

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 10 October, 2018 928-535-9575 2750 Mogollon Drive, Overgaard, AZ 85933

[www.faithlutheranovergaard.org](http://www.faithlutheranovergaard.org)

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



## A FATHER'S LOVE

The following quote has been attributed to Mark Twain but there is serious doubt as to whether he is actually the author. Nonetheless it is a thought worth consideration.

*"When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years."*

I remember when I was fourteen. While I looked up to my father, I didn't always listen to him very well. I remember one time he had taken me out on a lake fishing and now we were returning to dock in our small motorboat. As we came close to the dock he told me to "fend off with an oar" so as not to scrape the boat against the dock. I quickly jumped to the bow to fend off and protect the hull of the boat, but instead of using an oar I put out my hand. Small as the boat was, it still had a dry weight of about a thousand pounds. With that kind of inertia behind it gliding in slowly, using my hand as a brake against the dock, my hand slid against the grey weathered planks of the dock for a good six to eight feet before we even started to slow down. Oh, did I mention that those grey weathered planks generously drove hundreds of splinters into the palm of my hand? I do believe that I had never before experienced such pain in my previous fourteen years of life.

My dad didn't "punish" me for not following his directions . . . he didn't need to. I suffered the natural consequences of my action. He had not stopped me but allowed this to happen so that I would remember well the pain and never make that mistake again. How stupid would I have to be to ever do that again!

My father didn't stop loving me because I chose my own way over and against his. He loved me despite my rebellion against his wisdom and hoped that I would return to trusting in his greater experience and subsequent wisdom for my own sake. One would think that the pain in my hand might spur me on to such trust . . . one would think.

We first hear the phrase *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;"* in Psalm 110, but it is often repeated throughout scripture. The word "fear" is used here not so much as to be "terrified", but rather to "stand in awe" or put more simply "to look up to" and "to respect" and "to trust". Of course to really "look up to" or "respect" and "trust" someone you probably would have to know them pretty well. I knew my dad pretty well and while I did look up to, respect, and trust my father in many ways, I often had my own opinions in areas where I disagreed with him ... especially if my disagreement revolved around something that he wanted me to do or not do where what I wanted was the opposite. And even still, my father never stopped loving me, even when he saw me rolling stubbornly toward what would inevitably result in very painful consequences for me ... and for those around me ... including him.

*(Continued on the last page)*



# Women's Ministry

Open to ALL women who attend Faith Lutheran Church!

*From September 18 meeting*

- The menu for the Re:Vitality workshop was solidified.
- A large donation of hardware, plumbing and building supplies was given to WM. It was decided to have an additional rummage sale in the first part of May targeting these types of items.
- The plants for the landscaping in front of the church were selected.
- A Silent Auction will be held on September 7, 2019 along with a quilt raffle.
- **Next meeting will be October 15.**



## Construction Project Update

The exhaust fan has been installed and powered up. Additionally, all leaks on the roof in that area seem to have been addressed. Next step is to cut in a floor drain, then install the floor. Sinks have been acquired at almost no cost, and the dishwasher will return. All that will be left is to place the range for final inspection then complete the cabinetry and countertops. When we are finished we should actually have more storage space and countertops than before!



## Birthdays

- |            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| October 7  | Steve Murray  |
| October 13 | Bobbi Goode   |
| October 17 | Jan McClurg   |
| October 20 | George Corsi  |
| October 21 | Amber Strong  |
| October 25 | Marilyn Young |
| October 30 | Mary Unger    |

Anniversaries  
None

## CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE



### July 10 Council Meeting

- Some editing of the By-Laws was discussed
- Kitchen remodel balance is at \$3000. It may take an additional \$2000 to complete.
- "Hail Damage" on the roof is being investigated by the insurance company.
- Tom Mills was accepted as "Acting President".
- **Re:Vitality Workshop:** A "Leadership Triad" of Bobbi Z., Kris G., and Diane J. has been formed to gather and develop ideas to reach out to the unchurched in the community as well as implement social opportunities within the congregation.
- Gutters and landscape have been provided by the Landscape Committee.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



Tue Oct 02 – Church Cleaning  
Wed Oct 03 – Pastor in Payson  
Sun Aug 20 - Pastor in Payson after  
Service.

Mon Oct 15– 9am Elders  
-1:30pm Womens Ministry

Tue Oct 23 - Council Meetin

Sun Oct 28 - Pot Luck

Oct 23-26 – Pastor in California for  
Western Regional Conference.



Practice Tuesdays - 4:30 PM

# BIBLE STUDY

**Sundays – 9 am**

*“Timothy & Titus” continues:*

**Thursdays - 9 am**

*Deuteronomy study-continues*

**Thursdays - 10 am**

*Adult Confirmation*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Bible Lesson  
for Kids**



**Sundays – 9 am**

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

[www.faithlutheranovergaard.org](http://www.faithlutheranovergaard.org)

### *Pastor Wirtz Office Hours*

**Mondays - 10am - 4pm In the Office**

**Tuesdays - 10am - 12pm In the Office**

**Wednesdays - Visitation Day**

**Thursdays - 10am - 12 pm In the Office**

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**Call for appointment -**

**928-535-9575 or 323-717-4390**

**[revnwirtz@yahoo.com](mailto:revnwirtz@yahoo.com),**

**or just drop in, or call anytime**

PLEASE



*during service.*

The Holy Bible (God's personal revelation of Himself to us) uses the words "the Lord" when referring to God. He reveals Himself through other titles as well, one of which is "Father". In fact, Jesus prays to the Father using the word "Abba" (which in Aramaic is akin to "Papa" or "Daddy", a respectful yet personal term of endearment). The idea is that God our Father is not some far off and aloof "super-being", but a very personal and loving father. He is one who should be looked up to, respected, and trusted because of his gracious love, provision, and protection for his children, as well as his much greater experience and wisdom. He should be listened to not because of fear of punishment, but because through intimate knowledge of Him (by way of His Word [the Bible] to us) we should know that He knows best and wants only what is best for us. *We should* know this ... but we often *want* something opposite.

We *want* to "love" whoever we want in whatever way we *want*, not necessarily "bound" by God's definition and institution of marriage. We *want* women to be sovereign over "their own bodies" even when it means deadly dictatorship over the very separate and equally sovereign bodies within them. We *want* to gossip about others and belittle them in order to feel better about *ourselves* by comparison. We *want* to disrespect the authorities over us because we don't *want* anyone telling us what to do or not do ... and so we *want* to say we don't believe in God so that we can feel free to do whatever *WE WANT!* ... or if we *do say we believe in God* we only want to listen to Him *as long as what He has to say agrees with what we want to hear*; and so we go through His Word (the Bible) with a red pencil crossing out whatever we disagree with saying, "God didn't really write *that* part of the Bible ... because I don't like it."

After all of this rebellion, lack of trust, respect, and respect, our Father doesn't have to punish us, because of the resulting pain and suffering we bring into our own lives and the lives of others. One would think we would remember the pain and learn; perhaps even return to our loving Father ... one would think.

And yet, even if our rebellion is 100% and our disrespect is totally turned to hate, our Father never stops loving us; never stops wanting only the best for us. He is patient, giving us every opportunity (with His help through His Word) to come to our senses; be brought back out of our self-inflicted pain and suffering into His loving and compassionate embrace, provision, and protection. He is always ready and willing to completely forgive us. That is why the Father sent His Son; to buy us back from the slavery of our rebellion; to bring us back from death to life; to rescue us from the drowning waters of our despair, shame, and hurt.

God, our Father, is real. He can be intimately known. He is near you, not far off. And as the very best of all fathers, He loves you.

Oh, by the way ... He is ALWAYS right! (And that's a GOOD thing!)

*For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:7-8)*

*In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:10)*