

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:

- Dec 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd
Advent Services
- Dec 24th
Christmas Eve Services

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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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)

DEC/JAN/FEB 2021/2022



Christmas Celebration

Each and every year, we as Christians celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus when He was born into the world as a baby. We celebrate the love that He brought to us in himself by keeping the tradition of the wise men who brought gifts, and we exchange those gifts as an expression of our love for others. This year I thought that it would be beneficial to reflect on the profound gift that Jesus is not just to "the world", but to each and every one of us. God gave us his only begotten Son to be the light in our own darkness. Jesus came to be our life to we who walk in the valley of the shadow of death, hope to our own hopelessness, and love in our own emptiness, joy in our own despair. This is why we celebrate Christmas, because Jesus is the gift who gives us everything. We have no emptiness that Jesus can't fill, no hurt that He can't heal, no joy that He can't impart, and He promises you and me that He will do all that and more when He returns for you and for me.

God's peace,

Pastor Karl



Worship Schedule

Advent Services: 6:00 p.m. Wed. 12/1 through Wed. 12/22

Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Friday 12/24



*The magic of Christmas is not in the presents,
but in His presence.*



Special Thanks To.....

- All those who work behind the scenes to make the church function smoothly.
- The Sunday School teachers for their dedication to our young ones of the congregation.
- Those who decorated the Lord's church for the Christmas season.
- All who pray for our church members and our country.

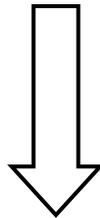


We are truly blessed here at Faith Lutheran Church. Please join us in a Thank-a-Thon. Find members of our church to thank in the coming weeks for their service.

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:

In my last newsletter article, I talked about dates, including the 20th anniversary of 9/11/2001. This month we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the “day of infamy”, Dec. 7, 1941. I found this article by James L. Holly, written on Oct. 25, 2019:

John Guy writes: "What God did at Pearl Harbor that day is interesting, and I never knew this little bit of history. Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time. In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941— Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington, DC. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet. Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection, and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made? Nimitz explained:

Mistake number one: The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800

Mistake number two:

When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply.

Continued on next page.....



That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or, God was taking care of America. I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas -- he was a born optimist. But any way you look at it -- Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism. President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver lining in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair, and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST. Why have we forgotten? PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY! IN GOD WE TRUST."

And may I add...As we near the celebration of Jesus' birth, do not let the stress and bustle of the holiday (or Covid) wear you down. Rather, remember that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season", and keep Him foremost in your thoughts, deeds, and prayers. Remember that little child, laid in a manger, who was sent to save this wicked world from its sins. Make Him the centerpiece of your holiday, and it will be a joyous one indeed!

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

Yours in Christ,
Gene Sucharski

On another note: From the Fry's website: Earn money for your community organization when you use your loyalty card. If you shop at Fry's, and have a loyalty card, you can help Faith Lutheran by naming the Church as your Community Rewards organization.

If you do not have an online account, you are missing out on digital coupons and other perks.

To create an account, go to: <https://www.frysfood.com/> On the top right, hold your cursor over Sign-in" and the dropdown menu will show "Create Account". Fill out the info and your account will be ready to go.



Church President: Gene Sucharski
 Vice President: Dick Logue
 Treasurer: Sandy Thompson
 Board of Trustees: Carl (Rocky) Warczinsky

Recording Secretary: Myra Anderson
 Board of Elders: Les Mickle
 Board of Christian Ed: Terri Mickle
 Board of Outreach: Kathy Wagner

Please pray for our Church Council. These individuals are supportive of the church. They attend worship regularly, spend time in God's word and take time to share their spiritual gifts in leadership, to strengthen our church and ministries. We thank Letty Romano for all of her years of service as Financial Secretary!

TREASURER'S REPORT

See a hard copy of the report.

Board of Outreach: Board of Outreach Chair - Kathy Wagner

We will begin our in-gathering of donations for Old Town Mission and House of Ruth.

THANK YOU, all for your generous donations to Operation Christmas Child. We collected around 60 or so boxes which includes a donation from our Sunday School students. Your response was so heartwarming to us all.

God Bless you all!

Kathy Wagner, Chair Board of Outreach



Board of Christian Education News

Board of Christian Education Chair - Terri Mickle



Sunday School:

Sunday School is provided from 9:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m., located in the Youth room. We currently have six students. Sandy has started using the new curriculum, "Enduring Faith" from Concordia Publishing House. We have 3 students that have started Confirmation and are now meeting with Pastor Karl. The children have begun practicing for the Christmas program. The Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 19th at the 8:00 am service. A big thank you to Sandy Wilson and Kathy Merrick.



Hilltop Christian Preschool

Our preschool is going well. The children continue to build on new skills every day. Chapel each Wednesday with Pastor Karl and their teachers, is a time to sing to the Lord and learn Bible stories. Stay tuned for more information next quarter.

Confirmation Class:

Pastor Karl and three confirmands meet between the two church services in the Fellowship Hall. They explore the awesomeness of God and the mysteries of our faith. The teachings help them become grounded in the scriptures and come to an understanding of what we believe. Study includes the Old and New Testament, Holy Baptism, The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed and the Sacrament of the altar. Of course, we slip in some fun! Thank you to the parents who attend and Joanne who assists. Thank you to Deacon John for substituting for Pastor Karl in the Adult Bible study.



Ongoing Ministries

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

(Letty Romano) ***postponed until January**

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

Sandy Thompson) ***postponed until January**

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

The December schedule may vary. Look for more information in the Sunday announcement page.





Look What's Coming Up!

Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 1-22
6:00 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19
8:00 a.m. Service



Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 24
4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.



Epiphany Services

Wednesdays
January 5-February 23
6:00 p.m.

What is Advent?

Advent marks the beginning of the church year and is made up of the four Sundays before Christmas. The word advent means “coming” of the One who was born that first Christmas in a stable, Jesus! He saved us from sin, death and the power of the Devil. For Christians, the first Sunday in Advent is the “New Year’s Day” of the church calendar year.



Hey Kids! Our Christmas Scavenger Hunt is Back!

Drive around town with your family and look for items on the list below. Take pictures. When all the boxes are marked below, bring your pictures to church to show Pastor and he will give you a gift!

- Nativity scene (lit up)
- Star
- A yard with an angel
- Three inflatable decorations in one yard
- Christmas tree
- Blinking decorative lights (ex: snowflakes, icicles)
- A cross from somewhere in town. Does not have to have lights. (not Faith Lutheran)

