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Rev. Christopher Natan Sperb, Pastor

OUR MISSION

Glorifying God the Father and filled with the Holy Spirit, we celebrate our relationship with Jesus and invite others to join our celebration.

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2019

The Name of Jesus Has Made This Man Strong

In Acts 3:1-10 the apostle Peter miraculously healed a man who had been born lame. When Peter met the lame man at the gate of the temple, he had compassion on him. He lifted him up and said, “*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!*” And [Peter] took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong” (Acts 3:6-7).

Since Peter had been made “*alive together with Christ*” (Ephesians 2:5), and it was no longer Peter who lived, but Christ who lived in him (Galatians 2:20), Peter was “*created in Christ Jesus for good works*” (Ephesians 2:10). As God’s new creature, Peter naturally did this good work of helping the lame man. This help was a deed of love that flowed naturally from Christ who lived in Peter and guided him. In the same way, when Christ lives in us, He will cause good works to flow from us to help our neighbor.

At first the crowd misunderstood how Peter could accomplish this miraculous healing (Acts 3:11). Peter then proclaimed the true cause of the man’s healing: “[Jesus’] name... has made this man strong” (Acts 3:16). Instead of taking credit for this good work of healing, Peter confessed that Christ lived in him and worked through him to heal the lame man.

When Jesus lives in us, His love flows through us. When we are baptized into Christ, it is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us (Galatians 2:20), and we are made “*alive together with Christ*” (Ephesians 2:5). Also, “*we are [God’s] workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works*” (Ephesians 2:10). We may not perform sensational miracles as Peter did, but Jesus Christ does live in us so that we will naturally serve our neighbor with our good works. When Christ lives in us, we are an effective tool in the Lord’s hands!

Perhaps we would love to help our neighbor, but we are uncertain about how to help or we feel that we are unsuited to help. The more we abide in Christ and His Word, the more He will bear His fruits of love and good works through us. Peter did not spend time and money forming a strategy for serving his neighbor; instead, the Spirit of Christ moved and it was done! Peter and John were actually going to worship at the Temple, but then Peter noticed the lame man, had compassion on him and, by Christ working through him, healed the man (Acts 3:3-7).

God has created us for good works in order that we may experience the joy of helping our neighbor in need. When our neighbor needs food or clothes, Christ’s love flows through us to feed and clothe him. When our neighbor needs to hear the Good News of God’s love and forgiveness, Christ works through us to speak that good news. As Luther said, a Christian living in the Christian faith “has no need of a teacher of good works, but he does whatever the occasion calls for, and all is well done” (Luther’s Works). So do not boast, but rather confess, “*It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me*” (Galatians 2:20) and causes these fruits of love.

In Jesus’ name,

Pastor Christopher Sperb

Director of Christian Education

GAHU Happenings!

We began the year off right, with some good ole Bootcamp. So far, we have focused on conflicts that we have with ourselves, nature, machines, and our own conflict with God. We have had an amazing time getting to talk about God's Word with one another. We have one more study in February, and then we will be getting ready for RVR Winter Meltdown.

We also went ice skating at the end of the month and had a great time to have some fellowship together, and grow as a group. As the spring begins we will be looking for some ways to help those in our congregation, so if you have some things that need to be done around your house, please contact Alexi to discuss if the youth will be able to help.

Young Adult Happenings!

This month we had an amazing turn out of Young Adults. We had five new Young Adults join us for Bible study this month. We started a new study on Engaging Culture in an Ever Changing World. We will continue to discuss this topic for the next couple of months.

We will be having a fellowship event in February, so please be on the lookout for further information about that. As always, if you know of any Young Adults that you would like me to reach out to, please send contact information and I will reach out to them. Send any info to dce@faithmd.org



Small Group Ministry

We have had a great year of small groups. Many of our small groups have now partnered with local ministries to help support them. Our groups have had many different topics they have been talking about. We have had group discussions that talked about 1-3rd John, Martin Luther, and Prayer. Our small group leaders have worked very hard this year, and I ask that you would keep them in your prayers as they continue to lead. Our leaders include: Alex Ihde, John Blessing, Gene Shackelford, Ray Linscomb, Pastor Sperb, Debbie Geiger, and Stan Stigdon. Please pray for them and encourage them as they continue to lead and serve.

If you are interested in getting involved with a group, please let me know so that I can get you connected with them. Or if you are interested in leading your own, email Alexi so that we can talk about it. Email Alexi at dce@faithmd.org

National Gathering & Mission Trip

Our Sub Sale was amazing. The kids had a great time preparing the subs, and handing them out on Super Bowl Sunday. Thanks to all of you who bought a sub and helped support the youth who are going to the National Youth Gathering. You have been so supportive, and we are so thankful for the generosity that you have shown.

In August, we will be holding a Youth Rummage Sale. I would encourage you to hold onto things that you might be considering to discard. We currently don't have a place to take any donations so please hold onto them, and during the summer we will start talking about drop off options. We will be looking for books, clothes, furniture, children's items, housewares, kitchenwares, etc. We will not be taking upholstered furniture and old TVs.

If you have any questions, please contact **DCE Alexi Lundquist.**

Worship Ministry

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

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The day before Christmas Eve, I was in the grocery store. It was interesting to notice that next to the red and green foil wrapped chocolates, the multi colored candy canes, and festive Christmas trinkets, there were pink heart shaped boxes, chocolate roses and little valentine stuffed bears. While a bit odd it isn't that surprising. In retail one holiday rolls into the other in order to continue the revenue stream.

Putting Christmas and Valentine's Day items on the same shelf at the same time actually fits together more than may have been planned by the merchandisers at the store. Valentine's Day is a season that promotes love, Christmas is an event God gave us through His great love.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:16-17

Thankfully no matter what season we are in we are assured of God's unwavering love for us.

May you always have God's Word in your heart and a song of praise on your lips!

Connie Simmons



Marriage and Relationship Education Center

LAUGH YOUR WAY TO A BETTER MARRIAGE

Early Registration is open through MREC to enjoy a marriage conference featuring nationally recognized marriage expert, Phil Gungor. Phil approaches the everyday issues many couples face with a real, practical, understanding while using warmth and humor to make for a very entertaining experience. This will be a memorable weekend for all who attend.

When: Friday, March 1st, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., (Doors open at 6:15 p.m.)

The Tale of Two Brains; and #1 Key to Incredible Sex, and **Saturday, March 2nd, from 9 a.m. to noon.** (Doors open at 8:15 a.m.) Becoming Compatible; and How to Stay Married and Not Kill Anybody.

Where: Host location is LifePoint Church, 1701 Emory Road, Reisterstown, Md. **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION until Sunday, February 3rd is JUST \$60 per couple. Price after February 3rd is \$75 per couple.** Light refreshments and your materials are included. You can register online at mrecenter.org



Women's Ministry Team Daughters of The King

Monthly Women's Ministry Gathering & Visual Faith Workshop

Our next *Monthly Women's Ministry Gathering* will take place on *Saturday, February 16th from 9:00-11:30 a.m. in the Modular*. Join us for a time of fellowship and Bible study from 9:00-10:15 as we study "The Joy of Elizabeth" - Living the fruit of the Spirit through the best times of your life.

After the Bible study, we will be holding a Visual Faith Workshop from 10:15-11:30 a.m. where participants will be able to creatively express praise and thanksgiving through the making of a "Blessings Banner." If you would like to participate in this activity please bring \$2.00 to cover the cost of materials.

Please contact Dana Stigdon (dstigdon@gmail.com), Debbie Geiger (geigermama14@gmail.com) or Kim Schlauch (kimschlauch@gmail.com) with any questions regarding this event

Visual Faith Monthly Meetup: Tuesday, February 12 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Modular)

Join us for a time of fellowship and learning as we gather to share Visual Faith ideas and engage in fun and creative faith building activities. For more details, please contact Kim Schlauch (kimschlauch@gmail.com) or Tabatha Hohenberger (Minky0127@msn.com). For more information about Visual Faith, please visit www.visualfaithmin.org.

Lutheran Hour Ministries

Lutheran Hour Sunday February 3

What is LHM Sunday?

The Great Commission still stands, and yet billions of people around the world remain unreached by the Good News of Jesus. Each week, Lutheran Hour Ministries equips and engages a vibrant volunteer base to passionately proclaim the Gospel to more than 125 million people worldwide.

LHM Sunday is an opportunity for church leaders and laypeople to learn more about how Lutheran Hour Ministries is working to Bring Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church and how we can partner in our shared mission of Gospel outreach.

At LHM, we believe we are SENT, and we want you to be SENT, too. SENT is our five-year global initiative to proclaim the Gospel through four key priorities:

- Energize, equip, and engage the laity for outreach
- Grow God's kingdom through expanded media outreach
- Bring the Gospel to the unchurched around the world
- Engage communities in the digital mission field

It is our prayer that through LHM Sunday you will join us in this important mission to share the Gospel.

Missions Ministry Team

This month's Highlighted Mission Envelope effort will be in support of:

"Lutheran Hour Ministries"

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a Christian outreach ministry supporting churches worldwide. LHM produces Christian radio and TV programming for broadcast as well as Internet and print communications, dramas, music, and outreach materials to reach unchurched people in the United States and more than 30 other countries.

Our congregation was able to share our blessings with Orphan Grain Train by donating \$590.00 for the month of December 2018.

Get Ready to Celebrate!

To celebrate the opportunity we have to serve God and others through our mission efforts, Faith Lutheran Church will be hosting a Mission Festival on **Saturday, May 18th, 2019** for its members and the community at large.

This event will include a Mission Showcase where attendees can learn more about the local mission organizations we work with and support, a Fair Trade Marketplace, and a Children's Carnival. More details to follow. In the meantime, mark your calendars now!

If you are interested in helping out in any way with this event, please talk to Kim Schlauch or e-mail her at missions@faithmd.org.

February News from the Congregational Care Team Ministry

Ministry Team Lead: Cindy Cross 410-596-0355 cindydauec@aol.com



Each member and friend here at Faith is aligned with an Elder as well as a fellow Faith member on the Congregational Care Team Ministry. A list is posted in the narthex on the bulletin board. If you would like a list, please let Cindy know. This ministry meets monthly and prays regularly for the congregation members and friends. Please feel comfortable to let one of us know when particular needs or concerns arise in your life. We would like to know when specific prayers are needed. Also, assisting with meals and rides as well as shopping. If this will help you, just let us know.



Valentine's Day:

Faith Lutheran Church is blessed with about two dozen young adults, 4 years-post high school who are attending college, working or in the military. Once again this year we are able to prepare Valentine treat packages for them. It's a way of letting them know we love them and pray for them.

We would like to invite you to send valentine cards or write notes of encouragement. They can be dropped in the collection box on the Valentine's Day Table in the narthex by Sunday the 3rd of February. They will be included in the treat packages we prepare. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Cindy Cross or another member of the Congregational Care Team.

Thank you to all those who are able to participate in this ministry.



MANNA (Meals Are Needed - Now Available)

First of all . . . THANK YOU to all those kind and energetic people who have responded so generously to the requests for help with meals to congregation members. Some meals were prepared and put in the freezer, while others have made meals and taken them directly to a member or even cooked and baked for members to pick up on Sunday mornings. We have been able to help several folks with meals because of you. Second If you haven't had an opportunity yet but would like to prepare a meal for the freezer, it will be appreciated. Wrap appropriately for freezing, mark with the date and what it is, then put in the freezer Sunday morning while you're here. Blessings!



GIFT CARD MINISTRY

THANK YOU to all those who have given so generously to this ministry. The Gift Card Ministry has helped not only our own congregation members but also some folks in the neighborhood when they have come to our church in need. Some who stop by for help are hungry and don't have transportation, so a \$10.00 card to Denny's, Wendy's or McDonalds would allow us to fill that need. Cards for up to \$25.00 from local food stores, gas stations, pharmacies, Wal-Mart, etc are also helpful for others. If you feel led, with joy in your heart to give glory to God through this ministry, gift cards are always appreciated. Place in the offering plate, in an envelope marked "gift card ministry". They will be kept in the church office to be used at the discretion of Pastor and Debbie. Also, if you have a need or know of a need, please let us know.

February News from the Congregational Care Team Ministry

Ministry Team Lead: Cindy Cross 410-596-0355 cindydauec@aol.com



Youth Sunday School Mission Statement

Making Christ the center of each lesson, we will teach the children the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, show enthusiasm for Jesus so they will want to share it with others, and make the Gospel message relevant to every age or level of learning.

Sunday School

Sunday School Opening begins promptly at 9:30 a.m.

Please join us for openings worship. Connie Simmons continues to enrich us as we prepare our children to be a special part of our worship service with their voices.

Sunday School Envelopes Children's Sunday School Envelopes

The offerings for January through April will go to the host mission church 2019 Servant Event Youth Works. The money will go to provide various school supplies for the children in the area.

www.youthworks.com

**Ages 3, Pre-K and K
"Hands on Bible Curriculum"**
Learning Lab

**Grades 1-8
"Growing in Christ"**
God Sends His Son to Save Us

**High School
More Than A Carpenter**
(Josh McDowell)

Winter Adult Bible Study Classes

Adult Sunday School offerings will go to support our seminary student, Adam Flanick.

Gods Word for Today: Acts

Curt Thomas

Acts is the story of God's grace flooding out to the world. Nothing is more prominent in Acts than the spread of the Gospel

Young Earth

Don Hall

Young Earth or Old Earth?? 7 day creation or millions of years of Evolution??

The Nine Practices of the Proactive Parent

Stan and Dana Stigdon

Parenting success won't happen by accident ... it takes prayer, planning, and yes, just plain old hard work.

See bulletin Board for More Information