

Notes from FATSAT Monthly Meeting

September 20, 2026

Opening Comments

Lynn lit the Christ candle, and as usual we took a moment of quiet to remember why we are here. She reminded us, including our special guest Bishop Keith Marshall, that Tom Heavey introduced the lighting of the candle, as well as placing one in a front window at home, as an action. After consulting with Pastor and Council, we wrote a letter to the Synod Office. In the future we may share with the national church. It is a reminder of what we do, who we follow, and who enables us to do this work.

Bishop Marshall has read the letter and looked through the call to prayer devotional He is impressed with the work God has done through Peace. He says the lens of what we do must come from the Gospel. Ask how the Spirit will form us and shape how we see things politically, keeping a soft spot for those who have widely different views. He advocates allowing the Gospel to shape how we vote, and inviting people into a dialog without being prescriptive, focusing on justice and compassion. Our call to prayer devotional with a letter will be going out to the Synod about a month before the election. We are called to be active in the world, to live out the Kingdom of God through the vision that Christ presented and how we live in this together.

Lynn thanked Bishop Marshall for being accepting and nurturing our partnership.

Diane told Bishop Marshall what this group means to her. As the only person of color, she feels safe among like-minded people and appreciates the ritual of lament, hope, and action. With so many things coming at us, we want to offer hope to people. She comes away from the group with renewed energy for action

Lynn spoke of the fall equinox, with its equal light and dark, an extraordinary time of balance. This concept is built into the universe; we can be people of balance.

Lucas sees this group as a light, and Peace has kept him alive and floating in difficult times. He is encouraging his congregation to become more engaged in social justice issues.

Bishop Marshall talked about interfaith ecumenical groups meeting for solidarity, which helps with feeling hopeful; a real hope centered around Scripture. One of his most meaningful times is that of a group Bible study.

Lament – Lisa

Lisa shared her beautiful, thoughtful Litany of Lament on the Puget Sound.

Discussion: The lament incorporates the personal and the world together. For people not fortunate to have access to resources, one thing happening can destroy their lives. Our current administration scorns backups and redundancies. Responded by helping. Map of how life works. Opportunities to help.

Hope – Andrew

Andrew played a recording of “Say Yes” from Andrea Gibson’s book “When the Bough Breaks.”

Discussion: The intensity of her voice, feeling of things piling up, we all feel that now, positive chaos. So many profound things being said, powerful but overwhelming. We will share the printed version to allow us to pause more and absorb one statement at a time. The writer has broken out of the lethargy. Strong impact of the violin image. “When two violins are placed in a room if a chord on one violin is struck the other violin will sound the note.”

Action – Lynn

Quote from the agenda:

When we collectively meet hard times,
our spirits form a strength none of us could hold alone.
Unity is a shared field of power where each person’s light steadies the others.
We become a force capable of shifting the world. Anon

Lynn thought about sunflowers she grows in the yard. When scattered in various places, they would bend in the wind. Some came back, but some were flattened. This year she planted a sunflower forest, and they didn’t fall over in the wind. They have each other, and their root systems connect, so they are stronger. Only community can act in ways that really give us the best chance of making a difference. In the dilemma around mental illness, our country’s way is to act individually rather than standing together. How do we as a community, companions on this journey of life, hold together so the person struggling with mental illness is supported and strengthened. Sally put together action steps as to what we can do to steady those with mental illness.

Call to Prayer - Work Group Report

Jo, Lucas, Andrew, Lynnc

- **Review and Comment**

Council was supportive. The layout is excellent, and the steps are incredibly useful for people to find a way to pray and listen. The devotional was created for this election but could be used throughout the year, perhaps adding written prayers at the end after people go through the process themselves (prayerful work). Share with as many people as we can. Other congregations have been receiving this.

- **September 27 Worship**

8:30 Diane will speak, Pat will pass out Call to Prayer Booklets

11 Jo will speak, Kit will pass out Call to Prayer Booklets

Report on Banner**Nancy**

“Lament is what faith sounds like when love refuses to lie.”

Nancy shared ideas for the font and arrangement. Banner layout will be vertical, Ben will build a structure to hang it.

Election Report – Election Night Party**Sally**

All will be invited to the event on November 3. Lynn will call Damishe to reserve the space.

Representation on Budget Group**Lynn**

Peace budget planning group for the next year is asking people to participate. Lynn will represent FATSAT; there will also be representatives from the anti-racism group and others. It is nice to be invited to be at the table. Let the values of the congregation shape how we spend our money.

Relationship with Youth Action Report**Ben**

Youth met for a big day at the beach at the Fleshers’ house. Ben will talk with Manis about future plans.

Retreat Planning Report**Diane, Lucas, Andrew**

Diane and Lynn will meet with Brian Humphries on September 21. The Team will get together and move ahead. Retreat will be on November 14.

Report on “People of Resistance held Sunday 8/30 at Redeemer Lutheran

We will talk about this next time.

Closing Reflection and Prayer

Next Meeting: October 11, 2026. 12:30 – 2 pm

Leaders: Shepherds - Ben and Pat

Lament – Lucas Hope – Diane Action – Andrew

Lynn will write a letter to the Bishop thanking him for joining us.

Respectfully submitted,
Kit