

# 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.

## Upcoming Events:

- **July 10th**  
Congregational Mtg.  
*Due to the health challenges of our country and the necessity to continue social distancing, there are no large events at this time. Thank you for your patience.*



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## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE VERDE VALLEY FAITH FORWARD

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### JUNE/JULY/AUG 2022

## Dare to Believe

*From the Pastor* Is the way things have always been dictate the way that they always will be? Do circumstances ever really change? Logically we may say to ourselves, "Of course things change." But do we really believe it? There are various milestones in life that from time to time unveil just how much we really believe that things can or can't change. We grow up going to school, and we have gone to school all our life, and we are told to look ahead to our graduation, but then when we graduate, it is almost a surprise and we find ourselves somehow unprepared for life after graduation. It is easy to fall into the same mentality with our careers, our marriages, our health problems, our financial problems and the list goes on and on. Yet, for each of these, we know that there is an end. A time when we will retire, a time when we will either lose our spouse, or they will lose us, a time when all of our earthly concerns draw to a close. What then? Our hope in Christ Jesus bids us to believe not just that there is an everlasting life for us in Him, but how different that new life will be. Revelation 21:4 our Lord tells us that,

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

This promise that Jesus gives to all who believe in Him sounds almost too good to be true. Had anyone else made this promise, it would be too good to be true. This promise, however, came from the Christ Jesus who healed incurable diseases, mended the broken, gave sight to the blind, caused the deaf to hear, and raised the dead. He is the one who will restore His creation to what it originally was, a place of beauty and joy, without end. God's Peace, Pastor Karl

## Congregational Meeting:

This meeting is an opportunity for church members to become more aware of the business of the church, the budget and ministries. We meet twice a year after worship. Please join us on **Sunday, July 10th**, immediately following the 8:00 a.m. worship service.



### Special Thanks To.....

- All the greeters, church service volunteers, and Sunday School teachers.
- All who clean the inside and outside of the church each week
- All the volunteers who help with Hilltop Christian preschool
- All who contribute to the roof fund
- To Julie for playing piano and organ for the Hymn Sing and Terri for helping with the bulletin.

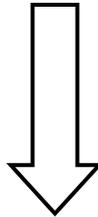


We are truly blessed here at Faith Lutheran Church. Please join us in a Thank-a-Thon. Find members of our church to thank in the coming weeks for their service.

**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:

Webster's New World Dictionary defines FINALLY as: at the end, in conclusion; decisively, conclusively, irrevocably. According to Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, the word FINALLY appears only six times in the Bible, all in the New Testament in the Epistles. I'm quite sure, however, that we could apply the word FINALLY to other instances in the Bible.

When God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them in six days, He FINALLY rested on the seventh day. God put up with the sins of man for hundreds of years until He FINALLY had enough and brought the global flood upon the earth. Noah and his family were in the ark for a year before they FINALLY came to rest on dry land. The Israelites were slaves in Egypt for four hundred years before God FINALLY delivered them from the hand of Pharaoh. They were forced to wander in the desert for 40 years before FINALLY being able to enter the Promised Land.

Isaiah the prophet recorded many prophecies regarding the coming of the Messiah, but it was close to 700 years later before the Messiah FINALLY appeared. Jesus, the Messiah came not only to fulfill all the prophecies from the Old Testament prophets, but most importantly, to redeem lost mankind from our sins. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, us sinners have FINALLY received a means of redemption from the Fall caused by Adam and Eve. Through Jesus' death and Resurrection, we FINALLY have a cause to celebrate. As the song says: "... because He lives I can face tomorrow - Because He lives All fear is gone - Because I know He holds the future - And life is worth the living Just because He lives."

How sweet our future is, knowing it has FINALLY been secured through the sacrifice of the Messiah. When we leave this earth, all those who believe in Jesus will FINALLY be in His presence for eternity. What joy that will be, to be praising God and His Son and His Spirit!

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

### In Council News:

After ten plus years, the District has FINALLY approved our new Church Constitution. At the April meeting, the Church Council looked over the changes suggested by the District and approved the Constitution with some minor corrections. In early June, look for copies of the Constitution in your mailbox, please read it over, and we will be asking for the Congregation's approval at the July 10 Voter's Assembly. If you have any questions regarding this, please call the office or speak to a Council member.

Yours in Christ,  
**Gene Sucharski**

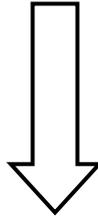
### Roof Renovation:

Since 2017, your generous giving has brought us closer to paying off the new roof of God's home. We thank you so much! If you have not had a chance to contribute to this endeavor and would like to help, please prayerfully consider picking up a pledge sheet in the church office and make a pledge.



**Treasurer's Report can be found in the hard copy of the newsletter at the church.**

**More newsletter information below.**



**Board of Outreach- Kathy Wagner, Chair**

Dear Members of Faith Lutheran Church,

The Board of Outreach (Kathy Wagner, Myra Anderson, Jennifer Holmes, Marina Wolfgram and Sandy Tatge) wish to THANK YOU for your generous donations to our Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. We were able to put together 35 kits and these were delivered to Atonement Lutheran Church in Glendale, AZ., on April 30<sup>th</sup> by Terry and Jennifer Holmes. These kits will be used to replace the Care Kits delivered to the Ukraine earlier this year. Again, thank you and God Bless You! We will have other gatherings for needed items later this year. We will keep you posted.



## Board of Christian Education News

Board Chair - Terri Mickle

Sunday school is moving right along, with six students that regularly attend. Sandy Wilson and Kathy Merrick have been taking turns teaching the Sunday School class. Thank you to our Sunday School Teachers and to those who assist.



Sandy Wilson will teach two special Sunday school classes on June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup>. Kathy Merrick will also teach two special Sunday classes in July. Sunday School will start back up the end of August or the beginning of September. Pastor Karl has three confirmation students that meet every Sunday. There has not been any Youth Bible Study.



**Hilltop Christian Preschool Director - Windy Mickle**

We are ending the school year with full classes! "Praise the Lord" Miss Sara & Miss Terra had 20 students between the 3's class and the Little Me Class, Miss Brittany & Miss Lisa, had 18 students and Miss Crystal & Miss Kirstin had 19! Our Pre-K classes completed their alphabet. One of their biggest feats was to memorize Psalm 100! It's always a favorite verse for them to learn and knock their family's socks off with their amazing ability to memorize with some sign language!

We had our Preschool graduation in May at the Clarkdale Gazebo on one night so we did not have to limit families that could attend. As the school year ends, we want to say a BIG thank you to Kathy Wagner, Vicci Wikenig, Myra Anderson, Sandy Wilson, Rhonda Koeppel and Tieann Blackburn! We appreciate all that you have done to help us! We also want to thank the Board of Outreach group for making birthday cards for each child this year. What a great ministry! And a BIG thank you to everyone who has contributed to our preschool whether it be financial, paper drive or prayers. Thank you Pastor for teaching the students about Jesus in Chapel each Wednesday. We truly appreciate everything that you have done for us! We have so much to be thankful for.



### Do You Have a Question?

Have you ever wondered about something you read in the Bible or had trouble understanding? Pastor may be able to answer that. You can put your questions in the envelope on the bulletin board in the hallway, remaining anonymous if you wish. You can also email your questions to the church office, [cottonwoodlutheran@netzero.com](mailto:cottonwoodlutheran@netzero.com). Join us for Bible Study each Sunday and Pastor will address your question the last 15 minutes. Deacon Les & Your Elder Team



## Ongoing Bible Studies

**Women's Bible Study** - Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. (Sandy Thompson)

**Men's Bible Study** –2nd & 4th Thursdays 8:45 a.m. (Gene Sucharski)



### Children and Their Faith (Summer with Jesus)

Are you looking for ways for your child to keep their sights on Jesus and opportunities to show kindness this summer? Here are a few ideas.



#### Hiking/Studying God's Creation Together

If you have older kids, you can talk the particulars of how amazing some aspect of God's creation is as you walk along. Or, if you have younger kids, you can just focus on reminding them that God made EVERYTHING! Encourage your child to draw or journal how they saw God in their experience.

#### Host a Drive-In Movie Night in Your Driveway

Grab some cardboard boxes that are big enough for kids to sit in. Then round up your kids and their friends. Have them decorate the boxes to look like cars. When the sun gets low in the sky, project a kid-friendly Christian movie onto your garage door or onto a sheet hanging from the garage. The kids can view the movie while sitting in their "cars" in the driveway. Serve popcorn, juice boxes, and other snacks. You can also do this inside if you have the space.

#### Random Act of Kindness Challenge. Become a Raktivist!

Make it a daily challenge all throughout summer (and beyond) to show kindness to others! You can also turn this into a friendly competition by seeing which member of the family has done the most "RAKs" before school starts. For example: Buy lemonade from a stand, ask a friend what they would like you to pray for or thank someone every week. Encourage kindness between siblings.

#### Thank You Notes

Discuss the important people in your children's lives. Think grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, classmates, friends, teachers, coaches, neighbors, etc. Guide your children in writing good old-fashioned letters to each one (you remember, the kind with a real envelope, mailing address, and stamp!). Kids can share a favorite memory, retell a holiday or special event spent together, or simply express appreciation. How much would you appreciate receiving a note like this? Information adapted from: Ambitious for Christ and the Arc.

### Summer Adult Bible Study-Overcoming Life's Sorrows:

What do you do when life goes off the rails and your left with questions? We will explore the book of Jeremiah, using the Bible and the teachings from Professor Reed Lessing's book, "Overcoming Life's Sorrows." You may remember the video presentation last Fall. Come learn how Jeremiah overcomes, through the hope of Jesus. This study will be held in the fellowship hall beginning Sunday, June 5th, led by Pastor Karl.