



September 2016

Faith Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

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Glorifying God the Father and filled with the Holy Spirit, we celebrate our relationship with Jesus and invite others to join our celebration.



"The Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith" (1 Timothy 4:1). Today many people work hard to provide a good physical life for themselves and their family. This is their top priority. Spiritual needs and concerns are also part of their concern, but are not a top priority. In Old Testament times, God's people put the spiritual training of their loved ones at the very top of the list of their daily priorities. In the Old Testament, spiritual training consisted of using every opportunity to tell, and retell, to their children the historical Bible stories. These were stories of how God had saved their parents and grandparents from captivity in Egypt and how God cared for them each day. "You shall therefore impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul... you shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" (Deuteronomy 11:18-19).

Old Testament scholars explain the Old Testament education of God's people like this: During the weekend worship and meal, the youngest child would arise and say, "Father, tell us again about how God has saved us." The father would then rehearse carefully, from memory—exactly and precisely, word for word—the history of how the Israelites were delivered from slavery. From infancy, Israelite children would listen carefully and thereby memorize God's revelation of His Gospel as they heard it carefully recited by their father. As their father rehearsed the holy history, if the children noted even the slightest mistake they would speak up. In this way, God's Word was deeply, indelibly, and exactly recorded in the mind and soul of every child of Israel, beginning as a newborn. It is on this method of education that God established His promise: *"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6).

In this passage, the Old Testament Hebrew phrase "train up" means to "catechize." In today's world, this means avoiding all random and non-directed teaching situations which do not clearly point to Christ. Rather, God desires that you use a definite plan to instruct your loved ones so that Satan cannot successfully tempt them to fall away.

The Scriptures record many historical events. Consequently, for an effective curriculum, key events and teachings must be selected and repeatedly taught to children in order to give them God's overview of His plan of salvation. God's two key teachings are: (1) The deadly and incurable infection of Sin as well as (2) God's divine healing Medication of His Word. Some of your loved ones may have forgotten or perhaps they may have never been taught God's salvation plan for them. By understanding God's plan for our salvation through Christ recorded in His Word, we can be forewarned and better prepared to fight Satan. God warns, *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places"* (Ephesians 6:12).

Whether you are a parent, grandparent, pastor, or teacher, it is never too late to help your loved ones learn God's plan of divine rescue. Do as God's children did in the Old Testament. Re-establish your family priorities. Move the spiritual training of your children to the top priority in your life. Have your loved ones carefully study God's Word and also memorize it. Then live daily with the assurance that God graciously gives you: *"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6). You can then live each day *"in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began"* (Titus 1:2).

In Christ,

Pastor Christopher Sperb

Director of Christian Education

Opening Season

Opening season for GAHU is coming upon us! What is GAHU (God's Army Has United)? It is your youth group from 6th graders to 12th graders who meet every Friday night from 7:00pm to 9:00pm in the fellowship hall. We have fellowship, snacks, worship, games and Bible studies. We have many exciting ministry opportunities planned for this year, and we want YOU to be a part of it! One of those is that every 3rd Friday there will be high school time from 9-10pm. Get ready for the SEPTEMBER CHALLENGE! Starting Friday, September 2, 2016 leaders and youth will be completing a 28 DAY Challenge. This night is also an OPEN HOUSE so everyone is welcome to join us. You don't want to miss out!

What also coming back is our YAM. YAM (Young Adult Ministry) is for people who are post high school - 30 years of age. We welcome all single, married, dating, divorced, with children or without children members. We are looking forward to be in study, worship, fellowship and service with each other. Up until December, we have a Tuesday night bible study EVERY 3 WEEKS and on every 2nd SATURDAY of the month we will go hiking in the area. More details will come on a weekly basis, including a devotion. Below are the events for the month of September. If you would like to be added to our group, please contact me via email at dce@faithmd.org or by phone at (410) 795-8082 ext 204. Hope to see you and get to know you better!

GAHU

9/2 - GAHU Gathering (Kick Off / Open House) at 7:00pm

9/9 - GAHU Gathering at 7:00pm

9/16 - GAHU Gathering at 7:00pm

9/23 - GAHU Gathering at 7:00pm

9/30 - GAHU Gathering at 7:00pm

YAM

9/6- Bible Study Tuesday at 7:30pm @ Meghan's

9/10 - Hiking: Saturday at TBA

9/18 - Ravens vs. Browns Sunday at 1pm Location TBA

9/27 - Bible Study Tuesday at 7:30pm @ Meghan's

Meghan O'Hara



FAITH LUTHERAN'S ANNUAL RALLY DAY PICNIC

***Sunday, September 11th from 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.,
following the late service***

The church will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, drinks, chips, rolls and paper products. We would appreciate a few volunteers prior to 12:00 p.m. to help get the grills started and assist in cooking hamburgers and hot dogs.

Meghan will be leading our *Rally Day games*! There will be corn hole, relay races and other picnic games! You don't want to miss out!

Please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex to indicate what you are bringing. Come ready to enjoy a great time of fellowship. The scheduled rain date has been set for Sunday, September 18th.

For additional information, please contact or Debbie Foster 410-967-1770, fostersykesville@aol.com or Ellen Rapp 443-904-7190, EHRAPP@verizon.net

Thanks and God Bless,
Fellowship Committee



PICNIC

Public Relations & Communications Ministry

COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION

God Provides

In November 2014, I wrote an article concerning a devastating arson in August 2014 that destroyed a 90 year old historic Ohio Lutheran church, a church where my family and I attended. Now that church is being rebuilt on the same street some blocks from the former location and is planned to open in the summer of 2017. Quoting our Pastor of over 30 years at a ground breaking ceremony on July 24, "We've been on our own sort of wilderness journey, and there's always things to learn in the wilderness, and we have been learning them. There are still things more to learn on this journey, and one of them is that God provides. It's been a hard couple of years, almost two years now, and we're at the point of moving, crossing the Jordan and coming into the promised land. The parish will continue to build off on what Christ has given them."

What a blessing that after all the heartache, the church is being rebuilt, much to the credit of the faith of the congregation. Yes, a lesson learned, or perhaps relearned – God provides. "Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by the horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide..."

In His Service,
Lenni Lange

PROPERTY MINISTRY

What's going on with the Property Ministry?

Gee, the title of this article sounds exactly like the title of the last article I wrote for the Newsletter. And why is that? Is it because I'm just basically lazy and can't think of another topic? Actually, I can think of a number of topics, not related to property, but (for now) I want to essentially limit the information I provide to what I actually KNOW something about (i.e., the property). So, what is going on with the property ministry?

Budgets and Expenses

The 2016 budget for Property is around \$75,000. I won't address the status of the overall budget but here is some information regarding a few of our more significant budget line items:

- Cleaning Services - \$14,000. The cleaning expenses through June 2016 were \$6,544.00. So our burn rate is essentially in line with the budget. In the past, we've had two cleaning services, one for the upstairs area and one for the downstairs area. As of August, we've competed one new contract for cleaning the whole church once a week, which will normally occur on Saturday. In the past, we've had a separate budget line for cleaning supplies of \$1000.00/year. Because the new service provides their own cleaning supplies, this budget line will no longer be required.
- Gas & Electric - \$11,000. Our energy expenses through June were \$6,349.17 so we were somewhat over budget at that time (i.e., we spent approximately 58% of our energy budget at the half way point in the budget year). BTW, the energy budget was reduced for this year because of the savings last year, and we expect our energy usage to be reduced over the summer with the new HVAC system.
- Snow Removal - \$6,000. - Through June we've spent \$3,000.00 or exactly half of the snow removal budget. So unless we really get hammered this fall with big storms, we should be in pretty good shape.

Note: Frank Ringley and "the guys" continue to provide their services to the church at a considerable savings to the property budget.

Capital Projects

As I'm sure you all have noticed we now have a new roof on our church. The job was accomplished, in mid July, in just two days by DWM Roofing. BTW, during the installation DWM replaced 22 sheets of plywood on the roof that were damaged due to leaks. In other words, it was definitely time to replace the roof.

Jim Blackwell
Property Ministry



A Note from Worship

“When He shall come with trumpet sound Oh may I then in Him be found

Dressed in His righteousness alone Faultless stand before the throne.”

Cornerstone—CCLI Song # 6158927 Edward Mote | Eric Liljero | Jonas Myrin | Reuben Morgan | William Batchelder Bradbury
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www.ccli.com CCLI License # 619524

There is a meme that has the perspective of a dog and a cat.

The cat says: “The human takes care of me, cleans up after me, feeds me, grooms me...I must be God!”

The dog says: “The human takes care of me, cleans up after me, feeds me, grooms me...He must be God!”

So what are we? The dog or the cat or a little bit of both?

When things are going smoothly in our lives it can be easy to take the attitude of the cat. Everything is humming along... “I have built this great career/family/nest egg/education/ etc... therefore, I am a success; I have arrived; I have it made.”

Of course, we know that it is really God that provides us with all things “His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence” 2 Peter 1:3

I am the happy owner of both a cat and dog and am not trying to put one pet above another...But in this instance it is important that we remember to keep the attitude of the dog. We want to be in awe, to bow before our Lord with thanksgiving, for He alone takes care of us, feeds us and even cleans up after us. Without God our lives have no worth. Through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection, we have eternal life. We are heirs to the Throne! Maybe these last “dog days” of summer aren’t so bad after all to help keep things in perspective.

May you always have God’s Word in your heart and a song of praise on your lips.

Connie Simmons



Missions Ministry Team

This month’s Highlighted Mission Envelope effort will be in support of:

“LWML – Lutheran Women’s Missionary League”

The Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) is the official women’s auxiliary of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). For almost 75 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman’s relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.

The primary targets for the past several years are Nurturing Faith in Christ, Making Our Mission Meaningful and Sharing Encouragement. The league has as its “mission heart” thousands of volunteers who are daily dedicating their lives to making a difference in this world. These women are finding avenues to use their God-given talents as they meet the challenges to share the Gospel message.

LWML is composed of campuses, in resident homes, or in other settings. A major emphasis is the support of mission and ministry throughout the world by means of mite box offerings. These mite box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in mission grants since the organization’s inception in 1942. Their motto is “Serve the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:2 Check out their website for information www.lwml.org

Our congregation was able to share our blessings with Concordia Seminary Adopt-A-Student, James A. Rodrigues by donating \$1,663.00 for the month of July 2016.



Calling all talent! Calling all talent!

It's time again for our Tenth annual **Faith Follies Talent Show**. Come delight your church family and share your gifts and talents with us for an entertaining night of friendship and camaraderie **Friday, November 11, 2016**. We will begin with pizza at 6:00 pm. The show will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please check the narthex and September newsletter for sign up sheets. **The sign up deadline is October 30th 2016.**

Remember there are many things you can do such as dancing, comedy routines, skits, jokes, vocal, instrumental, baton-twirling, juggling, and so much more. Keep it fun clean, and use your imagination!

If you don't have a piece to perform you can still participate by bringing something you have made to display, such as quilts, paintings, or other talents you would like to share.

Please contact Connie Simmons if you have any questions 410.871.2067
worshipdirector@faithmd.org

Tenth Annual Faith Follies Talent Show Sign up Sheet!

Name_____

Phone_____

E-Mail_____

Describe your Act/talent-What you plan to do_____

(Groups: list names on separate page please staple name list and sign-up sheets together.)

Who taught/helped you with your act/talent_____.

Relationship_____.

Who or what gave you the idea for your act_____

(If doing a musical piece)

Name of your Accompanist_____ Name of Song_____

Composer/Artist_____

Please return to Connie Simmons (mailbox 43) by Sunday, October 30, 2016