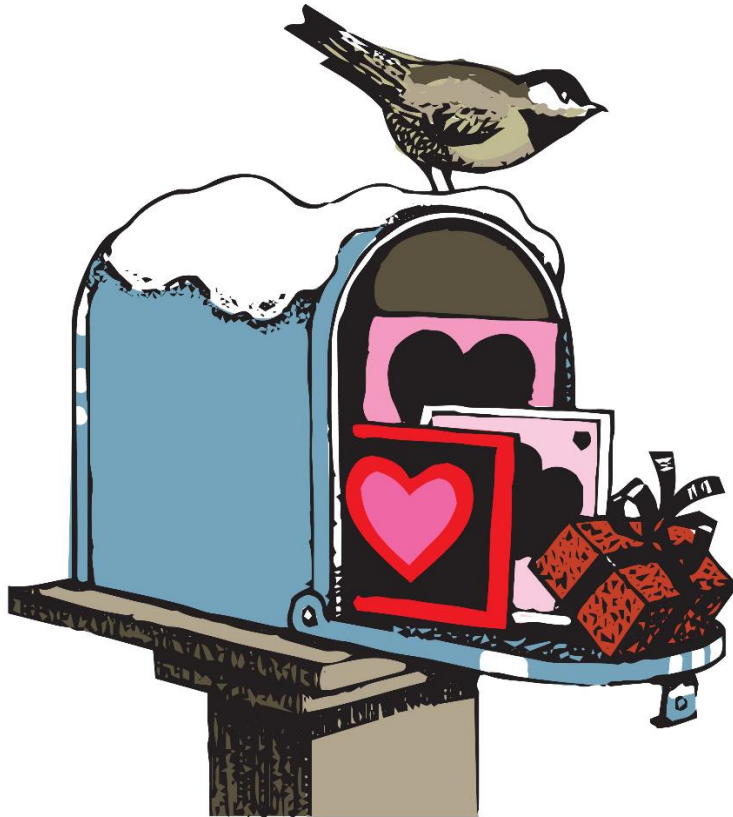


FOCUS ON FAITH

FEBRUARY 2020



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

214 S Derby Ave

Derby, KS 67037

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Pastor Thomas Johnson

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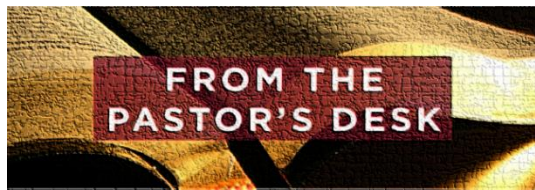
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“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man (or woman) of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The “all Scripture” in this verse may have included the earliest writings of the New Testament, but primarily it refers to the writings of the Old Testament. The 66 books of the Bible, those that have been canonized, are the ones the church has accepted over the centuries as “God breathed.” As you know, the Reformation slogan, ‘Sola Scriptura’ means that Scripture is the only true norm according to which all teachers and teachings are to be judged and evaluated. Scripture alone is the sole source of truth and doctrine and our guiding light to live by.

With this in mind we learn from Luther’s writings that he often commends Holy Scripture as the most important thing to be taught, especially to children, because this was the only way they could be equipped to be good citizens in society and fruitful Christians in the home and Church. They must receive the knowledge and grace that comes from Holy Writ. They must receive Christ and His light from the books of the Bible.

Here is an example of this approach to discipleship that Luther commended: “Above all, in schools *of all kinds* the chief and most common lesson should be the Scriptures...for where the Holy Scriptures are not the rule, I advise no one to send his child. Everything must perish where God’s Word is not studied unceasingly; and so we see what manner of men there are now in the universities (does this sound familiar?). The soul can do without everything except the Word of God. Without this, it suffers need. But when it has the Word of God, it needs nothing more, but has in the Word enough—food, joy, peace, light, art, righteousness, truth, freedom and every good thing in abundance.” (This is a Luther quote from Painter’s book *Luther on Education*.)

When it came to establishing two popular (really public) schools in Mansfeld, Germany, as commissioned by the local magistrate, Luther designed a curriculum in which Scripture was taught to the children for one hour *every* day. Since the vast majority of schools for children (mostly boys) in the middle ages were operated by the Roman Catholic Church and were used in preparing young men for their service as priests and young women for their service as nuns, any other newly established school was considered a “popular” school; it was open to everyone, boys and girls, Catholics or not. The two schools Luther established in Mansfeld were not “parochial” in our use of the word, by this I mean, schools affiliated with a denomination.

It was Luther who established a curriculum in these two schools that is remarkably consistent with what was used in the 19th & 20th centuries in the public schools of this country, i.e., a traditional curriculum. For example, Luther included music and what we would call “gym class” in his curriculum. He advocated for the natural sciences. In this regard, he wanted children to get out of the classroom and to observe and experience nature first hand. He promoted education for both girls and boys.

As far as pedagogy is concerned, he insisted on teaching methods that employed simplicity and repetition. He advocated for the Socratic method of instruction, namely the use of questions and answers. (We see this in his writing of the Small Catechism.) He stressed learning that was enjoyable for the children and adaptive to their inquisitive nature; no more using a rod or stick to discipline them in order to coerce learning. And there was to be no more strict indoctrination. Luther believed that if the Scriptures were properly taught, especially in the vernacular of the German language, the Holy Spirit would reveal the truth of the Gospel to them.

I bring these aspects of Lutheran education to mind for the purpose of sharpening our focus as Lutheran Christians today and as a congregation that operates a parochial school. I think we would all agree that the future of our congregation and thousands of others rests on how well we teach the faith to the next generation(s). Christian leaders have been and will be equipped for every good work only by way of the Holy Scriptures and the Spirit that comes to us by this means. As the younger generations spend less and less time in God’s Word, reading, marking, learning, and inwardly digesting it, less and less time being catechized, less time being guided by the Holy Spirit, the church will suffer. Yes, there will be a dearth of faithful leaders. Or worse yet, the leaders we will have in the church, in homes, and in society will be promoting and exemplifying what is contrary to God’s will. They will not know Christ as He has revealed himself. And no doubt the church will look much different; it already does look much different because of the ignorance of God’s Word that exists. May we all seek to be learners of God’s Word for life, yes, learning for life in Christ! Hey, where have I heard that before? ~ Pastor Johnson



Missions

Please pray for the Conrads as they continue to build up existing congregations and provide Biblical training in Mexico. Dan will be teaching Pastoral Theology and the Lutheran Confessions this semester. Pray, too, for the family of Pastor Luis Coronado & his congregation in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela, as he was murdered the second week of December. lcms.org/Conrad



GRACE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

All grocery donations to help the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry are appreciated! **The suggestion for February is soap products:** laundry soap, dish soap, and bath bar soap. *Donations may be placed in the shopping cart in the breezeway.*



SIDEWALK ADVOCATES FOR LIFE TRAINING: On Tue., March 3, 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm, at the Kansas for Life State Office, 3301 W. 13 St, Wichita, Stephanie Nemechek will present a training for those who would like to learn how to reach out to women and men entering abortion facilities for services of any kind. Even if you personally do not feel called to the Sidewalk Advocates for Life ministry, attending this training will be helpful to you in whatever circumstances you find yourself talking to people who are considering abortion as a solution. Dinner will be provided by KFL. RSVPs are appreciated to kfl@kfl.org in order to have an estimate for the amount of food needed.



Faith Lutheran School News



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

Preschool Director: Karen Holt
Preschool Teachers: Ginny Zerger
Karen Holt
Dawn Meade
Preschool Clerk: Cheryl Judd

This Month's Events ...

Mon	Feb 10	School Board Meeting
Tue	Feb 11	Evening P-T Conferences FLS Chick-fil-A Spirit Night, 5-7 pm
Wed	Feb 12	Valentine's Parties
Thurs	Feb 13	Day & Evening P-T Conferences
Fri	Feb 14	No School
Mon	Feb 17	No School – President's Day
Fri	Feb 28	Panda Express FUNdraiser, 10:30 am – 9:30 pm



WILL YOUR GROUP HOST A LENTEN DINNER? Ash Wednesday is February 26 this year and marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Dinners are served Wednesday evenings, March 4 through April 1, from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. If your group would like to serve a meal on one of those Wednesdays, please contact the church office.



VALENTINE'S BANQUET: Attend this year's banquet on **Sunday, Feb. 9.** Doors open at 5:30 pm, serving begins at 6:00 pm. Menu: Stuffed Chicken Breast, Rice Pilaf, Thyme Carrots, Cookies, and Chocolate Covered Strawberries. There will be entertainment, a door prize, guessing jars, and a silent auction of baskets. Tickets are \$15/person or \$25/couple and are available from the youth.

CHURCH SANCTUARY OPEN FOR PRAYER: The church sanctuary will be open the first Saturday of every month in 2020 from 9 am - 3 pm for prayer. We are encouraged to share our hearts with the Lord. Philippians 4:6 says "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Also, in 1 Peter 3:12 it says "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer." God longs for us to come to Him! Come alone, or with family or friends, and spend some time with God.



USHERS NEEDED

NEEDED: We need men to sign-up to serve as ushers for our services. A sign-up sheet is posted on the narthex window. Questions? Contact Gerry Faley (788-1615) or Patrick DeWitt (992-3412). If you are unable to attend a particular Sunday for the month you sign-up, don't let that discourage you. We'll find a substitute!



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday...

1 Marsha Gerbitz	14 Marla Terry
2 Joe Marten	15 Jessie Gibson
4 Sandra Bartlett	18 Dan Groskurth
5 Gerald Faley	18 Jeremy Watson
9 Alli Burns	20 Mandi Forward
9 Levi Stark	20 Carli Osgood
10 Glenna Hufford	22 Michele Poss
11 Sierra Dopfel	24 Joyce Jackson
12 Cindy Woods	26 Conner Holt
13 Lauren Ganow	26 Michele Murray
14 Mackenzie Oster	28 Mindy Sowden

Happy Anniversary...

2 Kevin & Mandi Forward
7 Charles & June Trapp
13 Cliff & Tammy Honn
14 Shannon & Jerry Avery
14 Gerry & Teresa Faley
24 Lance & Erin Gifford

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



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AT THE UNION RESCUE MISSION:

The mission has volunteer opportunities for people of all ages, skill levels, and time availability. Adult, Youth, or Children Groups, do you need more service opportunities or mission projects? There are a variety of opportunities including a canned food drive, writing encouraging notes to their program men, or helping with projects around the 6-acre campus. Let's come together as the Church of Christ, furthering the work of the Lord, for His glory!

CRIB PROJECT: *Circle of Peace* is sponsoring a collection of **baby items and toiletries** for their **Sanctity of Human Life project** until **February 9**. A display is in the narthex with a list of suggested items to donate. *If you wish, you may "Let Us Do the Shopping" and place your monetary donations in a Special Gifts envelope and note: Crib Project. Watch the bulletin for details of a tour of The Treehouse and Choices Medical Clinic followed by lunch at Fairmount Coffee Co. Thank you!*



ANNUAL FUNDRAISER: Please attend and support Orphan Grain-Wichita on Feb. 2 at Risen Savior Lutheran, 6770 E 34th St N. The event includes a delicious BBQ lunch & silent quilt & gift baskets auction from 11:30 am–1:30 pm. ~ Jeff Crane, 655-1854 & Gus Wesche, 682-8918

RAISE FUNDS FOR FLS: There's an easy way to raise funds for Faith Lutheran School when you shop online. Step 1: Go to www.schoolstore.com Step 2: Choose your school - **Faith Lutheran School, Derby, KS** Step 3: Choose your merchant & start shopping! Each store gives between 1% to 4% percentage of your purchase price to your school. This program runs through Dec. 31, 2020.



SPECIAL MIDWEEK SERVICES

7:15 pm **Feb. 26 - Ash Wednesday Worship**

7:15 pm **March 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1 - Lent Worship**

FEBRUARY WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

ALTAR GUILD: Krista Drake & Robin Groskurth

1st Service – 8:15AM

USHERS: Rich Polwort
Dan Groskurth

February 2

Elder Duane Way
Acolyte Callie Wade

February 9

Elders Tim Trapp
Duane Way
Acolyte Dahkotta Forwad
Crucifer Heather Mills

February 16

Elder Tim Trapp
Acolyte Brooke Forward

February 23

Elders Duane Way
Tim Trapp
Acolyte Alivia White
Crucifer Hannah Nelson

2nd Service – 10:45AM

USHERS: Gerry Falley

February 2

Elder Lyle Blue
Acolyte Emma & Grace Ayers

February 9

Elders Jeremy Bruner
Patrick DeWitt
Acolyte Carter Wahlenmaier
Crucifer Colton Ohlde

February 16

Elder Lyle Blue
Acolyte Karl Oster

February 23

Elders Patrick DeWitt
Jeremy Bruner
Acolyte Carter Wahlenmaier
Crucifer Tim Johnson

February 26, Ash Wednesday Evening - 7:15 pm

Elders Patrick DeWitt Acolyte Abby DeWitt

