

# BUILDING ON FAITH

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE VERDE VALLEY FAITH FORWARD

2021 E. Fir Street-P.O. Box 3732, Cottonwood, AZ 86326  
928-634-7876

MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2019

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:

- **April 14th**  
Palm Sunday
- **April 18th**  
Seder Meal & Service
- **April 19th**  
Good Friday
- **April 20th**  
Easter Vigil
- **April 21st**  
Easter Services



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### New Beginnings



If there is one thing that our Lord busies Himself doing is that of new beginnings. God's revelation to us about Himself in Holy Scripture begins with "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth..." (Gen 1:1) Too soon after which, Adam and Eve brought an abomination into God's creation by sinning against God and one another. So God promised a another new beginning through the man who's heel would be bruised by the serpent and who would crush the serpent's head (Jesus). The greatest thing about God's new beginnings is that they are not just a second chance, but they are always bigger and better than before! As well as Adam and Eve knew God, trusted Him, loved Him before they sinned, how much more God has revealed Himself to us through His only begotten Son, Christ Jesus! As good as life was before the fall, how much better it is in heaven as described by the apostle John in Revelation 7:16 "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." God's peace, Pastor Karl

### Worship Services for the Easter Season

**Palm Sunday:** 9:00am April 14th  
**Seder Meal:** 5:30pm April 18th  
**Maundy Thursday:** 7:00pm April 18th  
**Good Friday:** 7:00pm April 19th  
**Easter Vigil:** 6:00pm April 20th  
**Resurrection Sunday, April 21st**  
 Sunrise Communion Service: 6:00am  
 Breakfast provided by the youth: 7:30am  
 Easter Festival Communion Service 9:00am



*"I know that my Redeemer lives!"*



### Special Thanks To.....

- Those who care for our homebound and ill
- Those who repair and improve God's house
- Everyone who brought cakes and ice-cream for the Birthday Bash and those who helped with set up and clean up
- All the greeters, church service volunteers, Sunday School teachers and nursery helpers

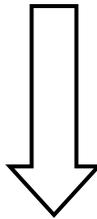


We are truly blessed here at Faith Lutheran Church. We appreciate all of those with a heart to serve. Please join us in a Thank-a-Thon. Find members of our church to thank in the coming weeks for their service.

**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.**



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

March – April – May 2019

This report reflects our financial position as of December 31, 2018.

The envelope and loose plate offerings totaled \$198,284.94. The yearly budget required \$215,754.00. Thus, the offerings were \$17,469.06 LESS than the budgeted needs. Expenses for the year totaled \$216,087.34 as opposed to total income of \$198,284.94; producing a shortfall of \$17,802.40 versus current expenses. However, if we subtract the LCEF loan amount from the budget (which was removed from the 2019 budget), the shortfall against income is reduced to \$5,299.36.

As of December 31st, our current assets were as follows:

Checking Account	\$47,583.80
LCEF Stewardship Account	23,810.29
LCEF Hardship Fund	467.98
Edw. Jones Acct. (Chevron Stock)	<u>5,008.36</u>
Total:	\$76,870.43

As of 12/17/18, the loan balance is: \$182,988.46. At the January meeting, the Council voted to transfer \$5,000 from the roof fund (which is held in the local checking account) to the LCEF loan principal. Work on the Youth Room is planned to begin next month.

The sum we have in Designated Funds is \$46,536.19. These funds are designated for a bench, sidewalk, front property landscaping, Board of Outreach funds, Christmas decorations, Memorial Meals, Young Adult Ministries, a shut-in meal fund, Parish Life donations, bible study books, Seminary collections, copies, newspaper ads, and \$40,296.69 towards the roof repair. The funds for bathroom paint, an undesignated memorial and an audio recorder were combined into a new Discretionary Fund for future projects.

Although we have reached the top level for Shared Blessings, brochures are still available in the mailboxes in the Narthex – this is still a great investment for you, a child, or grandchild to have. As previously mentioned, the amount of \$460.22 was applied to our loan principal on December 31, 2018. This is the amount earned from July 1, 2018 to the end of the year. These reductions in principal will continue until June 30, 2022.

There are several ways that the congregation can help the church, outside of your tithing on Sundays, and your ongoing Pledges toward the Roof Fund. Thrivent Choice, Fry's Community Rewards (*Enroll now for the Fry's Community Rewards Program. And remember...all participants must re-enroll each year to continue earning rewards for their chosen organization.* – Taken from their website on 8/14/18) and Amazon Smile through [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). (Someone mentioned they couldn't find FLC on the website – search for Faith Lutheran Church, Cottonwood under "charities".) If anyone needs help in setting up donations through the above funds, please contact me or the church office.

The "free will offering" basket during coffee hour has brought in \$227.23 during the last year. These funds will go toward the Parish Life line item in the budget, which helps with kitchen expenses.

May the Lord bless you from His abundance to continue the work of His church.  
In His Service, Gene Sucharski, Treasurer



### **Renovation /Maintenance Updates:**

“What have we been up to behind the scenes, you ask?” We have been busy relocating the bell tower control box from the youth room into the bell tower and renovating the shelves in the tower. The Youth Room preparations are still under way. Preparing to drywall and paint the interior walls, replacing the carpet, and adding new light fixtures are the next steps. The youth are looking forward to decorating their space. The new outdoor pod now has built in shelves for easier access to items. Lastly, we added gravel to the preschool playground, preparing for state inspection. As always, replacing bulbs throughout the church is an ongoing task.



### **Friday Nights at Faith - Let's Connect!**

We hope you have enjoyed our past evenings of fun and laughs. Join us throughout the year for fellowship and fun. PLEASE, invite a friend!

**Events begin at 6:30 pm (door open at 6:15 pm).**

**Friday, March 29th**

**Bible Baseball** - Cheer on your team as they knock one out of the park! A blast and a great way to learn about the Bible. Look for a flyer soon!

**Friday, April 12th**

**Movie Night** - Title to be determined. Look for more information soon.



### **Do You Have an Article to Share?**

If you would like to include an article in the quarterly Faith Forward Newsletter, articles are due on or before the following dates: November 15<sup>th</sup>, February 15<sup>th</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Guidelines:

- ⇒ Relevant to Faith Lutheran Church
- ⇒ Not to exceed one page
- ⇒ Needs to be submitted by email, in a word document, not in the body of an email. Please, no hard copies. Retyping is time consuming.
- ⇒ All articles are subject to Pastor's approval.

Please send articles to Joanne at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.



*Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.*



## Board of Christian Education News

Board of Christian Education Chair - Terri Mickle



### Sunday School:

Our Sunday School continues to move right along. Sandy Wilson and Cheryl Saravo continue to teach our younger students and Mark Ritter our youth. Sunday School is held for one hour from **10:40am-11:40am**. Please have your child in their designated classes by 10:40 am. Thank you for your cooperation. Sunday School will continue through May, take a break over the summer and continue again in the Fall.



### “What Have We Been Learning?”

The Lord blessed us with 44 students. March through May the children will continue to learn and review:

### Ms. Windy & Ms. Amanda’s Class (Pre-K) – 16 students and Ms. Brittany & Ms. Melissa’s (Pre-K) – 15 students

The children will finish up the alphabet letters and review their shapes. They will keep learning about feelings, how to communicate with each others and continue to memorize their Bible verses and hear Bible stories. They are also learning about the different seasons and getting ready to celebrate Easter.

**Their upcoming events are Daddy and Me (April..date pending), Mommy and Me Tea (Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>) Pre-K Graduation – (Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

### Ms. Crystal and Ms. Trina’s Class (Pre-three) – 13 Students

The focus in March will be the numbers 11-15 and reviewing shapes. Ms. Crystal will be introducing the hexagon, trapezoids and the octagon. They will be having a green and gold party to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day and they will continue to memorize their Bible verses. They will wrap up the alphabet by the end of the school year and look forward to a water party to celebrate the last day of school.

### “Little Hands Can” Spring Fundraiser Has Begun!

Our preschool is participating in a Servathon right here, in Cottonwood. This is an opportunity for our preschool to reach out to our community and show the love of Jesus by giving to others. The children, with the help of the teachers and church volunteers, are making “cough pillows” for local rehabilitation agencies. These pillows help relieve the pain and pressure of coughing following surgery. This year’s goal for the fundraiser is to reach \$3,000 and all the proceeds will go towards updating the playground.

*Faith in God....changes everything.*

### Old Town Mission Volunteers Needed: \*Changes

The mission really needs your hearts and hands on **Wednesdays**. Faith Lutheran Church helps out every Wednesday. Due to the restructure of the Mission’s meal schedule, we are no longer prepping the meal, however, we are welcoming and helping with dessert. Make a difference in the lives of those who struggle with basic needs. Please contact Bruce Seldon for specific times and more information.



**Board of Outreach:** Kathy Wagner, Board of Outreach Chair  
We want to thank everyone for supporting our past projects. We are currently working on ideas for this year and will keep you posted.



**Mother's Day Tea is Saturday, May 11th.** ALL ladies of the church are invited to this event. Save the Date for the **Italian Dinner**, which is scheduled for **Saturday, June 8th.** If you have an outreach you think we could participate in, please let us know. THANK YOU ALL for your past support of our events. God Bless you all!  
Kathy Wagner

### **Mark Your Calendars for Our Church Picnic!**

**Saturday, May 4th, 11:am-1:00pm.**, Garrison Park in Cottonwood. Start thinking about your "picnic dish" to share. More information to come.



### **"Cheese!" Smile for the Camera:**

It's time for a new church photo directory! Look for a sign up table on the following Sundays: March 31st, April 7th, April 14th. Picture taking is scheduled for Friday, April 26th and Saturday, April 27th. Look for sign up sheets as the time approaches. Times are located on the last page of the newsletter.

### **Children's Fellowship Box:**

During Fellowship Hour we have a box of fun for the children to enjoy. Our box is getting empty and outdated. We are looking for pads of paper, stickers, crafts, etc. We have plenty of crayons. Religious themes would be greatly appreciated. Please drop the items off in the church office. Questions? See Joanne Schloeman

*Believe in the power of prayer.*

### **Thank You Bakers and Birthday Bag Makers!**

Thank you to all who brought cakes and ice-cream and for all who helped with set up and clean up. We also thank you for another year of contributions to our "**Love for the Needy**" project, Birthday Buddy Bags. Because of your generosity 13 children will be celebrating his/her birthday with cake, balloons, hats and fun! These special bags have been delivered to the Old Town Mission to brighten the lives of children who otherwise may not have been able to celebrate a birthday. Last year they distributed the remaining bags to the disadvantaged children in our local elementary schools.

Thank you and may God continue to bless you. Pastor Karl and Joanne



**Bible Easter Trivia:**

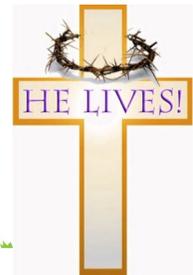
What moved the object in front of the tomb door?

- † The object moved itself
- † The 12 Apostles
- † An angel
- † An earthquake

“Did you know that Maundy Thursday marks the last supper with Jesus and his disciples before his trial and crucifixion?”

Which of the 12 Disciples did not believe that Jesus had risen?

- † John the beloved
- † Thomas
- † Simon Peter
- † Andrew
- † All of them



*“Psst!.... Can you find the Christian fish symbol in this newsletter?” Be the first one in the church office with your findings and you will win a \$5.00 gift card!*

**Look What’s Going On!**

**Mother’s Day Tea  
Preschool**  
Saturday March, 11th  
**10:00 am**  
Fellowship Hall

**Pictures for Directory**  
Friday April, 26th 1:00 pm-6:30 pm  
Saturday April, 27th 9:00 am-4:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall

**Holy Week**  
See the front page for all services during Holy Week.

**Church Picnic**  
Saturday May, 4th  
**11:00 am-1:00 pm**  
Garrison Park in Cottonwood



**Preschool Graduation**  
Wednesday May, 22nd  
**6:00 pm**  
Join us in the church!