

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 09 September, 2019 928-535-9575 2750 Mogollon Drive, Overgaard, AZ 85933

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

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

## The Fence



young

desperate situations with seemingly no hope. She gives herself over to giving them the hope that they seek (through abortion); an escape ... a new and fresh start, even as she works to "make abortion rare". It is also a story of deception and illuminating truth, intimidation (on both sides) and gentleness, corporate greed and a genuine desire to care for women (from both sides), imprisonment and freedom.

As a young woman in college, passionate for women's rights and looking for a cause to support, Abby Johnson is drawn to the pink (her favorite color) booth at her college Volunteer Fair where a congenial Planned Parenthood recruiter sits, ready to answer questions and provide additional information. The recruiter persuades Abby of the worthiness of Planned Parenthood's cause to serve women by providing education about birth control and providing abortion "when necessary". Having already had an abortion herself, Abby is attracted to the logic that this plan will ultimately make "crisis" pregnancies and the subsequent abortions rare; so, she offers to volunteer for "the cause".

The first thing she notices as she pulls up to volunteer at the clinic is a 12-foot wrought iron fence. This fence will remain a prominent feature throughout the entire movie. Much of the dialogue between Abby and others takes place between these prison-like bars as if to ask the question, "Is the fence there to keep something out ... or to something IN?"

The movie "Unplanned" is the story of a young woman with a heart for helping others and desiring to support other women who find themselves in

The story follows Abby and her career with Planned Parenthood. She begins as an escort, to walk with women from their cars to the clinic to "protect" them from the pro-life demonstrators on the other side of the fence. One group of demonstrators is verbally abusive and condemning of the women who come to the clinic for abortions while another group is gentle and even friendly toward the women. The latter group is the Coalition for Life. Two of them, Shawn and Marisela, engage both clients and staff (from the outside of the fence) at every opportunity. They are always friendly and sincere and are there so often that everyone in the clinic knows them by name. The workers in the clinic consider them as a sort of benign nuisance. The director, however, sees them as a threat ... against the will of clients that might change their minds, hence the escort from the car to the building.

While Abby is working at the clinic, she discovers that she is pregnant again by the man she has just divorced. Wanting nothing to do with him, she also doesn't want a reminder of him and so purchases a home chemical abortion from the clinic. She is assured that it will produce a "gentle emptying of her uterus with a little bleeding, no more than a heavy period". What she experiences instead is an excruciating and bloody 22 hours in her bathroom where she eventually falls asleep on the bathroom floor, sure she will be found dead the next day. When she finally wakes up, she calls her co-worker at the clinic and is told that her experience is "normal". She had been lied to.

Over the week that followed, her anger toward Planned Parenthood is replaced by self-loathing. Deep down, she knows that she has taken the life of her own child ... but "not really". "It wasn't viable." "It couldn't feel pain." "It was just a mass of tissue." Then why did she feel so ... guilty?

*Continued on the last page)*



# Women's Ministry

Open to ALL women who attend Faith Lutheran Church!

- Moved to buy a new printer for Pastor's Office
- Support for Isaac has been cleared by the Sem
- Moved to purchase an extra canopy for events
- Next meeting – September 16

Sunday Evening Services at 6:00 PM



IF YOU SHOP ON AMAZON, BY LOGGING INTO SMILE.AMAZON.COM 0.5% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE CAN BE DIRECTED TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, OVERGAARD. ONCE ON SIMPLY CLICK "CHANGE CHARITY" BUTTON THEN SEARCH FOR "FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH OVERGAARD"

### Birthdays

Sept 6	Bill Pebler
Sept 7	Patty Wirtz
Sept 18	Wayne Minde
Sept 28	Joyce Gill

### Anniversaries

None



### CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE



- Congregational giving has increased (Thank you!)
- Women's Bible Study has started
- Associate Membership and relevant Synodical rules were discussed

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



Sep 03 – Church Cleaning 9:00am  
Sep 07 – Silent Auction 10:00am to 1:00pm  
Sep 09 – Pastor in Phoenix  
Sept 16 – Elders Meeting 9:00am  
Sept 16 – Women’s Ministry at 1:30pm  
Sept 19 – Elders Study 8:00am  
Sept 22 - Potluck



Practice Mondays - 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*

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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**

## BIBLE STUDY

**Sundays – 9 am**

**James**

**Mondays – 2pm**

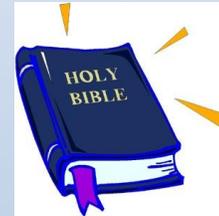
**Adult Confirmation**

**Wednesdays – 4:30pm**

**Youth Confirmation**

**Thursdays - 9 am**

**Judges**



## 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's Corner: continued from page 1)*

In time, Abby is promoted out of the parking lot to a desk ... where she counsels women about family planning and choosing the right time for pregnancy, but also with the same lies about abortion that she herself was told. She absolutely believes she is helping these women. So do the rest of the women who work there. One of them says that she fully believes she is doing God's work at the clinic.

Abby does so well as a counselor and is so committed to the "company line" that when the Director is promoted, she lobbies to have Abby promoted as her successor. Abby receives the promotion, and over time is honored nationally as a Director for Planned Parenthood.

At one point when National encourages goals of doubling the amount of abortions in order to grow the company, Abby challenges the idea as counter to the stated goal of reducing abortion overall. It is at this point that Abby is taken aside and enlightened in no uncertain terms that abortion is indeed the bread and butter of Planned Parenthood. It is what pays the bills. Planned Parenthood's business is providing abortion.

Not long after Abby is called back to the procedure room to hold the Ultrasound probe for a Doctor who uses Ultrasound to visually guide him in suction abortion. For the first time Abby sees what really happens in a suction abortion. Worse, she sees the live baby's reaction to the procedure ... just as the doctor nonchalantly comments, "Beam me up Scotty." ... She is devastated.

What follows is the full weight of her guilt. She has been a part of this for eight years. She has had a part in 22,000 abortions over that time ... plus two of her own! She has lied to clients, just to keep them ...

keep them INSIDE the fence. Like the fence of a death camp from which 22,000 did not escape. And she too had been a prisoner. Like the fence outsider her clinic, even more now she felt imprisoned by her own guilt and shame. How could she ever be forgiven for what she had done?! How could she forgive herself? ...How could God ever forgive her?

She turns to Shawn and Marisela, who she has come to trust, even if she has always disagreed with them. They have an answer for her. "God loves you. He WILL forgive you if you ask Him."

"I am sorry. I am SO SORRY!" she sobs.

Later in the story, as she discovers Shawn and Marisela's words to be true, ALL of them, she tells us, "God IS merciful. He has heard my cries and He HAS forgiven me."

God, in fact, wants everyone to receive His forgiveness. At the cross, Jesus has paid for the sins of ALL people. There isn't a sin that He hasn't paid for. Whatever it is that you or I have done wrong, no matter how horrible or despicable, no matter how hurtful or hateful, Jesus paid for it. God IS merciful. Are you sorry for your hurt? Let Jesus take it from you. Give him your hurt and let Him give you His forgiveness and a new life. He has the keys to the deathcamp of your sin. Let Him escort you OUT from behind your wrought iron fence.

*"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." (Isaiah 61:1)*