

# FOCUS

January 2012

Pastor Jonathan Schroeder 770-253-4007



## Focus on New Families at Faith

As we continue focusing on new families here at Faith, we take the opportunity to meet some of our newest members, Adam and Cayla Wamsley, who were received into membership in December.

### Where did you two grow up? What was life like?

Cayla: I grew up in Augusta, Georgia with my mother, stepfather, and twin brother. We lived down the road from my cousins and grandparents, so I grew up with extended family that was very involved in my life. My brother and I couldn't have been more different - he was a baseball player and I was a musician that was "booksmart," as my family liked to call me. Luckily, we had a fine arts school in our county that I was able to attend during grades 6-12 so I could pursue my interests.

Adam: I grew up in Alpharetta, Georgia with my parents and an older sister. Both of my parents were music teachers, so naturally my sister and I studied music at an early age. My high school career was filled with AYWS rehearsals, marching band practice, and EYSO.



### How did you two meet? Any funny or interesting relationship stories?

Adam and I met at Georgia Southern University as music majors. During our freshmen year, we had a few classes together but only spoke to each other one time! We started getting to know each other while we were studying abroad in Europe because I was rooming with Adam's sister who was also a music major at the time. After exploring a castle together with a few friends one night, Adam and I were pretty much inseparable.

After we returned from Europe, we attended a Methodist Church in Statesboro. We sang in the choir and played in the college handbell choir. I spent summers babysitting triplets and Adam worked various band camps around the state. On Valentine's Day in 2010, Adam proposed in the courtyard at our church. We were married this June and moved to Newnan so that we could both work.

### Where have you lived, and what kinds of jobs have you had/Do you have?

I teach general music at Oak Knoll Elementary School in East Point and Adam teaches band, chorus, and guitar at Callaway High School in Lagrange.

### How did you end up here in this part of Georgia, and especially here at Faith?

After moving to Newnan, we began the search for a church. While researching online one night, we stumbled upon Faith's website. We had never heard of WELS churches before, but after reading everything we could about it, we decided to visit one Sunday in July. It was only our second week of church visiting, but we decided to return the next Sunday and haven't looked back. We are so happy with the church family we have found at Faith!

## Devotion Time

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

<sup>18</sup> I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.”<sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

John 21:15-19

Happy New Year! Each new year that comes is an opportunity to celebrate new beginnings. For some it's a time to look forward to better times ahead; for some it's more an opportunity to wipe the slate clean and leave the past behind.

Such is the case for Jesus' disciple Peter. This text doesn't mean nearly as much if you don't remember what came before it. This took place after Jesus' death and resurrection, before he ascended into heaven. Before Jesus was arrested, Peter had boasted that his love for Jesus was greater than anyone else's and that he would never abandon him, even if he had to die with him. But then on that same night, Peter three times denied even knowing Jesus. Peter didn't live up to his word. His love wasn't what it should have been, and he did exactly what he so proudly claimed he would never do.

Peter was a broken, shattered man. He thought he was strong enough in himself, until that night came to show him that he wasn't even close. He was on his knees, too beaten down and ashamed of his sinfulness even to ask for forgiveness.

So Jesus reached out to *him*. Jesus went to that cross for sinners like Peter, sinners like us. His death paid for the sins of everyone, even – and especially! – those who in weakness deny him by word or action. It might seem like Jesus is putting salt in Peter's wounds here by reminding him of what he had done – but in fact he was doing just the opposite. Jesus was healing him, building him up, in his own way. Peter by himself wasn't the Christian he should have been. Only when he stopped relying on himself and started relying totally on Jesus for his spiritual strength would he finally become the Rock that Jesus once said he'd be.

Peter brought no glory to Jesus on that sad night. He denied that he loved him, that he even knew him. But Jesus didn't reciprocate. Jesus loved Peter. He showed it on the cross, and he showed it by giving Peter another chance to prove his love. Peter failed in the past, and miserably. But on that cross, Jesus wiped Peter's slate clean. So Jesus tells him that the way he can show his love from now on is by doing the work Jesus gave him faithfully – feeding the flock under his pastoral care with God's Word. And then when the time came, Jesus would give Peter the true strength to stay faithful to him even to death – to make good on that promise he failed to keep on the night Jesus was betrayed.

Brothers and sisters, Peter's story is also our own. Maybe not in specifics, but we've all had those days and nights we'd like to forget, when we turned our backs on Jesus. Still, though torn up and beaten down, our Savior promises to us just as he did back then, “Your love for me might be weak and imperfect, but you still belong to me and my love for you will never fail. Lean on me, and I will give you the strength to be faithful.” We have forgiveness, a new beginning, a clean slate, and the promise of better things to come because Jesus graciously gives them. And just like he said to his first disciples and again here to Peter, he speaks to us to build us up and restore us to live for him and, if necessary, even to die for him: “follow me!”

Vicar Reichert

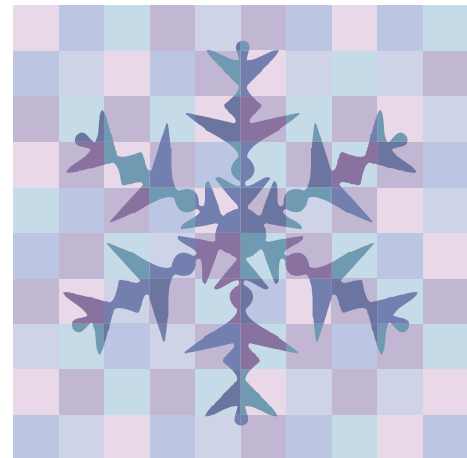
# January & February – Volunteer Schedules

## Sunday

Sunday	Acolyte	Friendship Register		Nursery	Video Taping
Jan 1	Tyler Buth	Elise Harris	Kate Harris	Morgan	Caleb Christopher
Jan 8	Kayla Nichols	Grant Madden	Garrett Madden	Oberhelman	Tyler Buth
Jan 15	Wade Pickett	Julia Wessinger	Eric Pfeifer	Johnson (Doug & Holly)	Andrew Bjornas
Jan 22	Jessica Pfliger	Rachel Redmon	Sam Pfliger	Peggy Clow/Doris Ford	Joshua Buth
Jan 29	Grant Heinz	Sophia Peterson	Arianna Everhart	Gibson	Katherine Curtis
Feb 5	Siara Ford	Stephanie Holldorf	Daisy Collins	Madden	
Feb 12	Nathan Curtis	Bella Amodeo	Hannah Buckley	L. Hicks/J. Anderson	
Feb 19	Tyler Madden	Piper Lanier	Harrison Lanier	Pickett	
Feb 26	Jeremy Countryman	Will Smathers	Laura Kvidt	Joyner	

## During the Week

Church Cleaning		
Week of	Family 1	Family 2
Jan 2	Freeman	Countryman
Jan 9	Adams	Hill
Jan 16	Amodeo	S Hughes
Jan 23	Bjornas	K Johnson
Jan 30	Bloy	Joyner
Feb 5	Bonnette	Kangas
Feb 12	Buckley	Koepke
Feb 19	Ford, J & B	Kvidt
Feb 26	Chapman	Lanier



## Ushering Teams

January			
<b>Hill</b>	<b>Gary</b>	Koepke	James
Boe	Gordon	Peterson	Duane
Carpenter	Max	Schroeder	Michael
Collins	David	Schwab	Andy
Foster	Logan	Seitz	Tom
Hill	Justin	Springstroh	David
Joyner	Roy	Weigel	Martin

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

## January Birthdays

Pascal Chapman	1	Andrea Deschamps	17
Farrah Poage	1	Dawn Holldorf	17
Jim Christopher	2	Letty Hiltzheimer	18
Abby Lesage	3	Blake Giles	19
Rob Watkins	3	Will Tredo	19
Vi Henkes	4	Ed Lesage	20
Duane Peterson	5	Steven Bonnette	22
Grant Harris	6	Ryan Cirillo	22
Allison Pfeifer	7	Allison Crowe	22
Maggie Buckley	8	Jay Ford	22
Madison Green	8	Stephanie Holldorf	22
Patrick Green	8	Stephanie Korsenowski	23
Michael King	10	Colin Duncan	29
Erin Ricker	10	Matt Duncan	29
Emma Robertson	10	Jeff Fiscus	29
Andrew Bjornas	11	Amy Heitshusen	29
Katie Bendall	15	Collin Tredo	30

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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 Outreach: Scott Buth ..... 770-683-3999  
 Prayer Chain: Dawn Hill ..... 678-977-2946  
 Connect Group: Judy Christopher. 770-599-6055  
 Teen Group: Mark Reichert ..... 770-253-4007  
                   Andy Schwab..... 404-759-5901  
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 Newsletter: Dawn Hill..... 678-977-2946  
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If you have information for the newsletter,  
 please submit it to  
[sherry.kangas@chick-fil-a.com](mailto:sherry.kangas@chick-fil-a.com)  
 by the 25th of each month. Thank you.

## Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study will resume on January 4th in room 6.  
 We will finish up our study from Luke called "God's Prescription for the Soul".  
 At the end of January a new study will start called "God Loves Moms".  
 Please join us on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 for a great mid-week study!

## Faith Lutheran Preschool

Pajama Day! This might just be the favorite day of the year for all involved. The first day back from Christmas break is a difficult one after two and a half weeks off. To ease everyone back into a routine, we just eliminate the need to get dressed - pajamas for everyone! Yes, it's a little weird for the staff; however, the kids think it's just dandy, and they will want to do it every day after that.



Registration packets for the currently enrolled students are delivered the first day back after vacation. They will have the month of January to secure their spots for the next school year. Come February 1st, we'll open the remaining spots to the community. If you or someone you know want to try for a spot, please let me know today. I will get a packet to you so that you can be ready. We are a much loved program so the spots fill quickly. If you aren't ready to register in February, let me know so that I can contact you to let you know how many spaces we have left in the class you need and an idea of when I think it'll fill. If you have already told me you want to register for next year, I will give you a registration packet one of the first two Sundays in January. If you aren't in church or didn't get one by the second Sunday, please give me a call to arrange to receive one.

Thank you for keeping the preschool and its staff in your prayers. The preschool is a small business with all the joys and challenges involved. Knowing that God is leading, guiding and blessing us through your prayers is a wonderful thing!

Holly Buth, Director, Faith Lutheran Preschool