



April 2018

Faith Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

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

The Perspective of the Resurrection

“His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him.” (John 12:16)

Three times in his Gospel, John stated that he and his fellow disciples were unable to understand the things they saw and heard from Jesus until Jesus rose up from the dead:

- First, after cleansing the temple of the money changers, Jesus declared, *“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up”* (John 2:19). No one understood that Jesus was talking about the temple of His body, but *“when therefore He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken”* (John 2:22).
- Second, Jesus rode victoriously into Jerusalem amid palm branches and shouts of praise. *“His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about Him and had been done to Him”* (John 12:16).
- Third, on the first Easter Sunday, Peter and John ran to the empty tomb. Entering the tomb, they *“saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He [Jesus] must rise from the dead”* (John 20:8-9).

In addition to replacing their sorrow with joy, the resurrection of Jesus provided His disciples with understanding of the things they had experienced but could not perceive. Because of the resurrection, the dismaying could no longer dismay, the mystifying could no longer mystify, and the sorrowful could no longer produce sorrow!

The hope and promise of Jesus’ resurrection promises the same joy and understanding to us. Daily life is filled with innumerable things that do not make sense to us. We suffer loss and injury for reasons we cannot perceive. Our plans and dreams can easily get turned upside down and trampled in a moment’s notice. We pray in the funeral liturgy that the Lord our God would “help us, we pray, in the midst of things we cannot understand” (*LSB Agenda*, p. 121).

How has our God helped us to understand? He sent His Son, Jesus, into suffering, death, AND resurrection. The resurrection of our Lord gives us perspective on His suffering and death. In the resurrection of Jesus, everything became understandable to the disciples of our Lord. In the resurrection of all flesh on the Last Day, our eyes will at last see with clarity and know beyond doubt all that our Lord Jesus has said and done for us. In that day, our sorrow will be answered with joy, just as the sorrow of Jesus’ disciples was turned to joy, and we shall understand as they likewise understood.

What should we do in the meantime? We wait in hope. As Abraham waited before us (Hebrews 6:15), reasoning that God is able to raise the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19), we also wait for our resurrection-day understanding and joy. Whatever our losses, whatever our trials, whatever our sorrows, and whatever our crosses, we turn our eyes toward the resurrection.

Author: Rev. Erik Rottmann

Director of Christian Education

Hallelujah!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah! We had a crazy month of March, but we look forward to April! Thanks to our youth and their families as we were able to have our annual Easter Breakfast! Thanks to the congregation as well for attending this wonderful meal! This month we look forward to be learning about Big Words of the Bible. For example, these words are atonement, sanctification, redemption, and reconciliation. You don't want to miss out on this wonderful time of community. Come join us on Friday nights at 7:00 pm in the fellowship hall!

The young adults at Faith have had a wonderful previous month. We went hiking to Sugarloaf Mt., studied the book of Proverbs and went duckpin bowling! We look forward to hiking again, studying the rest of the Wisdom books and getting to know each other more. All young adults are welcome to join! Not on the email list? Send Meghan O'Hara your email address to dce@faithmd.org. Hope you can join us for these wonderful times together!

GAHU

- 4/1 - Easter Breakfast @ 9:30-10:30 am
- 4/6 - GAHU Gathering @ 7:00 pm
- YW Servant Event Meeting 9:00-10:00 pm
- 4/13 - GAHU Gathering @ 7:00 pm
- 4/20 - GAHU Gathering @ 7:00 pm
- High School time @ 9:00pm -10:00 pm
- 4/27- GAHU Gathering @ 7:00 pm

YAM

- 4/7 - Demo Day @ Linda's @ 7:00 am - Questions contact Meghan
- 4/10 - Small Group @ 7:30 pm TBA Location
- 4/14 - Hiking/Scavenger Hunt @ Catoctin Mt. Park @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- 4/24 - Small Group @ 7:30 pm TBA Location

Meghan O'Hara



Small Group Ministry

"And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!'" (Matthew 21:9 ESV)

HOSANNA
IN THE HIGHEST!

The Hebrew word for *Hosanna*, Hhoshiah nnah, means "Save now!" What does this say about the urgency of Jesus' mission to save those...

who do not yet know Him,
who are lost in sin,
who are addicted to things that would harm them (and those around them),
who are broken,
who have never known grace,
who have been abused,
who have been persecuted,
who have been bullied,
who have received no mercy,
and so on?

What does the urgency of "Save now" say to you as you join Jesus on His mission?

<http://joiningjesus50daydevotional.blogspot.com/2014/12/day-42-of-50.html>

WHY JOIN A SMALL GROUP? Join one to have FELLOWSHIP with other brothers and sisters in Christ, SERVE together, and LEARN how God is working in and through you! Need more information? Contact DCE Meghan O'Hara via email at dce@faithmd.org or by phone at (410) 795-8082 ext 204 if you would like to get INVOLVED. We hope that you consider this opportunity to grow in your faith and with fellow members of our church family.



A Word from our Elders

The book of Exodus tells the story of God's deliverance of the Israelites from their captivity in Egypt. Every word in Exodus is true. Throughout the remainder of the Old Testament, this story of God's deliverance is recounted and remembered. It also provides a metaphor for God's involvement with His people in all ages. He shows us His premeditated plan of salvation. To better understand the metaphor, it's important to define who the Israelites were. It must be noted that the children of Israel are in captivity in Egypt as this was not the land promised to them. Finally, Moses is utilized by God to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

We learn of a man named Abram in Genesis. He is chosen by God and given a land not his own. God gives him the promise of a nation even though he has no heir. In his old age, God gives him a son and further promises that all nations will be blessed through him. That son, Isaac, fathers Jacob who in turn fathers twelve of his own sons. Isaac and Jacob continue in the relationship with God as promised to their father Abraham. At one point, God renames Jacob. He gives him the name Israel.

The story Abraham also provides a metaphor for us. He was chosen by God. The Bible has nothing to say of Abrams merit. We are chosen by God. And, we certainly have no merit of our own. God gave Abram a promise. He gives us a promise also. His promise to us is the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. This metaphor is interwoven with the real promise to Abraham in that Jesus our savior is a son of Abraham through His earthly lineage. The nations have truly been blessed through Him!

The story of Exodus opens with Israel's children moving permanently to Egypt. There's no explanation as to why they would leave the land promised to them by God. Although, the story of Joseph and the famine told in Genesis gives us a connection. Four hundred and thirty years later, the Egyptian people know nothing of Joseph and have become afraid of these foreigners. If we look at the human condition, we too have strayed far from home. We start our lives in a foreign land not by our choice, but because of the failure of our fathers to meet God's standard. This can be traced all the way back to our first earthly father Adam.

Just like the Israelites in Egypt, we cry out to God for deliverance. Every Sunday morning we call out to God to have mercy on us through our spoken confession. God has heard us and has had mercy on us as he did with those held in captivity.

In Exodus, God raised a man to lead the people out of Egypt. This man was the earthly manifestation of God's deliverance. Moses was a messianic archetype. He was a pattern of the One to come. Jesus is the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham. He has come to deliver us out of bondage to sin!

The story and the miracles really happened. The people really existed. Our belief in the inerrancy of scripture is confirmed to us by our Savior during his earthly ministry where he repeatedly refers to Moses and the Exodus story. God weaves the metaphor to further our spiritual edification. This is another way He shows us the true riches to be found scripture.

Worship Ministry

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

Verse 1

I know that my redeemer lives. What joy this blest assurance gives. He lives He lives who once was dead. He lives my everlasting head.

Verse 4

He lives all glory to His name. He lives my Savior still the same. What joy this blest assurance gives. I know that my redeemer lives.

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He is Risen! I suspect upon reading those words you already have the response in your head. So together: HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!!

We can be so thankful to be able to say those words. Christ is Risen! Through Jesus' death and resurrection we will rise from our physical death. We have been thoroughly cleansed from the sinful spiritual death that is our burden in our flawed human condition.

“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth, And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!” Job 19:25-27

Having just experienced the sorrow of Holy week and the horrors of the cross, to the joyful celebration on Easter Sunday, now is a good time to make the effort to keep the importance of Easter in our deliberate thoughts and actions. No burden or stress of our daily lives can compare with the Joy that comes from those three words “He is Risen!” Truly our Redeemer lives!

Please join us for worship on Sunday mornings this month at 8:00 or 10:45 as we continue to celebrate the season of Easter.

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

Happy Easter!
Connie Simmons



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 as we continue our new interactive opening. Connie and Ben Simmons continue to enrich us as we prepare our children to be a special part of our worship service with their voices.

Sunday School Envelopes

The 2018 Sunday School envelopes have been distributed or placed in your mailbox. Please remember to continue bringing in your offering to support our mission

Ages 3, Pre-K and K “Faith Weaver Now”

Weaving faith into today’s families NOW.

Grades 1-8 “Growing in Christ”

The Spring quarter will focus on “God Creates a World and a People.”

**High School
Ephesians: The Church: God’s Servant**



Sunday School Missions

Our Compassion International child has completed the program. Our collections will be divided between the following programs.

*2018 Servant Event Youth Works program to send materials for children when our Servant Event team goes this summer.
<https://www.youthworks.com>

*Concordia Day Care and Community Center in Bangkok, Thailand.
<http://www.cwefthailand.org/concordia-day-care--community-center.html>.

* Holy Trinity Institute (Instituto Santíssima Trindade).
<https://www.facebook.com/santissimatrindade/>

As well as supporting these programs to help children, we hope the children will see the connection to our brothers and sisters around the world.

Spring Adult Bible Study Classes

Luther’s Catechisms

Pastor Sperb
(Sanctuary)

Christian Financial Management

By Dave Ramsey

Bruce Otto and Stephen Giguere
(Modular)

Women's Ministry Team

"Daughters Of The King" Women's Ministry Update

Please join us for our **annual retreat** to be held **April 20-22** at the **Town Hill B&B in Little Orleans, MD**. Our theme this year is *SeaSide Escape!* The cost per person is \$175.00. A \$75.00 deposit is due at the time of registration. The full balance is due by April 8th. If interested, please visit the registration table in the narthex or contact Debbie Geiger (443-386-0379) geigermama14@gmail.com. *Do not let the cost of the retreat deter you from attending.*

Due to the retreat, there will be no Monthly Women's Ministry Gathering in April. The next Gathering will take place on Saturday, May 19th. Details regarding May's event coming soon. In the meantime, mark your calendar!



Upcoming Events:

Friday, May 11th - Secret Keeper Girl Masterpiece World Tour

A special one-night show created to connect Moms and tweens. Through music, games, and teaching, you'll pray, play and grow closer together while focusing on inner beauty and Godly characteristics. Volunteers are needed for this high-energy event! Register online at www.mrecenter.org

Saturday, June 30 - Roaring 20's Garden Party and Croquet Tournament

Our signature great date event is returning in June at the Carroll County Farm Museum! You won't want to miss this! Sponsorships welcome. Register online at www.mrecenter.org

We hope to see you there!

Missions Ministry Team

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

Augsburg Lutheran Home & Village

The Augsburg community has been caring for seniors for over 100 years. It was first conceived as an orphanage in 1892, when Caroline Lang, a resident of Baltimore, Maryland, learned about two orphaned children with no place to live. She shared her vision of caring for orphans with friends, and together they created an orphanage fund, raising \$3 to support their efforts. Today, this initial \$3 collection is remembered as the "Augsburg Acorn."

The ministry quickly expanded its vision to also care for seniors and formed The Ladies Society of Augsburg Home to help raise funds. In 1893, Augsburg purchased its first building at 746 West Lexington Street in downtown Baltimore, and a remarkable heritage began. By 1921, it became clear that larger quarters were necessary to support the growing community, and the present 52-acre property on Campfield Road was purchased in Baltimore County. A new facility, built to house 35 adults and 60 children, was dedicated on November 17, 1929. Over the next few decades, Augsburg continued to expand with a number of additions, including a nursing care wing and chapel.

In 1970, the care for orphans was discontinued and the focus turned completely to serving seniors. Staying in touch with the evolving needs of an aging population, Augsburg introduced independent living to its community in the 1980s by opening the "Village" with 61 private apartment homes. A three-story health center was also opened, offering skilled nursing, expanded dining facilities, a new kitchen, and a large activity room. In the 90s, Augsburg added assisted living to the range of continuing care services.

Augsburg is a recognized leader in the senior community field. Throughout all the changes and development, Augsburg has remained committed to serving seniors with quality and value, offering a lifestyle that's attractive, attentive and attainable.

Our congregation was able to share our blessings with Lutheran Hour Ministries by donating \$670.00 for the month of February 2018.

Lutheran Hour Ministries

*A Woman's Journey to Faith began with a song
On The Radio*

Around 99 percent of the people in Thailand have not heard of Jesus. Ngam, a 25-year-old mother of two, was one of these souls. One day she heard a song she liked on the radio, she didn't know she was listening to Encouragement for You, a program produced by LHM-Thailand.

The radio host talked about Jesus, but Ngam had no idea who Jesus was. Then the host invited listeners to contact LHM's team in Thailand to discover more about the Bible. Ngam felt an irresistible urging inside – she decided to participate in a Bible Correspondence Course.

Through the course, Jesus worked in Ngam's life. "It is helping me get to know God and how to follow him," she says. "I'm very thankful to your ministry."

Today, Ngam's life is completely changed. LHM-Thailand helped her find a local church and she is preparing to be baptized. As her faith grows, she asks the LHM family for prayers as she seeks to help her family know Jesus.

LHM-Thailand shares the Good news every day through the radio and invites people in need to respond. LHM creates this kind of impactful radio ministry in more than 80 languages worldwide.

Ultimately, you make it possible! God uses your gifts and prayers to touch the hearts of people like Ngam with His love.

In Thailand, every \$9 towards radio ministry represents someone responding to learn more about the Gospel.



Village of Hope Haiti

The people of Haiti have a proud history as the only slave colony ever to gain independence. This Caribbean nation which has faced many challenges throughout history is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

In the early 1990's a group of Christians became aware of the worsening economic situation in Haiti. Food for the Poor invited a delegation to visit Haiti. They went in response to the gospel message, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." (Matt. 25:35). In response to this call, the Lazarus Project was formed in the US, with the support of Food for the Poor.

The first project chosen by the Lazarus Project was to raise prayers and funds to provide support for a new school being started by a missionary, Carol Herget. She formed, with respected business leaders, the Fondation Village de l'Espoir. The Village of Hope School has grown from 60 children and 1 building into a campus of several buildings with 70 teachers and staff serving approximately 650 students.

The lack of affordable, available health care in the Ganthier area motivated the development and building of the Village of Hope Health Center in March 2012. The medical professionals and staff serve the student body, their families and the 70,000 residents that make up the community.

St. John's Lutheran in Alexandria, VA has supported Village of Hope for many years. They have a mission trip to Village of Hope every year. Their next trip is in February 2019.

I have placed brochures for the Village of Hope on the table in the narthex. Additional information can be found at villageofhopehaiti.org.

If you would like additional information or a contact at St. John's to obtain information on the next mission trip, please contact me.

John Baker

johnannab@comcast.net or 410 465 8558 or at the late service.