

# BUILDING ON FAITH

God wants us to grow in Christ so we can build up His Church in Cottonwood, the Verde Valley, and to the ends of the earth.

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE VERDE VALLEY FAITH FORWARD

2021 E. Fir Street-P.O. Box 3732, Cottonwood, AZ 86326  
928-634-7876 (www.cottonwoodfaithlutheran.org)

SEPT/OCT/NOV 2020

### Upcoming Events:

- **September 27**  
Church Jubilee Service
- **November 8**  
Congregational Meeting

*Due to the health challenges of our country and the necessity for social distancing, there are no events or Men's/Women's Bible Studies scheduled until further notice.*



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### Good Grief

Is there really any such thing as "good grief"? Many of us may recognize the expression as one of Charlie Brown's favorite saying when once again, something went wrong, a well planned scheme went awry or some other unforeseeable failure occurred. With Charlie Brown we hear this and recognize it as an endearing expression of dismay—but, is there really any such thing as *good* grief? When we think of grief as our response to losing something of value to us, we might very reasonably think that there is no such thing as good grief. How can losing something valuable ever be good? Lately, we have all had the opportunity to become better acquainted with grief than we would like. We've given up many things that we value such as travel, eating out, gathering with our friends, affectionate hugs and hand-shakes, unemployment, financial security. Many have lost loved ones who are most dear to them. Many of us are now living in a chronic state of grief from the myriad of things we have had to give up or have lost permanently. As good Lutheran Christians, we search the scriptures for answers to the challenges we now face and sometimes the answers are forth-coming, and sometimes, they are more elusive. We read in Matthew 19:16-30, Jesus encounters a man who wants to acquire a most valuable possession—the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus tells him that if he is to do this, he must sell all his possessions and give the money to the poor and follow Jesus! Good Grief! Good grief indeed! The man greatly valued his earthly possessions, so much so that instead of doing as Jesus said, he walked away, choosing his current possessions instead of everlasting life. What stood between this man and the Kingdom of Heaven was grief. Sometimes God must separate us from what we value most in order to fill that spot with something that we need even more, and in this case, Jesus himself. It is difficult for us to not get lost in the pain and anger of our grief, but if we look to Jesus, perhaps we can ask him with what, and why, He is replacing that which we have held so dear.

God's peace, Pastor Karl

### Congregational Meeting:

Join us for our end of the year meeting. This is an opportunity for church members to become updated on the budget and church ministries, elect officers and much more. Please join us **Sunday, November 8th**, in between worship services.



### Special Thanks To.....



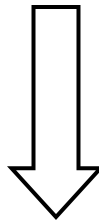
- Those who have helped with Altar Guild
- All who clean the inside and outside of the church and work behind the scenes to make our church function smoothly.
- All the greeters, church service volunteers, Sunday School teachers and nursery helpers
- All who helped the preschool get ready for the Fall session
- Those who donated to the Adopt a Student Preschool Scholarship fund

We are truly blessed here at Faith Lutheran Church. Please join us in a Thank-a-Thon. Find members of our church to thank in the coming weeks for their service.

**This section, which includes Birthdays and Anniversaries,  
is left blank intentionally to protect  
member's privacy, on-line. Please refer to the hard copy  
at the church for more information.**

**This newsletter continues on the next page.**

**Thank you.**



## From the Council President...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I have two questions for you:

When was the last time you read Genesis?

When you read it, did you believe that it was the history of Creation as told by God to Moses?

Last year, we had the opportunity to visit both the Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY and the Ark Encounter in Hebron, KY. They are both operated by Answers in Genesis, a Christian Group devoted to spreading the truth of the Bible. If anyone has any doubts about a young earth, a visit to either of these places would eliminate those doubts.

The Ark Encounter, especially, reinforces the truth of the cataclysmic changes that occurred during the worldwide flood of Noah's time. When God created the world in six days, He made Adam and Eve on day six. He looked at His creation and called it "very good". Gen 1:31

Unfortunately, it did not take very long for sin to come into the world. The serpent convinced Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, and she gave it to Adam. Not long after, they hid from the Lord as He walked in the garden, because they were ashamed of their nakedness. So the Lord made them clothing from the skins of animals, but he cursed the world because of their sin. All the animals had been created after their *kinds* by the Lord, and they were all plant eaters. Gen 1:30 The animals *and* humans did not become meat eaters until *after* the flood of Noah's time. Gen 9:2-6

How can scientists get it so wrong? Because they do not believe the Word of God. They must explain everything with assumptions. Anyone who has ever seen the movie "The Bad News Bears", knows what it means to *assume* anything. So how can dinosaurs, the fossil record, geologic evidence, and radiocarbon dating be proven? Or can they?

To be continued...

And may the Peace, Strength, and Love of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

Yours in Christ, Gene Sucharski

## Altar Guild

Please Notice This We are looking for volunteers to help with set up and clean up of Holy Communion.



Please prayerfully consider helping. You would be assigned one service on the Sunday you are scheduled to serve. Contact the office for more information.

## Ministries Postponed Until Further Notice:

**Women's Bible Study** - First Monday of the month 10:00 a.m. at the church

**Men's Bible Study** - Second & fourth Wednesdays of the month 8:30 a.m. at the church

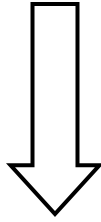
**Young at Heart** - Third Wednesday of the month (times and locations vary).

Contact Bruce Seldon for more information.



## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

*See a hardcopy of the newsletter for budget information.  
Continue below for more newsletter information on the next page.*



## Board of Christian Education News

Board of Christian Education Chair - Terri Mickle



We have started our Fall education year! Here are some highlights.

### **Sunday School:**

Sunday School will begin **Sunday, September 13, 2020** from **9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.** following the 8:00 a.m. worship service. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers, Sandy Wilson and Kathy Breese for continuing to teach the children of our church about Jesus. Due to the pandemic there will be no Education Rally Day this year.



Things will start off a little different this year. The first day of school will start Monday, August 17 beginning at 8:00 a.m. with Miss Crystal's class then Miss Britney's class at 8:15 a.m. and Miss Sarah's class at 8:30 a.m. Extra precautions are being taken to help keep our students and staff safe.

**Thank You From the Bottom of Our Little Hearts:** to all who donated the paper goods for Hilltop Christian Preschool, also for those who have agreed to Adopt a Student who would not otherwise be able to afford preschool for their child. We are not able to do our fundraisers this year that go to help support our scholarship fund. Would you prayerfully consider supporting our ministry to the community by either adopting a student or by giving a one-time donation.

We are thankful for the wonderful teachers and Preschool Director and we look forward to spending time in chapel once a week with Pastor Karl. God's blessing on this school year and pray that God blesses us with full classrooms.



### **Board of Outreach:** Board of Outreach Chair-Kathy Wagner

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Outreach has not been able to sponsor our regular activities. We will, however, be honoring our Veterans on Sunday Nov. 8, with badges made by Hilltop Preschool and acknowledgement during worship services.

#### Here are some ways we are caring for our community:

As always, our in-gathering of winter items and gifts for House of Ruth, Old Town Mission and Verde Valley Homeless Coalition will continue. We will begin taking donations on Sunday Nov. 22.

**House of Ruth** - We are collecting baby wipes, premie diapers (size 5) and Lysol or Clorox cleaning cloths.

**Old Town Mission** – Personal toiletries i.e., shampoo, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, etc., for both male and female, are needed. They also need winter socks, hats, gloves, scarves, etc.

**Verde Valley Homeless Coalition** – new or used bedding and clothing for men and women, heavy winter socks, underwear, toiletries, etc., are needed.

## Many Thanks!

A great big thank you to all who helped keep our church safe and open during this challenging time. Several meetings, safety protocols and extra volunteers have kept God's house of worship open.



### Thank you to:

- \* The leadership and congregation for their flexibility with all the changes and their support of the two services in order to allow for all to worship safely
- \* Pastor Karl for sharing two services with the congregation and providing recordings. Thank you to Greg Kaestle for continuing this opportunity to watch on-line
- \* The elders for their assistance during worship service
- \* Those who made calls and sent cards to those members who are not able to return at this time
- \* The congregation for their diligence in thinking of others and continuing to use social distance protocols
- \* Terri Mickle for the extra time spent on bulletins and gathering extra volunteers
- \* Julie Lacksonen for her willingness to provide music for the two services
- \* The Altar guild for the extra work preparing Holy Communion for two services
- \* All others that may work behind the scenes keeping the church clean and continuing to work on the grounds
- \* Those who donated to the Cereal for Seniors for those in our community in need during the country's health challenge

*"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)*

## Become an Ambassador

Did you know that over 100 years The Lutheran Hour Ministry has equipped churches and lay people with the resources needed to share the love of Jesus? It broadcasts to 50 countries around the world. A person can access inspirational messages, through the radio station, radio streaming, weekly podcasts, daily devotions and more.



They are looking for men and women to promote The Lutheran Hour Ministry in their congregation. To serve as a liaison (ambassador) you would, pray for LHM on behalf of your church; pray for your church, its leaders and members as they engage in outreach, understand the congregation's needs regarding ministry support and outreach efforts, guide members to LHM resources, materials, and ministry areas. You will become a resource expert to the church's members on topical information, new materials, activities in the mission field and more. If you have questions contact Gale Cynova 480-381-0932. To learn more about LHM visit their webpage. [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org).



## Who Said That?

- ⇒ Which lady sang these words, “Sing to the Lord, for He is highly exalted. The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea”?
- ⇒ “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down.” Who tempted Jesus in this way”?
- ⇒ Who prayed, “Lord, do not let this sin be held against them”?
- ⇒ Was it Job, Joel or Joseph who declared, “I know that my redeemer lives”?
- ⇒ Who requested, “Lord teach us to pray”?

## Picture Directory

Pick up a new church directory in the church office. We are also in the process of adding some extra page inserts with pictures of those who have recently joined the church. Get to know your “neighbor.”



## Celebrating 50 Years!

We are not able to celebrate our Jubilee in the same way we had hoped back in March, however, join us during worship services on Sunday, September 27, for a special service. Look for a memory table display soon and a vintage newsletter. Faith Lutheran has been spreading the Good News of Jesus for a very long time!



*Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2.47*



## Sermons Online:

The online sermons can be found on our webpage [cottonwoodfaithlutheran.org](http://cottonwoodfaithlutheran.org)., and on our updated Youtube Channel, [Faithlutherancottonwoodaz](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...). Thank you to Greg Kaestle for assisting pastor with the recording each Sunday.

## TIMBER!

On May 27, 2020 the two sections of the sidewalk in the front of the church were removed. They were being uplifted by the large roots of the big pine tree. The tree was also causing damage to the church building itself. After removing the sidewalk, it was found that a large root from the tree had been cut off before the sidewalk was constructed. We were unable to cut the root with a 10” saws-all blade. The decision was made to remove the tree completely, to avoid further damage to the building.



On June 23, the tree was removed by Arborist Standards Tree Care at a cost of \$2,066.25. This entire amount was covered by donations.

The sidewalk will be completed in the fall, along with a new sidewalk in front of the handicapped parking areas to the left of the front doors. After the cement has had time to cure, it will be painted to match the rest of the sidewalk on the patio in front of the building.