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Rev. Christopher Natan Sperb, Pastor

OUR MISSION

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

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER

Then My Tongue Will Sing Aloud of Your Righteousness (Psalm 51:14)

King David is often held up as one of the greatest Old Testament personalities. Besides being chosen by God to govern His people, he is the author of many Psalms, including ones that are considered joyful songs. However, someone may be surprised to learn from the Bible that this man also had a very dark side in his life. 2 Samuel 11 tells us the shocking story that David not only coveted another man's wife, but he also committed adultery with her. Then, when the woman became pregnant, David tried to cover up his sin by murdering her husband.

If King David was such a horrible adulterer and murderer, how could he properly sing religious songs to God? Here is the Biblical answer: This great paradox, where a gross adulterer and murderer properly and happily sings religious songs, reflects the greatest of all paradoxes: that, in Christ, our heavenly Father *"justifies the ungodly"* (Romans 4:5).

Why is this such a paradox? Because in a secular court a judge declares the innocent "not guilty" and the guilty "guilty"! Secular judges do not declare an innocent man guilty, nor a guilty man innocent. However, this is exactly what God says He does for us. *"For our sake [God] made [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"* (2 Corinthians 5:21). In His mercy, in Christ, God's action goes against all logic, reason, and secular law. In Christ, God does for us what He did for David: He *"justifies the ungodly"* (Romans 4:5).

As we look at King David, we need to realize that in God's eyes we are as guilty as David was. How can we know? Because in His Word, God says to us that if we have ever had a hateful thought about anyone, we are murderers. *"Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him"* (1 John 3:15). Thus, in God's eyes everyone is just as great a murderer as King David.

Instead of thinking how righteous we are in our own opinion of ourselves, we need to accept God's verdict that we are actually murderers and sinners, deserving of eternal death. Then consider what it really means to us that God, in Christ, *"justifies the ungodly."* That's right, He justifies us! Instead of thinking of our own self-righteousness, we can rejoice greatly and say with David to God, *"My tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness"* (Psalm 51:14; Romans 4:6).

Don't delay another day. Say and sing with David: *"Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. ... I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin"* (Psalm 32:1-2, 5).

St. Paul was right when he said that David sang about *"the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works"* (Romans 4:6). In other words, David's song rejoiced in God's gift of justification! God justifies the ungodly!

In Christ, God has forgiven and justified us in His sight! Therefore, we rejoice with David and say, *"O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise"* (Psalm 51:15). *"My tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness"* (Psalm 51:14).

Singing with you,

Pastor Christopher Sperb

Director of Christian Education

GAHU Happenings!

This month we have been talking about superheroes and how they relate back to the Bible. We are excited for next month's topic called the Dark Side. It will focus on how Jesus battled spiritual warfare, and how we can use that in our own daily lives.

Please include all of the youth and leaders in your prayers. We wish to build up and strengthen each of these leaders in their daily life; Elaine and Todd Wells, Paul and Casey Blessing and Donna Stam.

Young Adult Happenings!

As we get into the colder months, we will be putting our hikes on a small hiatus, but for our last hike, we will be going to Rocks State park. During these colder months, we will be having some other events, and right now I am organizing a cook-off. If anyone is interested in hosting an event like this, please let me know so that I can get in contact with you! If you are not on the email list, please send your email to dce@faithmd.org. Hope you can join us for these wonderful times together!

GAHU

10/8- 10 a.m. Church Servant Project

10/27- 6:30 p.m. Corn maze at Showvaker's Cornfusion

YAM

10/6 – 10 a.m. Hike at Rocks State Park

10/27- 6:30 p.m. Corn maze at Showvaker's Cornfusion

October Servant Project- Painting fence for Live Nativity Scene

Alexi Lundquist (DCE)



Small Group Ministry

This month many of our small groups began meeting after taking the summer off. I am so glad I get to work with so many amazing people who are willing to host these studies at their home, and those who are willing to lead them. It makes me think of Proverbs 27:17 NIV "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." I am so often impressed by those around me who live this out in their daily lives. During GAHU this month I have seen it from many of our youth, and it is so encouraging to see it happening throughout this congregation. I pray that you are part of one of these groups as they are such a blessing to those who are a part of it. If you have any questions or want to get involved, please email Alexi at dce@faithmd.org



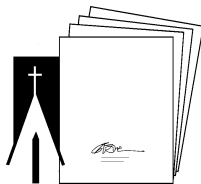
National Youth Gathering

A couple of days ago, I met with those who were interested in going to the National Youth Gathering. It has been exciting to get to know everyone and get to find out some of the reasons people are interested in going. We will be having our first fundraiser this month. I ask that if you are interested in helping our youth attend the NYG you take an envelope and fill it with the amount that is written on the envelope.



A Word from our Elders

With fall here and church and school activities back in full swing we take stock of how we are plugged into them. The three goals of our Strategic Ministry Plan all center on service and discipleship to provide opportunities for all to be part of the ministry. Whether providing every member a means of studying and understanding Gods Word, using each member's gifts to fill our church ministries, or engaging further with local faith-based missions to serve others we are preparing our minds for action (1Peter 1:13). Another way to translate the Greek phrase Peter used would be to "roll up one's sleeves." Peter through the Holy Spirit wrote later in the same letter "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others." Maybe that's leading or participating in a small group, Bible study or connecting with local missions. Maybe you're not sure of your gifts, and you just need help identifying them. A resource will be rolled out soon to help you with that. There are teams working now on all three goals, and more information will be coming soon. As it does we ask that you prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to roll up your sleeves while being mindful that raising young ones and instructing them in the faith, caring for an aging parent or ailing spouse is also a calling from God.



This is a reminder that it's almost time again for our **Twelfth annual Faith Follies Talent Show**. Please come and share your gifts and talents with us for an entertaining night of friendship and fun. This year the talent show will be on **Friday, November 9th**. We will begin with pizza at 6:00 pm the show will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Please contact Connie Simmons if you have any questions 443-536-9673 Worshipdirector@faithmd.org

Worship Ministry

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face and the things on earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His beauty and grace."

CCLI Song # 7117260 Dwan Hill | Helen H. Lemmel | Lauren Daigle | Paul Mabury © Words: Public Domain Music: 2018 Centricity Music Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) CentricSongs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) See You At The Pub (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Flychild Publishing (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) So Essential Tunes (Admin. by Essential Music Publishing LLC) For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 61952

We know it is October because everywhere we look we see Halloween and Pumpkin Spice. I half expected to be offered the choice of Pumpkin Spice when I got the oil changed in my car the other day. Yes, fall is definitely upon us and along with it comes full calendars and schedules.

School in full swing along with extra activities. Deadlines, budgets, reports and responsibilities keep us busy at work, and then there are activities here at Faith to participate in as well.

As always, it helps to take a breath and remember Who is in charge and where our focus should be. Like Peter when he walked to Jesus on the water in Matthew 14:29-32

"Come," he (Jesus) said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

We need to never take our eyes away from Him. Jesus sustains us and keeps us afloat in every part of our lives. We need only to keep our trust and faith in Him!

Please join us for several opportunities in the worship ministry in the coming months, including your participation in the talent show, and lending your voice to our Christmas Cantata; Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, October 17th. Make a point to join us on Reformation Sunday, October 28th as we debut our new Brass and Wind Ensemble as well as hearing the handbell and children's choirs.

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

Connie Simmons

Evangelism Ministry

National Night Out - Thank You

I would like to thank the congregation for a job well done! Despite a one week postponement, extreme rainfall, muddy fields and other complications beyond our control, it looked great. The parking lot looked full, there was lots of activity outside the building. When I got inside, it was much better than I expected. Many vendors were set up. There were displays that featured everything from the American Automobile Association to food vendors and many different local churches. Faith Lutheran had free books on display. Helium balloons were all around the room, evidence that the balloon crew was active offering free Christian balloons. The Walking Stick Ministry was also explaining the Gospel message to members of the local community. Thanks for supporting the National Night Out.

"Connect" MREC and Faith Lutheran Church

On August 17th, Faith Lutheran Church in cooperation with The Marriage and Education Relationship Center hosted the movie "Connect". The movie reveals a very dark and sinister side of the Internet, which combined with the use of personal electronic devices, has brought on a steep rise in social media activity. Kirk Cameron takes a look at several of the negative results of the Internet.

We had 46 people in attendance. A number of people were from FLC as well as friends of MREC. We used Facebook to promote the event. Each member of the audience received a set of questions to help focus clearly on the main problems. There was a question and answer time after the movie, which brought a surprising interest from the audience. It was refreshing to see the cross generational interest from middle school through college, as well as grandparents, in the lively discussion. Questions were to the point and often very candid.



Lutheran Hour Ministries

Welcome to 'Project Connect' Booklet

Ministry Program

Bring hope to your community through **Project Connect** — an indispensable, on-site, booklet ministry resource that uses display racks of pocket-sized, topical booklets to promote outreach. There are also some booklets for equipping your congregation's members to share their faith. Each of the more than 50 booklets available is written from a Christian perspective and addresses a variety of topics, from forgiveness and the after-life to depression and anger management. Many have been translated into Spanish too.

Each display rack holds an assortment of booklets that are ideal for people to take at their convenience and discretion. When put in a church narthex or fellowship hall, these racks are available for visitors on their time, giving them resources when they need them. **Project Connect** rack placement doesn't have to be limited to only churches however. For instance, community recreational centers, doctors' and dentists' offices, area funeral homes (a very good location!). Each booklet has space to include your church's information -- complete with worship times and address directions.

Go to lhm.org/project-connect to see a listing of all available titles. Some of the **Project Connect** booklets are available as audio files, in addition to their standard PDF readable formats (some are [available in Spanish](#)). Downloads are free. Individual booklets can be purchased in any quantity

New Booklet Asks the Big Question: Who Is Jesus

This is a question that has been asked through the ages. And many are the answers it has produced. In *Who Is Jesus?* -- the latest booklet in LHM's **Project Connect** series -- best-selling author and LHM Content Development Manager Don Everts helps readers navigate their way to an understanding of who Jesus is and why He's important to us all.

Seasoned with relevant historical accounts, biblical manuscript data, lots of Scriptures, and easy-to-read writing, this quick feast allows readers to review the information and consider the question for themselves.

Women's Ministry Team

“Daughters Of The King” Women's Ministry Update

Join Us In The Journey!

About a year ago our women's ministry embarked upon a new adventure, a journey of Visual Faith. The introductory activities we've engaged in throughout the first leg of this journey have offered us an exciting glimpse into this transforming practice, one that incorporates visual, kinesthetic and tactile adaptations offering reminders of the faith that tell the story for followers of Jesus.

We are excited to announce that we are gearing up for the next leg of this Visual Faith journey, and we'd love for you to join in on the adventure. Starting in October, we will be holding monthly Visual Faith “Meet-Ups.” The purpose of these meet-ups is to introduce participants to Visual Faith practices through the sharing of ideas, tools and resources, as well as to provide a venue in which to learn and grow together in faith.

To begin with, we will be hosting two sessions, one during the day on the second Tuesday of the month immediately following the weekly women's Bible study and one in the evening on the second Thursday of the month during confirmation class hour. Please see the church bulletin for more details.

Whether you've been with us from the start or have yet to begin your adventure in Visual Faith, we encourage you to join us in engaging in a practice that can have a profound impact upon your own personal faith journey!

Questions about these Meet-Ups? Please contact Kim Schlauch (kimschlauch@gmail.com) or Tabatha Hohenberger (Minky0127@msn.com). For more information about Visual Faith, please visit www.visualfaithmin.org.

Upcoming Women's Ministry Events: “Sweet & Salty Bunco” Night

Our next fellowship event will take place on **Monday, October 8th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**. Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship and games! Bring along your favorite sweet or salty snack to share. Please contact Debbie Geiger (geigermama14@gmail.com) if you have any questions about this event.

Monthly Women's Ministry Gathering

Our next Monthly Women's Ministry Gathering will take place on **Saturday, October 20th from 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the Modular**. Join us for a time of fellowship and bible study. Please contact Sue Liebrecht (240-784-1374 or acts.1631@comcast.net) with any questions regarding this event.



Missions Ministry Team

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

“LWML – Lutheran Women's Missionary League”

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). For over 75 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions. The primary targets for the past several years are Nurturing Faith in Christ, Making Our Mission Meaningful and Sharing Encouragement. The league has as its “mission heart” thousands of volunteers who are daily dedicating their lives to making a difference in this world. These women are finding avenues to use their God-given talents as they meet the challenges to share the Gospel message. LWML is composed of campuses, in resident homes, or in other settings. A major emphasis is the support of mission and ministry throughout the world by means of mite box offerings. These mite box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in mission grants since the organization's inception in 1942. Their motto is “Serve the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:2 Check out their website for information www.lwml.org

Our congregation was able to share our blessings with Cadence International (The Bloker Family) by donating \$1282.00 for the month of August 2018.



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.

Please join us at the opening as we prepare to hear God's Word for the day. Connie Simmons continues to enrich us as we prepare our children to be a special part of our worship service with their voices.

Nursery is available for children ages 0-2, with age appropriate instructions beginning at age 2.

**Ages 3, Pre-K and K
"Faith Weaver Now"**

Weaving faith into today's families NOW.

**Grades 1-8
"Growing in Christ"**

God Protects His People in Egypt and the Exodus

**High School
Biblical Foundations
(continued)**

**Spiritual Warfare and Christians in
Modern Culture**

Sunday School Envelopes

Please remember to continue bringing in your offering to support our missions

Sunday School Missions

Our collections through December will go to support Concordia Day Care and Community Center in Bangkok, Thailand.

<http://www.cwefthailand.org/concordia-day-care--community-center.html>.

Fall Adult Bible Study Classes

New Members Class

Pastor Sperb
(Modular)

Harmony of the Gospels

John Knight
(Sanctuary)

**The Intersection of Church and State
and**

**Who Am I and What Am I doing Here
(Lutheran Hour Video Series)**

Stan Stigdon
(Modular)



GOOD NEWS. GREAT JOY!

It is true, you must know, when you plant a shoebox,
it will grow and grow.

First, filled with toys, essentials, and fun,
a toothbrush, a letter, the journey's begun.

The shoebox sails right over the sea
and is met with small hands who, with joy, receive.

And with this box, the best gift of all,
is the Good News of Christ for souls big and small.

When the Greatest Journey starts,
change begins growing in these little hearts.
As their hearts become filled, disciples are born,
and in these bare places, new churches are formed.

So, dear friends, you can see,
one simple little box,
though small it may be,
brings light to the world that never will end,
for children to share with family and friends.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

What goes in the box is fun...what comes out is eternal.

Every gift filled shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship—transforming the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ! Along with their shoebox gift, children also receive The Greatest Gift, a colorful presentation of the Gospel in their own language.

Start planning now to join us this year as we help to make a difference in the life of a child. Watch for more information in the bulletin, or contact Dana Stigdon at dstigdon@gmail.com. Boxes will be due on **November 11th**.



Calling all talent! Calling all talent!

It's time again for our Twelfth annual **Faith Follies Talent Show**. Come delight your church family and share your gifts and talents with us for a entertaining night of friendship and fun **Friday, November 9th**. We will begin with pizza at 6:00pm the show will begin at 7:00pm.

Please check the narthex and September newsletter for sign up sheets. **The sign up deadline is October 28th**.

Remember there are many things you can do such as dancing, comedy routines, skits, jokes, vocal, instrumental, baton-twirling, juggling, and so much more. Keep it fun, clean, and use your imagination!

If you don't have a piece to perform you can still participate by bringing something you have made to display, such as quilts, paintings, or other talents you would like to share.

Please contact Connie Simmons if you have any questions 443.536.9673
Worshipdirector@faithmd.org

Twelfth Annual Faith Follies Talent Show Sign up Sheet!

Name_____

Phone_____

E-Mail_____

Describe your Act/talent-What you plan to do_____

(Groups: list names on separate page please staple name list and sign-up sheets together.)

Who or what gave you the idea for your act_____

(If doing a musical piece)

Name of your Accompanist_____ Name of Song_____

Composer/Artist_____

Please return to Connie Simmons (mailbox 43) by Sunday, October 28th