

# 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)

DEC/JAN/FEB 2020/2021

### Upcoming Events:

- Dec 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd  
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.***



### Inside this issue:

Pastor's Message	1
Thank You/ Birthdays/Anniv.	2
President's Report	3
Bd. of Outreach	4
Treasurer's Report	5
Bd. Christian Ed	6
Upcoming Events	7
Trustee's Report	8
Activities	9

### A New Beginning



Has there ever been a better time for a new beginning? Perhaps there has, but for all of us who have just experienced the difficulty, the losses, in some cases painful and tragic losses of 2020, I think that all of us are hoping that 2021 will be better! God has certainly blessed us in tremendous ways and for that we are grateful, yet the harshness of our collective situations remains wearisome at best. Of all the specific blessings that I can recount in my own life, one stands out more than all the others. God has blessed each and every one of us with the hope of a better future with Him. As long as we journey together through this life and this world, the darkness of evil and the Satanic foe will do their worst. Some years will be worse, some years better, but our hope is not misplaced in Christ Jesus who overcame the world, evil and death. This means that one day all that pains us, all that grieves us, all that leaves us empty will come to an end. That end will mark a new beginning of life, love, abundance, and joy that only our Lord can recreate and restore in us and around us. Toward this sure and certain promise we pray for God to strengthen our faith to persevere us through good times and bad, that we might the enter the newness of the recreation that vanquishes all that afflicts God's wondrous creation! Please read (Revelation 7:9-17).

God's peace, Pastor Karl

### Worship Schedule

Advent Services: 6:00 p.m. Wed. 12/2 through Wed. 12/23

Christmas Eve Service: 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Thursday 12/24

\*There will not be a Christmas Day service this year.



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



### Special Thanks To.....



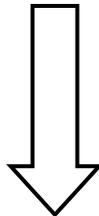
- All who clean the inside and outside of the church and work behind the scenes to make the church function smoothly.
- All the greeters, church service volunteers, altar volunteers, and Sunday School teachers.
- Those who worked on the front side walk.
- Those who decorated the Lord's church for Christmas.
- 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 the last Newsletter, I brought up several questions concerning Genesis and the flood account. Scientists today dismiss the accounts of the Bible as “myths” or “stories”, and not as facts recorded by men inspired by the Spirit of God. This was not always so – the Bible was accepted as truth until the late 1700s to early 1800s. Then a great debate ensued, causing man to want to leave God out of the fossil record. They said the fossil layers were laid down slowly, and not due to a catastrophic flood. Noah’s flood *was* the reason for most of the fossil layers to be laid down. Of course, there have been additional layers laid down *since* the flood.

Since before the flood, *all* animals were plant eaters, it makes perfect sense that God would send Noah all the different *kinds* of animals, including those we think of today as carnivores. These kinds would also include dinosaurs. After seeing the full-size replica of the Ark in Kentucky, I believe Noah’s Ark *would have been large enough* to carry any dinosaurs the Lord had created on Day 6. Job 40:15 states, “Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you;...”. The Lutheran Study Bible says: “Some see in the description an antediluvian sauropod-like dinosaur.”

So, if man and dinosaurs existed pre-flood, why do we not find fossils of both buried together? When the flood came upon the earth, “And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, livestock, beasts, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all mankind.” Gen 7:21 KJB. Now, because man could swim, or cling to floating debris, he may have lasted a bit longer than the animals. The bodies of dead people also become bloated and may float for a while. This could be reasons for separation in the fossil record.

Scientists also dispute how the sedimentary layers of the earth were formed. Most claim sediments were laid down over exceptionally long periods of time. However, just by looking at the “folded” layers of rock in our own Grand Canyon, these claims can be proven to be false. In order for these layers to “fold” as they now are, they would have to be wet when the earth moved them into their present state. If they were very old, they would have cracked and broken when uplifting earth moved them.

As far as the results scientists obtain through radiocarbon dating, they have to guess at the amount of material that was originally in the specimen they are dating *and* assume that the rate of decay has always been the same. It is interesting to note that when Mount St. Helens erupted on May 18, 1980 the lava flows that it produced were later dated to be over 25,000 years old! It also created a new canyon from the pyroclastic flow it produced – in one day! Noah’s flood covered the earth to a depth of 15 cubits (approx. 25 feet). In Gen 7:11 it states: “...the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened.” The colossal amount of water that covered the earth caused massive changes in the world that had existed before the flood. Mountains were uplifted, canyons formed, the continents separated to the positions they hold today, the seas flowed to fill in the areas where dry land once had been.

**Continued on the next page.....**



*Council President's article continued.....*There is much more evidence that proves that Noah's flood actually happened. If you are interested in learning more, I suggest *A Flood of Evidence* by Ken Ham and Bodie Hodge, available from Amazon.

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

Yours in Christ, *Gene Sucharski*

**Board of Outreach:** Board of Outreach Chair-Kathy Wagner  
Advent By "Son Light" will be cancelled this year. We hope to see you next year.  
Please welcome Aly Kaestle to the Board of Outreach.



We will be collecting items to distribute before Christmas. These items are as follows:

**House of Ruth** – Baby wipes, Premie diapers, Diapers size 5 and Sterile wipes for cleaning.

**Old Town Mission** – New winter items ie; hats, caps, scarves, gloves, mittens, heavy socks and any personal toiletry items (both male and female).

**Verde Valley Homeless Coalition** – used bedding, used clothing and shoes, new clothing for winter, toiletries for men and women. Boxes will be in the Narthex for these donations.

Thank you and God Bless you for your help!

### **Birthday Bash!**

Our birthday celebration has been cancelled this year but that should not stop you from enjoying a piece cake on your special day! Thank the Lord for your life and the blessings He has given you. God made you on a special day. We hope to see you next year.



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

Financial Secretary: Letty Romano  
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, are in the Word and take time to share their spiritual gifts in leadership, to strengthen our church and ministries.

TREASURER'S REPORT

*See hardcopy for budget information.*

## 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 Fellowship Hall, temporarily. We have been blessed with a wonderful group of children.

The teachers, Kathy Breese and Sandy Wilson have been doing a wonderful job teaching. Total enrollment now is 10 children with average attendance ranging from 2-7 children. Ages vary from 3 years thru 10 years. We have 2 to 3 students in the Youth Bible Study, taught by Mark Ritter and Rhonda Koeppe.

The preschool applied and was blessed in receiving \$5,000 for scholarships from the Arizona Community Foundation of Sedona to use towards scholarships. We should receive approximately \$15,200 from the DES Covid 19 Grant Program that we applied for and was awarded. We have thus far received \$11,400.00. We should receive an additional \$3,800 this month. These funds have been a true blessing to our preschool.

### Scholarships:

First Things First scholarships - we have 9 filled and 5 that are still available.

DES - we have 1 student.

Church scholarships - we have 5 families that have applied all of which have been "adopted".



## Hilltop Christian Preschool

### (What are We Learning?)

Windy Mickle– Director



We currently have 38 children enrolled this school year. Miss Sara's class has 13 students with another starting in January. Miss Crystal's class currently has 12 students with another joining in January. Miss Brittany's class is at 13 students. Enrollment is definitely down due to worries about Covid-19 but we are continuing with our regular Health & Safety protocols that we have had in practice for years and have had so far no cases of Covid-19. We are aware that this might change, but we are taking temperatures daily of everyone (parents included) and asking that families keep their children home if they aren't feeling well and washing hands all the time. So far this has been working for us as we have not had any cases so far.

We are working on a way to provide a Christmas program that doesn't involve people congregating. This is a well loved event and the families really want to be able to celebrate and see their children perform. We are hoping to do a virtual show, just still trying to work out all the ins and outs!

Miss Brittany and Miss Crystal's Pre-K classes will be working on their shapes, letters L through T, and numbers 12- 22. They will be having Christmas parties in December, a Pizza Pajama Party in January and celebrating Valentine's Day and friendship in February.

Miss Sara's class will continue working on color and shape recognition and will start working on the Zoophonics curriculum starting with the letter A! They will be working through numbers 1-10. They will also be focusing on Jesus's birthday, community helpers, friendship and love!



## We Have a Spot for You!

Faith Lutheran Church is always looking for more help. Would you like to share the gifts God has given you? Is God tapping you on the shoulder? Whether you can help a little or a lot we appreciate your contribution. Connect with the following people if you are interested in helping out.

Altar Guild - Nancy James

Board of Christian Education - Terri Mickle

Board of Outreach - Kathy Wagner

Care Committee - Les Mickle

Greeters - Jeri Sucharski

L.W.M. L- Letty Romano (Lutheran Women's Missionary League)

Nursery - Viccie Wilkening \* currently closed

Sunday School - (younger grades) - Sandy Wilson

Sunday School - (youth) - Mark Ritter



## Look What's Coming Up!

### Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 2-23  
6:00 p.m.

### Christmas Eve Services

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



## Ongoing Ministries

**Women's Bible Study** - First Monday of the month 10:00 a.m. at the church. *Postponed.*

**Men's Bible Study** - Second & fourth Thursdays of the month 8:45 a.m. at the church

**Young at Heart** - Third Wednesday of the month (times and locations vary). *Postponed.*

Contact Bruce Seldon for more information.



**TRUSTEE'S REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION**

November 8, 2020

Here is a list of improvements that have been completed by church volunteers, since the beginning of 2020.

New drinking fountain was installed in hallway.

Exhaust fans in bathrooms were either replaced or cleaned.

Pews were moved to accommodate the piano.

Part of parking lot was repaved.

Front sidewalk was painted. Two sections were removed. Large pine tree was removed because of the damage it was causing.

Both furnace room roofs by the playground were repaired.

Vents were installed in front door and roof of pod. New hose valve was installed to left of front door.

New door sweeps installed on front doors; along with extra insulation./“Kick-stand” doorstops were installed on nine interior and exterior doors.

All bushes and trees along main driveway were trimmed, as well as in playground and other areas.

New “No Trespassing” signs were mounted on poles and secured in cement bases. One placed along driveway, and other by front parking area near Fir St.

Sails in courtyard were taken down for the winter – stored in youth room closet. Carabiners were installed when they were hung in spring.

Leaking pipe by shut-off near the driveway was repaired.

New toilet was installed in the preschool classroom/Push bar on pre-school door to courtyard was replaced.

Preschool office was painted, new carpet installed, phone line re-routed, and Windy's new desk was assembled.

Broken top wall in front by crosses was repaired. Caulking was done around signs.

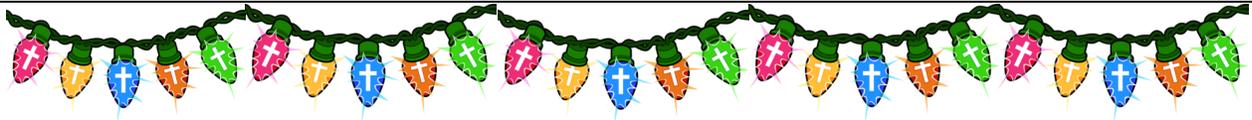
Handicap sidewalk to left of front door was dug and framed. Sidewalk by building was also framed. Cement work completed. When sidewalk cement cures, it will be painted to match the rest of the patio. Four new parking bumpers were installed.

Fellowship hall floor was stripped and polished.

New amplifier was purchased for use in the sanctuary.

Other general maintenance and repairs were done as needed.





**Reverse Advent Calendar** — each day add a new item to a box. Christmas Eve donate the contents to Old Town Mission or Manzanita Outreach.

December 1 - Box of cereal

December 2 - Jar of peanut butter

December 3 - Box of stuffing mix

December 4 - Box of potatoes

December 5 - Box of macaroni and cheese

December 6 - Canned fruit

December 7 - Canned tomatoes

December 8 - Canned tuna

December 9 - Dessert mix

December 10 - Jar of applesauce

December 11 - Canned sweet potatoes

December 12 - Cranberry Sauce

December 13 - Canned beans

December 14 - Box of crackers

December 15 - Package of oatmeal

December 16 - Package of rice

December 17 - Pack of dry pasta

December 18 - Canned/jar spaghetti sauce

December 19 - Can of chicken noodle soup

December 20 - Can of tomato soup

December 21 - Can of corn

December 22 - Can of carrots

December 23 - Can of mixed vegetables

December 24 - Can of green beans



Source: Passionate Penny Pincher

## Hey Kids! It's time for a Christmas Scavenger Hunt!

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!



- A nativity scene (lit up)
- A yard with at least one reindeer
- A yard with an angel
- Three inflatable decorations in one yard
- A snowman with a top hat
- Blinking decorative lights (ex: snowflakes, icicles)
- A cross from somewhere in town. Does not have to have lights. ( not Faith Lutheran)

