

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 12 December, 2018 928-535-9575 2750 Mogollon Drive, Overgaard, AZ 85933

www.faithlutheranovergaard.org

WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:30 am & 6:00 pm Sunday
Solid Bible-Based Preaching & Teaching



Jesus and Charlie

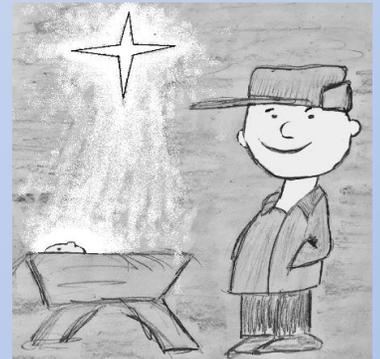
One of the things I had always appreciated around Christmas time was the TV Charlie Brown Christmas Special. While everywhere else on TV was filled with all the cheerful, warm hearted stories of Santa Clause, Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, "a Miracle on 39th Street", "a Wonderful Life", and even "A Christmas Carol" with poor little Tiny Tim, Charlie Brown's Christmas Special stood out as its message zeroed in on what Christmas is really about. As heart-warming as all those other stories of triumph over adversity, compassion and human love were and are, they are, in fact, all fiction ... make-believe ... sadly Not True.

The beauty of Charlie Brown's Christmas Special is that it contains a clear and absolutely faithful proclamation of a very TRUE story of triumph over adversity, compassion, and love. Even better; the triumph, compassion and love is NOT man's ... but God's. At the climax of the show, the Peanuts characters all gather 'round and recite the real Christmas story as originally recorded by St. Luke in the second chapter of his Gospel.

In this recitation we hear, again, the story (anchored in history) of how God used a census to bring a young, pregnant, virgin bride to give birth to Y'eshua (which means "God's Salvation") in the place foretold for the Savior's birth. We are told of an empty inn, and an animal feeding trough as a bed for the little new-born babe. We are told of shepherds who would visit "the promised One" after they

received a visit by a "flash-crowd" of the heavenly hosts appeared to sing of Glory to God and of His Peace that would now rest upon men because of this baby's arrival; because God has chosen to look with loving favor upon mankind (even though we actually deserve far, far less!)

In this story, even more than the other make-believe ones (I hope), our hearts are once again warmed. Thanks to Charles Schultz, thousands upon thousands of young children (or the "young at heart") have heard the REAL Christmas Story ... many who would never have heard it anywhere else. Because of Charles Schultz all of these people have heard God speak to them the truth about Himself ... with His very own words. Thanks to Charles Schultz many of these people have actually committed this story to memory ... word for word ... God's Word for God's Word! These are words familiar to most anyone who has ever gone to a real Christian Christmas Eve Service, as the second chapter of Luke's Gospel is usually read at that Service.



Yet, as grateful as I am that Schultz succeeded in bringing this very real and true Bible story to so many people, it is not the WHOLE story. It is still lacking "the rest of the story" (as Paul Harvey famously said so many times). While we DO hear the word "Savior" in the account, our attention could easily drift toward that cute, innocent, poor, little baby ... and stop there.

(Continued on the last page)



Women's Ministry

Open to ALL women who attend Faith Lutheran Church!

From November meeting

- Fri Dec 14 5pm Congregation Christmas Party. (Gift exchange game, not to exceed \$10)
- Wrapping for Salvation Army Christmas Children's Party start Dec 12 at 2pm. Party on Dec 15.
- Voted to send Sem Student a Christmas Gift Card.
- **No meeting in December.**



Construction Project Update

The triple basin sink, dishwasher, and grease-trap are installed and functional. Final inspection for the fire suppression system can be done after final hookup on December 3. All that is left is the installation of cabinetry, hookup of the double basin sink, installation of countertops, baseboard, molding, and final painting. We are close folks!




Birthdays

Dec 6 Bobbi Zeller
Dec 7 Gary Jacobsen
Dec 10 Marvin Schurke
Dec 26 Bill Cassels
Dec 27 Betty Raveling
Dec 29 Bobbi Riege

Anniversaries
None

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE



October Council Meeting

- Update on kitchen
- Update on roof – still waiting in final decision from insurance company
- Committee (including Pastor) will suggest some By-Law revisions for April Voters' Meeting
- No council meeting in December

6pm Sunday Evening Services begin December 2

MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



Tue Dec 04 – Church Cleaning
No Elders Meeting in December
No Women’s Ministry Meeting in December
No Council Meeting in December
Fri Dec 14 – Christmas Party at 5pm
Mon Dec 24 – 6pm Christmas Eve Service
Tue Dec 25 – 8:30am Christmas Day Service



Practice Tuesdays - 4:30 PM

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

BIBLE STUDY

Sundays – 9 am

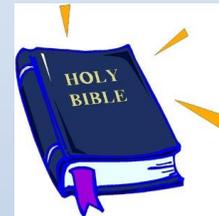
“Philippians” continues:

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

Pastor's Office Hours

Mondays – 10am – 4pm In the Office
Tuesdays – 10am – 12pm In the Office
Wednesdays – Visitation Day
Thursdays – 10am – 12 pm In the Office

**Call for appointment -
928-535-9575 or 323-717-4390
revnwirtz@yahoo.com,
or just drop in, or call anytime**

(Pastor's Corner: continued from page 1)

In fact, the whole story really isn't about a poor little defenseless baby. The whole story is really about you ... and God ... and His incredible love for you. You see, that little baby wasn't just a little baby, but in fact God the Son who brought our humanity into Himself and thus came to us as a very real little human defenseless baby (even while He still remained our omnipotent God and Creator) ... and He did so not be adored because He was a cute adorable little baby, but He did so in order to give His life as a ransom for you and me. He was quite literally "born to die."

Jesus is rightly called "our Savior" because He was born to do (and DID do) all that is necessary and only divinely possible to save you and me (His brothers and sisters) from the consequence of our rebellion against God (sin), which is to die in the torment of eternal separation from God and everything that is good. Without "good" all that is left is "bad". To rebel against God (who is Life) means to run toward death; to rebel against light means to run into darkness. To run away from God means you can never run back ... UNLESS ...

Unless God reaches into the darkness to bring you (and me) back. Unless God reaches into death itself (by dying in your and my place) to bring you back ... to SAVE you. And that was God's plan all along ... even before creation. God knew we would need His help; His rescue; His salvation, so it was always His plan to send His Son to be that Salvation for us.

In another "Christmas Story" found in St. John's Gospel, he explains it like this:

"In the beginning was the Word (the Son of God) and the Word was with God and the Word was God. ... In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ... He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:1, 4, 10-12, 14)

The "truth" is that because He loves you so much, the Divine Son took on your and my humanity so that his divine humanity should accomplish what our broken humanity could not; perfect obedience to God the Father. He has been so gracious as to GIVE you His righteousness. The "truth" is also that He has taken all of our rebellion (sin) upon Himself and thus received (in our place) the just death of eternal torment that we deserve. In being righteous for us, taking our sin away from us and dying in our place He "saves" us. THAT is what the Christmas story is ALL about. It is the story of God's triumph over our adversity. It is the story of God's love and compassion for you and me.

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11