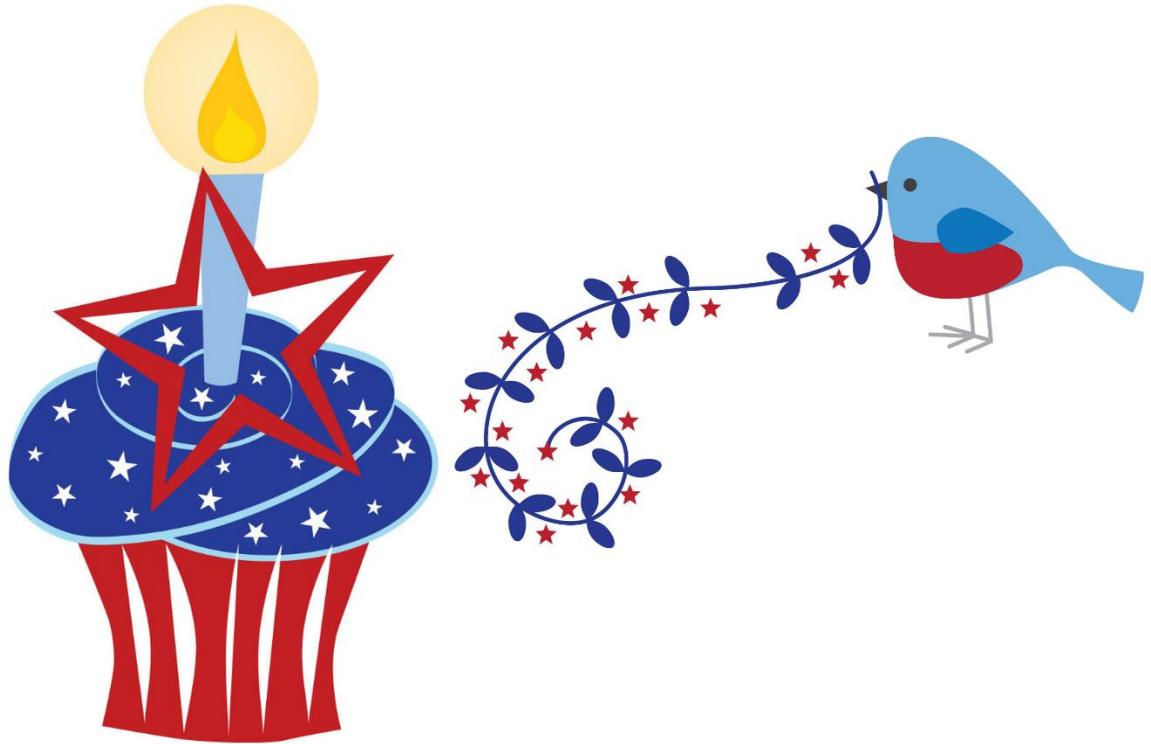


FOCUS ON FAITH

JULY 2020



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

214 S Derby Ave

Derby, KS 67037

316-788-1715

Pastor Thomas Johnson

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Church Bookkeeper E-mail: accounting@flcderby.com

Church Website: www.flcderby.com

School Website: www.flcderby.com

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“Revitalization or Renewal?”

Why is the word “renewal” preferable to “revitalization” as a description of what the church should pray for? To begin with, “revitalization” seems to be an institutional “church growth” or “marketing” word, not a Biblical word. You won’t find the word “revitalization” in Scripture, but you will find the word “renewal.” Do a word search in BibleGateway.com and you will see what I mean. And in most of the verses listed, we learn that God does the renewing; He is the One acting upon others. God does this renewing through His Word and Spirit. Also, the word “revitalization” implies that the churches of our Synod are not somehow “vital” to begin with, or that they are spiritually dead, or that they are not abounding in the work of the Lord. What if none of this is true? Why start with a negative outlook on things?

Here are a handful of verses in which the word renew is used. In Psalm 51, King David prays, **“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”** Tradition tells us that this psalm was written after Nathan the prophet confronted David with his sin of adultery with Bathsheba. David needed renewal in his spirit which was sorely vexed by the guilt brought to bear as a consequence of some very serious transgressions. Renewal came to David with his confession of sin done privately to Nathan the prophet. After this Nathan pronounced absolution, **“The Lord has put away your sin, you will not die.”** This is how we too are renewed. Private as well as corporate confession and absolution brings renewal.

Isaiah 40:31 reads, **“The Lord gives power to the faint and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.”** In this verse, renewal for young and old alike comes from waiting quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It comes from the revealed promise that God will come to our aid; He will strengthen us. Churches likewise are renewed when they wait for the Lord’s abundant provision, when they trust in Him for power and strength.

Romans 12:2 reads, **“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what the will of God is.”** Who is able to perform the renewal of our minds? God does this by means of the gospel. In Romans 11, Paul quotes Isaiah 59, “The Deliverer (Jesus) will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob; and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.” Throughout the book of Romans Paul has been speaking about a righteousness that comes from God and is received by faith. This is our renewal: a righteousness freely given to us through faith in Jesus Christ. The ability to discern God’s will is a blessing that comes from this renewal in Christ.

In **2 Corinthians 4:16** we hear the words, **“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.”** The outer nature, namely our physical bodies are subject to decay and eventually death, but the inner self, the “renewed” soul of man cannot die. Because of Christ’s resurrection the inward renewal overcomes the outward aging of our bodies, and ultimately overcomes death itself. Verse 15 of this chapter tells us that it is by God’s grace that we are renewed. Individuals, as well as churches, cannot and will not be renewed without God’s grace. And we receive this grace through the means of grace, the

means the Lord has chosen to employ for the working of salvation, the Gospel and the sacraments.

Speaking of the sacraments, one more verse highlights the renewal that comes from Holy Baptism. **Titus 3:5** reads, “**He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit.**” The water of Baptism is that which brings renewal to the church because it is the Spirit’s water. This renewal is not only for those yet to be baptized, it is for those already baptized. The promises associated with the water of Baptism stand forever. They continue to wash away our sins.

The “revitalizing” concept often used in the church can be helpful if properly understood. The focus, however, must not be on what man does, but on what God does through His renewing gospel. Churches cannot “reinvent” themselves by human effort so as to regain vibrancy. Ultimately, renewal is always God’s work, not ours. And He renews His whole creation through His Word. The truth is by nature we are nothing but a valley of dry bones and, if God’s Spirit does not blow upon us by means of prophecy, people remain dry bones. They are not enlivened. Jesus once said, “My words are spirit and they are life.” This is our renewal, receiving the spirit and life words of Jesus. Yes, this is my prayer for the church... renewal and with renewal, revitalization.

~ Pastor Johnson

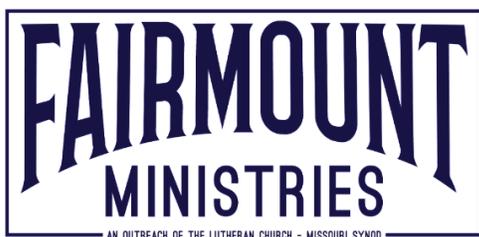


We rejoice that the kingdom of God marches on despite the coronavirus. As the Lord tells us through the prophet Isaiah: “so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” (Is. 55:11)

Prayerfully consider how the Lord may be leading you to support this vital mission. The Lord provides the funding for His mission efforts through the donations of His local churches and individual members. Together we partner with God to take the Gospel to the far end of the earth.

~ The Conrads lcms.org/Conrad

Missions



SUMMER CHAT & CHILL (COLLEGE & YOUNG ADULT)

Fairmount Ministries is hosting a summer group for college students and young adults. They meet on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm at Fairmount Coffee Co. Join us and bring a friend! Questions? Contact Paige Edgington at 316-684-5224 or dcepaige@gmail.com

GRACE FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION



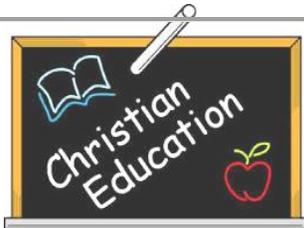
All grocery donations to help the Grace Lutheran Food Pantry are appreciated! **The suggestion for July is peanut butter and jelly.** *Donations may be placed in the shopping cart in the breezeway.*

Faith Lutheran School News



Principal: Sue Kleber
Primary Teacher: Deb Doesken
Intermediate Teacher: Cheryl Voss
Teacher: Peggy Johnston
Elementary Aide: Vickie Kalous

Preschool Director/Teacher: Karen Holt
Preschool Clerk: Cheryl Judd
Preschool Teacher: Dawn Meade
School Office Administrator: Becky Pankratz



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION DAY

July 8 • 1:00 - 7:00 pm

Students must be five years old by August 31, 2020.

GRADES 1-5 REGISTRATION DAY

July 23 • 6:30 - 8:00 pm



Please contact the school for registration forms and information:
788-1715, ext. 103 or office@flsderby.com (school office)

SCHOOL TOURS are offered by appointment.

Please call Becky at 788-1715, ext 103 or office@flsderby.com (school office)

For more information, please check flsderby.com.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION IS ONGOING...

Preschoolers must be at least three years old by September 1, 2020.

Please contact the preschool office for registration forms and information:

788-1715, ext. 103 or office@flsderby.com (school office)

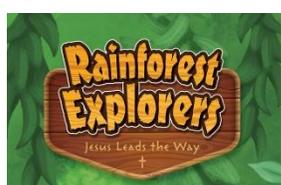
788-1715, ext. 115 or psoffice@flsderby.com (preschool office)



4TH OF JULY FLOAT: Please join in the decorating of this year's float for the 4th of July Parade. We will meet by the garage on Friday, July 3, at 6 pm. The theme is "Red, White & Blue" and will be held on Saturday, July 4, at 10:00 am. Candy and other items, such as flyers, will not be allowed this year. Please meet in the parking lot Saturday

JOIN THE PARADE!

morning at 8:30 am if you would like to ride on the float. A couple volunteers are needed to carry the school banner in front of the van. Please let Janea know if you are able to help so plans can be made. If you have any questions, please contact Janea Trapp, 303-7261. A Big Thank You to Terry Woods for letting us use his trailer again this year!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held Mon.-Fri., July 20-24, 9:00 am- Noon, for children PreK (age 3) through grade 5. **Register students & volunteers TODAY by going to flsderby.com & clicking on the box for VBS.** We need adult & youth volunteers, so

if you are interested in helping, please contact Kevin Forward at 882-4110. *If you would like to make a donation for VBS, please use the VBS envelope in your boxed envelopes or a special gifts envelope and mark it VBS.*



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday...

- 2 Genevieve Martin
- 3 Margaret Kendrick
- 5 Rory Holt
- 7 Delores Boyer
- 8 JD Doesken
- 9 Connor Gibson
- 10 McKayla Poss
- 12 Erica Doesken
- 13 Emma Bruner
- 14 Lee Darby
- 18 Sandy Fogle
- 18 Tim Voss
- 19 Jolene Maurer
- 20 Robert Gerbitz
- 20 Pam Green
- 21 Rodney Clark

- 21 Carol Helzer
- 22 Brooke Forward
- 22 Glenn Stark
- 24 Kyleigh Poss
- 25 Kimberly Way
- 27 Ryder Holt
- 27 Braylan Osgood
- 27 Emily Osgood
- 28 Zachary Forward
- 28 Jake Ganow
- 28 Karen Holt
- 29 Ruth Raabe
- 30 Christa Dopps
- 31 Rich Polwort

Happy Anniversary...

- 11 Tim & Cheryl Voss
- 15 Bruce & Leann Dopfel
- 17 Dustin & Lydia Schneider
- 18 Glenn & Elaine Stark
- 19 Marten & Linda Leimer
- 20 Jared & Mary Ayers
- 21 Rachel & David Hood
- 22 Robert & Marti Worman
- 23 Robert & Janice Garcia
- 24 Kaitlin & Adam Biggs
- 26 Joe & Tabitha Marten

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 2020-2021 Elders of Faith Lutheran Church

- Vacancy A - Daniels -----
- *Duane Way Darby - Hamer ----- 788-0147
- Jeremy Bruner Hare - Klepacki ----- 259-5029
- Lyle Blue Knuth - Pickens ----- 777-1636
- Patrick DeWitt Polwort - Trapp ----- 992-3412
- *Timothy Trapp Ulrich - Zaragoza ----- 303-7259
- *Co-Chairmen



OPPORTUNITY TO HELP FAIRMOUNT COFFEE CO: It's not too late to help with our annual Fireworks Fundraiser! We're looking for volunteers (high school age & older) to be stockers and cashiers June 25 - July 5. This is a fun way to serve! The hours you volunteer directly impact the

blessings that Fairmount will receive from this fundraiser. Visit the link tinyurl.com/fairmountfireworks20 for more details & to see hours available to volunteer and to sign up! Families are welcome to serve together with children, as long as an adult is present. Thank you so much for all your love, prayers, and support!

FAITH'S COMMUNITY GARDEN: The community garden beds are filled with the vegetables our Faith Lutheran School students began to grow back in February and need to be watered, weeded, and harvested through September! If you would like to help care for the garden, you may sign up for a month of Tuesdays or Saturdays or sign up to be a substitute in the event that someone who was scheduled to work is unable to come. A sign-up sheet has been posted in the church narthex or you may call Grace Adkins, 518-9670; Cheryl Voss, 253-4776; or Deb Doesken, 651-6462, to sign up.

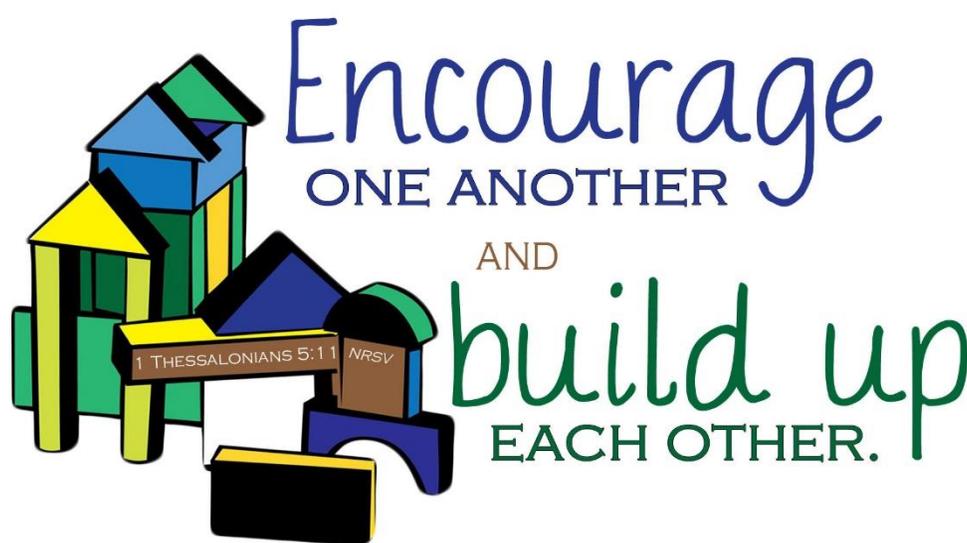


FAITH LUTHERAN SCHOOL ADVERTISING: FLS is looking to run a digital Web Banner on a monthly basis. If you would like to sponsor the school for 1 month, the cost is \$172 and can be placed in a Special Giving envelope marked FLS Marketing. If you have any questions, please contact Janaea Trapp, 303-7261.

CASTING CHRIST'S NET ON THE INTERNET: Issues, Etc. is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL, hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. The program features expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ. Listen at www.issuesetc.org



CIRCLE OF PEACE THANKS you for your generous response to their Baby Bottle Lutherans For Life project. To date, we have collected \$1,050.78. Please return all baby bottles so we can re-use them. You may still support the Lutherans For Life project by using a Special Gifts envelope (note: LFL) and placing it in the offering.



JULY WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

ALTAR GUILD:

1st Service – 8:15AM

USHERS:

July 5

Elder Tim Trapp
Acolyte Noah Trapp

July 12

Elder Duane Way
Acolyte Alivia White
Crucifer Dahkotta Forward

July 19

Elder Tim Trapp
Acolyte Taylor Williams

July 26

Elder Duane Way
Acolyte Brooke Forward
Crucifer Chareity Forward

2nd Service – 10:45AM

USHERS: Gerry Faley

July 5

Elder Lyle Blue
Acolyte Troy Ohlde

July 12

Elder Patrick DeWitt
Acolyte Abby DeWitt
Crucifer Colton Ohlde

July 19

Elder Lyle Blue
Acolyte Emmit Ohlde

July 26

Elder Patrick DeWitt
Acolyte Carter Wahlenmaier
Crucifer Tim Johnson