

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 9 Sept. 2017 928-535-9575 2750 Mogollon Drive, Overgaard, AZ 85933

www.faithlutheranovergaard.com

WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:30 am Sunday – Solid Bible-Based Preaching & Teaching



PASTOR'S CORNER

GO AND SIN NO MORE

I still don't know how they do it. Maybe they take a special class on "multiple stops". I had just entered California from Oregon on I-5 in the Siskiyou Mountains. I was on my bike. The California Highway Patrolman had also pulled the car behind me over (who had actually been following a little too close for my comfort).

"Do you know how fast you were going?" (Why do they ALL always ask the same question?! Is that part of 'pull-over 101'?)

"Yes, sir," I said, "I was doing 70."

"I know the guy behind you was pushing you, but the speed limit here is 65."

"Last sign I saw said 70, sir." (be nice, keep calm, keep calling him "sir")

"Yup. That's what it is in Oregon, but changed to 65 a mile back at the state line."

"Well, I was ALMOST at 65, and besides, I didn't see any 65 sign. I'm sorry."

"Glad to hear yer sorry. But the sign's still there and 70 is still 70, not 65."

"You're gonna write me a ticket, aren't you?"

"Yup. Gonna write that guy back there one too." (Continued p. 4)

President's Two Cents



A memorial fund was donated to the church with unidentified use, so the Council contacted the donor to make suggestions for the funds. One suggestion is to install 3 crosses in the front of the church representing Christ and the two thieves. The center cross would of course represent Christ; it would have a memorial plaque identifying 'in memory of'. The installation of these 3 crosses requires congregation approval since it's a change to church "property", no permit is required.

A request for a permit was submitted to the county on August 17th for the kitchen remodel; we learned that the Fire Department requires a copy to the documents submitted to the county and a copy was provided on August 24th. Thank you to all who volunteer to keep Faith moving forward toward the future and growth. CONTINUED p. 5



Women's Ministry

Open to ALL women who attend Faith Lutheran Church! Third Mondays @1:00

Silent Auction: Saturday, September 9th, from 10 am to 1 pm. We have 90 items! Please come and help 'set-up' on Friday afternoon. We will also be having a bake sale - please bring your goodies to the church on Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning. The bake sale proceeds will go to Women's Ministry; the proceeds from the Silent Auction will go to the FLC General Fund. PLEASE help in any way you can on Friday and Saturday. Brats will be sold, and the band Siringo will be entertaining. Those who attend the auction must be present to collect their item(s).

Trunk or Treat: Tall Timbers Park, Saturday, October 28th. We will donate cakes for the Cake Walk. Further information will be coming.

Game Night: Bobbi suggested that the church have a game night and invite the congregation and friends to come for a night of 'fun and games'. This will be discussed further at the next WM meeting. (This sounds like a wonderful way to get to know each other better/Editor).

The next meeting will be Monday, September 18th, 2017 at 1:30 PM. (from Priscilla C.)



CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

Fourth Tuesdays, 9 am, Guests welcome

Trustees: George and Soni are taking care of the church yard, flowers and weeding. Pastor's meditation area has had all supplies donated so there will not be a cost to the church. The permit for the kitchen remodel has been applied for and we will know in a few weeks.

Elders: The Elders will take on more of the visitation, to free up more time for Pastor's Counselor duties. Pastor will be serving in Pinetop Sept. 10th, so Bible Study may be cancelled. A "FLC Facilities Request" policy will be instituted requiring advance written notice of intended use and requirements for a planned activity at the church.

Pastor: Pastor is still serving as Circuit Visitor in Ahwatukee and Payson. Payson is still waiting for an Intentional Interim Pastor to be assigned and Ahwatukee has finished their interviews and will present three

CONTINUED p. 7



Birthdays

Sept 5	Roz Farnsworth
Sept 6	Bill Pebler
Sept 7	Patty Wirtz
Sept 7	Kris Grams
Sept 18	Wayne Minde
Sept 21	Stan Maddox
Sept 28	Joyce Gill

Anniversaries None

MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



Sat 9/9- SILENT AUCTION – 11 am – 1 pm

Thu 9/14 Church Cleaning – 9 am

Mon 9/18 - Elder Board – 9 am
Women's Ministry – 1 pm

Tue 9/26 - Council Meeting – 9 am

Sat 9/23 – Men's Breakfast – 9 am

Sun 9/24–Church Potluck



Practice Tuesdays - 4:30 PM

BIBLE STUDY

Sunday – 9 am

“Lutheranism 101” continues:
Ch 25 A Time for Everything

Thursday - 9 am

Psalms study-continues with
Psalm 115



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Bible Lesson
for Kids



Sundays – 9 am

*Sermons and Bible Studies can be listened to on the
website,*

www.faithlutheranovergaard.com

Pastor Wirtz Calendar

Monday - 9 am - 4pm *In the Office**

Wednesdays *Visitation Day*

Thurs - 10am - 1pm *In the Office*

* Mon 9/11 - *Pastor's Winkle 9:30*

Call for appointment -
928-535-9575 or 323-717-4390

revnwirtz@yahoo.com,

or just drop in



A few years later I was in my car and in kind of a hurry to get to a Bible Study I was supposed to lead. I wasn't in the United States and was still acclimating to thinking in terms of Kilometers per Hour instead of Miles per Hour. (I know; Excuses! Excuses!) I was wearing my clerical collar and I was doing around 60kph in a 45kph zone (REALLY SLOW by what I was used to in the States for a highway!)

The Policeman walked up to my driver's side, looked at me, looked at my black shirt and collar . . . and all of the sudden produce a big, tooth-filled, almost evil grin. "Father. Do you know how fast you were going?" (I could learn to really HATE that question!)

"I do, sir. I just looked down just before you pulled me over. I was speeding. I didn't realize it until I looked down . . . but I WAS speeding."

"That you were, Father." His smile broadened as he leaned his face in toward mine. Transferring his pencil to his left hand, he held up his right forefinger in front of my face and began wagging it. "You know, Father, it is a sin to speed."

"I'm sorry, please give me the ticket and I'll pay for it when I get back to the city."

"No. I will not give you a ticket."

"But I was speeding!"

"I know."

"I broke the law!" (I couldn't believe I was arguing with this policeman to give me a ticket!)

"I know."

"Then why aren't you writing me a ticket?"

"Because you are sorry and I forgive you." He held out his hand to shake mine and I took it. We shook and I began to retrieve my hand but he suddenly gripped harder. Leaning in close to my face again, that grin reappeared. "And, Father?"

"Yes"

The grin now stretched from ear to ear. "Go . . . and sin no more!"

According to the Law, I was guilty both times. The first time I "got what I deserved". It didn't matter that I didn't KNOW about the change in the limit. It didn't matter that I was REALLY close to almost keeping it. The law was there and I failed to meet its standard even though I was "trying" to keep it, I actually broke it.

The second time I was spared the legal consequence my "sin". I was spared by a gracious person who had the authority to withhold what I deserved and forgive me instead. He not only gave me the admonition to "do better", but because of his gracious attitude toward me he gave me the desire, freedom and joy to WANT to do better.

How much more has the God who loves you and me beyond all measure been gracious and forgiving to us! Every sin, every hurt, every sorrow that we have brought upon ourselves and upon others He has forgiven. He has forgiven us not only because He has the authority to

do so, but also because He has taken the consequence for our sin away from us and placed it upon Himself. Jesus has paid to set you and me free from what we justly deserve with His own life. Death is the wages of sin for you and for me and for all people. Jesus has taken that wage upon Himself for you and for me and for the woman in the Gospel story below. Having been loved so much, how do you now want to respond?

The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." (John 8:3-11 ESV)

President's Two Cents (Continued)

Candidates to the congregation.

This long-range planning project has been talked about, approved and in process for almost 6 months and yet there seems to be a communications issue.

It's perplexing to the Council that Pastor is still receiving concerns about the kitchen expansion and other projects. Pastor has a full plate with pastoral duties to his flock and his time is limited, so please don't expect him to be your messenger.

ALL Council meetings are open, the meeting dates and times are public: the **fourth Tuesday** of every month at **9:00am** at the church. The Council does not have access to the church emails. If you have questions/concerns please bring them to the attention of the Council, not the Pastor. Please send your emails to the Church Council members, whose email addresses

are available in the directory Thanks [George Corsi](#)



VOLUNTEERING IN THE CHURCH – SPIRITUAL GIFTS- Part 2 (Roz F.)

I wonder how many were interested enough to take the Spiritual Gifts Inventory last month? I hope many of you were motivated by the article and the website.

According to Scripture, we're all called to be active in church ministry. God never intended for church to be a spectator sport – just the opposite according to 1Pet 2:9. The words "royal priesthood" are for all Christians, not just professional clergy. The concept is about doing something as well as believing something.

In the same way that each believer has a God-given ability, skill, or passion to use in ministry, each believer has a particular function in the body of Christ. We

all fit SOMEWHERE, but we don't all fit EVERYWHERE. There is a big difference. Each member has something to offer, but it's a specific something. People aren't interchangeable and can't just be moved around from one position to another.

Someone God has designed to be an empathic, caring people-helper isn't going to thrive in a volunteer role that's designed to enter data on a spreadsheet. When you get the right people in the right jobs, everyone benefits. When we discover our church family's gifts and abilities, the programs in the church are enhanced, changed, and expanded.

What does the Bible say about Spiritual Gifts? Paul addresses the presence of spiritual gifts in three main sections of Scripture: Rom 12, 1Cor 12, and Eph 4. Peter also verifies their existence in 1Pet 4:10. They provide the following understanding:

- We don't choose which spiritual gifts we receive – God bestows them on us through the work of the Holy Spirit, at the will of the Spirit.***
- Spiritual gifts aren't natural talents. All people have natural talents ~things they do well~ that are received at birth. Only believers receive spiritual gifts, at our spiritual birth.***
- Spiritual gifts aren't to be confused with Christian roles. Some Christian disciplines have corresponding spiritual gifts, but the two aren't the same.***
- God calls us to be people of prayer, but some have the gift of intercession.***
- God wants each of us to be merciful, but some have the gift of mercy.***
- God calls us to tithe, but some have the gift of giving.***
- A lack of a certain gift doesn't exempt you from exercising that role.***
- The difference is that those who have the gift usually go above and beyond the call of duty, and do it with a sense of joy, rather than obedience.***

When congregations help members and guests discover their spiritual gifts along with their personality types and passions, they empower both the people and the church by turning loose a significant outpouring of love, caring, spirit, relationship-building, and ministry! Help Faith Lutheran Church grow by getting more involved with the day to day operations!

Compilation of research & study/RKF, Nov. 2010 (Revised June 2017)

WAYS YOU CAN HELP AT FAITH:

Gift: Service & Helps ~

- Help clean the church every month. What a blessing to dust and vacuum and keep the altar shined up in God's house!***
- Volunteer as a Trustee, who is for church property maintenance – changing lightbulbs, landscaping, painting, repairs, etc. God's House!***
- When you see a special function at the church, volunteer to help set up, clean up, be an attendant, or whatever else may be needed. Contact the person who is in charge of the function and offer your services. God's work!***

- *If you are a woman member, the Altar Guild is responsible for setting up communion each week, and putting the elements away after, along with caring for the altar linens. Contact Bobbi Z. if you are interested.*
- *Volunteer as an usher, lay reader or greeter.*

Gift: Administration ~

- *Volunteer to be on the Church Council when the next elections are held.*
- *Attend Womens' Ministry and Council meetings to see how you may help facilitate and plan Church activities.*

Gift: Mercy~

- *Along with Pastor and the Elders, individual members may make it their mission to visit the sick and shut-ins at Faith. If someone you sit by in church misses a couple of weeks, call and check on them.*
- *Find out who the visitors are each week and if they live near you, make a point to call them, thank them for attending and invite them back.*

Gift: Leadership~

- *Volunteer to organize the Vacation Bible School.*
- *Volunteer to help lead a Bible Study or Sunday School class, or help those already leading.*
- *Find ways to get more members involved in volunteering by holding a "Ministry Fair" to let them know what the opportunities to volunteer are.*

These are just a few of the most obvious ways we can serve the Church. I hope the church leaders will not turn down ANY who volunteer who wants to help.

By the way, a new Editor for this Newsletter is needed as we move back to the Valley. It is difficult to compile a meaningful newsletter long distance. To be interesting, one needs to know what is going on in the church and then communicate it in the newsletter.

I have enjoyed editing this newsletter for the past several months. Who will step up and take this on? Experience in WORD is all that is needed. Thanks. Roz F.

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

- The Talent Survey has once again been tabled to be discussed further at the Sept. meeting.
- The proceeds of the August Fundraising Dinner, \$177, will go to the Church Building Fund
- The county will accept the drawings for the kitchen remodel with the permit. The estimated time to begin is 2nd-3rd week of Sept.
- The Men's Breakfast is still trying to expand their monthly gathering to all the men of Heber-Overgaard, as a chance for fellowship, getting acquainted, and sharing stories.
- The Sept. Congregational Dinner will not be held this month to have the facilities available for the Silent Auction Fundraiser.

The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 26th, 2017, at 9 AM (from Priscilla C.)