

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 02 February, 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



When I taught high school I would often have moments of inspiration as I considered how to get students invested in the subject matter. Building lesson plans around object lessons that would attract the students' attention was always a challenge and sometimes a great joy . . . when it worked. Thankfully, even when the lesson plan didn't turn out exactly the way I envisioned, the fail would often be just as memorable and even, sometimes, educational.

One such time burned into my memory is when a history lesson turned out to be a lesson in physics. We were studying the story where a young David takes on the 9 foot-tall champion of the Philistine army, Goliath. David confronts Goliath with the assertion that God would give him victory (and Goliath's head) that day. Goliath responds with indignation and a massive sword. David has no armor, or sword, but only a shepherd's sling. With the skill of years of practice as a shepherd who protects the flock against predators, he spins up the sling and lets fly a small stone that impacts the charging Goliath square in the middle of his forehead. The giant collapses to the ground, whereupon David rushes up, takes Goliath's own sword and cleaves the giant's head from his body.

BAD PHYSICS - GOOD THEOLOGY

Now that story, in itself, is enough to hold the attention of most high school boys at least, but I had bigger plans. I brought in leather cords and patches to show them how to actually make a sling like David's. Even better, I unrolled about 10 feet of butcher paper and produced some black tempera paint and some brushes. I told them to make their own slings (following my instructions) and then to paint the outline of the 9 foot Goliath on the paper, complete with armor, sword, and an especially mean and ugly face. When all that was done, I produced a jar of paintballs and watched their eyes widen.

"That's right" I said, "We're going to paint this bad boy with our slings! I got the OK from the principle, and we're going up to the football field and tack Goliath to one of the trees where you each can practice being David." I think, in that moment, I was the coolest teacher in the school! Maybe even cooler than the Chemistry teacher who never seemed to run out of ways (if the class had been "good") to end class with some kind of fiery explosion.

So we rolled up Goliath, grabbed our slings, the paintballs, and some tacks and headed up to the football field. Once there, we tacked Goliath to a tree and then I showed them the basic principles of sling operation, including securing one end of the sling to a finger so that upon release only one end would detach allowing the projectile to escape in the terminal direction. This was going to be AWESOME!

Continued on the last page)



Women's Ministry

Open to ALL women who attend Faith

Lutheran Church!

Mary Unger elected Secretary
Received 4 thank you cards for gifts sent to seminarians
Discussed Sunday lunches
February 18 ministry meeting, 1:30-



Construction Project Update

We're Done!

Counter tops and the small sink are installed. All contractor work is finished. A little touch-up paint and a few door handles is all that is needed to bring this project to a close. Thank you everyone who helped with their time, talent, and treasure!



Birthdays

February

February 2 Tom Mills
February 22 Paul Voigtman
February 24 Lin Rose

ANNIVERSARIES

February 10 Bill & Karen Cassels

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE



Pastor Bell has been installed in Payson. Sunday evening services are well-attended.

Men's Tool rummage sale April 27 so set-up volunteers are needed on the 26th.

Five new members will be welcomed soon: Viola Allen, Lin & Jerry Rose, and Derrell & Teddi Tate.

Sunday Evening Services at 6:00 PM

MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



February 5 – Church Cleaning
February 18 – Elders Meeting at 9am
February 18 – Women’s Ministry at 1:30pm
February 26 – Council Meeting at 9am

Ash Wednesday – March 6



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*

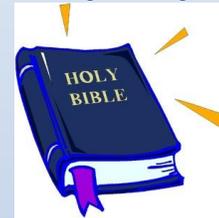
BIBLE STUDY

Sundays – 9 am

Hebrews

Thursdays - 9 am

Deutoronomy study-continues



SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Bible Lesson
for Kids*



Sundays – 9 am

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

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First up, one of the girls tried, couldn't get much spin out of the sling, released and the paintball floated about 15 feet straight up then fell to the ground ... where it stayed intact. Next one of the boys tried ... with almost identical results. He got so mad, he stomped over to the intact paintball and jumped on it with both feet. There was a satisfying "pop!" and an orange smudge on the grass and the bottom of his tennis shoe. He turned back to us. He was slightly grinning now.

Next, the star pitcher for the baseball team pushed his way forward and glared at the defiant and still immaculate Goliath 30 feet away. This boy had the strongest arms of any student on campus and of most of the teachers as well. "You're goin' down Goliath!" He picked up TWO paintballs, put them in his sling, whirled it up and let fly.

The paintballs barely made it to the target and simply bounced off. Goliath was laughing at us ... at me! The red-faced baseball star grabbed another paintball, ran at Goliath, and fired his best "fastball" at the giant. The ball exploded on Goliath's neck to the delight and resounding cheers of the rest of the class, who followed in suit, abandoning their slings and attacking the giant with wave after wave of hand-launched paintballs until, indeed, Goliath was well-painted by the entire class and my supply of paintballs was thoroughly exhausted.

Amidst the cacophony of victory cries, and now utter class-room chaos on the football field, I looked down at the discarded slings, held one unexploded paintball in my hand and realized my miscalculation. The paintball was extremely light ... in fact, much lighter than the sling itself. It didn't give the sling enough mass to work against as the

sling rotated. The velocity of rotation could not increase very much as the sling's own mass wasn't sufficient to overcome the resistance of the atmosphere. That must be why David used a small stone instead of a paintball! "Good thing I'm not a Physics Teacher" I mumbled to my self.

Of course, the story of David and Goliath is not about David's mastery of the principles of physics, nor even about his skill as a well-practiced shepherd and "slingman". The story is not even about David's bravery in the face of certain death. The whole point of the story is found in David's own words to Goliath, *"This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand ..."* 1 Samuel 17:46.

David understood what we so often today forget; that when any man (or woman) sets himself up against God, God will always ultimately prevail. The victory that day was only David's in so far as he trusted in God to be victorious.

Whatever your "Goliath", victory for you can always be found in the One who is greater than Goliath, the One who defeated the greatest Goliath of all; Death. Jesus has overcome Death and holds out His hand with eternal life to all who trust in His victory. Where we have failed; where we have fallen; where we have sinned, Jesus has paid the price to forgive us and restore us. If Jesus, who loves us so much, has slain so great a Goliath in our lives as death and our own sin, can He not also give us victory over all of the other "Goliaths" in our lives that hurt us so and seem so much bigger and stronger than we can bear?

Jesus answers that question with his own words from Matthew 11:28, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*