

FOCUS ON FAITH

JUNE 2019



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Pastor Thomas Johnson

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"Yet you say, 'why shouldn't the son suffer for the iniquity of the father?' When the son has done what is just and right, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live. The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself." (Ezekiel 18:19-20)

With Father's Day approaching it is good to reflect on the lives of some of the fathers found in the Bible, especially the ones who had sons who were, shall we say, 'black sheep.' Recently I read about the sons of Samuel, Joel and Abijah who were appointed by him to be judges in Israel. What was the problem with these two sons of Samuel? They did not walk in the ways of their 'father' and thus did not walk in God's ways. **"They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice."** Even the elders in Israel knew Samuel's sons were unfit for leadership. They came to him asking for a king to rule over them in place of his sons. Samuel was displeased by this request and prayed to God. God told Samuel not to take it personally because, in effect, they had rejected Him as their king.

Another father with black sheep in the family was Eli the priest. His two sons Hophni and Phineas slept with the women who served at the Tent of Meeting following the practice of the priests who belonged to the fertility cults. Also, when people brought a lamb or goat or bull for sacrifice, Eli's sons demanded that their portion, their own provision, be given to them up front. They wanted the meat with the fat still on it rather than burning the fat portion first as an offering to God. This greatly displeased the Lord. He struck both sons of Eli dead on the same day.

And what of Absalom who plotted and schemed against his father, King David? In order to win over the king's subjects Absalom would rise early and stand at the city gate. He would hear the complaints of the people and say to them, **"your claims are good and right."** Then he would put forward himself as the one who should be judge in Israel. He **"stole the hearts of people"** away from his father. He undermined his father's authority and prestige in Israel. This rebellion would lead to Absalom's demise but not before he managed to drive his father David from the city of Jerusalem. He then slept with ten of King David's concubines **"in broad daylight."** He was advised to do this to strengthen his followers in their attempted coup. In the end, Absalom lost his life while in pursuit of his father. He got his head caught in the thick branches of an oak tree. He was suspended between heaven and hell when Joab the commander of David's army (one tough hombre) thrust three spears into Absalom's heart.

There are many examples in the Bible of disrespect shown by children to their fathers (and mothers). Jacob's sons actually lied to their father about the death of their brother Joseph. He did not die but was sold into slavery in Egypt. It broke Jacob's heart when he heard this false report. Lot's daughters dishonored their father when they uncovered his nakedness. They got him drunk on wine and then committed incest with him.

So why recall these events? My point is that even though fathers (and mothers) are not perfect, they deserve to be respected by their children. And when children are

disobedient, and do not walk by faith, living according to God's commands, they will suffer for their own sin. The soul that sins will die. Fathers are not punished for the sins of their children, nor children for the sins of their fathers. Furthermore, we do not get into heaven because of the faith that others possess. In Ephesians 6 it says, "**Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right... Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**" Fathers (and mothers) have a responsibility to raise their children up in Christ and in His teachings. We need to do all we can to ensure that this takes place. As time goes on however, ultimately, personal accountability to God is the standard for every individual. There is no escaping this. It is God's justice.

None of us need to repent for sins that others have committed. We have enough of our own to repent of. We should not feel guilty when bad things happen in this sinful world. It is, after all, a sinful world. Sometimes we are made to feel guilty for sins committed by those who have gone before us and may even be encouraged to make reparations. Some want us to feel guilty today for the slave trade that took place 150 years ago or for segregation in the south in the 1950's and 60's. Some of the Jewish people may want us to feel guilty for the holocaust that took place during WW II. Yes, we need to study history and learn some valuable lessons from what took place, but we should not feel guilty for sins committed by previous generations, again we have enough of our own to confess.

We, as a nation, were not responsible for being attacked on September 11th. Some would actually have us believe this, that it was our own fault. Evil is the responsibility of the ones who commit the evil. The terrorists of 911 are accountable to God for what they did. To blame the U.S. or our government's policies or capitalism or something else is a failure to identify who is in the wrong, the one who is actually responsible for this evil. This blame game has been going on for a very long time and the devil is the one behind it. Terrorists who blow themselves up to kill others don't have the opportunity to repent of their sins. Their suffering is likely eternal.

Fathers should not feel guilty or feel like they have failed if their children stray, provided they were taught the faith. It happens! Hopefully the children will repent of their sins and be led back to the Lord. Isn't this what happened with the Prodigal Son? No, we can't live someone else's life for them. Sometimes it works just the opposite, where the father runs away from the responsibility owed to the child. If both the father and the child transgress, if unbelief is passed on from one generation to another, they both will be held accountable. But it certainly does not have to be this way.

There is only one person who ever lived who was punished by God for the sins of others, and that person was Jesus Christ. It was all part of His plan to redeem fallen man of every generation. Do you remember what the penitent thief said while hanging on the cross? "**We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.**" The penitent thief took personal responsibility for his life of sin. Jesus suffered the punishment of a common thief even though he had done nothing wrong. Jesus was "**wounded for our transgressions; crushed for our iniquities.**" In truth, Jesus was the only one treated unfairly by our Father in heaven and this for the sake of the world's redemption. The influence of earthly fathers upon their children is great, be it for good or bad. But in the end, we all must stand before the judgment seat of Christ for what we have done (individually) while in the body.

Pastor Johnson

Faith Lutheran School News

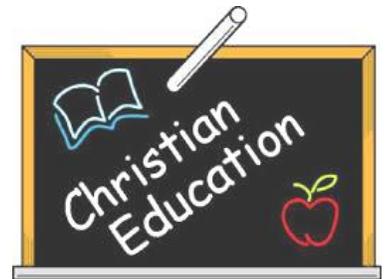


Kindergarten Teacher: Karen Holt
1st Grade Co-Teachers: Deb Doesken
Peggy Johnston
2nd/3rd Grade Teacher: Saundra Highsmith
4th/5th Grade/Lead Teacher: Cheryl Voss
School Office Administrator: Becky Pankratz

Preschool Co-Directors: Karen Holt
Miranda Ray
Preschool Teachers: Brenda Anderson
Miranda Ray
Ginny Zerger
Preschool Clerk: Cheryl Judd

PRESCHOOL SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

Tuesdays & Thursdays during June & July
Contact Becky at 788-1715 ext 103 for more information.



REGISTRATION FOR 2019-2020 AT FAITH LUTHERAN SCHOOL **FLS K-5 – OPEN REGISTRATION**



Preschoolers must be at least three years old by September 1, 2019.
Kindergarten students must be five years old by August 31, 2019.
Please contact the school for registration forms and information:
788-1715, ext. 103 or office@flsderby.com (school office)
788-1715, ext. 115 or psoffice@flsderby.com (preschool office)

SCHOOL TOURS are offered by appointment. Please call Becky at 788-1715, ext 103. Thank you!

For more information, please check flsderby.com.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO CLIP and turn in your **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** labels to Faith Lutheran School - a collection canister is on the mailbox table. At 10¢ each, these labels really add up! THANK YOU for taking the time to help our school in this way! *[Please note: Campbell's Soup Company has discontinued their Labels for Education promotion.]*



DILLON'S SHOPPER'S CARD: Please take a few minutes to enroll now at Dillon.com/CommunityRewards! You'll earn donations for Faith Lutheran School every time you shop and use your Card. If you haven't enrolled yet and need help, call Becky at 788-1715 [ext 103]. Thank you!





DO YOU SHOP AMAZON? Faith Lutheran School is registered with the AMAZON SMILE program. Purchases made through smile.amazon.com may have a portion of the proceeds donated to FLS. Select Faith Lutheran School in Derby, KS as your charitable organization in your Amazon profile, or use the browser link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-1059185>.

There is no change in selection, availability, or prices when using **smile.amazon.com** to support FLS through the Smile program. **THANK YOU** for supporting Faith Lutheran School!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held Monday - Friday, June 17 - 21, 9:00 – 11:45 a.m., for children Pre-K [age 3] through 5th grade. This year's theme is "Miraculous Mission." We will need adult and youth volunteers so if you are interested in helping, please contact Deb Doesken, at 651-6462. If you would like to make a donation, please use the 'VBS' designated envelope from your box or use a special gifts envelope and mark it VBS.



Register students and volunteers TODAY by going to flderby.com and clicking on the telescope.

A Volunteer Training Meeting, including the mandatory showing of the *At Risk* video will take place **at noon on Sunday, June 2nd in the fellowship hall.** Pizza provided!

OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP ACTS

BAPTISMS: *Lacey DeWitt*

PROFESSION OF FAITH: *Sarah Marten*

YOUTH GROUP PLANNING MEETING • Sunday June 9th, at noon - for anyone who would like to be a part of the youth ministry or has ideas for things we can do to help our youth grow in their relationship with the Lord. We will plan meetings and events for the next year. Thank You and God Bless. ~ *Kevin Forward*



Food Collection

GRACE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

All donations of groceries are appreciated to help the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry. Each month specific items are suggested. **The suggestion for June is canned tuna and boxes of macaroni & cheese.** You may place your donations in the shopping cart in the breezeway.

Any and all donated grocery items and non-perishables are appreciated!



Circle of Peace



BABY BOTTLE PROJECT: Thank you for participating in our Mother's Day to Father's Day Lutherans For Life project. If your family did not get a baby bottle, please take one from the basket in the narthex; pray for God's will to be done regarding Sanctity of Life issues; fill the baby bottle with coins/bills/checks as you feel led. **Please return bottles to church on Father's Day, June 19th.** *Thank you!*



Swing into Summer by planning to attend the All Church Barbecue on June 9th, 5:00-7:00 at the church. Meat, buns, drinks and table service will be provided. **Please bring your favorite side dish for your family, and a dessert or salad.** Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and yard games. Come and join us for an evening of fellowship and outdoor activities.

SAINTS ALIVE AFTER 55

Spiritual Life Center in Wichita

July 21-23, 2019

THEME: "THE TIMELESS BLUEPRINT FOR WITNESS"



The theme of this year's gathering, is "The Timeless Blueprint for Witness," based on 1 Peter 3:15-16. Rev. Rick Hathaway, retired pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Winfield, will serve as keynote speaker.

Additional speakers for the event include Mary Hume, Kansas District parish nurse representative, and Jeff Crane, branch manager for Orphan Grain Train in Wichita. Rev. Robert Nestler, retired pastor from Faith Lutheran in Topeka, will serve as Bible study leader, and Rev. Quentin Nuttmann of Our Redeemer in Hutchinson will lead the closing service.

Event Fees • Meals, room and program (single room): \$215 • Meals, room and program (two to room) per person: \$200 • Six (6) meals and program (those not housed in Spiritual Life Center) \$95

For more information and a registration form, visit the "Saints Alive" page of the Kansas District website: kslcms.org.

If you've never attended the Saints Alive gathering, join us this year! In addition to excellent presenters, you'll enjoy the peaceful setting, accommodations and fellowship.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

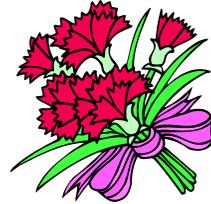
Happy Birthday...

- 1 Phil Nelson
Chris Wells
- 3 Carter Beikman
Jordan Groskurth
- 4 Bill Smith
- 5 Remi Holt
- 6 Josh Herman
- 8 Joy Klepacki
June Koker
- 9 Kristina Reed
- 10 Lars Fischer
Mel Srader
- 11 Linda Leimer
- 12 Don Brace
- 13 Steven Bartlett
Jean Gerbitz
Aubrey Hansmeyer

- 17 Alivia White
- 14 Abigale Beamer
- 15 Michelle Way
- 17 Bobby Hare
- 18 Max Ayers
- 19 Cat Hallowell
- 20 Lisa Wahlenmaier
- 21 Alicia Landsverk
Missy Weyand
- 22 Katie Hilton
Matt Voss
- 24 Colton Ganow
Caris Johnson
- 26 June Trapp
Dorothy Wells
- 29 David Voss
Nathan Voss

Happy Anniversary...

- 3 Grady & Katherine Adams
- 5 Tim & Darci Beikman
- 8 Marla & Jeff Terry
- 9 Jay & Karen Holt
- 14 Mark & Debra Doesken
Dickie & Carol Helzer
- 17 Rev. Richard & Delores Boyer
- 18 Russ & Leonna Wallace
- 20 Diron & Julia Ohlde
- 24 Levi & Stacie Stark
- 26 Robert & Sara Jones



If we have incorrect information or have missed your special date, please contact the church office so we can correct our records.

Your Elders of Faith 2019-2020 Elders of Faith Lutheran Church

- Bill Hisle Adams - DeWitt-----913-238-0757
- Duane Way Doesken - Hesser ----- 788-0147
- Lyle Blue Hilton - Murray ----- 993-9140
- Patrick DeWitt Nearhood - Steinle ----- 992-3412
- Timothy Trapp Stockebrand - Zaragoza----- 303-7259
- *Chairman TBD



A Stewardship Message...



Some disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. Many disciples were going to Jesus instead of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist answers: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. God provides everything we have in body and soul.

We are taught this in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in the *Small Catechism*.

In the First Article of the Creed, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe.

"He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself by taking the form of a servant.

In so doing, He "has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

"That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, "a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven."

But how easy is this for us to forget? How easy is it for us to think that what we have in life is because we have earned it?

How easy is it for us to forget that all our skills – the abilities of our hands and minds, the ethic to work diligently, and the desire to improve – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said?

How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and that none of this is our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing.

But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven. These duties are not earned; they are given in response to what He has accomplished for us.

Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven.

Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.

<http://www.lcms.org/stewardship>

Missions



Please pray for the Conrads as they serve in Mexico. Ask God to give Daniel strength as he continues to mentor and teach national pastors in the different regions of Mexico. Give God thanks for the national pastors that this country does have and for the future pastors that are in formation. Let us give thanks that the Conrads have answered the Call to serve God's children in Mexico.

lcms.org/Conrad

The Conrads receive donations from "Missions" envelope offerings, Sunday morning coffee, and \$50 per month from our general fund budget.



See missionary newsletters posted on the narthex bulletin board as well as the bulletin board in the kitchen hallway.

If you'd like to receive missionary newsletters by email, please contact the church office.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS JUNE 2019..

ALTAR GUILD: TBD

1st Service – 8:15AM

USHERS: TBA

June 2

Elder Patrick DeWitt
Acolyte Dahkotta Forward

June 9

Elders Tim Trapp
Duane Way
Acolyte Caroline Hornung
Crucifer Hannah Nelson

June 16

Elders Tim Trapp
Acolyte Callie Wade

June 23

Elders Patrick DeWitt
Bill Hisle
Acolyte Taylor Williams
Crucifer Haley Nelson

June 30

Elders Duane Way
Tim Trapp
Acolyte Caris Johnson
Crucifer Heather Mills

2nd Service – 10:45AM

USHERS: Gerry Faley
Brian Wilcox

June 2

Elder Lyle Blue
Acolyte Karl Oster

June 9

Elders Patrick DeWitt
Duane Way
Acolyte Troy Ohlde
Crucifer Colton Ohlde

June 16

Elders Lyle Blue
Acolyte Ryder Holt

June 23

Elders Duane Way
Lyle Blue
Acolyte Karl Oster
Crucifer Tim Johnson

June 30

Elders Lyle Blue
Bill Hisle
Acolyte Carter Wahlenmaier
Crucifer Alex Wahlenmaier

