

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 11 November, 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**



## Halloween or All Hallows' Eve?

I remember dressing up for Halloween as a little kid. It was as much fun dressing up as it was collecting a pillow case full of candy. (I don't remember which I liked better!) Halloween was the chance to be somebody different than I was . . . somebody . . . bigger, stronger, smarter . . . better! A cowboy, a pirate, or better yet; a super-hero! Back then, the only super-hero I knew about was Superman. As far as I was concerned, my little sisters had no imagination whatsoever; they either wanted to be a princess or a cat. ... A CAT!? Well that's little sisters for you.

But, then, I also had a little brother. We older ones were too busy refining our own look and costumes on Halloween to be bothered with him . . . until my folks told us we had to take him with us. What were we going to do with him? He barely talked, and really had less imagination than my sisters! What could we possibly dress him up as? (I had an idea that we leave him dressed as usual and have him go as our "annoying little brother", but the older of my two younger sisters had a better idea. She went out to the barn and got an empty white feed bag, cut two holes for eyes and two holes for arms and threw it over him.

"Oh," I said, "he's a ghost."

"No!" replied my sister. She then whipped out a giant marker and drew a huge question mark from top to bottom on both sides of the bag. "We don't know WHAT he is!"

"Mmmmfbbfthzz" came the voice in agreement from inside the bag.

Over the years our interest in Halloween began to lean toward its darker side. My sisters sometimes dressed up as witches and took an interest in developing a "ghoulish" or deformed look. We were no longer trying to look "better", but "in good fun" were trying to look "worse", more "evil".

So how did I get from there to a practice that my family has kept for the last 40 years of not participating at all in the American observance of "Halloween"? It started when I began to understand what the original observation of "All Hallows Eve" was really all about.

We derive the name "Halloween" from the phrase "All Hallows' Eve". Something that is "hallowed" is "holy". (That is what is meant in the Lord's Prayer with the phrase "hallowed be Thy name"; that God's name should be holy) Like Christmas Eve being the wonderful night anticipating the glorious birthday of Jesus on Christmas Day, All Hallows' Eve is supposed to be the night of expectation before the wonderful celebration of All Saints' Day.

"All Saints".... Who are the "saints"? A saint is simply someone who is "holy"; or to be more accurate, a saint is someone who has been MADE holy. How is one "made holy"? Very simple, actually; someone is made holy not by anything that person could ever do by himself, but by being covered with a holiness that is altogether alien to himself – a holiness belonging to someone else. That is exactly what happens in baptism, as we read in Galatians 3:27;

*"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."*

*(Continued on the last page)*



# Women's Ministry

Open to ALL women who attend Faith

Lutheran Church!

*From October meeting*

- Voted to Donate to Christmas Market Fort Wayne Seminary.
- Received Thank You card from our Seminarian.
- **Next meeting will be November 19.**



## Construction Project Update

The floor is in, the floor sink will be installed Nov 15, and the rest of the items needed to finish have been ordered. Cabinets, sinks, and dishwasher are next to install and then the countertops will be put in.

\$7000 was moved (as unanimously approved in the Nov 11 Congregational Meeting) from LCEF savings to our checking account to complete the project (according to contractor estimates). Any funds remaining will be returned to the LCEF account.



## Birthdays

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| November 7  | Jim McClurg  |
| November 8  | Mike Gill  |
| November 13 | Priscilla Corsi  |
| November 14 | Brian Parker   |
| November 15 | Pastor Wirtz      Sonia Dittmer,<br>Maegan Harding (Cox) |
| November 20 | Maxine Heimerl   |
| November 22 | Bill Newton      Christina Cox                           |
| November 28 | Morgan & Raegan Cox                                      |
| November 29 | Ali Harding  |

## Anniversaries

- |        |                          |
|--------|--------------------------|
| Nov 2  | Ron & Mary Unger         |
| Nov 10 | George & Priscilla Corsi |

## CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

### October Council Meeting

- Update on kitchen
- Update on roof – still waiting in final decision from insurance company
- Looking for a new Trustee
- Will suggest some By-Law revisions for April Voters' Meeting
- Blue Spruce needs to be planted

**6pm Sunday Evening Services  
begin December 2**

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



Tue Nov 06 – Church Cleaning  
Mon Nov 19– 9am Elders  
                  -1:30pm Womens Ministry  
Tue Nov 27 - Council Meeting  
Sun Nov 25 - Pot Luck



Practice Tuesdays - 4:30 PM

*Midweek Advent "Soup & Service" starts  
Wed Dec 5 at 5pm & 6pm respectively.*

# BIBLE STUDY

**Sundays – 9 am**  
**"Philippians" 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.*

Since baptism is not something that WE do, but rather is something God does to and for us, this means that God makes us "holy" with the "holiness" of Christ by "clothing us in Christ". In baptism, God washes away all of our sin and makes us into a new creation.

*"...if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!"* 2 Corinthians 5:17

Where, at the beginning, my sisters and I tried to "look" better than we actually were by clothing ourselves with make-believe costumes for one night called "Halloween", God actually succeeded in doing to us when He clothed us in His Son through the faith originally given to us in the waters of Holy Baptism. It was then that God made us holy ... "saints". How much different and antithetical to when we later tried to "clothe ourselves" with "make believe" evil.

The fact that I eventually came to realize is that evil isn't "make believe" at all. It is who everybody is by nature, unless and until God intervenes and clothes us with a holiness that could only become available to us through the loving payment for our sins by His Son's death on the cross. God has loved us enough to pay dearly to make us holy.

Some, in their lives, have opportunity to ponder the cost of their holiness (sainthood) deeply. To some, circumstances provide the ultimate measure of how precious that gift from Father and Son really is to them. These we call "martyrs"; saints who have given their lives rather than renounce the "holy clothing of Christ".

While ANY one who has faith in Christ is by definition a saint, a large part of what "All Saints Day" commemorates is those who have died in faith (clothed in Christ); especially those who gave their lives for the sake of the name of Christ. We remember that all who have "died in faith in Christ" are not dead at all but alive with eternal life and joy in the eternal kingdom of God. That is exactly what the One who defeated death and rose from death itself promised.

Almost all of the apostles, many of the Church Fathers, and many believers in the first few centuries of the church were put to death because of the name of Christ. Many of these we remember by name with the various "festival days" for saints, and then in totality on All Saints Day.

It doesn't stop there. There are many "faceless" martyrs . . . Even today, children who have told their executioners they would never give up their love of Jesus have been beheaded, set on fire, and drowned in front of their parents. On All Saints Day we remember a faith that certain and love that strong . . . A faith that only could exist because of the precious love first given by God to us in Jesus the Christ.

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His faithful servants."* Psalm 116:15