

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

## MAY 2012 NEWSLETTER



May is always Confirmation month. This year we have eight children who will be confirmed as adult members of Faith Lutheran Church. What does this process mean to us as a church? What does it mean to them? Why is it so important to us as a church to make a big deal of the process?

On May 20, 2012, we will have one service at 9:30 am. The catechumens will have the opportunity to tell the congregation exactly what it is that the Lord means to them in their testimonies and in their personal confession. Jesus said, *"Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before my Father, which is in Heaven."* Confession is exactly what the children will have the opportunity to do that day – confess Jesus before men. *From Luther's Small Catechism: "The rite of confirmation provides an opportunity for the individual Christian, relying on God's promise given in Holy Baptism, to make a personal public confession of the faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ."* The confession of faith that was made at the time of one's baptism is now something that the Confirmand has the opportunity to perform publicly and now to take responsibility for as an individual believer.

Some churches make a big deal of the Confirmation process, and some don't really make a big deal at all. Some churches or denominations don't even have the rite of confirmation as part of their church life. Why? That's a good question. I think it is a matter of them not taking the Sacraments as real gifts from God. Most non-denominational churches feel that baptism is a symbolic act. They also state as their doctrine that the Lord's Supper is just a symbol of Jesus' body and blood. The LCMS' doctrine on both sacraments is that they are real, and the confession made at one's baptism is real. Confirmation is the opportunity for the Confirmand to repeat the confession made at his/her baptism. It is all a matter of how one looks at it. Our children have the opportunity as I stated above to confess Jesus before men, to state what he means to them as an individual believer and for the first time in their lives to be able to partake of the Lord's Supper. Those two elements (celebrating both sacraments) on Confirmation day should be very special in the life of the Confirmand, whether as an eighth grader or as an adult giving confession.

There are certain areas that one tends to place more or less importance during teaching of any subject. It is very difficult to be "geeked up" about everything in all that you do. I tend to put more relevance into my teaching about baptism and the Lord's Supper than other parts of the confirmation process just because I think the sacraments are worth the emphasis. (That doesn't mean the other parts are less important.) The opportunity that the children have to come before the Lord and take his body and blood in their own bodies is something that we shouldn't take lightly. They have the opportunity (after a long instruction period) to culminate that instruction now with a lifelong devotion to their Lord Jesus in the Lord's Supper. It shouldn't be something that they take for granted nor take lightly. Some churches take it lightly because the Lord's Supper doesn't mean the same thing to them. It is a memorial or a remembrance meal for all to participate because it is only bread and wine. This is not so with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

I am so proud of this year's class. I am proud of every eighth grade class that makes it to confirmation day. Why? Because we ask a lot of the children. We teach them a lot of information in

the two years of Confirmation. They must memorize a lot of information...from the Ten Commandments to the Creed...from baptism as stated above and all its gifts to the Lord's Supper and all of its benefits. There are a lot of Bible verses to memorize and repeat on tests. They did a wonderful job, and I am proud of them.

I used the word "tests." Why do we have tests in confirmation? We have tests so as to be able to determine if a child is actually memorizing the material. The material is important to remember for later in life so that when bad times come (and we all know they do); the child will be able to recall the memory work given in confirmation process and to stay strong in the Word. Jesus says in the Word that we should *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."* (Deut 6:5-9) What do you think *"Impress them on your children"* means? It means to teach them the Word, whether they like it or not so they are ready for bad times, and so they stay close to the Lord through his Holy Word. If we don't do this as a church and as parents – we are not following what the Lord told Moses to do. Our Lord further states in Deut 11:18-19 *"Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."* I think God is pretty serious about this subject since he says it twice within 6 chapters.

Confirmation is a special process. It is the maturation of a young person into adulthood in the church. Being able to take Holy Communion as an adult in the church is a wonderful gift. The children have been taught the LCMS doctrine from the Bible and the Small Catechism which is taken from the Bible. They are no longer looked at as children or confirmands but as young adults who have achieved a milestone in life. They now have a good foundation with which to continue their biblical study.

Parents – thank you for encouraging your child during this process. Please don't stop that encouragement. We all know that the problems of life don't stop just because one is confirmed. We know that the problems become greater as we get older. Please continue to encourage your child in the faith and see to it that as he/she gets older that you will bring them to church and the Lord's Table as you promised at their baptism oh so many years ago. Don't let them wander from the faith. Don't let them think that life's problems are greater than their God. He is greater than any problem we have and will always be there for them and us. Be a good witness of that fact as you have been during the past years.

Children – you have been a blessing to me this year. I too have grown in my faith and relationships with you. I pray that you stay strong in the faith. I pray that you always know that the Lord Jesus loves you more than life itself.

I too look forward to May 20, 2012. It will be a day of many feelings. I am proud of you children for working so hard and diligently to achieve something meaningful in your lives.

In Christ,

Pastor Krach



*“John Three Sixteen said that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him will never die but have eternal life.”*

John 3:16 is not only a fun song to sing, it is a favorite verse from the Bible, likely one of the most recognized and a wonderful summary of the Gospel message rolled into one simple verse.

The area of this verse’s relevance on my heart today is with the “everlasting life” part. What is everlasting life? It seems almost impossible to conceive the thought of “everlasting” and “forever” as on this earth, there is always an end to everything that is begun.

I would take this further and say that in this world, especially the secular world, the focus is far, far from everlasting life, but has become a culture of death. All around us be it in movies, books, billboards, advertisements, magazines, television, etc. one can see the glamorization of vampires and the “cute fun” of zombies. Not all too long ago vampires and zombies were creatures many a mother had to convince her child did not exist, because monsters were not real.

Sadly, while in the true sense, there are no vampires and zombies, in a way we really are surrounded by the “undead” and there is nothing cute or glamorous about it. As we go about our day comfortable with knowing that we have the hope of eternal life our neighbor who doesn’t know Christ is alive in the body yet dead in the Spirit. I have so often thought “oh that is so sad for them” but that is wrong; it is sad for me too. We have the duty commanded by our Lord, to let those who are dead in sin, as all of us are without Christ, in on our eternal secret. As Jesus said in Mark 16:15 “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” That’s a pretty daunting order to say the least! We need to make the effort to rely on the Lord for strength and courage, and we need to reach out to those who we know or suspect are lost. After all, it’s Christ who does the saving all we need to do is the telling. We need to quell the fear of rejection and remember how short life really is and how important it is to tell, and hopefully bring, as many with us to eternity as we possibly can.

I’m not suggesting that we start roaming the streets of our neighborhoods with megaphones announcing the Gospel. (Zombies may be better received). But reaching out to a favorite coach, music teacher, neighbor or friend who we know are not in the Word is the very least we can do. Eternity is forever; when our journey here is over we face either abundant life with our Heavenly Father, or an existence of eternal torture by our tormenter. Here on earth, death may be minimized and glamorized, but it is not to be taken lightly as our current culture dictates. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whosoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life! Let’s make an effort this month to share the good news with someone we know needs to hear it. Let’s allow Christ to work through us as we serve Him. Our life and work here is short, but eternity is forever!

May you always have God’s word in your heart and a song of praise on your lips!  
Connie



Servant  
Leadership Team  
SaLT

## JOYFUL RESPONSE

SaLT is advising the congregation of a service provided by *The Lutheran Church Extension Fund*, which provides a convenient way for congregational members to make their monetary offerings to a church.

This is through the *Joyful Response* program, which receives money electronically by debiting your bank account. It enables us to automatically contribute weekly, semi-monthly or monthly and deposits the money into an account with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Either a checking or savings account can be accessed for this purpose and they, in turn, will send a report to Faith listing the names and amounts contributed. This service is free and strictly voluntary on the part of the members of Faith. If you choose this service, it will enable you to save the time and expense of filling your envelopes, even when you are away on vacation or do not attend church for some reason. More information regarding this will be forthcoming.

**UPDATE ON THE CHAIR FUND:** Another \$329.00 has been contributed, making a total of \$5,907.00 that has been donated so far. We still have \$9,132.00 to pay back to ourselves in order to pay for all of the chairs. Remember, contributions honoring someone, in thanksgiving for something, or in memory of someone may be made to the Chair Fund.

Albert Maufer, Treasurer

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### *Transition HealthCare Services Notes*

**April Service** – Glenn Hendrickson led the service on a fine April day, as twenty-two appreciative residents gathered to hear the Word of God, and sing His praises. We were blessed by having Wally and Ann Chaillou, Aletha, and Pastor Krach join in to help the residents. A new resident and her family of four joined us and expressed gratitude for the service. Song leader LeRoy sang “The Old Rugged Cross.” The Hendricksons’ last service will be held May 20th. We are grateful for those who conducted the lion's share of the services over the years, including Ruth Brown, Jim Rau, John Ernest, Pastor Jim and Mabelle Bloker, Glenn Hendrickson—and to the Transitions Life Enrichment staff for allowing Faith to bring Sunday services to those who cannot attend church.



# *Faith Lutheran Church*

Men of FAITH,

May, 2012

I pray that you are still rejoicing over the wonderful event of celebrating Easter. "He has Risen Indeed." Hallelujah!!! Thanks to our wonderful savior, Jesus Christ, who won the victory over death for us all. Keep rejoicing and celebrating this life-saving event all year.

## M e n O f F a i t h I n A c t i o n

I'm sorry to report that we had to cancel the Spring Men's Retreat. We will reschedule for the fall, so look for the new date. This year has been a little slow for the MOFIA. We have not seen as many men in attendance as we have in the past. To be "Men of Faith in Action" we need to participate and interact with one another, so we can be prepared to be men of action when God calls us to act. It is exciting seeing the men of our congregation taking their faith seriously and having a real desire to be together and grow in the Lord. Each month we try to challenge ourselves in the Bible study or topics we discuss. I have heard many positive comments that men are practicing some of the issues we discuss, and it is making a difference in their lives. That is what we strive to do at MOFIA. We desire to make it a place where we can all grow to become better men of God. God promises that when we seek Him, He will change us. That change will help us be better husbands, fathers, co-workers and friends. Come and join the other men growing in their faith. You may just enjoy it.

To the women who read these articles, please encourage your husband to attend the MOFIA events. You will be blessed when your man starts to change.

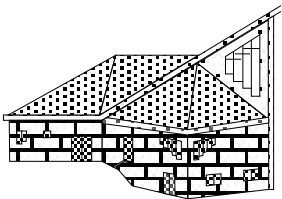
**REMEMBER THAT SUNDAY MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> IS MOTHER'S DAY.** So you may want to spend time working around the home on those special mom projects. Mother's day cards and flowers are fine, but don't forget that a handwritten note or letter to that special mom in your life will mean more than you can imagine. Try those home-made cards, notes and letters like we did for Valentine's Day. Those that tried those hand-made personal cards can tell you they are effective. You can never tell your wife enough times how special she is to you. Try it and see if she tells you to stop.

Men, please pay special attention to the SMALL GROUPS which are currently forming. Talk with your wife about joining one of these groups. Being connected to others in these groups is an important part of our growth as a church family.

This year our church is sponsoring an A.I G. (Answers in Genesis) conference the weekend of September 30<sup>th</sup>. Please see pastor if you are interested in helping with this exciting event.

Praise God and remember every day is a new day, every day is Easter!

God Bless,  
Ron Stiegler

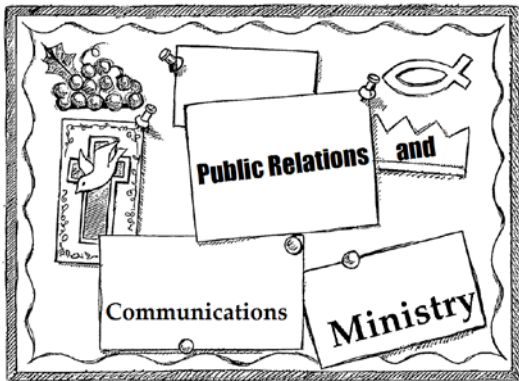


**COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION**  
**Public Relations & Communications Ministry**  
**May, 2012**



**Keenagers Korner – John Hahn**

Our March meeting started with fantastic refreshments – Thanks, Jan! While we were enjoying the goodies, we were challenged by Books of the Bible word search which can be tricky, but Bill remains champion through sheer persistence. We then updated the planning for our next two events - a bus trip to Lancaster to see a performance of *Jonah* at the Sight and Sound Theater, and our Summer Break Luncheon in June. We then enjoyed the movie, *Journey Through the Bible Lands* and discovered we have some prodigious popcorn eaters among us! We meet on the third Saturday at 10:00 a.m. in the modular; join us and bring a friend or neighbor.



**China – an Atheist Country – Lenni Lange**

In March we traveled to Shanghai to visit our son and family. His job at Google had him working there for 16 months. In April they returned to Silicon Valley.

Shanghai, and I understand the other large cities, are very cosmopolitan. Tall, unique structures are intermixed with the older buildings and temples. There is upward mobility in China today, unlike earlier days. “It is all right to be rich,” is the new motto. The buildings are owned by the state and by Chinese investors. The

Chinese cannot take their money outside of the country, so it is invested there, particularly in the architecture. But poverty also exists. While we saw it all around us, we particularly witnessed it in Old China, comprised of narrow streets with vendors on both sides. Laundry hung across the roads. Many families live inside each building, a family occupying one room. A common ancient kitchen serves each community. Outside, vendors sell dumplings, vegetables, and live chickens and fish. A woman had caught a rat in a cage and was pouring boiling water on it to kill it, apparently a cheaper method than rat poisoning.

Of the 1.3 billion people in China, 300 million are religious believers, making China one of the lowest percentages in the world of people who consider themselves religious. The most popular religions are Buddhism and Taoism. Christians make up only 3-4%. We toured a Taoism temple. The temple was ornate, with one of their gods (Taoism is a polytheistic religion) upon his throne, adorning and occupying a complete room. But what struck me was the sincere faith of those people. In Old China, elderly ladies spend their days making small boxes, placing money inside, and wrapping them with silver paper to be offered to the Taoism gods in order that those in the afterlife have funds to spend. Atheism is a sad state. But with paganism, faith, although false, is deeply felt. We witnessed it at the temple and in the streets of Old China. What can be done to help these misguided souls to place their faith in Christianity instead of religions that lead down the same road as atheism? In Pastor’s class one day, someone asked a question about those who never heard of Christ. Will their fate be the same as unbelievers? The answer was “yes.” Then a class member wisely added, “That’s why we need more missionaries.” To that we add a collective, “Amen.”

## Faith Child Development Center May 2012 Newsletter

### FCDC Preschool



We were very busy in the month of April. We started our month celebrating Jesus and Easter. Our 4's and Pre-K Classes went on two field trips. They visited Martin's Grocery Store and learned about healthy foods and then ventured to Sharp's Farm and learned about spring, plants and farm animals. Our 2's and 3's classes had a field trip to Clark Elioak Farm where they had an opportunity to pet and feed farm animals.

Faith Child Development Center children and their families will participate in our annual Play Days on April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The activities for this event will include: face painting, visor making, music, parachute fun, bubbles, bowling, bean bag toss, hula hoops and ice pop eating.

Our themes for the month of May include: Jesus Created our Beautiful World, Mothers, Jonah and the Whale, Beaches and Under the Sea.

In May, our incredible 2's will celebrate their mothers with a Mother's Day Tea, and our Pre-K Classes will take an exciting field trip to Catoctin Zoo in Thurmont, Maryland.

Our school year will conclude with graduation programs and celebrations for our 4's and Pre-K Classes. Please feel free to join us for this special event. Refreshments will follow in our social hall.

4's Bees and Bears Graduation                      Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the church sanctuary

Pre-K Classes Graduation                              Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary

It is hard to believe we are nearing the end of our school year. We are blessed to have 82 children in attendance this year. It was wonderful getting to know each child and family. It has been amazing to see the children's growth throughout the year spiritually, emotionally, intellectually and physically.

### Thank you from Faith Child Development to:

- **Connie Simmons** for helping us with our Easter baskets delivery for our Spring Mission
- **Pastor Krach** for joining us and participating in our Easter Programs
- **M.O.F.I.A.** for spreading mulch onto our playground
- **Jim Blackwell, Jerry Rowdon and Frank Ringley** for keeping our building safe and well maintained.

Thank you in advance for keeping our center in your prayers as we enroll new families for our Fall 2012-2013 school year.

Blessings to You and Your Family,  
Diana Stanislav, FCDC Director  
&  
The FCDC Staffing Team

## *SONRISE NATIONAL PARK VBS*

“It’s gonna be a cool, cool Summer!” That’s the theme song for our SonRise National Parks VBS, scheduled to take place June 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. How will **YOU** be a part of the fun? There are opportunities for everyone, from being a Team Leader, escorting kids from one activity to another; to leading the children in song and dance in the “Dancing with the Stars” Music Center; and everything in between. Please pick up a **Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet** from the *Welcome Table* in the narthex and let us know how you would like to help out. Or talk to Jennifer Krach or Stephania Billheimer if you would like more information.

Registration for SonRise National Park VBS will begin Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> for children of Faith Lutheran Church and FCDC. Registration forms will be available in the church office at that time. There will be a SonRise Music CD for each family at the time of registration. Online registration for everyone will begin on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at [www.faithlutheraneldersburg.com](http://www.faithlutheraneldersburg.com) and go to the VBS link. Children age 3 (by January 1, 2012) through children who will be entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall are invited to attend.