

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 2021

Upcoming Events:

- **November 14**
Congregational Meeting

Due to the health challenges of our country and the necessity for social distancing, there are no events scheduled until further notice.



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A Sure Promise



As the long days of summer draw to a close, it seems that we are no closer, perhaps even further, from the days of certainty and security which we remember as not so long ago. Today, however, as too many days of late, the great powers of the earth shake and threaten to crumble. Strange forces seep upward through the cracks and dread and fear spread farther and faster. Where does one go to seek relief? Where can we go that is safe? Where can we go to find rest and recuperation? I find myself often going to the Psalms and today, and this season, I am glad to remind you of God's promise to us in Psalm 1:1-4,

¹"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners; nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ²but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. ⁴The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away."

Time and time again, our Lord promises to faithfully bless us when we hear His words and do them. Looking back, we may observe kingdom after kingdom, democracies and monarchies alike, rise and fall as waves on the sea. All the while, our Lord and King leads his people unshaken and sure, to the destination He has promised us from the beginning, fully in His presence, beyond any tumult or grief. There, with Himself, he keeps all that we love, all for which we labored, all for which we long, forever beyond the destruction and decay of this world.

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 14th**, in between worship services.



Special Thanks To.....



- All who clean the inside and outside of the church and work behind the scenes to make our church function smoothly
- All the church service volunteers, Sunday School teachers and parents who assist
- Those who renovated the church office
- 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.

Sept/Oct/Nov Anniversaries

Sept

9/8 Steve and Carmen Frederic
9/15 Richard and Marlene Watson

Oct

10/8 Gregg and Kristy Aston
10/10 Pastor Karl and Joanne Schloeman
10/16 Spencer and Amy Lower

If your birthday or anniversary has not been included in the newsletter, please visit the church office and complete a "Family Information Sheet."

Nov

11/25 Les and Terri Mickle



Happy Birthday!

SEPT BIRTHDAYS

9/3 Sandy McIntyre
9/6 Betty Sperr
9/7 Kristy Aston
9/8 Kara Frederic
9/8 Karla Wilharm
9/9 Donna Bloom
9/9 Nancy James
9/10 Gregg Aston
9/11 Eric Mattson
9/12 Sandra Tatge
9/17 Diane Johnson
9/18 Donna Benson
9/19 Sally Craig
9/19 Terri Mickle
9/23 Levi Mickle

OCT BIRTHDAYS

10/1 Hannah Frederic
10/5 Kathy Wagner
10/7 Gerry Bird
10/8 Phil Hanson
10/9 Abraham Lower
10/12 Ryan Ritter
10/14 Julie Lacksonen
10/24 Lew Casbon
10/29 Roger Tomlinson

NOV BIRTHDAYS

11/1 Merrill Sorenson
11/3 Lori Ritter
11/7 Gary Wilharm
11/10 Destry Aston
11/12 Bailey Kaestle
11/13 Carl Warczinsky
11/14 Elian Olesky
11/25 Les Mickle
11/26 Bruce Selden
11/27 Andrew Olesky
11/27 Jerry Saravo
11/28 Kathy Breese (Merrick)

From the Council President...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

What is a date? I'm not talking about the fruit from the date palm, or a date that a boy and girl go on to the movies. (Do they still do that?) The date I mean is the one we remember as being important or memorable to us as individuals.

Everyone should know their birthdate, even if we don't directly remember what was going on at the time. Our parents are usually the ones to inform us of our birthdate and help us celebrate it every year. Of course, the older we get, the celebrations are usually more reserved, and sometimes only occur on the zero birthdays. Unfortunately, we also remember the dates of the end of lives of those dear to us.

But there are other dates that we remember that occur throughout our lives, or even before we are born, that we learn about in school or from other people. I wasn't around on Dec. 7, 1941, but I sure know the date as one that "will live in infamy", to quote FDR. June 6, 1944 is another date I know, since it is known as D-Day, the turning point of the Second World War.

Where were you when JFK was shot? Nov. 23, 1963 I was in Mr. Rosen's business class in High School when the announcement came over the loudspeaker that the President had been shot in Dallas. I remember a classmate came back from the girl's room and told us there were girls in there crying over the news. The country pretty much shut down over that weekend as everyone was glued to their TVs to watch the events unfold. When Jack Ruby shot Oswald, it was probably the first murder ever broadcast live.

July 21, 1969 I was in New Paltz, NY attending college and hanging out with my girlfriend at her Sorority house. Neil Armstrong then took "One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

This September 11, we will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the terror attacks in NY, PA and D.C. That morning, 20 years ago (!), I was on my way to a grocery store when I heard that planes had hit the Twin Towers. When I got to the store, the employees were talking about a plane hitting the Pentagon. I really thought they were wrong, but of course found out later how right they were. Thankfully, the heroes of the fourth plane said, "Let's roll!" and put the plane into a field in PA, saving lives from the intended target in D.C.

Many people were asking, "Where was God when all this was going on?" God was in His rightful place – watching over His children. That is not to say that no Christians died that day – I'm sure that many of the victims were believers and went that day to their heavenly home. But God was also with the firefighters and police and other first responders who went into those buildings and rescued many people or helped them get out before the collapse.

God was also with those whose car broke down on the way to work, who overslept their alarms, whose meetings at the Towers were canceled for that day, who missed their train, or the train was late, who just never made it into the city, even though they were supposed to be there. Continued on the next page.....



One of our nephews had his meeting at the Towers canceled that morning, just as an example.

All of these instances show how God was at work protecting people from the dangers of that day. These terrible things happen and continue to happen, because of the Fall. When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, sin came into God's perfect creation and caused death, disease, and corruption to come into existence. Thankfully, God has provided redemption from this sin through the sacrifice of His perfect Son, Jesus. Through His death on the cross and Resurrection, He has given us a way to be with Him and the Father in their Kingdom of Heaven, if we just believe in Him.

Thank you, Jesus, for your sacrifice, and for Your eternal love for us. And may the Peace, Strength, and Love of our Lord Jesus be with you all.

Yours in Christ,
Gene Sucharski

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dear Church Members and Friends,

Here is a summary of the financials for the first half of 2021:

Simplified Income Statement to-date, 2021:

	Q1 & 2	2021 Budget	Variance
Envelope/Loose Plate Offerings	\$108,662	\$106,800	+1.74%
Interest, Dividend/Misc. Income	\$1,231		
Hilltop Preschool Rent	<u>\$3,750</u>		
*Total Income:	\$113,643	\$112,300	+1.20%
Total Expenses:	<u>\$113,716</u>	<u>\$115,145</u>	-1.24%
Q2, 2021 Net Income	(\$73)		

Current Assets/Liabilities on June 30, 2021:

Total Current Assets:	\$102,945
Designated Funds	\$41,488
Other Short Term Liabilities	<u>\$1,841</u>
Total Current Liabilities	\$43,329
Net Current Assets	\$59,616

Long-term Liability – The LCEF roof loan balance, as of the June payment, was apx. **\$151,500**. The designated funds line item, "LCEF loan payments," has a balance of \$31,930.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness, Sandy Thompson - Treasurer

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 has begun and is held from **9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.** following the 8:00 a.m. worship service. We currently have six students. Sandy Wilson is completing the remainder of the Growing in Christ curriculum. Beginning in September, Sandy will begin using the new curriculum, "Enduring Faith" from Concordia Publishing House. The Sunday School children will participate in the Christmas Child Shoe Box program. They will do one shoe box for a girl and one for a boy. Beginning in November they will begin practicing for the Christmas program. A big thank you to Sandy Wilson and Kathy Merrick.



Hilltop Christian Preschool



We started off the school year with 14 children in each of our 3 classes and have been adding more to our Pre-K classes. We were blessed by the congregation for the Paper Drive...it helps so much ! Currently Ms. Sara's 3 year old class is full and has a waiting list and our Pre-K classes are still enrolling! Ms. Sara's Pre-3 class has begun to work on their colors and will continue working on activities to get to know each other. Our Pre-K classes are growing and have been working on their Bible verses, letters a-l, numbers 1-12 and their colors. The children attend Chapel each Wednesday with their teacher and Pastor Karl. We are still in need of preschool scholarships if you would like to support our ministry, a ministry of Faith Lutheran Church. We have so much to be thankful for!

Windy Mickle- Preschool Director



Board of Outreach: Board of Outreach Chair-Kathy Wagner

GOOD NEWS EVERYONE, OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD IS BACK!!!

We will have supplies and literature available in September in the Narthex. More information will be in upcoming bulletins. We hope to have a very good response to this program.

Ladies, we hope to be able have our Advent program if it is safe to do so. It will be scheduled for November 28th, the first Sunday in Advent. Hope to see you all there.

THANK YOU, all for your generous donations to Old Town Mission and House of Ruth. They were very much needed and appreciated.
God Bless you all!

Kathy Wagner, Chair Board of Outreach

Called to *Serve*

Altar Guild

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.

Bible Studies: *all held at the church

Women of Faith Bible Study - First Tuesday of the month 10:00 a.m.

(Letty Romano-Gunderson)

Women's Weekly Bible Study– Second, third, fourth Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.

(Sandy Thompson)

Men's Bible Study –Second & fourth Thursdays of the month 8:45 a.m.

(Deacon John Schaefer)

Tune In!

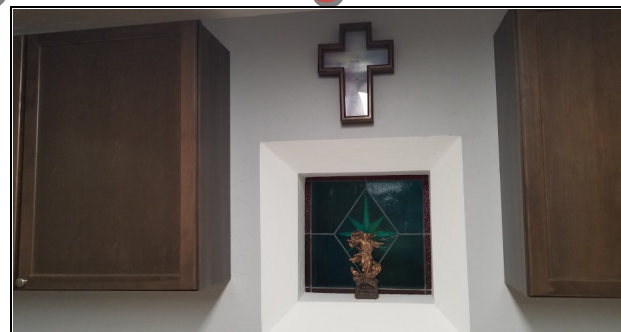
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Two Big Blessings!



The annual Paper /Supply Drive for the Hilltop Preschool was a success. Thank you for your donation!



It was time for an update and our church family came through! Thank you to all of those who helped renovate the church office. Who knew an old window could be turned into such a pretty view. Thank you!

