



WEST LINN LUTHERAN CHURCH

--FNAME--,

Welcome to our larger MONTHLY version of "The Walk!" At the start of each month, we'll send out a larger, longer more detailed eNewsletter which contains important announcements for the whole month! Each week thereafter, we'll send a shorter "The Walk Weekly" email with more timely announcements. Enjoy!

QUICK LINKS

[Sunday Servant Schedule](#)

[Calendar of Events](#)

[January Outreach](#)

[Birthdays/Anniversaries](#)



Greetings and Happy New Year, Beloved!

It is, indeed a new year! While we celebrated the turning of a new church calendar year at the beginning of Advent, we of course celebrate the turning of our annual calendars to a new numeric year in January. In the midst of holidays, the joy and celebration of Christmas and the light

of Epiphany, our New Year comes.

I spoke in service on New Year's Day of a Facebook post by a college professor of mine. "For the love!" he wrote, (with a note of snark) "Please STAHP [sic] with the 'good riddance 2016' posts!" His sentiment, though possibly unpopular, was notably powerful, mostly because it would be really easy to join in the "good riddance 2016!" attitude. It was a rough year! We lost what felt like an exorbitant amount of pop culture legends this year: David Bowie,

Harper Lee, Alan Rickman, Prince, Gwen Ifill, Arnold Palmer, and to top it all off, Carrie Fisher and her mother Debbie Reynolds.

Personally, I lived through the loss of my Grandfather this year. The elections in November proved a tumultuous time for our nation. And across the globe, news of bombings, war and darkness continue. 2016 was the year Aleppo burned.

It would be really easy to write it all off. But. It wouldn't be real.... a powerful truth that my college prof's Facebook post helped point out to me.

Just because it is now 2017 doesn't erase 2016 from the books. The same way with anything that feels old, or dark, or hard about life. The passing of that experience or that person does not erase its/their happening. Thank goodness for that! That is both our HOPE and.... it's HARD. Because it means that things about our life that are dark or hard or old or not functioning are still a part of our story. God is present to us in those experiences and through that darkness just as much as God is present to us in the joy and light of Christmas.

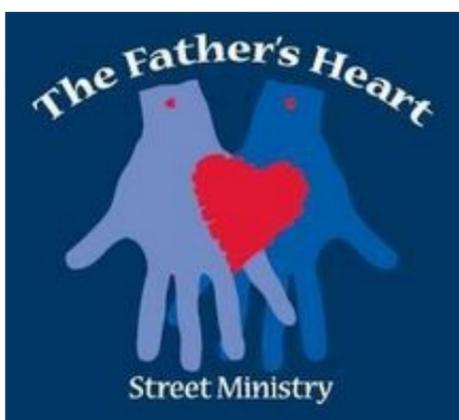
There's a taize hymn that comes to mind in the midst of tangling with the boundaries between the rough year that 2016 was and the new possibilities we might HOPE for 2017:

Our darkness is never darkness in your sight, the deepest night is clear as the daylight.

I wondered aloud at worship on New Year's Day and I'll wonder again here too for you all to consider as you set foot upon the newness and hope and possibility of 2017: I wonder to whom that clear-ness belongs? And... where does that clear-ness dwell?

Blessings upon your New Year! May Christ's light shining in the darkness bring you hope and good courage,

Pastor Sara



JANUARY OUTREACH

This month, outreach will be focused on [The Father's Heart](#) Street Ministry, in Oregon City.

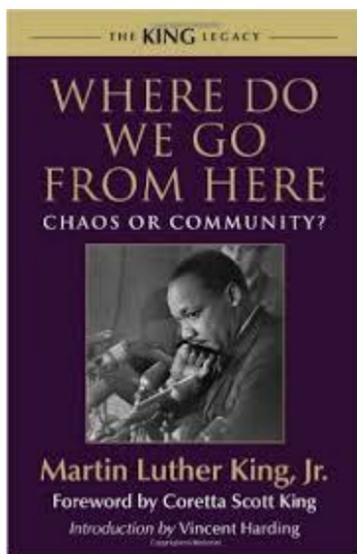
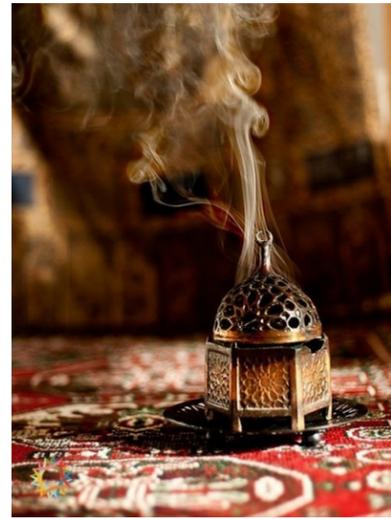
TFH is a local, faith-based organization in Oregon City that helps anyone in need. Their target group is the ever-growing homeless population, which includes families living in vehicles, seniors, veterans, single mothers, single fathers and single individuals. Donate money or items such as coats and socks to this ministry to help the homeless in our community.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Intergenerational Faith Enrichment Hour

Sunday, January 8, at 9:30am

Come "follow the star" and join in the fun exploring the light and laughter of the 12th day of Christmas: Epiphany! Wonder at the magi, delight in the light of the star, share in fellowship with friends, learn something fun and experience the real smells of frankincense and myrrh! All ages welcome! Join in!



FAITH ENRICHMENT HOUR RESUMES

Sundays, 9:30-10:45 am Starting January 15th

This Faith Enrichment Hour winter Session: Book Series is *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* - this book comes highly recommended and is timely for us as we step into a new time in our history. Join Carole White and other social justice minded leaders as we ponder our action amid hunger, homelessness, oppression and violence. Series begins January 15th. Reading the book is highly recommended but not required! WLLC library has two copies to lend.

JOB WELL DONE, JERRY!

Sunday, January 15th

Jerry Angell is retiring from his position as Choir Director at WLLC on January 15th! His eleven years of service in that position have been greatly appreciated. He began in February of 2006, and shepherded the choir through many special services, including the 50th anniversary of the congregation - a highlight for Jerry when they prepared and led the congregation in "The Gospel Mass". Jerry faithfully recruited and trained choir members, coached soloists and ensembles, and participated in staff leadership. Jerry will be missed for his care of the choir members, always leading them in prayer, and supporting anyone with a desire to express their



faith through music! Jerry and Myrna plan to continue worshipping at WLLC - and Jerry may be blending his voice in the choir again soon!

Join us on the 15th to bless Jerry as he retires! The choir (with any alumni who want to sing) will participate in both worship services and we will sing some of Jerry's favorite hymns! There will be a time of fellowship between services for you to greet and thank Jerry! Your cards of blessings and thanks will be collected on that day for Jerry.

OFFICIAL NOTICE: CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING 2017

Sunday, February 5th at noon

Join us immediately following the
10:45am Service in the Fellowship Hall:

the church will provide sandwiches & drinks. The congregation is asked to provide sides, such as chips, fresh veggies or fruit, and desert.



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Some very special volunteers are on our minds this month: Paul Williamson is stepping down from the post of Coin Counter Coordinator. Paul has served in this ministry as a Team Captain and the coordinator for many years! He diligently recruited and trained team members for the counting teams that handle and deposit

each Sunday's offering. Paul was the liaison for the teams with the Administrative Bookkeeper, and updated the team's procedures as needed. Paul, the congregation and staff appreciate your years of careful attention to these details, and the financial health of our church! God's blessings be with you in all that you do! *Retiring with Paul are those on his team: Tom Hopper, Jon Witte, Sue Witte, Kristin Witte. Thank you to each of you for your service!*

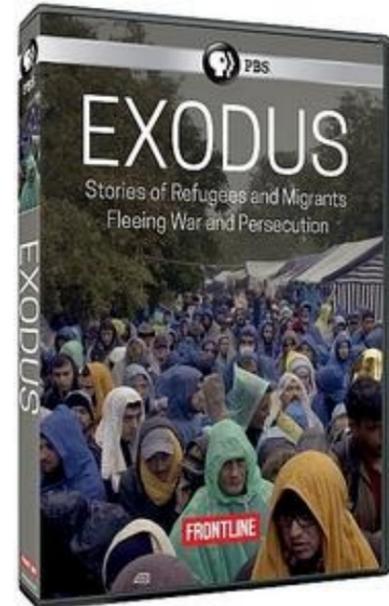
Also, the staff expresses great thanks to everyone who helped with the Christmas season worship services this year! You were great hosts, readers, and communion servers. All the singers and musicians providing service and special music greatly honored God and inspired the worshipers. The offering

counters tallied offerings from all the services on Christmas morning. Kathy Marambe carried out Altar Guild duties for the extra services; Suzie Budeau did the sanctuary and hallway decorating, and headed up the votive lighting!

FILMS ON 43

Friday, January 20th, 6-8:00 pm

WLLC will host the first of three "Films on 43" events being planned by a team from WLLC, Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, and The Unity Center. On Friday, January 20, a simple soup supper and table conversation will be offered before a viewing of the first video. The focus will be families seeking refuge. The video is a portion of "Exodus" from PBS



Frontline: "The first-person stories of refugees and migrants fleeing war, persecution and hardship — drawing on footage filmed by the families themselves as they leave their homes on dangerous journeys in search of safety and refuge in Europe." The video will form the backdrop for conversation about "sanctuary" and family safety in our community. All ages are welcome. If you need childcare for preschool and grade school children during the screening, please contact the [church office](#) by January 17. RSVPs for the meal are welcome too! Dates for future events: March 10, 6:00-8:00 pm at Emmanuel Presbyterian and May 12, 6:00-8:00 pm at The Unity Center.



WLLC TO HOST RIC REGIONAL EVENT

Sunday, January 29th at 5:00 pm

Our church voted at the annual meeting in 2015 on a new welcoming statement and we joined a growing number of congregations that are RIC designated.

The umbrella organization is Reconciling Works NW and its statement is as follows:

"Reconciling Works NW supports ELCA communities in Oregon and Washington that publicly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender believers. We work for policies that include all people, regardless of sexual orientation, or gender identity."

Every year there is an annual Community Celebration of Welcome worship service held on the last Sunday in January bringing together people from

numerous congregations to honor and celebrate these commitments. This year, WLLC will be hosting this annual service, on January, 29th at 5:00PM. I have attended six of these services at various congregations over the years, and I have found them to be joyous times, with lots of networking going on! Please plan to attend this year, and help in hosting too as you can. I close with part of a prayer from Reconciling Works: "God of wonder, you are beyond gender. You have made each of us in your image. Be with us today and always as we long for a day when every individual is safe and known and honored."

Kathy Marambe

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY DATE CHANGE



This year the Women's Bible Study will continue to meet at the church, but instead of meeting on the first and third Tuesdays, they are changing to third and fourth Tuesdays. The meeting time is still noon to 2pm. Passages which will be studied this month are:
Tuesday, January 17: Isaiah 9:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23
Tuesday, January 24: Micah 6:1-8, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

middleschool YOUTH

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY:

THIS Friday, January 6th we're hosting the Cluster Youth HERE AT WLLC for a lock in! Popcorn, pizza and midnight broom-ball at Sherwood Ice Arena WILL be included! Cost will be \$20. Bring friends! Look for more information and sign-ups in the weeks to come!

Jan 8th - NO MIDDLE SCHOOL - recover from all-nighter!

Jan 15th - 4-5:30pm

January 22nd - 4-5:30pm

January 29th - RIC Celebration Worship hosted HERE at WLLC - gathering time TBD - middle school meetup with middleschoolers from across Portland-metro before worship!!

GODLY PLAY THIS

MONTH

Godly Play meets at 9:30 am Sunday
January 15th through Sunday
January 29th this month. Contact
[Pastor Sara](#) with any questions.

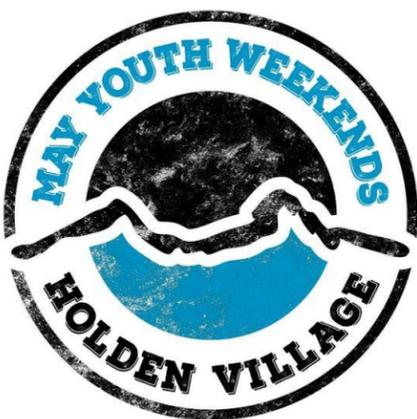


NO MEN'S MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL AND BIBLE STUDY

*THIS GROUP DOESN'T MEET THIS
MONTH... Stay tuned for a new
schedule to start in February!* Email
[Jeff](#) for more information.

FLORAL SIGN UP

There are still plenty of Sundays open for those who would like to sign up to bring in floral arrangements on a Sunday during the first few months of this new year! Email [Katie](#) here!



HIGH SCHOOLERS!

Did you miss getting Pastor Sara your name for Holden May Youth Weekend? It's not too late! Text her by Sunday ([503-367-7439](tel:503-367-7439)) if you're interested in adventuring up to the Northern Cascades over Memorial Day weekend. It'll be a blast!

Pastor Sara will need one male chaperone for our group regardless of size and then will have room for more chaperones IF we have more than 10 kids sign up.... let her know your interest and availability.

2017 GIVING PLEDGE



 Share on Facebook

 Share on Twitter

Robly