

# November 2017

## Faith Lutheran Church

### NEWSLETTER

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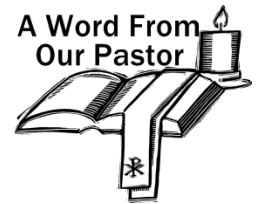
Pastor: Rev. Christopher Natan Sperb

*Glorifying God the Father and filled with the Holy Spirit, we celebrate our relationship with Jesus and invite others to join our celebration.*

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#### **Lutheran Theology Brings Joy and Thanksgiving**

We just celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. The heart and soul of the Reformation and the Lutheran theology is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God loves you!! That's good news: all of your sins are forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This forgiveness is given to you for free. It is a gift of God for you.



When we trust in God's love for us in Jesus Christ, we see God as He truly is, as a God of love. His creation is His gift for us. His Spirit gives us faith. His salvation is given to us freely. His eternal paradise is prepared for us. God is with us. God will never leave us. Those are all reasons for joy and thanksgiving!

Joy marks the life of the one who trusts in Christ. But joy isn't always happiness. Sometimes life is full of trials (crosses) that we must face. Evil is real. Sin has consequences. These things war against us. But even in these things, we know that God is with us. This is not some banal saying or nice thought. We know that God is with us in the midst of suffering, since He is revealed precisely through the suffering of Jesus. Therefore we can be joyful and thankful in all circumstances (1 Peter 1:6-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

The most important teaching of Lutheran theology is that God loves you with no effort, merit or work on your behalf. God loves you! He sent His only Son to die and rise for you. His love is fulfilled in the Gospel. That is good news and fills us with joy and thanksgiving. God loves you for all of eternity. Freely. That will never change.

Like the Reformation, this is not anything new. The Reformation was about returning to the unchanged and unchanging truth. And so it still is today 500 years later. It is a time to return. Return to the truth. Return to the basics. Return to the foundation: to Christ and His love for us. Return to the joy and thanksgiving that it is *still* all about Jesus.

Joyful and thankful,  
Rev. Christopher Sperb

## Director of Christian Education

Fun in the Fall!

GAHU had a fun October learning about the Reformation, going to the GLOW Night corn maze and smashing a pie in Mr. Todd's face! Since, the youth donated over \$50 towards Food for the Poor, they were allowed to pie an adult in the face! So they were able to pie Mr. Todd before he left! We look forward to the many things happening in November. For instance, we will have a movie night while some people are attending the High School SED retreat. You will get a glimpse of our talents at the talent show; we will keep warm at the Bonfire at the Linscomb's and will end the month creating Advent Calendars with Fred and Dotty! There are so many opportunities for fun and fellowship! We have so much to be thankful for in our group! We hope to see you at one or more of our gatherings!

YAM had an enjoyable fall with meeting twice in our small group and learning more about how to Join Jesus on His mission. Also, we were able to enjoy each other's company while competing in a corn maze! We are thankful for our wonderful group of young adults here at Faith. We look forward to November with two more small group gatherings and spending time in God's creation at a local cabin! Look out for more details concerning the cabin outing! Want to get connected or know someone who isn't already? Please contact me via email at [dce@faithmd.org](mailto:dce@faithmd.org) or by phone at (410) 795-8082 ext 204. Hope to see you and get to know you better!

### GAHU

11/3 - GAHU Movie Night / SED HS Retreat  
11/10- Talent Show @ 7:00pm  
11/11 - Linscomb Bonfire @ 5:00pm  
11/17 - GAHU Gathering - Advent Calendars @ 7:00pm  
11/24 - NO MEETING

### YAM

11/14 - Small Group @ 7:30pm  
11/18-19 - Cabin Outing  
11/28 - Small Group @ 7:30pm

Meghan O'Hara, DCE

## Small Group Ministry

When Jesus sent out the twelve, do you think they had it all together? Do you think they knew everything they needed to know about doing ministry? Look up Luke 9 in your Bible, and then page through the following chapters. Jesus continued teaching MUCH! Jesus definitely wasn't done equipping His disciples. But He didn't wait for them to "know it all" before He sent them out. He gave them some training and got them out there.

**TRY**  
as best we can  
even though imperfectly

Finke points out in chapter 4 that so many of us read multiple books on a subject matter and never doing anything about it. When it comes to living out Jesus' mission, "by giving the mindset and practices a try, as best we can, even though imperfectly, we learn so much more than if we settle for reading about it."

**What can you try today?** And no worries about results. Jesus has all of that covered.

<http://joiningjesus50daydevotional.blogspot.com/2014/11/day-11-of-50.html>

You don't want to miss out on this wonderful opportunity to discuss, pray, serve, learn and grow as a Christian community in a small group. Join one and find out what this is all about! Contact DCE Meghan O'Hara via email at [dce@faithmd.org](mailto:dce@faithmd.org) or by phone at (410) 795-8082 ext 204, if you would like to get involved into a small group. We hope that you consider this opportunity to grow in your faith and with fellow members of our church family.



## A Word from the Elders

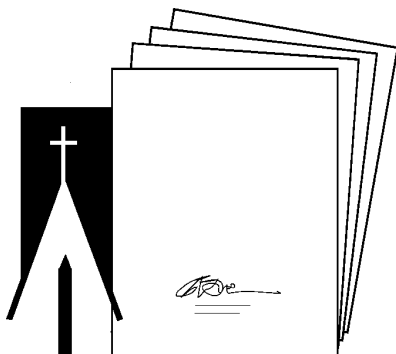
Having just completed our Strategic Ministry Planning (SMP) event, one thing became apparent to everyone involved. Ministry, carrying out the vision and plan God gives us, can only be accomplished in our church with the participation of everyone. Paul uses a fantastic analogy to describe the church. He calls us a body (1 Corinthians 12) and describes how every member of the body has a purpose (gift) in functioning as a unit (the church).

We all know too well, through either injury or disability, that when a part of our body is not functioning we are at a disadvantage. We have to compensate for the deficiency or in some cases realize there are things we simply cannot do. The same holds true for our church. Without the participation of every member of our church body, we operate in a reduced capacity.

The key to being a participant in the body of Christ is to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit living in you (Romans 8:9-11). We don't participate in church ministry to win points with God, rather we are prompted by the Holy Spirit in us to participate in ministry so the whole church can function as one.

Consider the gifts God has given you and how he has called you to fit in to the local church body here at Faith Lutheran Church. This should be an exciting time as we move forward in our SMP with every member of the body participating in ministry.

The Elders



## Worship Ministry

I want to thank all of you for your thoughtful feedback regarding the Faith Follies Talent Show. The overwhelming response was in favor of retaining the event for another year so the Eleventh Annual Faith Follies Talent Show is on! I look forward to seeing you there either as a participant or spectator on Friday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m.

There many opportunities for all of us to participate in the coming months as we celebrate Thanksgiving and as the Season of Advent quickly approaches.

Our annual voters meeting slide show is on Wednesday, November 15th at 7:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, November 22nd, we will meet together in worship to give cooperate thanks to God at our Thanksgiving Eve Service.

Our Cantata-**Shout the Good News**-by Lloyd Larson, will be presented on Sunday, December 10th at both services. We began rehearsing on Wednesday evenings on October 18th and are looking forward to bringing this service to the congregation. If you are still interested in singing and have not yet joined us, please see me as soon as possible.

Next month, on December 2nd at 9:00 a.m., we will decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. All are welcome and are encouraged to come and help. It is a festive way to start off December and there will be hot chocolate, tasty edibles, and Christmas music to enjoy.

Stay tuned to this spot to learn more about our December events in next month's newsletter!

In His service,  
Connie Simmons



### Youth Sunday School Mission Statement

Making Christ the center of each lesson, we will teach the children the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, show enthusiasm for Jesus so they will want to share it with others, and make the Gospel message relevant to every age or level of learning.

#### Fall Quarter September – November Sunday School

##### **Sunday School Opening begins promptly at 9:30.**

Please join us as we continue our new interactive opening. Connie and Ben Simmons continue to enrich us as we prepare our children to be a special part of our worship service with their voices.

##### **Sunday School Envelopes**

Please remember to continue bringing in your offering to help support our Compassion International child, Witness Musa Mhwaji of Tanzania where she lives with her parents.

##### **Ages 3, Pre-K and K** **“FaithWeaver Now”**

Weaving faith into today’s families NOW.

##### **Grades 1-8** **“Growing in Christ”**

The Fall quarter will focus on the Old Testament of how God protected His people in Egypt and through the Exodus.

##### **High School Class** **“Romans”** (Modular)

##### **Adult Class** **New Members Class** Pastor Sperb (Modular)

#### **Know your Enemy; Strategies and Tactics for Defeating Satan**

John Blessing

To defeat an opponent whether on the sports field or the battle field you need to know their strengths/weakness and their strategies/tactics. To win the day spiritually we need to know who we are fighting. Learn who the Great Deceiver is and how to defeat him.

##### **“Christ Alone”**

##### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

The books of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. This five session study covers Paul's letters to the churches in Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae, and to his friend Philemon. We are going to discover that **Christ alone is all we need.**

Please join us at 10am. There is no cost for this study.

Any questions, contact Michele Narcross, [410-549-1707](tel:410-549-1707) or [mcnarc@msn.com](mailto:mcnarc@msn.com). Hope to see you then!

##### **December**

(Adult Classes)

More information to come

##### **That the World May Know** (Curt Thomas)

**Keep it Shut**(Dana Stigdon)

**Esther** (Don Hall)

## Public Relations & Communications Ministry

### COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION, COMMUNICATION

#### This & That About Our Ministry

Another slow month, anticipating the upcoming Christmas season. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarterly Report 2017 and Goals & Objectives 2018 were distributed to the leadership. The Budget Requests 2018 document was sent to Bob Foster. The Yellow Pages was not revised this quarter as there were no changes; that will occur in January, 2018. Debbie took photos of the SMP Ministry Planning sessions. Meghan updated her profile for the Staff Page, which was sent to Eric for posting.

#### Thank You God for Everything

When one thinks of Thanksgiving, what is the first thing that comes to mind? The feast, of course. Succulent turkey and moist dressing, fluffy mashed potatoes with rich gravy, cranberry sauce, and of course that green bean casserole, sauerkraut and pork if you are a true Marylander, and lastly, pumpkin pie with whipped cream. And in our household, always the Waldorf salad with colored marshmallows. But as a Christian, we know Thanksgiving is just that, a time for giving thanks. So many blessings, Lord, and also those lessons. Thank you God for both.

Not just the third Thursday in November, but everyday should be thanksgiving. "Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) And foremost, thank you for Jesus, his sacrifice on the cross and resurrection on Easter Day, the faith given us through the Holy Spirit, and forgiveness of sins with the sure hope of eternal life.

But with children at the table, relatives anxious to eat, a simple prayer from childhood I think would be pleasing to God:

Thank you for the food we eat,  
Thank you for the world so sweet.  
Thank you for the birds that sing,  
Thank you God for *everything*.

In His Service,  
Lenni Lange

## Missions Ministry Team

This month's Highlighted Mission Envelope effort will be in support of:

### THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF A Christian Outreach and Support Center

#### Their Mission:

"In loving response to our Lord Jesus Christ's command to feed His sheep, *The Shepherd's Staff* exists to **Reach Out** to those in crisis, to **Aid** those in need, to **Support** those in trouble, to **Seek Out** and **Encourage** pathways to self-sufficiency, and to **Be a Witness** for Christ in our community."

After almost 25 years of service to Carroll County, we know what we have been and we know what we are. Now it is time to dream big and create a new vision of what we CAN be—how we can expand and how we can improve our services. We are humbled, honored, and consider it a blessing to be your hands working to serve our neighbors in crisis year round.

The support center serves in various ways throughout the year with emergency financial assistance, Rx financial assistance, a Back to School Program, a bath facility/laundry facility, coats, toiletries, food, etc.

The food collected on the first Sunday of each month is taken to the center.

*Our congregation was able to share our blessings with Lutheran Women's Missionary League by donating \$885.00 for the month of September 2017.*



## Women's Ministry Team

### Daughters of the King Update

*"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."*

*1 Thessalonians 5:11*

Come encourage and be encouraged at one of our upcoming events this month:

#### **November Women's Ministry Events:**

- **Appetizer Fest:** Monday, 11/6 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- **Monthly Women's Ministry Gathering:** Saturday, 11/18 - 9:00-10:30 a.m.

More event details to follow in the church bulletin. Please contact Dana Stigdon (dstigdon@gmail.com) or Debbie Geiger (geigermama14@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to help out with any of these events.

#### **2018 Event Planning Begins...**

During our Fall Kickoff Event, attendees had the opportunity to share their ideas for possible future Daughters of the King fellowship events. The Women's Ministry team will be meeting this month to begin planning next year's calendar based on the feedback received and needs your support in the following ways:

- **Prayer** - That the scheduled events support our mission "To Connect, Encourage, and Grow as Daughters of the King" and for the volunteer support needed to carry out these events
- **Coordination** - We are in need of several volunteers to help oversee the coordination of the scheduled events (ie. overseeing those tasked with planning the individual events)
- **Planning** - We are in need of volunteers to serve on the individual event planning teams

For more information regarding these needs or if you feel led in any way to assist, please contact Debbie Geiger (geigermama14@gmail.com).



### CHRISTIAN SOCIAL MEDIA MINISTRY

People have always looked for guidance and perspective to understand the issues they face in their lives. At one time, people looked to institutions like the church for this support. In today's digital age, people increasingly go online to learn, connect, and even build relationships.

The message of Jesus is still relevant in this digital space. That's why Lutheran Hour Ministries created THRED.

Through THRED, LHM is creating online spaces for people of all different backgrounds to talk about life and faith.

Jesus and Christianity are part of THRED's content and conversations, but we want to provide a safe environment where people can share multiple perspectives. The point is to be true to our Christian identity which includes genuinely listening to other views.

At LHM, we think this is a highly effective way to engage mass audiences around topics like life, faith, and Jesus. The digital landscape is changing constantly, which is why the support of people like you is critical. You can help THRED start conversations with more people.

Will you get involved with THRED today? We need you.

THRED is meant to be different. THRED believes in creating safe spaces for people of different backgrounds and perspectives to talk about issues of life and faith.

You can be a part of this movement by sharing THRED content with your own social networks. As you like and share our content, you'll help create opportunities for diverse groups to start having authentic conversations.

Join this movement today to by committing to share THRED content. You can be a part of changing how people communicate online.

Join the THRED street team. Start at [lhm.org/thred](http://lhm.org/thred) or at [facebook.com/ourTHRED](https://facebook.com/ourTHRED)

Lutheran Mission Society  
Compassion Place  
Miracle of Christmas



For many of us, December is filled with questions about what gifts to give, which decorations to put up, or what dish to bring to the office party. Unfortunately, for the 1 in 10 families struggling with poverty in our area, the questions are: “Should I pay for rent or medical prescriptions?” and “How many more days will our food last” and “Where will we sleep tonight?” Faith Lutheran will be helping to share the love of Christ this Christmas by sponsoring two of the 140+ families in need. Through this ministry, each family is able to receive food for a full Christmas meal, and gifts for each member of their family.

Look for a Christmas tree in the narthex with tags for gifts for our adopted families and food. Please return all items by **Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>**. Gifts should be new and unwrapped. Food should be non-perishable and not homemade. All gifts and food will be loaded into boxes provided to us by the Lutheran Mission Society. This provides uniformity when gifts are distributed to families. From LMS:

Who are the families that you help?

Many recipients are regular clients who come to our centers on a monthly basis for free clothing and/or food. Some have been referred to us by other agencies. Others are new “walk-in” clients looking for assistance. But regardless of their history with LMS Compassion Place, each MoC family has been interviewed by one of our Center Coordinators or other staff. Our staff takes time to sit with each one to discuss their needs and pray with them.

What is provided through the MoC ministry?

A family participating in MoC is given gifts for each member of the family and food for a Christmas dinner (including a turkey), plus food for 2-3 additional days.

Should I wrap the gifts for my adopted family?

No. Please do not wrap the gifts you place in the box. Many of the parents like to preview the gifts that will be given to the children. Also, wrapped gifts take up more room in the distribution boxes, and we have a limited number of boxes each year. If you wish, you may include a small package of wrapping paper or gift bags in the box, so that the family can wrap the gifts before Christmas.

Why so early?

We ask for your donations this early for several reasons. First and foremost, it takes a good deal of coordination, time and effort to make sure that over 400 filled boxes get to the correct families in 9 different Compassion Centers, spanning from Cambridge, Maryland on the eastern shore to York, Pennsylvania.

How are the boxes distributed to the recipients?

All the filled boxes will be distributed to families after a special chapel service at each Compassion Center, which usually takes place the week before Christmas.



Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Samaritan's Purse works with local churches and ministry partners to deliver the gifts and share the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ. Shoe boxes are given to children unconditionally. Children are offered a copy of The Greatest Gift of All booklet in their own language by local churches and ministry partners. Join us this year as we help to make a difference in the life of a child. For more information contact Dana Stigdon at [dstigdon@gmail.com](mailto:dstigdon@gmail.com) or 410-404-4082.

*Operation  
Christmas Child  
Takes Off!*

Boxes due on or before: **November 12<sup>th</sup>**

***New this year:** Neither toothpaste nor candy may be included in the boxes. The cost to mail each box is \$9.*

Last year, boxes from Faith Lutheran Church were delivered to Burundi. Do you know where that is? Here are two quick facts:

- Burundi has 11 million people and is located in Southeast Africa
- 46% of the population is 14 years old or younger



Over the past four years, our boxes have also reached Togo, the Bahamas, Zimbabwe, Ecuador, and a hard to reach area. Many children who live in nations that are difficult to reach with the Gospel are able to hear about Jesus Christ through specially packed shoebox gifts designated for hard-to-reach areas. In restricted areas, these shoeboxes provide a platform for local believers to share Christ in a safe and culturally sensitive way, and allow ease of entry through customs. For the safety of the Samaritan's Purse ministry partners living in these restricted areas, Samaritan's Purse cannot divulge the names of the countries.