

# 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:

*Due to the health challenges of our country and the necessity for social distancing, there are no events or Men's and Women's Bible Studies 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)

### JUNE/JULY/AUG 2020

## Ever in Our Father's Care



What will the world, this world be like six months from now—one year from now—five years from now? What will it be like to live in socially—economically—politically and institutionally? A little closer to home, and to our own personal experience, what lasting changes will be imposed upon how we interact with our family and friends? Our livelihood, our ability to pay our bills, necessities, and recreational opportunities? What rights and freedoms will we have to concede in the interest of public health and ours? These questions probably seemed much more calculable, and perhaps less pressing just three months ago—but now, for just about all of us, the answers to these questions are far less certain and considerably more foreboding. While we can look back in history and see that humanity, civilizations, and nations have on many, many occasions undergone grueling and cruel calamities and re-emerged successfully and therefore take some hope from that, the question remains, what about my own personal well-being, my family and friends, and the ones that I love? This is where God's Word offers us hope like no other. That when He says to us in John 14, "Let not your hearts be troubled... for I go to prepare a place for you" and "I will not leave you as orphans... but send another Helper" that these are not just general, broad-based promises to humanity, civilizations and nations—but these are God's promises to us, personally, individually. This is why God is often referred to as, "the God of *Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*" or why Thomas, seeing the Risen Christ proclaims, "*My Lord and my God!*" Most wonderfully, we are His because He has claimed us as His own. He has chosen each and every one of us not because of anything we have done, but because He loves us so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die for us. Most wonderfully, we do not have to be a celebrated hero of the faith such as Abraham, or Moses Joshua, King David, St. John or St. Paul. God chooses us, and adopts us as His own beloved children by the work of the cross, that we might enjoy His unfailing Fatherly love in both this world and the everlasting to come!

God's peace, Pastor Karl



### Special Thanks To.....



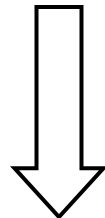
- All who clean the inside and outside of the church and work behind the scenes to make the church function smoothly.
- Pastor for the extra time spent sharing the Word online, in addition to church service
- The Leadership, Pastor and other church members who implemented a safe place to worship during our country's health challenge.
- Those who kept in touch with members who were not able to attend church, through phone calls and cards.

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 Computer of the Council President - Gene Sucharski**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

How has everyone been doing since this virus has changed our world? Things have come to a halt throughout our country – no sports, limited if no eating out, travel is restricted, among many other changes. A new phrase has appeared: “social distancing”, keeping six feet away from non-family members has become the new normal. Fortunately, Faith Lutheran has persevered throughout these changes. That the Pastor has started sharing his sermon online has been the biggest change, but we are still holding church services on Sunday, although with many changes from our regular routine. Our attendance has run between 30-52 each Sunday, and those that can make it have been blessed with the Word and the Lord’s Supper. I would also like to extend a special “Thank you” to all those who have dropped by the church to deliver your offerings and tithes.

It is interesting to note that the words: epidemic, pandemic and virus do not appear in the Bible. The words *pestilence* or *pestilences* **do appear** in the Bible – a total of 49 times! The verse I would like to point out to you is this one from Psalm 91:1-3 - <sup>1</sup>Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup>I will say of the LORD, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” <sup>3</sup>***Surely he will save you*** from the fowler’s snare and ***from the deadly pestilence***. NIV. What better message of comfort and hope can we hold onto than the Word of the Lord? In these troubling times, it is good to know the Lord can comfort us, heal us and protect us no matter what the devil can throw at us.

Just ask, and He will be there for you.

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

Yours in Christ,

**Gene Sucharski**

*Let all that you do be done in love. (1 Corinthians 16:14)*

### **Board of Trustees Report - Board Chair– Merrill Sorenson**

It’s been a relatively busy Spring in and around the Church with many miscellaneous projects completed and some on hold, waiting for the right weather or sufficient funds to complete them.

One of the projects was having parts of the driveway and parking lot paved.

The old outdoor carpet was taken up in front of the Church and the walkway was

painted with a nonslip paint. Two sections of the sidewalk will be taken out to remove a tree root that is causing the sidewalk and Church wall to buckle. On going work is being done to clean weeds and brush from the grounds.

Thanks to the volunteers who work tirelessly on keeping our Church environment beautiful and safe. Please report any problems or suggestions to the Church office or to Merrill Sorenson.

Thank you.



**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
Quarter 1, 2020

*See hardcopy for budget information.*



**TREASURER'S REPORT CONTINUED:**

*See hardcopy for budget information.*

**Board of Outreach— Board Chair Kathy Wagner**

The Board of Outreach had to cancel the church picnic scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>. We will look forward to our Fall activities. The first, is the Fall Festival at the county fairgrounds that is scheduled for Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup>. Events are subject to change. Look for announcements later. We will be planning for the honoring of our veterans, our Friendship Dinner held the Sunday before Thanksgiving, Advent by “Son” Light and more. Thank you all for your help in our past activities and we hope to see you all together in the near future. **We are looking for more members to be part of our outreach committee. Please see myself or Myra Anderson.** God Bless You All!



*If God is for us, who could be against us? (Romans 8:31)*

**Be in the Know!**

Here at Faith Lutheran Church we have a quarterly newsletter, weekly announcements and prayer sheets to keep you up to date on church happenings, etc. If you are interested in periodically, receiving emails announcing upcoming seasonal worship times, reminders of upcoming events, etc., please send a “HELLO to the church email. cottonwoodfaithlutheran@netzero.com. In the subject line please add “Hello” and your full name. This way we will be certain who the email is from. Thank you.



## Board of Christian Education News

Board Chair - Terri Mickle



### Sunday School:

Sunday school and Youth Bible Study have concluded for the summer. Please look for more information regarding Fall Sunday School. Dates for gathering will be determined based on the current health crisis of our country.



### Hilltop Christian Preschool

Director - Windy Mickle

Due to Covid-19 pandemic we closed right after Spring Break. The staff continued to work on scrapbooks and their classrooms. Ms. Windy held virtual classes on Zoom. We are also holding a virtual graduation for our Pre-K class. We are having the families pick up graduation packets that have a cap, tassel & diploma for each child. The families will then take pictures of their child dressed in their cap & tassels. They will then send them to us & we will compile all of the pictures with the songs & Bible verses into a cd to give all the families.

Over the summer we will continue to take applications for our Pre-K classes. Ms. Sara's 3s class is full for our Fall semester. We will also be replacing the carpet in Ms. Windy's office and painting as well.

Our **Little Hands Can Serv-a-thon** was halted due to the Covid-19 virus but we will be continuing it when we return for the fall. We will be making cough pillows for people recovering from surgery. The children (& their families) will mail out pledge letters to help raise money to support our scholarship fund. We love this fundraiser as it not only helps families to be able to attend our preschool but it also creates a heart for serving others in the littlest of children!

Special thanks to all who have helped us with laundry and cleaning throughout the school year! We really appreciate all that you have done! We will be needing volunteers next year as well so if you are interested please talk to Terri or Ms. Windy.

We will be having our annual paper drive over the summer to help get us stocked up on paper supplies that we use one a daily basis. We will be needing paper towels, toilet paper, paper bowls, paper plates, Kleenex, 5 oz. paper cups, napkins, all sizes of Ziploc bags, coffee filters, Lysol wipes, Swiffer wet mop wipes, toilet bowl cleaner, Windex and bleach.

School will resume August 5<sup>th</sup>.

### House of Ruth Needs Your Help!

It's Baby Bottle Boomerang time again! Due to COVID-19 and to be cautious, they have elected to do a **Virtual Baby Bottle Boomerang** this year through June 15th. Instead of filling bottles, they have asked for either an online donation. [www.houseofruthpregnancycenter.com](http://www.houseofruthpregnancycenter.com) or mail a check directly to: House of Ruth. P.O. Box 2195 Cottonwood, AZ 86326



**Sunday Sermons & Children’s Messages:**

These messages are available on our church Facebook page and our website: cottonwoodfaithlutheran.org. At the bottom of the webpage you will also find the worship bulletin for the current Sunday. We invite you to follow along. Please spread the word to other church members who are unable to attend worship. The messages will be available on Sundays beginning at 8:00 a.m. If you check-in before that time you will see a message stating the viewer does not have access at this time.



**Self Care and Well-Being During and After Tragedy:**



**Spiritual Coping Strategies**

- Spend time in prayer– dedicate time each morning or evening in a quiet place away from distractions.
- Sing spiritual songs. Reflect on the words of your Bible passages. Meditate on them or sing aloud. Write them down from memory.

**Mental Coping Strategies**

- Get the facts about the problems from reliable sources rather than relying on the rumor mill to provide information.
- Talk it out. Brainstorm your problem solving ideas with your loved ones.
- Shift your focus to the here and now.

**Emotional Coping Strategies**

- Spend time in prayer– cry out to your Lord. Lean on Him.
- Write out your feelings.
- Look to the scriptures to find your hope in the Lord.
- Spend time in enjoyable activities.

Adapted from: Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Guide to Disaster and Pandemics

**Congregational Meeting:**

This meeting is an opportunity for church members to become more aware of the business of the church, the budget and its ministries. We meet twice a year following church services. Please join us on **Sunday, July 19th, immediately following the worship service.** Date may be subject to change due to the changes in social distancing guidelines.



## Tips for Effective Memorization of Bible Verses:

(adapted from Chaplain Daenzer - Director of LCMS Worship)

Small short bites, repeated many times, are more effective than one giant “cram” session. Take two minutes every night and say it through twice or you can choose once in the morning and once in the evening.

- ⇒ Sing anything that can be sung, either to a tune you know or a simple tune from your hymnal or a contemporary song you enjoy.
- ⇒ We need to have scripture on our hearts and our minds.



**Kids! Take “Flat Jesus” with You This Summer!** This idea was developed based on the book Flat Stanley, written by Jeff Brown. Just as Flat Stanley has helped children with literacy and geography, “Flat Jesus” helps our Faith Lutheran Kids stay plugged into the biblical message while Sunday School is on break for the summer. Whatever adventures you have planned this summer, keep Jesus at the center of your lives.

The Flat Jesus Project is simple: Here are the steps:

1. Each child receives their own paper cutout of Jesus to take with them on their summer adventures. Please stop by the church Monday-Thursday between 9-2p.m. for your packet.
2. Color the cutout of Jesus (laminates using packaging tape for durability or stop by the church for lamination. **Please** call ahead).
3. Parents, please take photos of Jesus as your child brings Him wherever they go, helping them keep Jesus at the forefront of their minds. You will have new interesting talking points to help facilitate summer faith development. Ex: If you are at the beach, ask your child what it might look like when Jesus walked on the water or was fishing with the disciples. Encourage your family to talk about what you and Flat Jesus experienced on your trips, whether it be trips to the park, the beach, camping, etc. This activity can be fun for everyone in the family!



4. **Throughout the summer, send your pictures to Joanne at [seasonswithjesus@gmail.com](mailto:seasonswithjesus@gmail.com). Send a “Hello” email ahead of time to see some examples.** We will compile everyone’s pictures at the end of summer and display a poster board to enjoy when you return for Sunday School.

“And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:20

