

June 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.

Faith: God's Gift to You!

In religion and spirituality, no single word is more often misunderstood and misinterpreted than this word: *faith*. According to the Bible, God defines "*faith*" as His gift to you. "For by grace you have been saved through *faith*... it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Christ's apostles yearned for more *faith*, or a stronger *faith*. They said to Jesus: "Lord, increase our *faith*!" (Luke 17:5). We often have the same desire.

There is a story about a little boy that came to his father asking for something to do because he felt he did not have anything to do. His father told him, "Son, go play with your bicycle. Get some exercise." The little boy responded by saying, "But, Dad, what bicycle are you talking about that I should exercise with?" The father replied, "Son, exercise by riding the bike your mother and I gave you as a gift last Christmas!" The little boy failed to remember he had been given a bicycle as a gift from his father.

We often do the same. Like the little boy who forgot he had a bicycle as a gift, we often forget this divine fact: by the power of His living Word through His miracle of Baptism, God has planted in our hearts His *gift of faith*. "You have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding Word of God" (1 Peter 1:23).

Now, as the little boy exercised with the gift his father had given him, God desires that each of us exercise His *gift of faith*, which He has given us. God's prescribed exercise for us is to receive His living Word regularly. The more we receive/hear God's living Word, the firmer our *faith* becomes (Luke 8:18). "*Faith* comes [and continues to come] from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ" (Romans 10:17).

With the full certainty that God has planted His *gift of faith* in your heart, follow the example of the early Christians: "They received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures *daily*" (Acts 17:11).

"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you [*through His gift of faith*] with everything good that you may do his will, working in [you] that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21).

*O heavenly Father, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, remind me daily that You have given me Your **gift of faith**. As I daily receive Your living Word, cause Your **gift of faith** to grow within me and prompt me to exercise daily Your **gift of faith** by showing love to others. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.*

Pastor Christopher Sperb

Director of Christian Education

Sunshine Please Come!

This past month was a bit rainy, but we were able to get the best out of it. We started our Apologetics series to equip our young people of our congregation. Summer is right around the corner, and we cannot wait for this month. We will end the year with our annual LOCK-IN! Are you Smarter than a Youth Leader? This will be the theme of the night! Look out for more details concerning the night! Just want to highlight our graduating high school seniors; Dana Chesser, Caroline Maerten, Shelby Riley, Ben Simmons, and Peter Stigdon. God's blessings to them and they will surely be missed next year! Also, we welcome a future member of our group, Olivia Blessing, daughter of youth leaders, Casey & Paul Blessing. We cannot wait for her to officially join in 2029! Come join us for the end of the school year activities!

What's Happening with the Young Adults?

Thank goodness the rain didn't stop us from meeting this past month. We were able to have small group gatherings to be in fellowship and study God's Word. Though we plan to make up ultimate frisbee sometime with GAHU. This next month we look forward to our hike and movie night. We want to say congratulations to our college graduates; Hannah Narcross, Rachel Maerten, Rachel MacLean, Adriana Stigdon, Grant Schultheis, Sara Lamison and Noah Simmons! We look forward to what God has in store! Also, we welcome our incoming high school seniors into our group!

GAHU

6/1 - GAHU Gathering @ 7:00 pm
6/8 - GAHU Game Night/Ultimate Frisbee @ 7:00 pm
6/15-16 - GAHU Lock-In 7:00 pm - 7:00 am
6/22 - Mandatory Servant Event Meeting @ 7:00 pm

YAM

6/8 - Ultimate Frisbee Night @ 7:00 pm Faith Field
6/9 - YAM Hike @ 1:00 pm Patapsco State Park
6/26 - Movie Night @ 7:30 pm

Meghan O'Hara



Small Group Ministry

"Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her." (Matthew 26:13 ESV)

wherever this gospel
IS
proclaimed in the whole world

It does not say, *where this gospel if proclaim in the whole world*, it says *is*. What does this mean? By whom is the *is* carried out?

What of the 5 Practices do you find present in Matthew 26?

- Seeking the Kingdom
- Hearing from Jesus
- Talking with People
- Doing Good
- Ministering Through Prayer

How is God calling you to proclaim the gospel everywhere you go? What may be remembered of you in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus?

<http://joiningjesus50daydevotional.blogspot.com/2014/12/day-47-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.

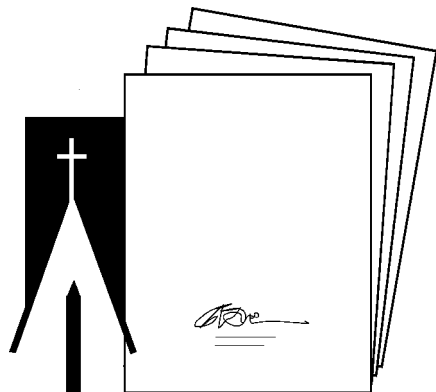


A Word from our Elders

It is confirmation season once again when young confirmands, having gone through two years of scriptural instruction, have the opportunity to publicly proclaim their faith in Jesus Christ. What a great foundation to have as you are challenged by the message of the world. The world says, "Your life is in your own hands"; but God's Word says, "Your life is in God's hands." The world says, "Believe in yourself"; but God's Word says, "Believe in God." The world says, "Speak whatever you feel"; but God's Word says, "Speak with grace." The world says, "You only live once. Live as you please"; but God's Word says, "You only live once. Live as God pleases." The world says, "Follow your heart"; but God's Word says, "Follow God's Heart." The world says, "Grab as much power as you can"; but God's Word says, "Be a servant." The world says, "Just a little more and I will be happy"; but God's Word says, "You will never be content when you are searching for money." The world says, "Set your sights on the important needs of life (food, shelter, and family)"; but God's Word says, "Set your sights on God who supplies all of our needs." The world says, "Death is the end"; but God's Word says, "Death is only the beginning."

Armed with the Word of God, our confirmands are able to face those challenging messages and confront them with truth. Please take time to congratulate them for their commitment to study over the past two years and encourage them as they continue to learn and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

The Elders



Worship Ministry

You Never Let Go

Pre-Chorus

And I will fear no evil For my God is with me
And if my God is with me Whom then shall I fear
Whom then shall I fear

Chorus 1

Oh no You never let go Through the calm and through
the storm Oh no You never let go In ev'ry high and ev'ry
low Oh no You never let go Lord You never let go of me

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Often playing with our Golden Retriever, Pal, becomes a frustrating exercise in futility. An object is thrown; Pal happily runs out and living up to his name, retrieves the item. That is when Pal's idea of fetch, and the person engaging him usually differ. The problem is that Pal will not let go of the prize he so joyfully collected. With his jaws locked shut it is all but impossible to continue playing the game. Often that is when play time ends, because, unless Pal is lucky enough to be playing with a toddler, the adult runs out of time and patience for an endless game of tug of war. This is very sad for Pal. If he would only let go, he would have more fun and a much longer time of play and interaction.

Often, I see myself behaving like Pal spiritually. I find I want to hang on to things for fear that if I don't I may lose whatever coveted thing I am hanging on to. But God, in His infinite wisdom, knows my needs, and wants me to let go and trust Him with my whole being. God has that desire with each of us. "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8.

While God desires that we let go and give all to Him, we can be assured that He will never let go of us!

Please continue to join us for worship at 8:00 and 10:45 through June. With the exception of our Confirmation service which is a single service June 3 beginning at 9:00 am.

Women's Ministry Team

“Daughters Of The King” Women's Ministry Update

When the lead team met to lay the foundation for our women's ministry at Faith, four areas of focus were identified to help us achieve our mission, “To Connect, Encourage, and Grow as Daughters of the King.” These include: Bible Study, Fellowship, Service and Outreach. To continue to develop in our faith and to build a greater sense of community, this past year our efforts have been focused on the first two areas, Bible Study and Fellowship.

As we move into our second year of this ministry, our goal is to broaden our efforts to include activities in the areas of Service and Outreach as well. We are excited that our June event will help us kick off these efforts.

Monthly Women's Ministry Gathering: All-Ages Fellowship and Service Event/Fair Trade Market - Saturday, June 16th; 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Join us for a light breakfast, fellowship, and the opportunity to learn more about the ministry of Mercy House Global as well as to support their efforts through the purchase of fair trade products. Mercy House exists to engage, empower and disciple women around the globe in Jesus' name. Their flagship ministry is the running of three maternity homes in Nairobi, Kenya. These homes are funded by their secondary ministry, Fair Trade Friday, an avenue dedicated to tackling poverty through dignified job opportunity in Jesus' name.

For more information about these ministries, please visit:

www.mercyhouseglobal.org

www.fairtradefriday.club

We'd like to extend a special invitation to our high school, college, and young adult “Daughters” to join us for this month's event. In addition, we encourage everyone to invite a friend to come along as well!

More event details to follow in the church bulletin. Questions? Please contact Kim Schlauch (kimschlauch@gmail.com)

Please note that this will be the final Monthly Women's Ministry Gathering for the current program year. After a break during the months of July and August, the Monthly Gatherings will resume in September.

Missions Ministry Team

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

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

Good News Chaplains are sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the world. It is a response of faith in the Person at the center of that “good news” that saves as God opens the eyes and minds of those who need a Savior and introduces them to the Person of Jesus Christ. In that moment, the moment of truth, when a person who is lost discovers that there is a way....there is truth....and there is life....Christ enters their life and transfers them from the kingdom of darkness to “the kingdom of His beloved Son” (Col. 1:13).

Founded in 1961, Good News Jail & Prison Ministry, a Christian outreach that provides chaplains, volunteers, counseling, and educational programs to jails and prisons with over 350 chaplains serving in 22 states and 26 countries or U.S. territories worldwide. Good News believes that each one of the 9.6 million (2.3 million U.S.) people incarcerated in the world today represents a broken life and a family in pain. Yet they also embody amazing opportunities for hope, healing, hearts to be made whole, and lives to be given to Christ. When this happens, the transformational changes that result are carried forward exponentially and experience eternally. In 1961, correctional chaplaincy was the exclusive province of the federal and state prison systems. A local jail might have a pastor or pastors volunteering to come in on Sunday, but an on-site chaplain was basically nonexistent.

In October 2010, the door opened in Carroll County for Chaplain Bob Kimmel to be installed as the Chaplain of the Carroll County Detention Center. Our congregation has several members who are “Reaching Those Others Have Forgotten...” at the detention center. For further information you may contact FLC member, Bruce Otto or Chaplain Kimmel directly at 410-386-2606 or bob.kimmel@goodnewsjail.org

Our congregation was able to share our blessings with Augsburg Lutheran Home & Village by donating \$625.00 for the month of April 2018.





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.

Summer Sunday School

There will be no formal Summer Sunday School

We have a "Traveling Jesus" activity along with a family devotion. More details will be given in class.

Nursery Program

During the school year the nursery program offers a loving environment for children ages birth to 3. This provides parents a safe place for children while they attend adult Bible study. The nursery program also provides classes for children age 2 who are not yet ready to move into the regular classes. The class follows the Concordia series "Growing in Christ," taught by Andreza Sperb and Megan Foelber. This is the same series used in our elementary classes. We currently have no children attending the nursery that would be in this program this fall. If you have a child who would be age 2 by the fall and are interested in enrolling him/her, please contact the office to insure we have enough materials.

**High school
Biblical Foundations
(Modular)**

Elementary Sunday School Missions

The Children's Sunday School Mission collections of \$678.82 will be used to support the 2018 Servant Event Youth Works mission. We will provide essential school supplies to the NY community of Warrensburg.

Mission collections through August will be sent to Concordia Day Care and Community Center in Bangkok, Thailand.

<http://www.cwefthailand.org/concordia-day-care--community-center.html>.

Mission collections September through December will be sent to the Brazilian Orphanage -Holy Trinity Institute (Instituto Santíssima Trindade);

<https://www.facebook.com/santissimatrindade/>

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

**There will be no Sunday School on
Confirmation Day,
June 3rd**

Adult Summer Bible Study begins June 10th

The last day of the Spring quarter is May 27. We invite all adults to join us in the fellowship hall as we continue our lectionary study, exploring the weekly readings more in-depth. There will be an area for kids to color or play games in while the adults are in Sunday school.



The Lutheran Hour Ministries website, lhm.org, has numerous resources for individuals, groups and churches. The items below are some examples. Check out the entire site for many more.

Devotions

Daily Devotions written by Rev. Ken Klaus are based on everyday topics and will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, download them to your MP3 player or access them on your mobile device through the FREE app. Seasonal Devotions for Advent and Lent are also available in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.

Learn more at lhm.org/dailydevotions

Video-Based Bible Studies & Resources

More than 30 video-based Bible studies tackle relevant issues from a biblical perspective and are perfect for large or small group study. Each multi-session study is supported with a discussion guide and additional resource links. Some titles are also available with Spanish subtitles.

Learn more at lhm.org/studies

God Connects

God Connects is a video-based adult confirmation course that covers Christian doctrine from the perspective of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Each of the 12 topics contains a short video and downloadable discussion guide for in-depth study.

Learn more at lhm.org/godconnects