

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 10 - October, 2020 928-535-9575 2750 Mogollon Drive, Overgaard, AZ 85933

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

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES — 9:30 am**

## RUINED AND RESTORED



My father was a gunsmith. I remember, early in his career, when he got his hands on an old Mauser 22/250. It was dead-on EVERY time up to 1000 yards! BUT ... he thought it was ugly. So he took it apart, cleaned, lubricated, and reworked the action. It DID result in a lighter and smoother touch, AND it still was dead-on accurate ... near PERFECT. However, there was still the “less than desirable” presentation. The stock was old, chipped and spotty in its stain. Some of the finish was cracked and falling off. So he decided to fabricate a new stock out of piece of beautifully grained maple that he had. I watched for weeks as he milled out the saddle for the barrel, then penciled in the stock shape, carved and formed the it with chisels and sandpaper. Starting with the coarsest grit down to the finest grit available, he kept working on the finish until he was using wet paper towel and then finally the rough skin of his own hands to bring the surface to a glass-like finish that not only showed off the beautiful grain but also reflected your face as you admired it. The stock itself was heavier than the first with a powerful, more robust shape that seemed to form right into your shoulder and against your forearm as if it was an extension of yourself.

When he put the rifle back together with the new stock, it was a sight to behold. It was beautiful. It was an absolute work of art ... and it absolutely could no longer shoot straight! Every

shot landed in a different place than the previous ... no matter how careful the sighting.

I watched for days as my exasperated father took it apart, inspected every part, made fine adjustments, reassembled it, and sighted it in again ... every time with the same disastrous results. All that work. All that time ... at the hands of a “master artisan” ... and “perfection” had been ruined. Ruined, because the only change that can be made to “perfection” is to make it worse.

One night, fueled by his exasperation and somewhat more than a few shots of Jack Daniels, my Father officially scrapped his whole creative project by taking a hack saw to the barrel and removing 10 inches. The next day, not unexpectedly, the sighting had not improved. So he disassembled the rifle one more time and did a fine inspection of the stock. There, in the barrel saddle, he discovered a small bur that he had missed when he was spending so much time on the outward appearance and finish of the stock. It was just enough of a bur to make the barrel rock back and forth by a micron or two between each shot ... just enough to make it impossible to produce a consistent grouping on any target.

He carefully removed the bur and reassembled the rifle one last time. Upon sighting in the rifle this time, the groupings were much improved. But because he had removed 10 inches of the barrel (and thus, 10 inches of rifling), the long-range accuracy was drastically reduced. Perfection was now merely “very accurate”. The rifle no longer functioned the way it was originally designed and created to function. My father had ruined perfection.

*(continued on page 4)*

## MONTHLY MEETINGS & EVENTS



Oct 06 – Church Cleaning 9:00am

Oct 14 – Pastor in Phoenix

Oct 19 – Elders Meeting 9:00am  
- Women's Ministry 1:00pm

Oct 27 – Council Meeting



Choir Meets Mondays at 4:00pm

*Pot Lucks suspended  
during COVID restrictions*



## Women's Ministry

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

Prayer List was updated  
Checks sent to Seminarians  
Will need volunteer staff for VBS 2021  
Christmas Decorations go up Nov 24  
after Council meeting

## 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**



## CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE

- No meeting last month



### Birthdays

October 7	Steve Murray
October 13	Bobbi Goode
October 17	Jan McClurg
October 21	Amber Strong
October 25	Marilyn Young
October 30	Mary Unger

### Anniversaries

None

## Bible Studies & Sunday Services

### Bible Studies

Sundays – 8:00 am: 3 John  
– 10:45 am: Youth Confirmation

Mondays – 3:00 pm Adult Confirmation

Thursdays – 9:30 am: 2 Samuel

### Sunday Services

9:30 am

Sunday Services can be listened to on the website

[www.faithlutheran.org/worship](http://www.faithlutheran.org/worship)

(audio usually posts by 1:00pm Sunday)

**RUINED and RESTORED** (Continued from page 1)

“Ruining perfection” is the fundamental principle that lays bare the reason for ALL suffering. YOU (and I, and ALL people) exist in a creation and reality that does NOT function the way God created it to function. It is broken. God created the entire universe in perfection, where everything functioned smoothly and perfectly, but the first two people which God made (also perfect) defied God and His authority ... and BROKE the entirety of Time, Space, and Matter. God had given a simple rule ... only ONE rule; One law ... and Eve was deceived into breaking it while Adam made no attempt to warn or stop her. Both Adam and Eve rejected God’s design and authority in one singular moment of trying place themselves outside and even above His authority. In that one reckless and ill-conceived act where they attempted to “redesign” creation to fit their own “improved” version, they destroyed perfection.

It’s not hard to imagine ... especially now; AFTER that terrible consequential day. Today, we humans, are rarely satisfied with what we’re given. Often, we think we can “improve” on something we have. Gearheads are always trying to squeeze out a few more horses from under the hood. Musicians are always reworking old standards to put their own unique “twist” on a song. Chefs are always experimenting with new combinations of flavors. All that is not necessarily bad, in and of itself, EXCEPT when trying to improve on “perfection”. Then the results are often disastrous (like with my father).

And so, especially with God’s perfect design, we are still trying to “improve” on it ... and that ALWAYS with disastrous results. We try to improve on marital relationships by “redesigning” marriage in any number of disastrous ways ... even by pretending to live as if we are married even though we aren’t. We reject the “authorities” God has placed over us with our own design of personal freedom and unaccountability. We don’t appreciate the gifts WE have been given, and so covet and steal what God has given to others instead. We exchange the truth of Word of God for lies and fabrications of our own imaginations. We don’t look at our neighbor with love and respect, but rather seek ways raise ourselves above and make ourselves “better” than our neighbor. And so we suffer. We reap division and enmity. We swallow every ridiculously absurd idea that leads only to calamity. We are unfulfilled, no matter

how much we acquire. We run afoul of authority and lose our freedom. We destroy our families and our children as we trade all the blessing of a loving and committed marriage for selfish carnal pleasure and mutual abuse.

All this suffering, the result of our “tinkering” with God’s perfection. All this suffering, the result of sin; our sin and the sinful “brokenness” of all of creation since that very first disastrous “tinkering”.

My father was able to redeem himself ... partially. He was able to bring back beautiful accuracy of that Mauser ... partially. But he was never able to restore it completely ... to perfection.

What about us? Can we “redeem” ourselves? Can **we** restore the perfection we have ruined? Sadly, no. It is impossible for us. It is beyond our ability. But that does not leave us without hope. Because the One who designed the blueprint for ALL of creation and manufactured it to PERFECTION is still in business. But it will not be cheap to fix. It WAS not cheap to fix. WE are the most important thing that He wants to restore. In order to restore us, He has to completely re-create us ... not just re-work (like my father did with his rifle), but completely melt us down and reshape us anew. And the cost for that “retooling” is HUGE ... more than you nor I could possibly count or imagine. But you (and I) are that valuable to Him. You are that loved by Him. So much that He paid for your redemption and rebirth into perfection with every last drop of blood and every last breath of His life. With that purchase price He has offered me and you restoration not only to perfection, but to His very family and kingdom, even as that ultimately guarantees the end of all of our suffering. And best of all, to you and me, it is free; a gift of priceless worth.

*“...after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.” (1 Peter 5:10)*

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” (Galatians 3:13)*