

## Notes from FATSAT Monthly Meeting

August 10, 2025

Opening Comments included the reading of *Footprint of the Divine* by Wayne Mueller, and *The Greatest Commandment* in both the NRSV and First Nations Versions.

Following the Steering Committee format of focusing on Lament, Hope, and Action:

**LAMENT:** Jo offered a reading of **Psalm 10** to spark discussion of the necessity and power of Lament. The Psalms concern is for the oppressed. Many are being oppressed by the present administration and actions are being taken that will destroy institutions to prevent oppression in the future. People mentioned the greed evident in those in power, the assault on higher education, the misuse of the justice system. We acknowledge and lament such actions.

**HOPE:** Diane led us in the reading of **Romans 15:13 and Isaiah 40:31** to examine the genesis and reasons for Hope. She expressed gratitude for the sense of hope that God has planted in her and so many others. She introduced us to the *Institute of Common Power*, based in Seattle and urged us to familiarize ourselves with their work. Our discussion was around the difficulty of waiting in hope. Hope is not just a happy face but guides us in where we invest our strength and courage for action. How do we become instruments of hope? How do we start something that spreads? We have more power than we think.

**ACTION:** Tom referred us back to Psalm 10:15 and the metaphor of “breaking the arm of the wicked”. He offered a suggestion that we Call on the Lord’s Name and declare God’s presence by placing a candle in our windows every night. When neighbors ask why the candle is lit, that opens up discussion. Exodus 27:21 explains a similar strategy of setting up a ritual whereby children as the meaning of Passover and elders tell the story --- the passing on of history and faith. Such a ritual strengthens those participating and those observing. This from John 1: 5: “The light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.”

The idea surfaced that our group write a letter to the ELCA suggesting a denomination wide participation in this ritual, in protest of the current administration’s actions and as a statement of faith in the values of God. Jo, Tom and Ben will write a draft for discussion at our next September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Isaiah 40:31 “Those that wait upon (for or on) the Lord will renew their strength. They shall rise up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.” Though waiting and hoping and actions taken become increasingly difficult, God’s promise is that the Spirit will sustain us.

## DECISIONS REQUIRING ACTION AND FOLLOW-UP:

1. Review of draft letter to Bishop Reverend Shelley Bryan Wee and newly elected ELCA Bishop Rev. Yehiel Curry.
2. Each member of FATSAT will watch the documentary *Israelism*, available on Prime and several other streaming services, in preparation for discussion in September.
3. Each member will review group goals listed in the minutes of July 13, 2025 for “ratification” in September
4. Each member will sign up for access to our group website by following the instructions Nick sent out. Here is the link:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BlHzZjVNShbJcbNgLC-nzzij\\_-5JOq2ax3cVmHRLfTc/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BlHzZjVNShbJcbNgLC-nzzij_-5JOq2ax3cVmHRLfTc/edit?usp=sharing)

## LEADERS FOR SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 MEETING

Nancy – LAMENT    Kit – HOPE    Jo, Ben and Tom - ACTION

AFFIRMED BY ACCLAMATION: Notetaker: Kit    Communications: Ben

DUE TO RALLY DAY BEING SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE **SEPTEMBER 21, 12:30pm** in the usual classroom

\*Steering Committee will meet August 24<sup>th</sup> following worship

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn