

# March 2018

## 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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#### God's Unlimited Grace

*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."* These words from Genesis 3:19 were spoken on Ash Wednesday while ashes were being applied to our foreheads in the shape of a cross. With those words still ringing in our ears, I share this devotion to help as you continue your repentant preparation during the season of Lent. I pray it will be a blessing to you as it has been for me.

In His Service,  
Pastor Christopher Sperb

*As a father shows compassion to his children,  
so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.  
For He knows our frame;  
He remembers that we are dust. (Psalm 103:13-14)*

God remembers that He formed us out of the dust of the ground and that our bodies will return to that same ground because of sin. We are frail, helpless, and hopeless, yet the Lord is patient with us. Therefore, we pray daily, "forgive us our trespasses," sure that for Jesus' sake He does.

In Psalm 102, the psalmist lets God know how he feels—perhaps much the same as you do: "the day of my distress" (verse 2); "my bones burn like a furnace" (verse 3); "my bones cling to my flesh" (verse 5); "I wither away like grass" (verse 11). That's why the psalmist cried to the Lord for help. In Psalm 103, the psalmist praises the Lord for help received.

The help, though, is not merely healing of body. God removes our sins as far as the east is from the west, gives a love higher than the heavens above, and redeems us from hell because of the death of His Son.

And He does more: though our bodies of dust will return to the dust, God will raise us up with an incorruptible, everlasting body. When this frail body dies, we will rise to live forever in the glory of eternity. There we will join the angels in singing praises to the Lord (verses 20-21), to the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God forever.

#### *Prayer*

Divine Savior, Your presence brings peace; Your compassion, forgiveness; Your promises, hope. Look on me in my plight and bless me. I am tired of the struggle, confused by my doubts, angered by the irritations. Calm my heart as You quieted the Sea of Galilee. I come to You because every other refuge fails. You must be my strength. Lift me to Your heart, blessed Savior, so I may find rest in You. Amen.

## Director of Christian Education

Spring is Coming!

This past month we had a fantastic time finishing up Exploding our Bibles, going to RVR Winter Meltdown and celebrating the 2018 Winter Olympics! We look forward to spring with our monthly theme of Prayer and ending it with a night of Lenten Prayer Stations. Also, we look forward to our night out with the youth from St. Paul Catonsville for a Nerf War! You don't want to miss out this month! Lastly, we look forward to be serving the congregation with our Easter Breakfast! You don't want to miss out on these wonderful opportunities! Come join us on Fridays at 7:00pm down in the fellowship hall!

The Young adults had a great past month with learning about Jesus' mission and playing bingo with the ladies at Sunflower Hill! They look forward to the fellowship of this month with hiking and going duckpin bowling! Also, starting up a new study with the small group! All young adults are invited to attend these events! More details will come in email about everything! Not on the email list? Send Meghan O'Hara your email address to [dce@faithmd.org](mailto:dce@faithmd.org)!

### GAHU

3/2 - GAHU Gathering @ 7:00 pm  
YW Servant Event Meeting @ 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
3/9 - GAHU Gathering @ 7:00 pm  
3/16 - GAHU Gathering @ 7:00 pm  
High School Time @ 9:00-10:00 pm  
3/17 - Nerf Night - Reloaded 2018 (St. Paul Catonsville)  
@ 6:00-9:00 pm  
3/23 - GAHU Gathering @ 7:00 pm  
3/30 - NO GAHU (Good Friday)

### YAM

3/10 - Hiking (TBA) from 1:00- 3:00 pm  
3/13 - Small Group @ 7:30 pm  
3/24 - DuckPin Glow Bowling @ 9:00-11:00 pm  
(Mt. Airy)

## Small Group Ministry

"As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." (Matthew 13:23 ESV)

Here Jesus explains the hope for us as His disciples--as we hear the Word, understand it, live our lives by it, we will bear fruit. We will make disciples who make disciples and so on and so on. This is also the hope for those in our lives who do not yet know Him.

As we join Jesus on His mission, our role is to help our neighbors gain a hearing of the Word so that they may understand it. This begins in an *environment* of conversation and trusting relationships.



"*Neighboring Environments* can be planned intentionally or happen spontaneously (that is, we can put ourselves into position to have spontaneous but meaningful encounters with neighbors)." Below is a short list of neighboring environments Finke shares in chapter 18:

- Have a cookout or ice cream party and invite your neighbors.
- Have a fire in the fire pit, provide the ingredients for s'mores and invite your neighbors.
- At work look for someone who is regularly overlooked and underestimated. Invite them to lunch with you and one or two other employees.
- Find reasons to be in your front yard rather than closed up in the house or apartment. Watering flowers, weeding, sitting on the front porch or driveway, etc. puts you into position to see who might wander by.
- Be a "regular" at a lunch spot. Start to get to know the wait staff and other "regulars." Tip well. (for more on this idea and to do this with your small group, check out the blog--[groupsout](http://joiningjesus50daydevotional.blogspot.com/2014/12/day-34-of-50.html))

What will be your next step to execute that idea?

<http://joiningjesus50daydevotional.blogspot.com/2014/12/day-34-of-50.html>

Join a small group to discuss, pray, serve, learn and grow as a Christian community. Need more information? 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. We hope that you consider this opportunity to grow in your faith and with fellow members of our church family.

Meghan O'Hara (DCE)

## A Word from our Elders

On September 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 the members of FLC spent time in conference, fellowship and worship in an effort to develop the Strategic Ministry Plan for the next 3 years. The goals established as a result of their efforts area:

1. Connect every member of FLC with a means of studying and understanding God's word in the next 3 years.
2. Engage with local faith based ministries to identify community needs. Increase FLC service and care to them as measured by amount of people serving and being served.
3. All ministry teams will be fully staffed through increased personal engagement of members' spiritual gifts.

In an effort to bring a unified approach to the SMP for 2018-2020, each elder has committed to serving on one of the teams for each of the goals listed above.

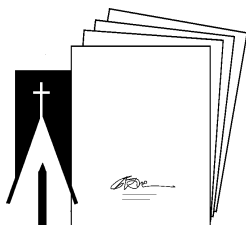
Over the next several weeks, we ask that each member of our congregation take a few minutes to prayerfully consider joining one of the groups tasked with bringing the SMP goals to fruition.

Please feel free to contact any of the elders with your desire to participate in a group. Following is a list of elders and the goals for which they have volunteered.

John Knight – Goal 3  
John Simmons - Goal 3  
John Blessing – Goal 2  
Stan Stigdon – Goal 2  
Curt Thomas – Goal 1

We truly thank you for your prayerful consideration of this important part of FLC's ministry life.

Peace



## Worship Ministry

Paraments, Banners, Stoles, Purificators, albs, corporal, Altar Cloths, Linens. While many would recognize that the above list are items associated with the adornment of the altar and communion elements, there may be some confusion as to what exactly each thing is and what makes one item different from another. I would like to explain the difference and the meaning of some of these items that we use as part of our liturgical heritage in the Lutheran Church.

An Alb is the white linen, also called vestment, robe. Here at Faith albs are worn by Pastor and the acolytes.

A Stole is the colorful cloth that Pastor wears around his neck. The stole is worn by ordained pastors and is a "symbol of the yoke of obedience to Christ (Matthew 11:28-30)"

Purificators are the napkin sized cloths that are used to wipe the chalice during the distribution of communion.

A Banner is a cloth or flag that carries a logo or message of some sort. You see colorful banners hung around the sanctuary and on poles around the altar.

The term Parament may sound familiar to some as over the past year we have been working on designing and ordering new ones for our altar. A Parament by definition is: an ornamental ecclesiastical hanging or vestment (thank you Merriam-Webster). They are what is seen on the altar, lectern and pulpit. Our paraments change color according to the seasons of the church year: Lent- Purple which symbolizes penance and atonement. Easter-White which symbolizes holiness and purity. The Day of Pentecost/Reformation-Red which symbolized the Holy Spirit and the blood of martyrs. The Season of Pentecost-Green which symbolizes life, growth and hope. Advent-Blue which symbolizes hope and preparation.

Keep an eye out as soon we will be blessing and then using our new paraments and stoles. We give thanks and glory to God that we were able to add these items to further enhance our time of worship at Faith.

If you find this information interesting and would like to be a part of our altar ministry, we have plenty of room for more members and would love to have you participate!

May you always have God's word in your heart and a song of praise on your lips!  
Connie Simmons

## **SaLT** **(Servant Leadership Team)**

As a new member of SaLT, I am just beginning to get my feet wet, learning my responsibilities. For those of you that may not know, one of the tasks of a SaLT member is to be a liaison to the leaders of the various ministries at Faith Lutheran Church. I am the assigned liaison to Daughters of the King and Youth and Young Adults. I look forward to serving these ministries in whatever way I can.

In September 2017, our congregation met for a weekend to develop a long term plan of action (the Strategic Ministry Plan). Three SMP goals were established: (1) Connect every member of FLC with a means of studying and understanding God's word, (2) Engage with local faith based ministries to identify community needs, and (3) Staff ministry teams through increased personal engagement of members' spiritual gifts. Implementing these goals cannot be accomplished by just a few people. Instead, elders and SaLT members will be working together with the congregation to set things in motion. The more plans we can put into practice, the more our congregation will grow, both inside the church and out in the community, and thus be more effective in spreading the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lights . . . Action . . . Camera . . . (well, not exactly the camera). There's good news regarding the parking lot lighting proposal. The county has approved the lighting plan and two of three contractors have submitted bids to complete the project. Once a third bid has been obtained, the final lighting plan will be presented to the congregation for a vote. In other news, our new sign on St Andrews Way is now complete. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the kitchen and fellowship hall window will have been repaired. Last, but certainly not least, we have begun the process of searching for a new DCE or DCE intern.

A lot is going on at FLC. As I continue my role as a member of SaLT, I pray God uses me to carry out His will.

In Christ,  
Bruce Flanick  
(SaLT member at large)

## **Lutheran Hour Ministries**

Lutheran Hour Ministries is Launching New Television Programming in the Middle East

Lutheran Hour Ministries is excited to announce a new strategic partnership with SAT-7, the first and largest Middle East and North African Christian TV network. The two Christian broadcasters will work together to co-produce a new television series for Arab youth and young families from the SAT-7 studio in Cairo, Egypt. This expansion of LHM's ministry work in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) will potentially reach tens of millions of viewers in 20 countries spanning from as far west as Morocco to as far east as Iraq and the Persian Gulf. The new television programming, which will be a variety show format aimed at starting discussion and offering hope through the Word of God, will be carried on the NileSat satellite.

What's happening now?

LHM has started the process of hiring script writers and actors in hopes that the first broadcast will air this fall. The SAT-7 television studio, operated by local Egyptian personnel, offers high quality technology and services for Christian media production.

What can you do?

First, pray for the safety of everyone living or working in the Middle East and North Africa. A recent increase in attacks targeting Christians presents additional difficulties for Christian ministries working there. Shining the light of the Gospel into the region has never been as important as it is today.

You can also help provide a vital lifeline to the people of the Middle East and North Africa through your financial support. Many people in the region are unable to attend church services due to lack of access, and are often persecuted for even trying to attend. However, your support will help broadcast His love directly into the safety of their homes, wherever they may be. You can make a difference by assuring His truth is available when seekers need it the most! For more information, visit [lhm.org/MENA](http://lhm.org/MENA).

Faith has supported LHM through our February Mission envelopes.

## Women's Ministry Team

### “Daughters Of The King” Women's Ministry Update

Over the past few months we have been exploring Visual Faith, a transforming process and practice with many applications that can help us connect with and grow in our relationship with God. This month we will wrap up our exploration with a focus on the application of Bible Journaling.

### Monthly Women's Ministry Gathering: Introduction to Bible Journaling Workshop - Saturday, March 17th, 8:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Join us as Visual Faith coach Connie Denninger guides us through the process and practice of Bible Journaling. The event will kick off at 8:30 a.m. with breakfast and the workshop itself will begin at 9:00 a.m. No experience required. Materials will be provided; however, if you have a journaling Bible and/or colored pencils, please feel free to bring them with you.

More details to follow in the church bulletin. To ensure we have enough materials on hand, please fill out the sign-up sheet in the narthex or RSVP to Kim Schlauch at [kimschlauch@gmail.com](mailto:kimschlauch@gmail.com).

**Daughters of the King Women's Retreat.** Please join us for our annual retreat to be held **April 20-22** at the **Town Hill B&B in Little Orleans, MD**. Our theme this year is *SeaSide Escape!* The cost per person is \$175.00. A \$75.00 deposit is due at the time of registration. The full balance is due by April 8th. In interested, please visit the registration table in the narthex or contact Sue Liebrecht (240-784-1374 or [acts.1631@comcast.net](mailto:acts.1631@comcast.net)). *Do not let the cost of the retreat deter you from attending. For more information contact Debbie Geiger - [geigermama14@gmail.com](mailto:geigermama14@gmail.com)*



## Missions Ministry Team

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

### “Marriage and Relationship Education Center”

This center located in Westminster has been strengthening marriages and families since 2004. The program promoted with MREC help youth build healthy dating relationships, young adults recognize warning signs of unhealthy relationships, and couples on ways to have healthy marriages. The Dynamite Dads program raises awareness of the impact fathers have on a child's wellbeing. In fact, all MREC programs include a strong fatherhood message.

*Our congregation was able to share our blessings with Brazil Mission Society – Holy Trinity Institute by donating \$1548.55 for the month of January 2018.*



### Upcoming Events:

#### **Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> - Secret Keeper Girl Masterpiece World Tour**

A special one-night show created to connect Moms and tweens. Through music, games, and teaching, you'll pray, play and grow closer together while focusing on inner beauty and Godly characteristics. Volunteers are needed for this high-energy event! Register online at [www.mrecenter.org](http://www.mrecenter.org)

#### **Saturday, June 30 - Roaring 20's Garden Party and Croquet Tournament**

Our signature great date event is returning in June at the Carroll County Farm Museum! You won't want to miss this! Sponsorships welcome. Register online at [www.mrecenter.org](http://www.mrecenter.org)

*We hope to see you there!*



**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.

**Sunday School**

**Sunday School Opening begins promptly at 9:30 a.m.**

**Sunday School Envelopes**

**Sunday School Missions**

Our Compassion International child has completed the program. Our collections will now be divided between the following three programs.

- 2018 Servant Event Youth Works program to send materials for children when our Servant Event team goes this summer. <https://www.youthworks.com>
- Concordia Day Care and Community Center in Bangkok, Thailand. <http://www.cwefthailand.org/concordia-a-day-care--community-center.html>.
- Brazilian Orphanage -Holy Trinity Institute(Instituto Santíssima Trindade) <https://www.facebook.com/santissimatrindade/>

As well as supporting these programs to help children, we hope the children will see the connection to our brothers and sisters around the world.

**Ages 3, Pre-K and K**  
**“FaithWeaver Now”**  
 Weaving faith into today’s families NOW.

**Grades 1-8**  
**“Growing in Christ”**  
 The Spring quarter will focus on “God Creates a World and a People.”

**High School**  
**Ephesians**  
**The Church: God’s Servant**  
 (Modular)

**Spring Adult Bible Study Classes**  
 (Beginning March 4<sup>th</sup>)  
**Luther’s Catechisms**  
**Pastor Sperb**  
 (Sanctuary)

Lutheran Confessions: Luther's Catechisms

The Small Catechism was designed for individual use by pastors and laypersons alike or for use in homes for the instruction of children, while the Large Catechism was intended to assist pastors in their task of teaching the chief parts of Christian doctrine. *Luther's Catechisms* is an in-depth study that provides a thorough review of both the Small and Large Catechisms in an engaging style. Join us as we focus again on the rich heritage that is ours as the people of God in Christ.

**Christian Financial Management**  
**By Dave Ramsey**  
**Teachers: Bruce Otto & Stephen Giguere**  
 (Modular)

We will be looking at Financial issues we all face and how God’s Word directs us.

**Goals**

How we can be better stewards of the gifts God provides us.

We will use a step by step process provided in the Dave Ramsey study to see how God directs us to make good financial decisions as well as be a witness to our families and others.

**Materials**

A Bible (any version is good so we can compare) and the workbook.