

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 05 May 2020 928-535-9575 2750 Mogollon Drive, Overgaard, AZ 85933

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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES – 8:00 am & 10:30 am**

## A CHICKEN OF VERY LITTLE BRAIN



We now have seven chickens (and three chicks). While we are waiting to see what the three chicks will be, the others all have been given names by my wife. Since I was told when I bought the last four that they would all to grow up to be hens, she gave them all female names when we first brought them home. Three of them, Betty the smallest as a chick, Bertha the largest as a chick and Edna all turned out to be roosters when they grew up (a sad reality that close by neighbors are now aware of at dawn every morning)! Doris DID turn out to be a hen, and a good layer at that. The other three hens are appropriately named Lois, Blanche, and Gladys.

We used to have more. There were Wilma, Lucile, Maxine, and Beverly (who succumbed to old age) and three “runners” (or better, “flyers”), Eunice, Hortense, and Madge, who liked to spread their wings and fly out of the protective fenced-in corral into our back yard where the dog would torpedo them and eat them. BAD DOG! STUPID CHICKEN!

And that is a fact. Chickens are birds of very little brain.

There is smart (as chickens go), and I would count Blanche and Gladys in that category. With a ratio of four hens to three young, virile and HUGE roosters (Brahmas, the largest of chickens), Blanche and Gladys stay in the henhouse to stay out of the sights of the roosters (who outweigh them three to one). Less intelligent, Doris and Lois leave the henhouse to “free range” outnumbered in the corral with the woefully misnamed and behemoth Betty, Bertha, and Edna. It’s not a pretty sight when one of the goliath roosters simply walks up along-side of either Doris or Lois and stomps a sinewed, taloned foot (bigger than my hand) on their head, pinning it thus to the ground until the rooster is satisfied that he has properly expressed his “affection”. For some reason,

Doris puts up with it as an unpleasant distraction from scratching for bugs, seeds, and the like ... perhaps because she was part of the same brood as the roosters.

But Lois ... Lois (who is from a different brood) finds the constant bullying and abuse so distasteful that she longs for escape. Over the fence (not toward the dog but into the neighbor’s yard) she imagines much greener and more peaceful pastures. She is light enough, and her wings are strong enough, that she can, with a running start, just clear the altitude of the four-foot barrier that the fence presents.

So, time and again, Lois, the chicken of very little brain, “flies away” to that “greener pasture” next door ... only to find that while it looks so desirable from “her side” of the fence, it is, in fact, a place with very little prospect for anything resembling “chicken food” and worse, completely void of any form of water. This yard, also, is completely encircled by a fence of equal altitude. There is no way out. She has landed in a prison that is a wasteland to her. No food. No water. No shelter from the storm or from predators of the night. No companionship of her “family”.

Within a day, hunger and thirst drive her to return to her real home, and if she accidentally stumbles upon the right bit of slope upon lift off, she sometimes makes it back into the yard. But if she can’t figure that out pretty quickly (and remember, she is a bird of very little brain), time will deplete her energy reserves and she won’t be able to reach the altitude necessary for the return flight. Now she is trapped in this wasteland where she can see her brothers and sisters, so close, having their fill of food and water ... while she knows only ever-growing hunger and thirst.

She will die of thirst here, in full sight of water, if she isn’t eaten by a racoon, hawk, or owl first. She will die here because her miniscule brain convinced her that the “grass was greener on the other side.” She will die here because she “followed her heart and her desire” instead of respecting the boundary that exists for her own good. She will die here ... unless someone rescues her and returns her to her home and to safety.

*Continued on the last page)*

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



May 5 – Church Cleaning 9:00am  
May 18 – Elders Meeting 9:00am  
- Women's Ministry 1:30pm  
May 26 – Council Meeting

**Rummage Sale postponed  
until September 11 and 12**



## Women's Ministry

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

- Officers were elected for 2020-2022
- No VBS this year
- Rummage Sale was postponed
- No Chinese Auction this year
- Next meeting May 18



## Birthdays

May 1 Don Grotberg  
May 5 Jenny Grotberg

### Anniversaries

May 27 Mike & Joyce Gill  
May 27 Bill & Helen Pebler  
May 29 Pastor & Patty Wirtz



## CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

- The Treasurer reported we are only \$500 in the red (better than usual for this time of year).
- Votes counted with following results
  - President – Tom Mills
  - V President – Don Grotberg
  - Secretary – Kris Gram
  - Treasurer – Bobbi Zeller
  - Fin Secretary– Mary Robles
  - New Elder – Jerry Rose
- Next meeting May 26.

**Isaac Wirtz Called  
as Pastor to  
Mount Olive  
Lutheran Church  
Tucson, Arizona!**

### ***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**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**Bible Lesson  
for Kids**



**Sundays - 9 am**

**Sundays - 9 am: 1 Peter**

**Mondays - 10:00 am:  
Youth Confirmation**

**Thursdays - 9 am: 1 Samuel**

***Services can be viewed and  
listened to  
on the website.***

***(They usually post by 6pm Sunday)***

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

As I consider chickens as birds of very little brain, I wonder what God must think of us. As I consider Lois and her constant flying into certain death and danger, all because she hasn't got the brain power to see beyond her immediate desire to the terrible consequences that lay beyond, I wonder what God must think of us when we rush blindly into the immediate gratification of our "hearts' desires", even when He has warned us specifically and pointedly how certain self-indulgences will ultimately turn out bad for us. He gave us the most wonderfully developed and unique brains on the planet to think these things through and see the reality instead of the mirage, but we so often surrender to our base desires and emotions rather than use the wonderful brains He gave us and listen to His counsel.

In His counsel, He has given us His Law and His Gospel. In one way, the Law of God is like the fence around our corral. It is there to PROTECT the residents of the corral from the danger outside. While we stay within the boundaries of God's Law, we are protected from what happens when we break those boundaries.

Jesus sums up the entirety of God's Law this way, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.*" This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "*Love your neighbor as yourself.*" All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:37-40)

This "first commandment" is all about loving God more than anything else. If we love God (who is Life) above all other things, there won't be any deadly and deceptive thing pulling us into a desert of certain death (both temporal and eternal).

The "second commandment" is all about loving our neighbor as ourselves. If we put our neighbor and his or her interests even before our own, we would never take advantage of another person or their possessions to serve our own passions and desires. In that case we would never hurt another person, nor

would they have any reason to hurt us ... especially if they listened to the same counsel ... respected the same "boundaries".

But we do not. It appears that while we are people of exceedingly *big* brains, we would rather think with our selfish feelings than with our brains. What must God think of us?!

Well, that is where the other part of His counsel comes in; His Gospel ("Good News"). It turns out that God thinks that we have all landed on the wrong side of the fence (His Law) and will certainly perish if he doesn't do something about it. Here is where *God's* "brain" and feelings agree and work together (where ours do not). God's thoughts and heart are united in His love for us. He is like, in fact, He *IS* the Good Shepherd – willing to lay down even His own life to protect and rescue us. God has shown us what His Law really means; to love someone so much that you put his or her needs before your own. Jesus did just that. He did everything necessary to rescue us from our own rebellion, short-sightedness, and its consequence of certain and eternal death. He laid His life down so that He should restore our own that we have squandered in selfishness and disobedience. And then, having conquered even death itself, He returned. He rose from the dead, and LIFE swallowed up death forever. It was no small thing that He did for you and me. It is no small love that He has for you and me.

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*"I am the Shepherd, the good one. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."* (John 10:11)

*Epilogue:* Regarding Lois, the chicken of very little brain, I am certainly NOT willing to lay my life down for hers. I'll be honest; I simply don't love her that much. But I did hop the fence, chase her down, and throw her back over to the right side ... and then I clipped her wings!