

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 01 January, 2020 928-535-9575 2750 Mogollon Drive, Overgaard, AZ 85933

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

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES – 10:30 am Solid Bible-Based Preaching & Teaching



### "IMMEASURABLE VALUE"

Merry  
Christmas and  
Happy New  
Year! In

December we celebrated  
Christmas with all its

traditions and the story of the Nativity of Christ; a precious little baby in a manger; Emmanuel (God with Us). On the first of January we ushered in the new year, 2020, with all the appropriate pomp, parades, and football games. All during January there are many scheduled events around our country. We have also entered a special year in politics, and as such there is no shortage of political hopefuls with much to say.

I don't know if the political hopefuls really believe what they say, or if they're just saying it to win the coveted prize, fame, and power. What I do know is that St. Paul warned us about this situation 2000 years ago when he wrote advise to a young pastor Timothy that, "*the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*" (1 Timothy 4:3-4) While Paul was speaking to theological truth, his statement has present-day application also in our secular and even political realms.

One candidate, during the last debate, said in reference to LGBTQ issues, "We should value *all* people's lives equally." The candidate was absolutely sincere ... yet ... the same

candidate's official position is that all people *in the womb* have no intrinsic value at all ("unless, of course, you *want* the person in the womb"). His official position on both groups of people reflects what he believes the majority of those of his party passionately believe.

The problem is that his position (reflecting the position of many voters) is logically untenable. "All people" means ALL people. "All cannot, by definition, EXCLUDE ANYONE. One cannot hold the inclusion of "All" and the exclusion of "some" at the same time. To hold those two positions at the same time would actually withdraw the action ("value" in this case) from EVERYONE. If "some" of "all" who are to be valued are excluded, then "all" the rest of "all" are exposed to "devaluing" as well. The one who says or believes such a thing is lying. ... (Oh, that's right! Politicians lie.) ... The sad thing is that they lie with lies *we* want to hear.

We want to hear that our feelings and convenience are of greater value than the life of a beautiful, defenseless little child in the womb. We want to hear that "*I* am more valuable than someone else, especially a little child in me that I don't want." We want to hear that "*it's MY* body and nobody else's business."

But those things that *we* want to hear are all lies. None of us are of greater value than any of the others of us. We are ALL of *immeasurable* value.

*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

Jan 1	Celeste Boeck
Jan 7	Linda Minde
Jan 8	Amelia Strong
Jan 19	Kristy Preecs

### Anniversaries

None

### CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE



- There was no meeting in December
- Next Council meeting January 28
- Tom is recruiting for three people to serve on the nominations committee. If interested, please see him or Pastor Wirtz



## Women's Ministry

Open to ALL women who attend  
Faith Lutheran Church!

- There was no meeting in December
- Next meeting January 20, 2020

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



- Jan 10 – **Women's Bible Study**
- Jan 17 – **Women's Bible Study**
- Jan 20 – Elders Meeting 9:00am  
- Women's Ministry 1:30pm
- Jan 24 – **Women's Bible Study**
- Jan 26 – Potluck after Morning Service
- Jan 28 – Council Meeting
- Jan 31 – **Women's Bible Study**

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.

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

(Pastor's Corner: continued from page 1)

The baby inside the womb is NOT the body of the woman who carries it. It is a completely different person of equal value as the mother who carries it. *Immeasurable value!* No person has the "right" to take the life of another person, simply because the first person finds the second inconvenient. If that were the case many fathers could choose to "terminate" their newborn the first time a diaper change got in the way of the game on TV -or- adult children could snuff out their parents who can no longer take care of themselves. Horrifically, the latter is already coming into vogue in some of our states with "assisted suicide laws." Euthanasia (Greek for "good death") is not far behind! And all of that should be *everybody's* business.

The real truth is that *all* people ARE of IMMESURABLE VALUE ... to God. Everything in the universe can ultimately be measured; no matter how vast or how infinite. All matter, time, and space can be measured against a ruler of some sort. All creation is somehow humanly measurable.

But the Creator; who can measure Him? How can time measure the One who created time; the One before, after, and *outside* of time? What matter can be used to measure the One who created matter? What measure of the breadth of all space can measure the One who created the space? And what measure can be used for the life of the One who created life itself?

That God loves ALL people is evident in the His very words to us. Jesus told Nicodemus, "*For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16) ... which means that God wants *all people* to live ... with eternal life.

He says as much when St. Peter writes, "*The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*" (2 Peter 3:9)

This means that God himself brings people to repentance (turning away) from their sin, that He should forgive them and rescue them from perishing in their sin.

Finally, your (and ALL people's) immeasurable value is revealed from God's Word to us in this statement from St. Paul, "*God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*" This means that no matter who you are God loves you. No matter what depth of evil you have committed (even killing your own child), God loves you. He loves you *so much* that He *died* to forgive you ... even while you were still his enemy ... even while you still hated Him ... *even while you were still in the womb.*

The life of God Himself is IMMESURABLE. Yet he gave it freely to ransom you from death that you might have eternal life. That means that YOUR life is of immeasurable value to the One who, even now, loves you with immeasurable love, and who has loved you and valued your life even from the time He "*knit [you] together in [your] mother's womb.*" (Psalm 139:13)

*That* is the real meaning of Christmas; that that little baby in the manger 2000 years ago was God Himself who valued us so much that He entered our broken and dark world for the very purpose of ransoming us back from death with His very own life.

This January, there are events and 40 marches scheduled around the country to proclaim the truth of the immeasurable value of ALL lives; the largest (around 500,000) in Washington DC on January 24. Locally, there will be a march and rally in Phoenix on January 18. If you would like to add your voice to the millions of voices speaking for those millions and millions who have no voice, consider attending one of these events.

For more information visit the website [marchforlife.org](http://marchforlife.org).