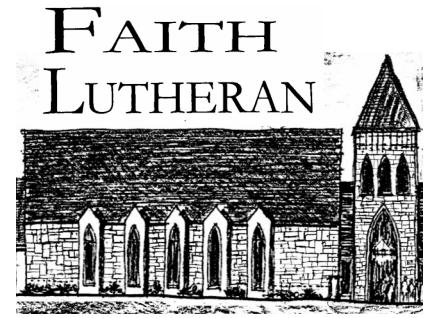


FOCUS

March 2011

Pastor Jonathan Schroeder 770-253-4007



Getting Connected at Faith!

We take a break from meeting new families at Faith to describe a new ministry that's designed to help you meet and connect with other members here at Faith:

Connect Groups.



What's the Background?—God's Blessings!

Every one of us can look around church on Sunday morning and see faces we don't recognize. That shows how God has blessed our congregation! He continues to bring new families into contact with his Word. He continues to use us to share the wonderful news of our Savior with more and more people. What a blessing! The growth God has granted to our church allows us to meet new Christian friends and grow in faith with more brothers and sisters in Faith. We thank God for his blessings every single time we gather together!

What's the Challenge?—Staying Connected!

With God's blessings to us at Faith come some challenges. As Faith grows, it's harder for us to know everyone else. And the more people we don't know, the easier it is to feel disconnected. That's exactly what we don't want to happen! We want our new members to have lots of opportunities to get involved in our church's ministry and meet their new family at Faith. We want those who have been members for years to know that we still care about them too. As Faith grows, we don't want anyone to fall through the cracks—we want everyone to feel connected to each other and to Christ.

What's the New Idea?—Connect Groups

Over the past year, we've developed a plan for a new ministry here at Faith—**Connect Groups**. Here's what that means: Our congregation has been divided up into 16 different **Connect Groups** each led by a **Connect Group Leader**. Each group is made up of 6 to 9 families. The idea of the **Connect Groups** is to provide a structure in which Christian friendships can grow. The **Connect Group Leaders** aren't there to force you to do anything—they're there to help the families in their groups grow in their relationships with God and each other.

What's the Goal?—Build Stronger Connections

Our hope for Faith Lutheran is to help all our families build a close connection to Christ and His Church. Here's where the **Connect Groups** come in. We hope our **Connect Group** ministry will provide meaningful service opportunities, personal contact with other members, and the friendly dynamics of a small group united by Christ's love. We've asked our **Connect Group Leaders** to find ways—perhaps every couple of months—to get their groups together. This could be as simple as helping out with an event at church, heading out to a restaurant together, or gathering for a few minutes after church just to get acquainted. Your **Connect Group Leader** will be open to your suggestions too!

What's Next?—Be Ready!

Our **Connect Group Leaders** will be contacting the members of their **Connect Groups** soon to provide details about the first service opportunity for our **Connect Groups**: hosting our Lenten dinners in March and April. Each **Connect Group** has been assigned to help host one of our Lenten dinners, and your **Connect Group Leader** will let you know soon when and how you can help—it's one way to get connected!

If you ever have any questions about our **Connect Group** ministry, feel free to contact our **Connect Group Coordinator**, Judy Christopher, or Pastor or Vicar.

Lent Suppers & Devotions

Please join us Wednesday Evenings in March and April for dinner and devotion during this Lenten Season.
Lent is a period of 40 days of preparation for the celebration of Easter.

6:00pm	Dinner
6:45pm	Devotion
7:30pm	Choir

Menus:

March 9	Soup, Salad, Bread	March 30	Chili, Salad, Bread
March 16	Italian, Salad, Bread	April 6	Casseroles, Salad, Bread
March 23	Sloppy Joes Chips, Salad, Jell-O	April 13	Baked Potatoes, Salad, Bread

Look for sign up sheets for dinner are in the gathering area

Preschool News

Registration for next year is going just awesome!
We are full in our two-year-old class and in our Monday-Wednesday-Friday three-year-old class.
We are 3/4 full in our four-year-old class and half way full in the Tuesday-Thursday three-year-old class.

This is just fantastic for the first of March. We may have to start looking at opening some new classes since this is so early to be this full so keep encouraging your friends to call.

Thank you for keeping the preschool in your prayers. We have such a great privilege here to tell the little children the good news about their Savior.



Holly Buth
Director, Faith Lutheran Preschool

Tax Breaks for Gifts from IRAs

Recent legislation signed by President Obama can help WELS donors save hundreds of dollars on their 2011 taxes as they support ministries through distributions from their IRAs.

As part of the tax law passed in late December that extends the Bush-era tax cuts, Congress has resurrected a provision that allows people over 70.5 years of age to make tax-free distributions from their traditional or Roth Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) for charitable purposes, even if they don't itemize deductions.

To qualify, a charitable distribution requires a direct transfer from an IRA to a qualified public charity. As a qualified public charity, WELS Foundation can facilitate this process for donors looking to support Faith Lutheran in this way.

Consider the example of someone 71 years old who is taxed at a rate of 20 percent and who doesn't itemize. For this person a \$5,000 gift by way of a qualified charitable distribution from a traditional IRA will mean \$1,000 in income tax savings.

If you would like more information on this or other tax advantaged gifts for any age group, contact Pastor Schroeder.

Foundations

Summer College Course at Faith

Foundations will be offering a college course for credit at Faith. This summer's course is History, Western Civilization 1. This is a three week intensive class from June 6-June 24, 2011. The class will be held Monday-Friday, from 9:00am-12:00pm for these three weeks. Dr. Arnold Palmer, from Wisconsin Lutheran College, will be on-site at Faith teaching the course.



The course is open to rising juniors and seniors in high school, college students, non-traditional students, and continuing education students. This class is worth three college credits and will transfer into most universities and colleges.

For more information, please contact Jenny Schroeder at foundations.director@gmail.com or via phone at 404-667-0292.

LWMS Spring Rally at Faith!

Come and See: Everything you wanted to know about LWMS (Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)



Join us on March 26th for an interesting rally intended to help our rapidly growing congregations connect with LWMS by delving into what the organization does and how we can share in the joy—an ideal rally for those not familiar with LWMS and a great encouragement to those that are.

Former LWMS board member, Pastor Doug Tomhave will be our guest speaker, and a special presentation will be made by current LWMS Vice-President Bambi Tuttle.

Breakfast and registration begins at 8:00 a.m. The rally starts at 9:00 a.m. There will be information presented about some of the missions that our church body supports and how the LWMS helps to support God's faithful servants both at home and abroad with words of encouragement and pennies (you'll be amazed at how God blesses pennies). We'll have lunch and a Bible study and end mid-afternoon.

It is difficult to explain in a short paragraph what LWMS is all about so, please, "Come and See!"

If you have any questions about the rally or LWMS, please speak to Holly Buth.

Devotion Time

Get Ready to Celebrate!

We know what it's like to get ready. In fact, many of us are probably getting ready for something right now. If you're having a baby, you prepare for months in advance. If you're going on a trip, you spend weeks getting ready for it. In life we spend a lot of time getting ready.

So get ready, because we're entering a very special time of year—the season of Lent. Lent what? That's not a word we hear often, but Lent simply means “lengthen.” Lent refers to this time in the spring when the days grow longer and the greatest week of the year draws closer: Palm Sunday...Good Friday...Easter... We prepare for just about everything under the sun, so we can certainly prepare to celebrate the greatest events ever—the death and resurrection of our Savior.

But what kind of preparation for Easter are we talking about? Should we give up certain foods? Should we knock the smiles off our faces for a few weeks? Here's what God has to say: *“Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God”* (Joel 2:13a). Fasting? No. Tearing our clothes? Absolutely not. God focuses on our hearts, not outward actions. So when it comes to getting ready for Easter, God wants us to repent. He wants us to confess our sins and return to him for forgiveness. That's nothing new. Repentance is part of our everyday lives.

Because before we can celebrate what Jesus did to take away sin, we need to realize our own sin. God wants us to compare our lives with what he commands in his Word. He wants us to realize how helpless we are to help ourselves. He wants us to realize how much we need our Savior. That's what repentance is. It's never an act of self-mutilation. It's not a way to make ourselves feel good by first making ourselves feel bad. If you want to get ready for Easter, then look at your heart. Realize that you're a sinner who needs your Savior.

Because that's the goal of repentance. The goal is to *“return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love”* (Joel 2:13b). The goal of repentance is to recognize our sin and throw ourselves into the arms of God, because there we find the true Easter joy of sins forgiven, death defeated, and heaven won.

That repentance makes us ready for Easter, because before you can truly appreciate something, you need to understand just how bad you need it. Insulin doesn't mean much to me, because I don't have diabetes. But to a diabetic, it means life! Jesus' death means nothing to those who don't realize their sin. But to us who do, nothing is sweeter! Lent is a time for us to get ready for Easter as we marvel at what our compassionate and gracious Father did to save us sinners.

So as the weather gets nicer and the days get longer, spend some time getting ready to celebrate your Savior's resurrection. Focus on what's inside—in your heart. Confess your sins to your God, and then stand in awe of the love of your Father who did not spare his only Son but gave him up for us all. That's something to get ready for! Prepare your hearts, so that on Easter morning you are ready to shout with joy: *“Christ is risen indeed!”*

Do you shop online?

Did you know your online purchases could help Faith? Well that can!

Register for free as a member of iGive.com at: www.iGive.com/FaithLutheranChurch

Shop at one of the over 800 web stores that participate in iGive.com

Then, a percentage of your purchase will go to Faith Lutheran Church. Every penny of the advertised donation goes directly to Faith. No administrative costs, fees, no mark-ups, and you never pay more to shop through iGive.

Now if you are like me you are thinking, yeah sure they will. They are just going to track me, sell my information, and Faith will not see any donation. Well, that is what I thought, so I registered a year ago to see if it really works. And guess what, it does! Just by signing into iGive.com before I do my regular shopping, I have raised money that actually has been paid to Faith. It is found money for church from buying the items I was purchasing anyway. Pretty Nice!

iGive.com offers two ways to earn money for Faith.

Shopping: You'll find over 800 of the web's best at iGive.com, with new stores added every week. Check iGive.com/ Shop to see if your favorite store is on the list. Next to each store in the iGive Mall, you'll see exactly how much of each purchase will be donated to Faith Lutheran Church.

Searching: The iGive search engine raises a penny (or more!) every time you search the web.

Ready to give it a try?

Go to: www.iGive.com/FaithLutheranChurch

Faith will automatically be selected to receive your iGive earnings!

Create an iGive account in just a few moments.

Your iGive account is totally free and private. iGive states they will never sell your e-mail address or personal information to anyone.

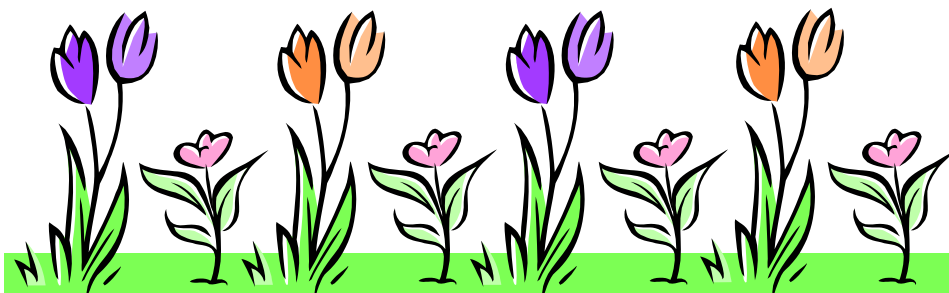
Then shop or search just like you normally do. That's it.

In case you are wondering about this company iGive.com:

iGive.com is an Internet company established in 1997, whose goal is to enable the economic power of individuals to benefit their chosen community causes or nonprofits. Online retailers pay iGive.com a sales commission, which is totally separate from the donation rates listed on our web site. iGive.com®

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible study will be taking a break during Lent starting Ash Wednesday. We look forward to our special family time during Lent and will finish our "Where They Walked" study after Easter!



Summer Camps for 2011

4th-8th Graders Summer Camp — Helen

Camp South-Soul Survivor for 4th-8th Graders

Each summer, our national church body runs a one-week Christian summer camp in Helen, GA for kids entering 4th-8th grades. It's called Camp South. This year's Camp South runs from Monday June 27th through Friday July 1st. The cost is \$295 per camper.

Here's what the camp coordinators have to say about the camp:

Camp South—Soul Survivor will take place Monday, June 27th - Friday, July 1st at the beautiful Unicoi Lodge in Helen, Georgia. Camp South is for students entering grades 4-8. And, back by popular demand, the kids will enjoy a Survivor themed camp with multiple challenges daily with the winning teams getting first-in-line privileges at camp!

This year's theme is: God Recycles. He Remade You! Our Bible studies will be based off the Christian three "R's" of recycling: Redeemed, Renewed and Restored.

Teen Summer Camp—Orlando

Amazing Race Teen Challenge for Teens entering 9th-12th Grades

For the very first time, our national church body is running a four-day Christian summer camp just for teens in Orlando, FL. This summer's camp runs from Monday July 25th through Thursday July 28th and costs \$295 per teen.

Here's what the coordinator has to say:

The Amazing Race Teen Challenge will take place Monday, July 25th – Thursday, July 28th at the Tropical Palms Resort in Kissimmee (Orlando), Florida. The Amazing Race Teen Challenge is for students entering grades 9-12. This is our BRAND NEW CAMP and I can't wait for the teens to enjoy it! Pastor Jon Boggs will be our Keynote Speaker for each of our Bible study sessions. Along with fun events at Tropical Palms Resort, we will spend an entire day at Disney's EPCOT Theme Park. While there, the teens will compete in The Amazing Race Teen Challenge at EPCOT. This Disney theme park is made up of countries from around the world. Teens will compete in challenges throughout the day just like on the TV show The Amazing Race. They will also ride every major ride watching carefully for their next clue hidden within the ride! Prizes will be given for first, second and third place teams.

This year's theme is: Run With Perseverance.

If you are interested in either camp, please speak to Vicar Nass.
If there's enough interest from Faith we could to take a group to the camp.

March—April Volunteer Schedules

Acolyte & Friendship Register

	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Friendship Register</u>
March 6	Mike Eberle	Ava Johnson and Nicholas Johnston
March 13	Jacob Fiscus	Tyler Kangas and Miranda Countryman
March 20	Slara Ford	Versailles Weigel & Will Smathers
March 27	Dalia Gibson	Emily Schroeder & Sam Pfliger
April 3	Katie Watkins	Garrett Madden & Grant Madden
April 10	Ashley Kangas	Laura Kvidt & Emily Fiscus
April 17	Justin Schroeder	Elizabeth Bloy & Maddie Bonnette
April 24	Erin Ricker	Daniel Buth & Daisy Collins

Cleaning Schedule

Week of March 7	Quinn/J. Morgan	Duncan
Week of March 14	Madden	Ricker
Week of March 21	Heinz	Mueller
Week of March 28	Eckhardt	Bloy
Week of April 4	Clow/Hicks	Doris Ford
Week of April 11	Pfeifer	Harrington
Week of April 18	Freeman	Countryman
Week of April 25	Hill	Ellis

Nursery Schedule

March 6	West	April 3	Peggy Covey/Sherry Kangas
March 13	Kvidt	April 10	Rob Nichols/Jenny Schroeder
March 20	Watkins	April 17	The Buths
March 27	Debra Rector/Jamie Payne	April 24	Easter/Volunteers

schedules continued on next page

March Birthdays

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Jonathan Schroeder 770-253-4007
 President: Gary Eckhardt..... 678-364-1383
 Treasurer: Gary Hill..... 678-817-6208
 Secretary: Rob Nichols 770-629-5228
 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 faithadmin@gmail.com by the 25th of each month. Thank you.

Brent Robertson	1	Tami Lorenz	14
Brenda Morgan	2	Andrew Nichols	16
Jan Morgan	2	Amy Bonnette	17
Lauren Oberhelman	2	Emily Lorenz	17
Jamie Payne	2	Elliott Robertson	17
Olivia Vaillancourt	4	Kristen Countryman	21
Scott Buth	6	Julia Wessinger	24
Katherine Seitz	7	Scot Gibson	25
Katie Watkins	8	Stephanie Garrelts	26
Jack Bonnette	9	Clayton Gibson	26
Jacob Fiscus	9	Harrison Lanier	26
Jeremy Countryman	10	Lisaann Pauli	26
Laura Eckhardt	11	Joseph Soletto	27
Lee Green	13	Robert Diehl	28
Linda Hicks	13	Regina Hendricks	28

Video Taping Schedule

March 6	Andrew Bjornas	April 3	Caleb Christopher
March 13	Katherine Curtis	April 10	Luke Hendricks
March 20	Cole Johnson	April 17	Anna Curtis
March 27	Lauren Curtis	April 21 (Maundy Thursday)	Keith Schroeder
		April 22 (Good Friday)	Joshua Buth
		April 23 (Easter Vigil)	Keith Schroeder
		April 24 (Easter Sunday)	Andrew Bjornas

March

Ushering Teams

April

Buth	Scott	Nichols	Rob
Anderson	Chad	Christopher	Jim
Adams	John	Curtis	Ron
Buth	Joshua	Everhart	Jason
Creel	Al	Ford	Jay
Ellis	Brent	Giles	Blake
Fiscus	Jeff	Hold	Tim
Hendricks	Luke	Hoth	John
Mueller	Matthew	Morgan	Robbie
Roberts	Jim	Nichols	Tim
Smith	George	Pfeifer	Jonathan
Wessinger	Pete	Schwab	Andy
Robertson	Brent		