

FOCUS

August 2011

Pastor Jonathan Schroeder 770-253-4007



Focus on New Families at Faith

This month we take the opportunity to meet our new Vicar Mark Reichert and his wife Rachel. Mark and Rachel will be beginning their vicar year at Faith on Sunday, August 14th. Here's what Mark has to say.

Where were you born and what was life like growing up?

I was born in New Berlin, WI (a suburb of Milwaukee) and lived there until I was a senior in high school, when we moved to a small farming community called Elroy, WI. I have two older brothers, Jim and Tim. I drank a lot of milk, ate a lot of peanut butter and red meat, and played tee ball, soccer, basketball, softball, and football at various times throughout my grade school and high school years. Rachel was born and raised in La Crosse, WI, right on the Mississippi River. She has one older sister named Michelle. Rachel participated in softball, basketball, cheerleading, cross country, and track as well as a host of other activities like choir, student council, national honors' society, and drama.



Where do your families live now?

We just got married this past May and are spending the summer in La Crosse, WI. My parents are in the process of moving from Elroy, WI back to the Milwaukee area again. Rachel's parents still live here in La Crosse.

When and how did you meet?

We met at Martin Luther College on RA duty. I was a sophomore and Rachel was a senior, and we got to know each other while we folded old clothes to donate that people in the dorms didn't want anymore, and during the next school year we got to know each other a little better. We weren't really an "item," though, until Rachel graduated in May 2008 and began teaching in California. That's when we decided that we wanted to be more than friends. We got engaged in May 2010 and married in May 2011.

When did you decide to become a pastor?

I was open to going into the ministry even back in grade school, but I wasn't really set on it. In high school I was actually pretty convinced that I didn't want to be a pastor, and that I wanted to go to some big university to be an engineer. Around Christmas time during my senior year, though, I decided to give Martin Luther College a shot to see if I might take a liking to ministerial training. Not only did I benefit from the encouragement of professors, but I spent my spring breaks and summers during college trying out ministry work. I actually spent all my spring breaks and one summer with Abiding Grace in Covington, GA. By the middle of college I was ready to go all in on becoming a pastor.

What types of jobs have you had?

My first job was in the produce section of a grocery store. When my family moved to Elroy, I worked at a restaurant in town. During college, I spent my summers doing ministry work. I spent the summer after my freshman year working with Abiding Grace in Covington, GA, the next with Good Shepherd in St. Peters, MO, and the next three with Victory of the Lamb in Franklin, WI. Rachel did a lot of babysitting growing up, and when she was 16, she took a job at Happy Joe's Pizza Parlor. During college she did babysitting and worked for a Christian child care center and the La Crosse Loggers baseball team. After college she got a call to be a teacher and dorm supervisor at California Lutheran High school.

What are you looking forward to most in your vicar year?

I'm looking forward to getting more ministry experience, getting to know the congregation, and eating lots of barbecue. Rachel is looking forward to being part of a new church family, getting to know the congregation, and getting a little taste of southern living.

Faith Lutheran Preschool

Faith Lutheran Preschool is ready to begin another year on August 16th. As of this writing, we have 64 children enrolled. I'm still working with several other families. If they each enroll, we'd have our largest enrollment ever at 69! That would be three away from capacity. Thanks to the dedicated work of our MMA guys, Luke and Julius, I've had a lot of preschool follow-up work this summer from interest drummed up by the door hangers they hung.

I'd like to introduce our staff for the 2011-2012 school year.

4 Year Old Class



Lead Teacher
Kristine Schroeder



Teacher Aide
Deb Peterson



Lead Teacher
Joan Bjornas



Teacher Aide M,W,F
Rachel Reichert



Teacher Aide T,Th
Kim Green

2 Year Old Classes



Lead Teacher
Tiffany Harris



Teacher Aide
Rachel Reichert



Lead Teacher
Kerri Madden



Teacher Aide
Amy Bonnette

I ask that you would please keep me and my staff in your prayers that we would be faithful to the ministry set before us to bring God's word to the little ones. We will have many opportunities to invite and encourage the families to come to church to learn more about their Savior. It is always an encouragement to me to know that you will welcome them when they come.

I would be amiss if I did not thank my dear husband, Scott, and the ever-helpful Al Creel for helping me with the miscellaneous work requiring tools and know-how to make everything look and function its best. Also, the preschool has a group of people that provide consultation and accountability to ensure that our preschool is mission-minded. Greg Morgan, Sarah Kvidt, Kerri Madden, Peggy Covey and Pastor Schroeder volunteer many hours every year to support the preschool. Thank you all for your tireless work!

Holly Buth, Director
Faith Lutheran Preschool

Devotion—It's No Lie: Heaven Is Better!

"...a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time..." (Titus 1:2)

I remember when my parents bought their very first—and only—brand new car. Or at least I claim to remember. It was 1986, and after just having their second child—me—my parents decided to go all out and buy the hottest car on the market: A minivan. That's right! Not a station wagon. A minivan! I bet then my parents couldn't have imagined having a better car.

But 14 years later, as I, then 15, contemplated getting my driver's license, I couldn't imagine a worse vehicle. That old minivan had manual doors, manual locks, and a manual transmission. There was no CD player. The air conditioning was spotty. And it just plain wasn't cool! How could my parents have ever thought it couldn't get any better!

Maybe you remember your first new car—or your first car period. Back then you also probably couldn't imagine anything better. But when you compare it to what you drive today, you're guaranteed to chuckle. Cars teach us an important truth: The best is not the best for long—something better is always just around the corner.

Sometimes we fail to apply that lesson from cars to life. Do you agree? Here's what I mean: We sometimes tend to think that life as we know it right now is hard to beat. When we've got iPads and flat screens, it's hard to look forward to what's to come in a place like heaven. Can heaven really be any better than what we've got right now? Is it really something to be excited about? That's the last thing God wants us to be thinking—reluctant to go to his heavenly home.

That's why Paul's words are so timely. He reminds us that we have *"a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time."* As Christians, you and I have a faith "resting on eternal life" promised by a God "who does not lie." In other words, your God, who absolutely always tells the truth, tells you to base your life on what's to come: Eternal life in heaven.

And when that seems hard, think about this: Maybe all the pictures of a golden city in the sky just don't excite you too much. Maybe you can't imagine life getting any better than right now. But God can—way better! And the one who does not lie holds out to you the hope of eternal life and says: "I've got a surprise waiting for you that beyond your wildest dreams. Just trust me!"

And one day, you'll be standing in heaven with your Savior Jesus, and you'll realize that heaven is better. Better than anything on earth. Better than anything in your imagination. And when you think back to life on earth, you'll shake your head—just the way you shake your head when you think of your old cars—and you'll say: "Man, how could I have ever thought life was so great? How could I have ever thought it couldn't get any better?" Because it's no lie: Heaven is better!

Vicar Nass

Farewell for Vicar and Emily Nass

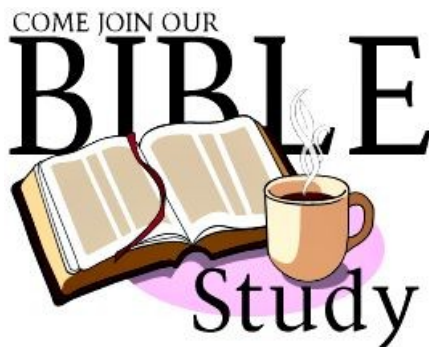
It is almost time for Vicar, Emily, and Isaiah to return to Mequon, Wisconsin so Vicar can complete his last year of pastoral training at the Seminary. Their last Sunday at Faith will be August 7th.

MOVING OUT: SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 2011 — 10:00 A.M. We need people to help move the Vicar's furniture out of his place.

FAREWELL: SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2011— 11:30 A.M. We are having farewell reception for Vicar & Emily after church. We will have cake and punch and visit with them before they depart for Wisconsin.



Women's Bible Study Starts Wednesday, August 17



Hi Ladies! Our women's Bible study will start again on Wednesday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Our topic will be "Beautiful Feet" - discover your spiritual gifts and how to use them to fulfill your vocation.

For more information, please contact Ruth Curtis, ruth.curtis@ymail.com (770-964-7330) or Sarah Kvidt, kvidts@bellsouth.net (770-252-9252)

*"How beautiful are the feet of those
who bring good news"*

Romans 10:15



Audit Committee Report

On June 29, the audit committee met to review a 50% sampling of the 2010 Faith Lutheran Church financial records. All of the committee's questions were answered satisfactorily. There was no need to expand the sampling. The audit committee was made up of Richard Bjornas, Scott Buth and Gary Eckhardt with assistance provided by Laura Eckhardt.

The committee would like to thank the bursar, Dawn Hill, and the treasurer, Gary Hill, for their fine work at maintaining the church's financial records.

August–September Volunteer Schedules

Sunday

Sunday	Acolyte	Friendship Register		Nursery	Video Taping
Aug 7	Nathan Curtis	Elise Harris	Emily Schroeder	Joyner	Andrew Bjornas observe Caleb Christopher
Aug 14	Siara Ford	Jaynie Adams	Henry Adams	Weigel	Lauren Curtis
Aug 21	Jacob Fiscus	Garrett Madden	Grant Madden	Bloy	Caleb Christopher
Aug 28	Ashley Kangas	Clayton Gibson	Madison Countryman	Springstroh	Joshua Buth observe Tyler Buth
Sept 4				Bjornas	Keith Schroeder
Sept 11				Green (Patrick & Jennifer)	Katherine Curtis
Sept 18				Harris	Tyler Buth
Sept 25				Kvidt	Anna Curtis

During the Week

Week of	Lawn Mowing		Church Cleaning	
	Lawn A	Lawn B	Family 1	Family 2
Aug 1	Hoth	Deschamp	Anderson	M. Massmann
Aug 8	Hughes	Heinz	Pauli	J. Schroeder
Aug 15	Schwab	Christopher	Cirillo	J & B Ford
Aug 22	Robbie Morgan	Greg Morgan	Seitz	Smith
Aug 29	Everhart	Watkins	Pfliger	Watkins
Sept 5	Bjornas		Weigel	Robertson
Sept 12	Ford		Chapman	Everhart
Sept 19	Massmann		P & J Green	M & K Schroeder
Sept 26	Adams	Duncan	Gibson	Kvidt

Ushering Teams

August			
Gary	Eckhardt	Patrick	Green
Aaron	Bloy	Raymond	Johnston
Art	Crowe	Bill	Madden
Stuart	Duncan	Mike	Moro
Colin	Duncan	Michael	Pfliger
Matt	Duncan	Joseph	Soletto
Todd	Freeman	Wayne	Sporleder

September			
Buth	Scott	Fiscus	Jeff
Adams	John	Mueller	Matthew
Anderson	Chad	Roberts	Jim
Buth	Joshua	Robertson	Brent
Buth	Tyler	Smith	George
Creel	Al	Wessinger	Pete
Ellis	Brent		

August Birthdays

David Springstroh	8/3	Len Gehl	8/17
Raelee Heinz	8/4	Ayden Payne	8/18
Daniel Foust	8/5	Sydney Bakken	8/20
Tony Caparoso	8/7	Michael Lanier	8/22
Arianna Everhart	8/7	Bill Madden	8/23
Grant Harrington	8/8	Peggy Covey	8/24
Daniel Buth	8/9	Andrew Heitshusen	8/24
Sarah Kvidt	8/12	Ron Covey	8/26
Gabrielle Soletto	8/12	Tim Nichols	8/26
Kristen Wessinger	8/12	Tiffany Harris	8/27
Tyler Wessinger	8/12	Grant Madden	8/27
Elizabeth Bloy	8/14	Garrett Madden	8/27
Debra Rector	8/14	Thomas Seitz	8/28
Christopher Eckhardt	8/15	Dennis Walrath	8/28
Brenda Heinz	8/15	Grant Heinz	8/31
Rachael Redmon	8/15		



CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Jonathan Schroeder 770-253-4007
 President: Gary Eckhardt..... 678-364-1383
 Treasurer: Gary Hill..... 678-817-6208
 Financial Sec.: John Kvidt..... 770-252-9252
 Foundations: Jenny Schroeder..... 770-253-6565
 Preschool: Greg Morgan..... 770-253-0380
 Outreach: Scott Buth 770-683-3999
 Prayer Chain: Dawn Hill 678-977-2946
 Connect Group: Judy Christopher . 770-599-6055
 Teen Group: Nathan Nass 770-253-4007
 Youth Group: Gary & Dawn Hill 678-817-6208
 Newsletter: Dawn Hill 678-977-2946
 Sherry Kangas 404-680-2175

*If you have information for the newsletter,
 please submit it to
 sherry.kangas@chick-fil-a.com
 by the 25th of each month. Thank you.*

Beginning on Wednesday, September 7th our youth group will start meeting together from 7pm—8pm.

Faith's youth group is for students in the 4th thru 6th grades. We get together and share God's Word, work on service projects, and have some fun eating snacks or playing games.

If you have any questions about youth group, please speak to Gary or Dawn Hill or email faithadmin@gmail.com.

If you are interested in being an adult participant with the group, please speak to Dawn Hill. We are always looking for new people to join in the fun with the youth.

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*"Faith comes from hearing the message,
 and the message is heard through the word of Christ."
 Romans 10:17*

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