

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 12 December, 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**



## "FOR US FIGHTS THE VALIANT ONE"

On March 4, 2002, Airforce Combat Controller John Chapman and five Navy SEALs exited their helicopter in the midst of a heavily fortified Al Qaeda strong hold in Afghanistan on a desperate mission to rescue a lost teammate. They were almost immediately pinned down and surrounded by three machine gun bunkers in elevated positions on the mountain above them. Technical Sargent Chapman, on point, continued to storm up the hill directly into the fire of one of the machine guns. Despite being hit several times, he reached the bunker and fired into it through the portal. He then climbed in and engaged in a fire fight and hand to hand combat, killing both of the enemy inside. An officer who saw this unfold from a helicopter above described it as "a firefight in a phone booth".

Now wounded, he climbed out of the bunker, taking partial cover behind a tree, and began firing at the next bunker 10 meters distant in order to draw fire away from the men pinned down below. The machine gun returned fire and Chapman was knocked backward off his feet. When he landed he was motionless. No call out.

The SEALs below had called for reinforcements. When they saw Chapman go down and not move they ultimately concluded he was dead and pulled off the ridge to await reinforcements. But Chapman must have lost consciousness, because, after a few minutes, he awoke, got up and continued fighting on his own for his life at point blank range for an hour and ten minutes. Finally, at the sound of the

returning airship, Chapman saw the men and the helicopter come under fire from a combatant closer to them. They saw Chapman rise to his feet, turn his back on the bunker behind him to provide covering fire and engage the attacker below. He was cut down from behind by the other machine gun. In all, he was shot nine times, including the two in the back which finally brought him down. He sacrificed his life to save the lives of his team of SEALs and the reinforcements and crew who returned. Twenty-two in all.

On August 22, 2018 (16 years later) the president of the United State presented the Medal of Honor to his widow.

Generally speaking, sacrificing one's life for another is not something most people would be inclined to do. St. Paul addressed this in his letter to the church in Rome when he wrote, "*one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—*"

Yet every single man and woman in our Armed Forces has sworn an oath to that very commitment. Every single man and woman in our Armed Forces, Law Enforcement, and Fire and Rescue stand guard over you and me; to stand between us and threat; to run toward danger instead away from it; to put your life and my life before their very own. And this not just for their close and most beloved friends and family, but also for complete strangers. Not just for those that admire or like them, but even for those who express discontent and even hatred for them.

*Continued on the last page)*

LCMS English District AZ South Circuit presents:

# Life Matters



## January 18th—Save the Date—YOU are invited!

A convocation discussing a distinctly Lutheran approach to life issues from conception to God's appointed time for death.

### Life Matters in the Beginning, Life Matters at the End, and Life Matters in the Public Square

January 18, 2020, from 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. (Refreshments at 7:30 a.m.)  
Lunch included. Free child care after worship from 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Faith Lutheran Church, 3925 E. Fifth St., Tucson, AZ

No cost, however diapers will be collected for babies *and* for adults. Thank you!

RSVP to Roni Grad, rgrad@catalinalutheran.org

Also During  
Life Week 2020:

**January 11th**  
Tucson March for Life

**January 17th**  
Panel Discussion w/ Speakers  
for Hold Fast Fellowship  
(U of A) All are invited!  
Dinner 6 pm, Discussion 7 pm

### Guest Speakers:



Rev. Max Phillips  
Lutheran Family Services of Iowa  
& Perry Lutheran Homes



Rev. James Lamb  
Lutheran Family Services of Iowa  
Former Executive Director,  
Lutherans for Life



Kim Laube  
Lutheran Family Services of Iowa



Melissa Gannon  
Perry Lutheran Homes



### Birthdays

**Dec 3 Karen Cassels**

**Dec 6 Bobbi Zeller**

**Dec 26 Bill Cassels**

**Dec 27 Betty Raveling**

**Dec 29 Bobbi Riege**

### Anniversaries

**Dec 18 Tom & Lori Mills**

### CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE



- Treasurer reports we are currently operating in the black
- Pastor shared plans to rearrange the Sanctuary layout beginning in Advent
- Council voted to mark the HOCC ballot for President as Brandon Mardenell



## Women's Ministry

**Open to ALL women who attend  
Faith Lutheran Church!**

- Church Decorating and Christmas Party were planned
- Voted to send Seminary Students Walmart Gift Cards
- Voted to send gift card to Isaac and family
- Next meeting January 20, 2020

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



Dec 16 – Elders Meeting 9:00am

Dec 22 – Potluck after Morning Service

Dec 24 – 6pm Christmas Eve Service

Dec 25 – 9am Christmas Day Service

Choir Practice Wednesdays - 4:00 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**

**Tuesdays – 5:00 pm:**

**Youth Confirmation**

**Thursdays - 9 am: Ruth**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Bible Lesson  
for Kids**



**Sundays – 9 am**

**Sermons can be listened to on the website.**

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(Pastor's Corner: continued from page 1)

People willing to make this kind of sacrifice deserve nothing less than our highest respect and deepest appreciation. Those who have died throwing their bodies between death and us ... deserve no less than the highest of honor. No greater sacrifice can be made. Jesus, himself said, "*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*" (John 15:13)

However great, however noble, however painful these heroes' sacrifices were to save you and me from death, though, in the end they couldn't keep it from us. We all *will* die. Our heroes have had the bravest and noblest hearts of any of us, yet even they could not protect us forever. Make no mistake; against Death we are vastly outgunned and outnumbered. By almost all reports, Death has NEVER lost a battle and, in all probability, will certainly win the war. In that context we could despair of any hope or deliverance from so great and so powerful an enemy.

Could it be that there exists a greater hero than all of our greatest combined? Could it be that there is a hero powerful enough to fight even Death itself on our behalf? And if such a hero *did* exist, why would he even care about you or me ... especially if it became know how often we have despised him and slandered his name? Would such a hero be willing to risk, even lay down his very life for such ungrateful and selfish lot as you and me?

Such a hero, such a champion, would have to be no less than God himself to be able to stand against Death. The infinitely powerful God might be willing to stand against Death for us ... but would He be willing to allow Death to kill Him for our sake?

Indeed, as much as we have despised God with all of our rebellion against His rule in our lives, He does *not* want to punish us, but rather forgive us and bring us into life FOREVER with Him. But forgiveness isn't enough. Death still must be paid. You see, Death was not God's creation, but ours. We created Death by our sin. "*The wages of sin is death.*" (Romans 6:23) and the debt to Death *must* be paid. Would the Almighty and Eternal God be willing to pay a price so high, His own life, for you, for me? We are nothing next to Him. We are less than nothing because of our disdain for Him.

But these *are* Jesus' words, "*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You*

*ARE my friends if you do what I command you.*" (John 15:13-14)

and,

*"I lay down my life for the sheep. ...No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord."* (John 10:15, 18)

Then there *is* hope for you and me. There *is* a champion stronger than our mortal enemy; a champion even willing to sacrifice Himself to Death in order that we be forever rescued from it; a champion of noble and brave heart; a heart overflowing with love for all those like us who would call Him stranger. St. Paul put it well, "*For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*" (Romans 5:6-8)

Our champion has put Himself between Death and us, and allowed Death to strike Him down rather than us. But, contrary to almost all reports you may have heard there is one very important battle that Death has lost. Even more than fight on our behalf; even die for us, Jesus has won the victory for us. Death could not keep Him. Similar to Sargent Chapman, Jesus got up again, but *He* will never die again. For Jesus has won the victory forever ... for you and for me.

*With might of ours can naught be done,  
Soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the valiant One,  
Whom God himself elected.  
Ask ye, Who is this?  
Jesus Christ it is,  
Of sabaoth Lord,  
And there's none other God;  
He holds the field forever.*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

*You can read more about John Chapman and Special Operations in the book Alone at Dawn.*