February 2020 double two-month issue of the Gather magazine, beginning on page 24. (Ladies, please remember to save and study from that same issue of the Gather magazine when preparing for February.) All are invited. Questions? Please call Estelle Morley (425) 329-6147.

**Ruth Circle** will be meeting on Thursday, January 16th at 12N in the Church Library. Donna Shy will be the hostess, providing the beverages and dessert. Please bring your own sack lunch. The Bible study will begin at 1:00 p.m. All are invited. Questions? Call Donna Shy at (206) 523-3029.

**The Gather Bible Study** will be in the January/February 2020 double two-month issue of Gather magazine, beginning on page 24. The Rev. Kathryn A. Kleinhaus, is the author of Gather’s January through May 2020 Bible Studies. The theme is “*We are called!*” and it will explore vocation in many contexts and learn how we and people in the Scriptures have been called by God and how we are encouraged to live out that calling. Session One entitled “Hearing God’s voice,” focuses on the calls of some Old Testament prophets.

### PROMOTION OF THE “GATHER” MAGAZINE

I cannot count the number of times I have commented and heard other people comment about how good the articles have been and how they have been so applicable to everyday life, encouraging, and inspiring! *Gather Magazine* offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. *Gather* is published 10 times a year. A print subscription is \$19.95 a year with free digital access. Individuals are encouraged to subscribe by calling 1-844-409-0576 or visiting [www.gathermagazine.org](http://www.gathermagazine.org)

**REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING**, July 16-20, 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona. Visit [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org) The theme is “JUST LOVE” and you are invited to this life-changing event. Come. Be inspired. Then begin living out your faith in new and invigorating ways.

With Grace and Peace, Estelle Morley

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE

If any of your contact information has changed in 2019, please send changes to: [office@faithseattle.org](mailto:office@faithseattle.org)

A new directory will be printed at the end of January.  
Thanks!

# A LOOK BACK AT 2019

thankful  
&  
blessed





IN  
Everything  
GIVE  
Thanks







# ADVENT FAIR





THANK YOU! To those who were involved in preparing the Christmas brunch casseroles.

Pam Lippert  
Joan Mattes  
Estelle Marely  
Dallas Presley  
Ed & Selma Wendt



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & BRUNCH









# FROM YOUR BISHOP

I was sitting in Resident Assistants training at Pacific Lutheran University in 1986. Suddenly the door opened and three people walked in: two men and one woman. They were introduced as the new campus pastors at PLU. I couldn't stop staring at the woman. In my twenty years on earth at that time, I had never met a pastor who was a woman. Pastor Susan Briehl changed my understanding of ministry, what it means to be a pastor, and what a difference it makes when you hear preaching from someone who has wrestled with much of what you have wrestled with, too.

The year 2020 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ordination of women into Word and Sacrament ministry. While women have been preaching for thousands of years before this (think Sarah and Miriam and Mary Magdalene to name a few) the predecessor bodies of the ELCA felt called by God to open up the pulpit, the font, and the table to women for the first time after studying scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. This decision wasn't made lightly. Seminaries, judicatories, and other groups took time to arrive at the decision to ordain women. In the end, though, these various groups realized that there was nothing in scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, or church constitutions to prevent the ordination of women. As Luther Seminary's Board of Directors wrote in 1966, "God has left the details of the ministerial office to the discretion of the church, to be developed according to its needs and according to the leading of the Holy Spirit." And just like that, the way was open to the thousands of women who have been ordained into Word and Sacrament Ministry in the last fifty years.

While this is an important milestone, we are also mindful that the last fifty years have not been without difficulties. It took ten more years for the first woman of color to be ordained in the Lutheran Church here in the United States. It has only been in the past ten years that LGBTQIA+ people have been able to serve freely. As we celebrate, we also lament the sexism, racism and homophobia that has been part of our church structure. And we are called to work towards a day when all are celebrated and welcome. In this synod, we are excited to mark this anniversary with some special events. Each woman pastor will be videotaped with their story. At synod assembly in 2020 we will show some of these video interviews. We will also have a festive worship service during synod assembly to celebrate, remember, and look to the future. During this year we invite congregations to commemorate this anniversary. Pastor Nancy Winder, the first woman ordained locally and the 14<sup>th</sup> woman ordained overall, is happy to come and preach and teach in your local congregation. In addition, there are resources at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) to use for congregations or clusters.

A brief story: At one of the churches I served there was a man named Dell. On my first Sunday there he came up to me and said, "You know, I didn't vote for you. I don't think women should be pastors." I said, "OK." And left it at that. In spite of telling me that, week after week Dell and his wife were in worship. Week after week they heard me preach. Week after week they received Christ's body and blood as I presided at the Lord's Table. About three years after I was there, Dell was diagnosed with terminal cancer. I visited him frequently at his home. On one such visit, as I was setting up the Communion elements, Dell said, "You know, I didn't vote for you." I said, "I know." He sat there for a long time in silence. Then he said, "I was wrong." And I looked at him. And I smiled. And I held his hand. And then I reached for the bread and I said, "On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread ..." We give thanks for all the women pastors who proclaim the good news of Jesus, who baptize in the name of the Triune God, and who serve at the Lord's Table. We pray that we continue to be made new into the future. ~~ Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Andrew Maupin	6	Holly Johnson
3	Greg Johnson	17	Robert Aguilar
4	Pat Anconetani	21	Abbey Pazderic
	Jada Standing Rock-Petersen	23	Ben Corwin
5	David Hasle		Kristin Johnson
	Alan King	24	John Pattinson
	Maesen McPherson	25	Nick Pazderic
	Ryan Pang	26	Henry Jensen
	Karla Petersen	31	Jean Brego

**Wedgwood Cooperative Preschool** will be having an open house in January for those interested in joining for the 2020-2021 preschool year! Saturday, January 25th from 10am to 11:30am families are invited to come play in the classroom with our teachers; stations will be set up, special kid activities are planned, current families will be on hand to share their Co-op experiences and Teachers will be present as well. Please visit [www.wedgwoodcoop.org](http://www.wedgwoodcoop.org) for more information about the school and the priority registration available for children of Faith members.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship 9:45am

### Publication Notices

*Notes of Faith* is published once a month.

News deadline is the 20th.

*Weekly Email* is sent out every Thursday

News deadline is Wednesdays at noon

Articles can be submitted to [office@faithseattle.org](mailto:office@faithseattle.org)

### Congregational Council Executive Committee

President: Diane Matchatka [president@faithseattle.org](mailto:president@faithseattle.org)

Vice President: David Foster-Koth

Secretary: Marilyn Anderson

Treasurer: Wally Powelson

### Faith Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. Shannyn Fuerst                      Pastor  
[pastor@faithseattle.org](mailto:pastor@faithseattle.org)

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Missy French                                      Office  
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### Connect With Us!

**Twitter:** @faithseattle

**Facebook:** Faith Lutheran Church --Seattle, WA

**Website:** [www.faitheattle.org](http://www.faitheattle.org)

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Twitter: [@FaithSeattle](https://twitter.com/FaithSeattle)