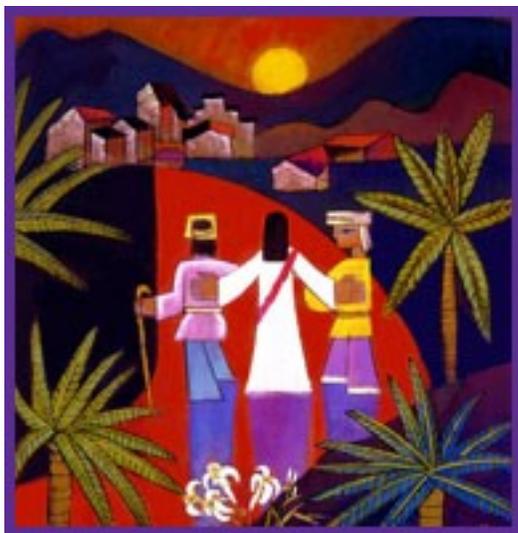


FaithWalk

A Journey of Transformation
and Renewal



Deepening Relationships
and
Transforming Lives
through
Intentional Community
at
Messiah Lutheran Church
Auburn, WA
mlcauburn.org
(253) 833-5280

A Time of Inquiry

Questions of the Heart and Prayer

Wed. 09/28
Wed. 10/05
Wed. 10/12
Wed. 10/19
Wed. 10/26
Sun. 10/30

Welcome of Inquirers

Signing with the Cross
Presentation of the Bible
Blessing

Wed. 11/02

Going Deeper - Catechesis

Reflections on Scripture and Prayer

Wed. 01/04
Wed. 01/11
Wed. 01/18
Wed. 01/25
Wed. 02/01
Wed. 02/08
Wed. 02/15
Wed. 02/22

Enrollment

Exploring the Heart of the Faith

Sun. 03/05

**Enrollment of Candidates for
Baptism/Affirmation**

Sun. 03/12
Sun. 03/19

**Blessing of Candidates for
Baptism/Affirmation**

Sun. 03/26
Sun. 04/02

**Renunciation of Evil and Blessing
Commitment to Prayer**

Presentation of Worship Book
Blessing

Sat. 04/15

**Easter Vigil, Baptism and
Affirmation**

Vocation

Where Our Passion Meets the World's Need

Wed. 04/26
Wed. 05/03
Wed. 05/10
Wed. 05/17

Sun. 05/21

Affirmation of Vocation

Wed. 05/24

FaithWalk is a journey of transformation and renewal. It is patterned after Christ's way of welcoming people into community and calling them into discipleship.

It includes a time of inquiry, when your questions set the framework for discussion, and you are linked with members of the congregation who also seek to grow in faith and affirm their Christian vocation. Next, is a period of Biblical reflection and prayer based on the Sunday readings.

A Time of Inquiry

Questions of the Heart and Prayer

The first FaithWalk gatherings are a time of inquiry, where the questions you bring form the basis for our discussion. These gatherings will take place beginning Wednesday, September 28, 2016.

Those who are new to the Christian faith, or returning to faith, find this to be a great starting point, as do life-long Lutherans who are coming from active membership in another church. The truth is, all of us live with questions of faith that we bring to God out of the daily experiences we are having and the unique circumstances of our lives.

Of course, there may not be an easy answer to every question, but we will do our best to address our questions together in the light of our Christian faith and experience.

After these fall sessions, you will be invited to continue your faith journey with others by going deeper into scripture and prayer.

FaithWalk continues with a time to explore and reflect on the heart of the faith. Finally, there is a time to focus on our own gifts and our call to service in the world.

Overall, we spend about twenty weeks together from September 28 through May 26. FaithWalk meets on Wednesdays from 6:00 until 8:00PM. The gatherings include a family-style meal and a brief worship. Childcare and programming for youth is also offered during the same time period.

Going Deeper—Catechesis

Reflections on Scripture and Prayer

Following the Time of Inquiry, we will begin to focus on hearing the Word of God together and then reflect on how it is speaking to us today. These gatherings will take place beginning on January 04, 2017.

This is not a “new member class” or a series of lessons on what it means to be a Lutheran. It is an encounter with, and an opening of, scripture. It is letting scripture ring in our ears and the words of our companions enrich our lives. We walk more intentionally with other people and seek together to know God more deeply.

This is the longest of the four FaithWalk sections. We let our listening, our speaking, and our praying shape our life of faith together. We begin to sense more deeply the presence of Jesus in our community and in our lives. We become open to the stirring of the Spirit, which transforms and renews our lives.



Enrollment

Exploring the Heart of the Faith

During this third FaithWalk section, our gatherings shift from Wednesday evenings to Sunday mornings. Those who desire to continue the process “enroll” to either be baptized or make an affirmation of faith at the Easter Vigil. This FaithWalk cycle, the vigil is the evening of April 15, 2017.

On Sunday mornings, our FaithWalk groups dive into Luther’s *Small Catechism*. Although reflection on scripture and a shared time of prayer continues, the focus moves to topics such as the Ten Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, the Sacraments, and Confession and Forgiveness. It is a time talk together about some core ideas of our faith and life in the world.

All this takes place during the season of Lent. On four out of Lent’s five Sundays, FaithWalk participants participate in rituals during worship preparing the way for the evening of the Easter Vigil.

Vocation

Where Our Passion Meets the World’s Needs

*Your vocation is that place to which
God calls you where your deep joy
meets the world’s deep hunger.*
— Frederick Buechner

After Easter, we begin our last stage of the journey. Each person will have an opportunity to reflect on his or her own unique gifts and interests as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Your vocation may be defined in terms of a special area or context for service. It may also be defined by a cause that you care deeply about. It may revolve around important functions like singing in choir, serving a meal to hungry people, or praying for others. It can be lived out in both the congregation and the wider community.

Some of our congregational leaders will share their own stories with you as you consider your own calling. Our goal at Messiah is to engage every member in some kind of transformational ministry.

If you have questions about FaithWalk, please contact:

Pr. Chuck Harris chuck.harris.mlc@gmail.com
Pr. Eric Wooldridge ericwool@gmail.com
Traci Vatne tracivatne@gmail.com
Kelly Mullin mullinkm260@comcast.net