

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 18th**
Congregational Mtg.
Due to the health challenges of our country and the necessity to continue social distancing, there are no events until further notice. 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 2021

Why Do We Do That?



Have you ever asked yourself, or someone else, “Why does the Pastor, every Sunday, begin our worship ‘In the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?’” or, “Why do we pray a Psalm?” “Why do we worship the way we do?” “Why is the baptismal font right outside the sanctuary doors and not somewhere else?” How do we know the right way to worship God, or is there really a “right way?” We might even ask ourselves, “Does it really matter how we worship God, as long as it is sincere, ‘In Spirit and truth?’”(John 4:24) To be clear, yes, it matters, to both God and us. If you have ever asked questions like these, this is your lucky summer! This summer, starting the third Sunday of June, the sermons will be focusing on why we worship the way we do! What are the essentials, the necessary elements of worship, and what is just our preferences—are some things both? We’ll be taking an in depth look at what the Bible says our worship should be and what that looks like in our Lutheran tradition and style. We will also consider what faithful worship looks like from other traditions and styles. There are many Biblical passages which do more than simply describe how we are to worship, but actually prescribe how we are to approach our Lord in worship. It matters to us, because we know that if we do not understand why we do something, particularly in worship, then the meaning is lost to us, and we are not nourished as we should be. Worship then becomes lifeless, dull, and obligatory. So come and be refreshed this summer!

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 18th**, immediately following the 8:00 a.m. worship service.



Special Thanks To.....

- All the greeters, church service volunteers, and Sunday School teachers.
- All who are working hard on the church office renovation
- All who clean the inside and outside of the church each week
- All who helped in the preschool this past school year
- All who contribute to the roof fund

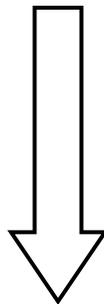


We are truly blessed here at Faith Lutheran Church. Please join us in a Thank-a-Thon. Find members of our church to thank in the coming weeks for their service.

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:

In the beginning... with these three words from Genesis 1, God set in motion His plan for the universe, our world, and us.

As Christians, we all accept that God is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient. That is, He is all powerful, able to be always in all places, and all knowing. If He is all knowing, then He knew before day six when He created Adam and Eve that they were going to sin; and that He would have to send His son to redeem us from our sins. Even with this knowledge beforehand, He proceeded to implement His plan of Creation.

While the Bible does not give us a timeline for the fall, it must have happened fairly soon after day six. The Bible says: ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." (Gen 3:8-12) The serpent had beguiled the woman, she ate of the tree, and gave some to her husband.

From that time on, rather than just caring for the garden the Lord had placed them in, they were put out of the garden, and had to work the cursed ground, dealing with "thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you; and you shall eat the plants of the field." (Gen 3:18) Every time I am working outdoors, whether at home or here at the church, and the thorns and thistles grab at my clothes or skin, I am sure to say, "Thank you, Adam" for his continuing gift of pain caused by the curse.

Of course, before the fall, God had planted good things on the earth: ¹¹ And God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, upon the earth." And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. (Gen 1:11-12) ²⁹ And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. (Gen 1:29-30)

Pay special attention to "plants yielding seed *according to their own kinds*, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each *according to its kind*". This statement is extremely important to refute the claims of evolution. We recently celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus on Easter Sunday. This is a time for renewal in our lives of faith, just as springtime is a time for renewal in the life of the earth and all the living things that God has created.



Council of Presidents article continued.

Since we are in the middle of spring, we see all *kinds* of plants and trees blooming all around us.

Roses on rose bushes, bulbs blooming, trees showing their flowers and then their leaves, and fruit trees beginning to show signs of the fruit they will eventually bear.

Did you ever see an apple on an orange tree? A pear on a coconut tree? Did you ever plant an iris bulb and see a tulip come up? God has made these things to produce *after their kinds*. We can graft one kind of rose onto the roots of a different kind of rose to make them hardier, but they are still both roses. Scientists cannot make one kind of plant grow into another. God has programmed their DNA to reproduce *after their kinds*, and science cannot change that.

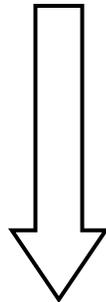
Something to remember: anyone can count the number of seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed.

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

Yours in Christ,
Gene Sucharski

TREASURER'S REPORT– Financial Information through

See the hard copy at the church for more information.
The newsletter continues on the next page.



Board of Outreach: Board of Outreach Chair - Kathy Wagner

We have not been very active this year due to COVID-19. On April 1st Myra Anderson and I delivered the cards that the congregation signed, two floral bouquets and six candy/snack bouquets to the Police dept., two Fire Stations, Sheriff's office, Old Town Mission, Hospital and the Post Office. Everyone was so appreciative and thanked us for remembering them. A big THANK YOU to all of you for helping with this project.

We will reinstate our Greeting Card Ministry this year. We will have a card signing later this year and then deliver the signed cards to nursing and assisted living establishments.

God Bless you all and thank you.

Kathy Wagner, Chair/Board of Outreach

Board of Christian Education News

Board Chair - Terri Mickle

Sunday school is moving right along, with seven students that regularly attend. Sandy Wilson and Kathy Merrick have been taking turns teaching the Sunday School Class. The last day of Sunday School was Sunday, May 23rd. Kathy and Sandy are going to offer a few classes on June 13th and July 11th. No date has been set as to when Sunday School will start back up in the fall. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers and to those who assist.

**Hilltop Christian Preschool**

Director - Windy Mickle

We have are ending the school year for the summer with two graduations! We have Ms. Brittany's Class graduating on the 25th and Ms. Crystal's class will graduate on the 26th!

Our school year ends on May 28th and will resume August 4th. We look forward to hopefully returning to normal in the upcoming school year! Currently Ms. Sara's 3 year old class is full and has a waiting list and our Pre-K classes are still enrolling. The teachers will be cleaning and reorganizing their classrooms to prepare for next year.

We are in the process of upgrading our playground and replacing the old flooring in one of our classrooms.

We are hoping for another paper goods drive as this helps so much with our day to day costs. Some of the items just ran out in the last couple weeks of school. We truly appreciate every single donation!

We have so much to be thankful for!



Ongoing Bible Studies

Women's Bible Study - 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesdays 10:00 a.m. (Sandy Thompson)

Women of Faith—1st Monday of the month 10:00 a.m. (Letty Romano)

Men's Bible Study –2nd & 4th Thursdays 8:45 a.m. (Deacon John Schaefer)



Children and Their Faith (Summer with the Bible)

Are you looking for a way for your child to keep their sights on Jesus and the Bible this summer? Start a Question Night! Set aside a night each week in order to sit together and answer any questions your child(ren) have about faith. By setting aside a special time for questions, this can open the lines of communication in ways that may not happen otherwise.



If you think your child(ren) might need time to warm up to the idea of asking questions, have some ready to go in advance. Pick a couple of interesting questions ahead of time to use during that special night.

When your child(ren) ask a question that the Bible doesn't clearly answer, use it as a teaching opportunity. You can try to locate the answer together in the Bible and if there does not seem to be an answer you can be honest and let them know you are not sure. Ex: "the Bible doesn't tell us for sure" or "the Bible doesn't give us all of the details on that." You may want to consider researching the answer and bringing your findings back to the next "Question Night." The answer may be tucked in one of the books of the Bible you have not read in a long time. What a great way for you to learn too!

If you miss a week...or two...or three...don't give up on it. Just pick it up again. Keep this tradition going.

For some extra fun have your kids decorate a "Question Jar" together. Write down their questions and the answers, then each year take them out and read them together. If you continue this each summer you can look back in the coming years and reflect on your child's faith walk.

Adapted from: Author, Natasha Crain

Kids In the Divine Service

Coming soon, you will find a series of bulletin inserts in the Sunday bulletin each week. "Kids in the Divine Service" is written for parents and children to read and talk about together. Although some of the vocabulary is geared toward children 10 years of age and older, there are many parts which can be understood, and experienced by younger children. These inserts feature seasons of the church year — Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost as well as information on liturgy, sanctuary and general information about the Divine Service. Parents are encouraged to read through the bulletin inserts with their child. Source: LCMS Worship

