

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 01 December, 2019 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



Fake Truth

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DISadvantages of the internet is that there is a whole lot more information available today than there ever has been before.

With so much information now available one has to be extra careful to discern which information is true and reliable and which isn't. Even published news stories have been found to be partly or completely fictitious (hence the name "fake news"). Of course "fake news" is not really a new phenomena; in the early last century it was called "yellow journalism". Yellow journalism was used to slander and soil the reputation of objects of the writer's ire.

An example from the past is the reputation of Ty Cobbs' (perhaps baseball's greatest player ever) "racism, misogyny, and volatile and violent personality" (Encyclopedia Britannica 2018). Apparently Encyclopedia Britannica still reprints the reputation that raged rampant around Cobbs well into the 1960s. In the movie "Field of Dreams", Shoeless Joe Jackson explains to the protagonist that Cobbs wasn't invited to the ghostly baseball reunion because "nobody liked the S.O.B."

In His book, "Ty Cobbs – A terrible Beauty", Charles Leerhsen explains that it was generally accepted as fact that Cobbs would "pistol whip black men that he encountered on the street", and that he once stabbed a black waiter to death because he was "uppity". Cobbs

was also purported to be a cheater and poor sport, disliked by all and friendless, who would sharpen his cleats in order to cut up the opposing team's infielders.

As it turns out, all of these stories can be traced to one man (Al Stump) who wrote and disseminated them vindictively after Cobbs had threatened to sue him for liable about other things he had previously written. At the time, Stump was already banned from several newspapers for submitting false information and outright lies. Nevertheless because Stump continued to propagate these stories after Cobbs' death and because the stories were titillating and juicy, other sources picked them up and repeated them until by the later half of the twentieth century they were accepted as fact.

The real truth (for those who cared to investigate) is that Cobbs was well liked and defended by teammates and opponents alike; that he personally encouraged the league to "dull its spikes to protect other players; that he came from four generations of abolitionists and that he, himself, argued in favor of "negroes" being allowed and encouraged to participate in baseball. He once said, "The only modern player I would pay to see is Willie Mays".

The point is that a great part of evil in the world today is born out of lies. Told big enough and often enough they often become accepted as fact, when in fact they are "fake truth". A great example of this is the use of memes on the internet. Memes are often slickly designed to look like truth while they appeal and resonate to a particular point of view in order get you to accept them as truth. Since you like what you are hearing, and it "looks" authoritative, you are inclined to accept it at face value and true.

(Continued on the last page)



Women's Ministry

Open to ALL women who attend Faith Lutheran Church!

- No meeting in December.

Construction Project Update

The cabinets are in and now all we await is some touch up painting and the installation of the granite countertops. After that the small sink will be installed ... AND WE'LL BE DONE!

The counter-space will be measured this month, templates made, then the granite will be cut and installed early February.

Much thanks to Bo for his help and creativity

Birthdays

Jan 1	Celeste Boeck
Jan 7	Linda Minde
Jan 8	Amelia Strong
Jan 19	Kristy Preecs
Jan 20	Bo Cox
Jan 27	Vivian Morris

Anniversaries

None

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

- No council meeting in December

6pm Sunday Evening Services begin December 2

MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



Jan 03 – Church Cleaning
Jan 21 – Elders Meeting at 9am
Jan 21 – Women’s Ministry at 1pm
Jan 22 – Council Meeting at 9am



Practice Tuesdays - 4:30 PM

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

BIBLE STUDY

Sundays – 9 am

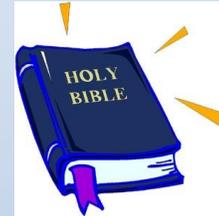
“Paul’s Letters” continues:

Thursdays - 9 am

Deuteronomy study-continues

Tuesdays at 1 pm

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 Corner: continued from page 1)

I'll give you an example of a meme designed to portray Christians as the worst of hypocrites. It reads,

"Do you know how many times I (Jesus) mentioned abortion or homosexuality? NONE. Do you know how many times I told my followers to care for the least among us? THOUSANDS. Don't blame Me because you decided to do things I never asked you to do and not do things I commanded you to do."

Posted by American News X.

The implication (and lie) is that Biblical Christians as a whole care more about telling people that they are wrong (sinning) than they do about caring for people who need help and are hurting. That on its face is simply not true when you consider all the relief agencies, adoption agencies, hospitals, health clinics, counseling services, "love kitchens", food banks and clothing banks that are sponsored and staffed by Christians. But, no matter, the meme hopes you won't think of that.

Then there is the sheer audacity to present "Biblical Facts" that are nowhere to be found in the Bible. EVERYTHING in the meme is a lie. First, you can't make an argument from silence. If Jesus doesn't say anything about "X" that doesn't mean he condones it any more than it means he does NOT condone it. Second, since the Bible presents Jesus as God, He DID have plenty to say in scripture about both homosexuality and murder (even if the incarnate Christ is not recorded as addressing them specifically in the Gospels). Third, Jesus only mentions caring for "the least of these" one time (recorded in two Gospels); NOT "thousands of times" nor "hundreds of times" nor even "tens of times" ... just once (which is not to minimize the importance of caring for those less fortunate than us; it just shows the boldness of the lie).

Of course, throughout the Bible, God does exhort us to care for an love each other.

So in this day of modern mass communication we need to be careful and vigilant about what we consume and not blindly assume that because it is in the news, on the internet, or someone really famous says it that it is true. We should do our research and measure everything against what we know to be true and against who and what has been proven to be trustworthy.

For me, ultimate truth can be found in God's Word and ultimate trustworthiness is found in God, Himself. I find it so because He has been 100% faithful in all that He has said and promised. (I challenge anyone to show me where God has broken a promise in His Word) His greatest promise fulfilled is the coming of His Son, the Christ (the One anointed to save us). He has done so by taking our sin upon himself and forgiving us (even our sins of lying and repeating lies) so that we might fully receive the length, depth, and breadth of God's Love

This Sunday much of the Christian Church will celebrate the Epiphany (arrival of the Light of the World) as we recall the star (light) that led the Wise Men from the east to Christ. Earlier, another wise man Simeon expressed his joy at this promise fulfilled,

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2:29 ff

If you want to trust something that you read, you could do worse than reading the Bible.

"[Father,] sanctify them in truth; Your word is truth." – Jesus (John 17:17)