

The CrossWorks

Information, Inspiration and Invitation from
Cross of Grace Lutheran Church

Lutheran Legends: Women of Faith

We don't really have many "heroes" in the Lutheran church. There aren't a lot of popular figures outside of Martin Luther (duh) and maybe Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Other than that, if I asked you to name a famous Lutheran, you'd probably struggle. You'd struggle even more if I asked you to name an influential Lutheran woman. However, we most certainly have them. In honor of Women's History month, I thought it'd be most appropriate to introduce and raise up two very important women of the Lutheran church.

Rosa Young – Mother of Black Lutheranism: Growing up in rural Wilcox County, Alabama in the early 1900s, Rosa knew all too well the plight of poverty and racism. Yet, she wielded two tools to liberate Black people from their oppression: education and church. Rosa began working at a school for Black children in 1912. In 1915, after writing a letter of support to a group of Lutheran churches, Young received great assistance from the churches and pastors began moving to the area to plant congregations. A few years later, Young had been the catalyst for 27 schools and 29 Lutheran congregations, all serving Black children and families. And in order to make sure these schools had teachers, she began what became Concordia College Alabama, the only Lutheran HBCU, which unfortunately closed in 2018. Described as "determined, patient, and persistent," Young devoted her life to uplifting Black people in rural Alabama (Jeff Johnson, *Black Christians: The Untold Lutheran Story*).

Sister Elisabeth Fedde – Founder of Lutheran Deaconess Movement in America: Born in Norway on Christmas Day, 1850, Fedde lost her mother at a young age and began doing domestic service. However, after both an internal and external call to serve God in a more official capacity, Elisabeth became a Deaconess and trained as a nurse. In Spring of 1883, she answered a call to serve in Brooklyn, New York, working primarily with other immigrant Norwegians struggling in poverty. Within a few years, she began the Norwegian Relief Society and established a Hospital that would also serve as a training center for women to become deaconesses. Tradition tells that Elisabeth walked around the neighborhoods with a basket full of clothing and food, handing things out to people in need, becoming known as the "Lady with the Basket." In 1888, on a trip to visit family, Elisabeth was asked by Lutheran leaders to move to Minneapolis and help establish another hospital and deaconess center, which she did. One pastor described Fedde as one who "possessed a holy boldness, tempered with charming grace and a humility that claimed nothing for herself but much for those she served."

These two extraordinary women significantly shaped the Lutheran landscape in the United States. So it is only right that we learn their names, their stories, and look to them as examples. And I bet there are women who are influential in your faith life. Much like Rosa Young and Elisabeth Fedde, there are unsung heroes in our lives – Sunday School teachers, choir directors, pastors, mothers, grandmothers, and women who have cared for and inspired us. This month, thank and celebrate these women who, in their own ways, have made a profound impact on your faith journey.

In Gratitude to Women of Faith,

Pastor Cogan



Happening in March

March 2024

Midweek Wednesday Meals and Worship • Wednesdays, March 6 – March 20

Our midweek series on grief continues in March. Lenten Family Worship – specially geared toward families with young children – begins at 5:15 p.m., in the sanctuary, with activities, devotions, and prayer. Then all are welcome to a meal at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Room. Our traditional midweek Lenten worship follows at 7 p.m.

Mission Sunday • Sunday, March 10 • 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Please come ready to hear some updates and inspiration from Susan Oxley about how we can support the MS Society.

Book Introduction and Discussion - Raising White Kids • Sunday, March 10 • 9:45 a.m.

Join Corey and Denee Lecher as they introduce the book ***Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America***. We will meet during the Christian Ed. hour in one of the south-end classrooms to share ideas about how we are handling this challenging topic with the kids in our lives. Anyone involved in the lives of kids is welcome as we plan to offer more discussions around the book, early this summer.

Prayer Shawl Ministry • Sunday, March 10 • 1 p.m.

Gather to create gifts of prayer to be shared with friends and family who need a sign and reminder that they are loved during difficult times. Contact Joyce Ammerman for more information, jammerman15@yahoo.com.

Breakfast with Pastor Mark • Tuesday, March 12 • 6:30 a.m.

High School Youth are invited to join Pastor Mark for breakfast at the New Pal McDonald's. The first three to arrive get breakfast free.

Craft Fellowship • Friday, March 15 • 7 p.m.

Gather at Cross of Grace with others who like to share ideas, creative endeavors and good company.

Emily Michaelis Ordination • Saturday, March 16 • 1 p.m.

Gather for worship to celebrate this important occasion with one of the daughters of our congregation. A reception will follow.

Agape Alliance Ministry • Monday, March 18 • 6:30 p.m. (Carpool leaves COG)

Connect with Carla Hopkins (carlahop64@gmail.com) or Linda Sevier (lsevier103@gmail.com) to learn how you can be part of this ministry to sex workers on Indy's east side. Sign up to help on the board in the kitchen.

Moms' Night Out • Tuesday, March 19 • 6:30 p.m.

Gather with other moms for a break over casual conversation, food and games. Contact Chelsea Walsman to learn more. (chelseadowdell@gmail.com)

Holy Week Prayer Vigil • Tuesday, March 26 • 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Come to the sanctuary anytime between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. to pray as much or as little as you'd like. There will be stations to guide and inspire you as we continue our disciplined journey to the cross.

Maundy Thursday "Dinner Church" Worship • March 28 • 6:30 p.m.

We'll be celebrating differently this year with a meal in the sanctuary, as worship, provided by our Bethel Bible Study students, as we remember Jesus' Last Supper and his command to love and serve one another.

Good Friday Worship • March 29 • 6:30 p.m.

We'll use a Tenebrae "service of darkness" as we take our last steps to the cross before Easter.

Easter Sunday • Sunday, March 31

We worship at 7 a.m. (outside by the fire, weather permitting) and during our regular times at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. We hope you're planning to join us. Our traditional Easter breakfast will take place, beginning at 9:45 a.m.