

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:

- **March 28th**
Palm Sunday
- **April 1st**
Maundy Thursday
- **April 2nd**
Good Friday
- **April 4th**
Resurrection Sunday



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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE VERDE VALLEY FAITH FORWARD

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MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2021



Fatigue, if there is one thing that the whole world has in common today, it is fatigue. Our personal relationships are strained by distancing and changing expectations of our interactions. Higher demands at work, or job loss, political unrest and riots which we used to think would never happen in our country. Regulation fatigue, the loss of loved ones, and the chronic stress of never being quite certain what our future will be. As the most selfless and capable among us strive for our collective betterment, each new glimmer of hope still seems to flicker and fade with discouraging brevity. Labor as we must, and as we are called, as God's beloved children we must first and always look to Him in His word for our everlasting hope. His word through the prophet Isaiah to His people today:

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:28-31

God's peace, Pastor Karl



Worship Services for the Easter Season

Palm Sunday 3/28: 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday 4/1: 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday: 4/2: 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Resurrection Sunday, April 4th

8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

*There will not be a Sunrise Service or breakfast this year.



Special Thanks To.....



- All the greeters, church service volunteers, and Sunday School teachers.
- All who work on the landscaping to keep our grounds looking great.
- All who clean the inside and outside of the church and work behind the scenes to make the church function smoothly.
- Everyone who donated items to our local agencies

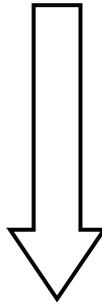
We are truly blessed here at Faith Lutheran Church. Please join us in a Thank-a-Thon. Find members of our church to thank in the coming weeks for their service.

March/April/May Anniversaries

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:

Psalm 139:14 States: I praise you, for I am **fearfully and wonderfully made**. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (ESV)

Have you ever considered the above verse in relation to your own body? Think of the intricacies of the workings of the human body. When was the last time you had to think about making your heart pump, or remembering to take a breath? God designed our bodies to accomplish these things and many other functions without our input at all. For most people, a simple cut or bruise will heal by itself in a matter of days. Yes, there are some to whom these things could be much more serious, or even life-threatening, but most people would recover quickly from a minor injury.

Evolutionists believe we evolved from random molecules that somehow came together to eventually become a human being. After many thousands (millions?) of years we became sentient beings and then humans. All the many processes that take place in our bodies just happened to randomly come together to operate efficiently enough to sustain our lives.

In Psalm 139:13-16 It says: For thou didst form my inward parts, thou didst knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise thee, for thou art **fearful and wonderful**. Wonderful are thy works! Thou knowest me right well; my frame was not hidden from thee, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth. Thy eyes beheld my unformed substance; in thy book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when yet there was none of them. (RSV)

"Thy eyes beheld my unformed substance" – God sees the newly formed life in the mother's womb. When does a person begin? Jeremiah 1:5 says: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." This verse says God knew us **before** we were even formed. How do people justify abortions as not killing a human being?

The Cambridge Dictionary defines conception *noun* (BABY) as the process in which a baby starts to form in the uterus from the coming together of a sperm and an egg. THE OXFORD ENGLISH Dictionary defines it as: The action of conceiving a child or of a child being conceived. I don't think anyone could argue that *baby* or *child* could be anything other than human. As soon as chromosomes from a male and female join in an egg, a human being is formed. At eight weeks an embryo becomes a fetus and has detectable brain activity. At 12 weeks, the fetus (which is only about two inches long) has fingerprints and nails, has facial expressions, has fine facial hair, can swallow, responds to touch, can grasp objects in hands, and sucks its thumb.

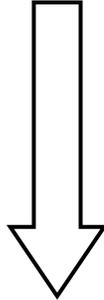
God created human life in His image on the sixth day of Creation Week. Adam and Eve were fully formed adults, with completely functioning bodies with everything working properly the way that the Lord intended. The miracle of birth came a little later when Eve gave birth to Cain, her firstborn. Everyone on this Earth came from these first two parents and are descendants of the eight people who came off Noah's ark after the flood. It is unfortunate that in these troubling times, *all people* don't realize that we are all related, despite differences in color, creed, religion or ethnicity. It is only through the love of Christ that this broken world can be made whole. May we all have the courage and strength to share the Good News of our Savior with everyone we meet. And may the Peace, Strength, and Love of our Lord, Jesus be with you all.

Yours in Christ, **Gene Sucharski**



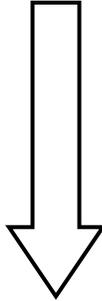
TREASURER'S REPORT– Financial Information through 12/31/2020

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



Budget continued:

You are almost there.

**Board of Outreach: Board of Outreach Chair-Kathy Wagner**

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Board of Outreach feels so blessed to be serving with such a generous congregation. Your generosity during our in-gathering last Nov/Dec was over whelming and greatly appreciated by all. GOD BLESS YOU ALL! We have 5 members on our committee. They are: Kathy Wagner, chair and members Myra Anderson, Jennifer Holmes, Aly Kaestle and Donna Woodruff.

Because of COVID-19, we must change our outreach. We will have greeting card ministries for most of this year. Jennifer Holmes and the pre-school children have made valentine cards and these will be delivered to local nursing/assisted living homes. If you have extra get well, birthday or thinking of you cards that you would like to donate to our ministry, we would be very appreciative. Again, our thanks to you all.

Kathy Wagner, Board of Outreach Chairwoman

When life gets to hard to stand, kneel.....

**A Big Shout Out - “Congratulations!”**

High School Graduate: Elizabeth Frederic

We wish God’s blessings upon her, as she begins the next stage of her journey!



Board of Christian Education News

Board Chair - Terri Mickle



Sunday School:

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. Andrea Mickle and Andrew Olesky have been helping with the Sunday School activities. Thank you to our Sunday School Teachers and to those who assist. There has not been any Youth Bible Study.

Please have your child in the fellowship hall by 9:40 a.m.



Hilltop Christian Preschool

Director - Windy Mickle

We have been adding new children since the beginning of the year. Last newsletter we had 38 we now have 43! Miss Sara & Miss Taylor has 12 students, Miss Brittany & our new assistant teacher, Lisa, have 16 students and Miss Crystal & Miss Trina have 15! We are just a couple shy in each class to be at our capacity! Praise the Lord!

We will have our Spring break March 8th – 12th!

We are hoping to celebrate Easter this year with class egg hunts and the sharing the story of the Easter!

Our Pre-K classes are working their way through to the end of the alphabet and then will begin their review of all that they have learned this year! One of their biggest feats will be to memorize Psalm 100! It's always a favorite verse for them to learn and knock their family's socks off with their amazing ability to memorize with some sign language!

We are also starting to think about our Preschool graduation coming up in May! As you may know last year's was put on hold for a while due to COVID-19 and we ended up having a drive thru graduation! We are not sure how we will be doing it this year but we will make sure that we make it special for the students as they have all worked so hard all year long.

As the school year draws to an end we want to say a BIG thank you to Kathy Wagner, Vicci Wikenning, Myra Anderson, Sandy Wilson and Rhonda Koeppe! We appreciate all that you have done to help us!

We also want to thank the LWML group for making birthday cards for each child this year! What a great ministry! And a BIG thank you to everyone who has contributed to our preschool whether it be financial, paper drive or prayers! We truly appreciate everything that you have done for us!

We have so much to be thankful for!



Lent is the season of the church year, lasting about six weeks. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends the day before Easter Sunday. People typically give up something, in remembrance of what Jesus gave up for us, His life. It is also a time when we look forward to and prepare for His death and resurrection. During the forty days of Lent, we remember God's faithfulness to His people and how His faithfulness is complete in Jesus.



The Days of Holy Week:

During Holy Week we celebrate **Palm Sunday**, when Jesus went to Jerusalem and people celebrated his arrival. **Maundy Thursday** was the Lord's last supper. On **Good Friday** Jesus died on the cross and on **Holy Saturday** he awaits His RESURRECTION on **Easter Sunday**.

Look What's Coming Up!

Palm Sunday
Sunday, March 28th
 8:00 am & 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday
April, 1st
 7:00 p.m.



Good Friday
April, 2nd
 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Resurrection Sunday
April, 4th
 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.



Ongoing Ministries

Women's Bible Study - Postponed until further notice.

Men's Bible Study –Second & fourth Thursday of the month 8:45 a.m. (at the church) See Deacon John Schaefer for more information.

Young at Heart - Postponed until further notice. Call Bruce Seldon for more information.

