

the voice



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Naples, Florida

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control...”

Galatians 5: 22-23a

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Summer
2019

The Voice of Faith is a monthly publication of Faith Lutheran Church of Naples, Florida. Please address comments and articles to: jrobertson@flcnaples.com. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month.

Grief

Recently, I came across an article by Molly Fumia. She wrote, “Grief is a journey, often perilous and without clear direction. The experience of grieving cannot be ordered or categorized, hurried, or controlled, pushed aside or ignored indefinitely. It is inevitable as breathing, as change, as love. It may be postponed, but it will not be denied.”

Her statement is so true. When it comes to grieving the death of a loved one, there are no linear patterns, no “normal” reactions, no rulebook to follow. The word “grief” is derived from the French word “greve,” meaning a heavy burden. To have to carry the physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual baggage can be overwhelming.

Here are some important lessons to remember:

1. Don't be discouraged if things get worse before they get better.

When faced with challenges, I often use the resurrection principle. During prayer, I remember the death and resurrection of Jesus. Waiting 3 days to make a choice, decision, or acting on a thought often helps through the grieving process.

2. God allows us to grieve (but with hope)

When thinking of my loved ones, I often go to the Psalms for comfort and peace. But above all, I remember Jesus as He grieved the death of His friend Lazarus. There is no shame in mourning your loss with a heart full of sadness.

3. There is no easy way when dealing with grief.

My pastor once told me at the funeral of my grandfather: “If you're going to get better, you're going to have to taste the pain.” The way of the cross shows the need that pain precedes healing and restoration. God will provide His presence in the depths of grief.

Over the past three weeks, I have been turning to the Psalms to help with my own personal grieving process. Psalm 34:18-19 has been a comfort and I share with you:

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all.”

In Christ,
Pastor Don

To Truly Live

“Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don’t really matter.” – Francis Chan

What does it mean to truly *live*? What is the driving motivation behind it?

You may be at first reluctant to admit it (I am too) but isn’t it fear? So much of what we do and what we have...isn’t it because of the thing we all possess: fear? It affects every age.

For our youth, in my constant conversations with them I hear: “I need to do really well and get a good grade in school. If I don’t, then it will lower my average...it will be on my record...I might not get into the college I want...my parents will be mad at me...I will be disappointed...I don’t know what I’ll do if that happens.” There’s that snowball taking shape.

Adults, you’re not exempt either. “I need to perform really well at my job or else I’ll be fired. I need to get a job, I don’t know what I’ll / where I’ll be without one. Am I doing enough for my family? Will I have enough when I retire?” The snowball is rushing down the snowy mountain.

Older adults even still. “Did I do enough? What am I going to do now that mostly everyone I know and love is gone? How am I going to live on what’s left for me? Are the sins of my past finally catching up on me?” Watch out for the avalanche.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not trying to discredit any of these things. This fear(s) we have and live with is valid, and to a greater or lesser degree help us go about each day and perform the tasks we need to accomplish. But if this is how we chiefly live, we face a greater peril. The danger is being consumed by it (fear).

Uncertainty about our identity and purpose in life casts its looming shadow. Insecurities form. We start playing the comparison game – putting our lives up against others to see “Am I at least doing better than that guy?”. It’s even led to a widespread social anxiety unique to our times: FOMO – “Fear Of Missing Out.” This is a widespread worry that others are having better experiences while you are left out of them; social media is the main feeder of this apprehension. Driven by fear we push, climb, and claw to succeed at, accrue, and earn things that in the end will pass away with time: status, position, and recognition. So I ask each of us: Is that truly living?

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” – St. Paul, Philippians 1:21

We live by Christ’s grace being His followers. This means above all that we are free from fear. To live is Christ. This means that we show others that Christ is in control of our lives, even when people or circumstance want to convince us otherwise. As we wait for what our Lord promised us, eternal life with Him, our lives here on earth are wrapped up in Jesus.

While in prison and compelled by the very Spirit of the living God, Paul wrote an amazing letter to the Philippians. The fear of what was going to happen to him (persecution, suffering, death) should’ve kept him down and silent. But his life was wrapped up in the resurrected life of our Lord Jesus Christ. For Paul, even to die was gain; it meant that he would be with Christ.

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He saw his own suffering and dying in Jesus as magnifying Christ's Name because it showed Paul's trust in Him was of priceless worth. Paul's faith was for more valuable than everything else we would say he lost in death. And then all the more we see Paul's faith shine out later in his letter:

I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For His sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ.” - Phil. 3:7-8

As it was for Paul, so it is with you this very day. Your life is wrapped up in Christ Jesus Who is risen and alive! Whatever fear you may have out of loss or lack, it's rubbish. To live is Christ. The value of your faith and life in Jesus is superior than the stuff you have while you live in this beautifully God-created world.

So what does it mean to truly live? It is fearing, loving, and trusting Him above all things (see Luther's *Small Catechism*). Aka, "God's got it; God's got me!" It entails going about each day in such a way to show that Christ is Lord. And the good news in this daily task is that Jesus does not leave us alone to attempt it on our own (John 14). Our Helper, the Holy Spirit, is with and in us. He is our great God, Who produces in us His fruit to **live** life to the fullest: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control (Galatians 5:22-23a). This is the focus of our summer sermon series at Faith—hey, I had to make it known somehow. Throughout the series, Pastor Don and I encourage you in the Name of Jesus to keep on living! For truly, God is living in each of you!

All praise to our living Lord,
Pastor Sam

Praising our Lord, we thank you dear family of Faith for all your prayers, generous outpouring of craft and snack donations, selfless giving of time, and the joyful sharing of God's "Miraculous Mission" in His Son Jesus Christ at VBS this year! May God continue His great and saving work in us to the fame of His great Name!

Pastor Treglown and Pastor Maconachy

thank you 😊

Pray for our Youth!

Can you believe that it's almost time for the 2019 National Youth Gathering? We would love to remind everyone to pray for our Youth and leaders. We pray for safe travels, and that God will be with them during this once in a lifetime experience.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Paul Rauch	July 1	Gerald Hoogland	July 23	Sandi Herrman	Aug 11
Barry Farnam	July 2	Michael Schmidt	July 24	Betty Marsit	Aug 11
Lucy Hazelett	July 2	Mitzie Henderson	July 25	Kooper Wise	Aug 11
Mary Runstadler	July 2	Don Kuhre	July 25	Alma McCaffrey	Aug 13
Lauren Peterson	July 3	Tim Dickerson	July 26	Angela Marceau	Aug 14
Joy Krentz	July 4	David Ettinger	July 26	Kensi Wells	Aug 14
Gail Robinson	July 4	Chloe Hazelett	July 26	Tiffany Renzi	Aug 15
Norm Martin	July 6	Chris Kobzina	July 26	Emil Kolberg	Aug 18
Jill Kolberg	July 7	Audrey Heidenreich	July 27	Sonia Ortega	Aug 19
Star James	July 8	Walt Berning	July 29	Cookie Justice	Aug 20
Rick Pontius	July 8	Susan Gannon	July 29	Bonnie Smith	Aug 20
Joshua Dickerson	July 9	Glenn Hasse	July 29	Makenna Englund	Aug 21
Ken Fish	July 11	Shirley Hulse	July 29	Barbara Hildebrandt	Aug 21
Marjorie Graflund	July 11	Jim Russo	July 29	Chris Sofianos	Aug 21
Aaron Robidoux	July 11	Julie Ross	July 30	Jo Treglown	Aug 21
Charlie Hacker	July 13	Dawna Hackman	July 31	Lisa Ahlbrand Twadell	Aug 22
Walter Harrington	July 13	Elise Mast	Aug 1	Kathy Miller	Aug 22
Kathy Nelson	July 13	Paul Renzi	Aug 2	Nick Beres	Aug 23
Brian Revell	July 15	Dennis Goodman	Aug 4	Anna Cheffy	Aug 24
Jim Tracy	July 15	Roger Best	Aug 5	Paul Wendling	Aug 24
Hilde Fueredi	July 16	Gail Peterson	Aug 5	Ashley Inman	Aug 25
Audrey Geitner	July 16	Don Carlo	Aug 6	Earl Mast	Aug 27
Art Puch	July 16	Denelle Kern	Aug 7	Ron Mitchell	Aug 27
Joshua Best	July 17	Lois Poretti	Aug 8	Warren Opel	Aug 27
Luise Andrea	July 20	Dolores Gehrke	Aug 9	Nicholas Smith	Aug 28
Adam Fueredi	July 20	Sam O'Hara	Aug 9	Virgine Lackey	Aug 29
Anna Hudson	July 20	Sue Wood	Aug 9	Donald Longshore	Aug 29
P.J. Polomsky	July 20	Joyce Couch	Aug 10	Joslyn Bartley	Aug 30
Sebastien Saitta	July 20	Judy Johnson	Aug 10	Helen Strahley	Aug 30
Kathy Ricker	July 21	Adam Pajer	Aug 10	Denny Duebner	Aug 31
Dave Slocum	July 22	Alex Pajer	Aug 10		
Alyssa Andrea	July 23	Marge Fink	Aug 11		

Paul & Carolyn Dorr	July 2	Scott & Lynn Thiewes	July 21		
Jerry & Tauba Ingenthron	July 4	Gil & Evelyn Gaugert	July 25		
Kevin & Kris Arsenault	July 6	Christian & Laurie Andrea	July 28		
Warren & Lois Opel	July 6	Sal & Dorothy Lupo	July 28		
Mark & Jennifer Durland	July 7	Bill & Barbara James	July 30		
Walter & Julie Inman	July 7	Tom & Denelle Kern	July 31		
Andy Ward & Laura Proos-Ward	July 8	Walt & Vera Berning	Aug 4	Don & Jo Treglown	Aug 14
Adam & Hilde Fueredi	July 9	Roger & Donna Jean Christy	Aug 5	Barry & Carol Farnam	Aug 15
Denny & Louise Lunski	July 13	Bill & Mary Anne Miller	Aug 6	Dale & Karen Kruse	Aug 15
Steve & Monique Mielke	July 15	Kathy & Steve Nelson	Aug 7	Paula & Richard Leighton	Aug 15
George & Bridget Doerner	July 20	William & Mardelle Wuerger	Aug 11	Don & Tina Espiritu	Aug 19
Art & Gloria Eichmann	July 20	Bob & Jan Scholie	Aug 12	Bill & Dolores Gehrke	Aug 21
John & Julie Ross	July 20	Quinten & Corey Grier	Aug 13	Don & Marie Carlo	Aug 27

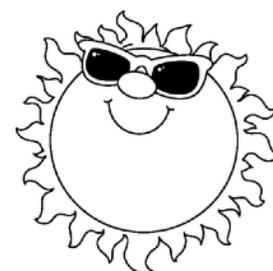
Happy Anniversary

Summer Dates to remember

Rally Day - September 8

Confirmation - September 8

Have a child entering the 7th Grade? Contact Pastor Sam to sign your child up for Confirmation this coming school year!



Fellowship and the Church Family

Just what is Fellowship? The dictionary tells us it's "*companionship of individuals in a congenial atmosphere and on equal terms.*" It also says it is "*friendship, comradeship, and a close association of friends or equals sharing similar interests.*" We think there is a close relationship between fellowship and church family.

Fellowship (as a verb) is what we do with one another in a church family. We have fun with one another and share joyous events. We pray for comfort for one another in times of grief. We are not afraid to approach a member of our church family to offer comfort or ask for it. We treat one another the way we expect to be treated.

Fellowship (as a noun) is an event or activity where we practice fellowship. Sunday morning coffee and pastries, potluck meals, ice cream socials, movies with soda and popcorn, music events, Bible study classes, Sunday School, meetings, and pretty much anything that offers an opportunity to come together are examples of how we practice fellowship.

In these days of expanding technology, there are even more ways to fellowship. Faith Lutheran Church has expanded its online presence to include the most used social media platforms Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. In an effort to keep things simple, we can be found on all three by looking for "flcnaples".

While connecting online does not provide face-to-face contact, it does connect us in a way that was unheard of even ten years ago. Anyone with a smart phone, tablet, or computer now has the ability to reach out to others through these social medial platforms that are more comfortable for some to use.

Recently, we've had several incidents that encourage us to come together more as a church family - the loss of some dear members who loved their church greatly, the unexpected loss of parents that left children wondering why, and the onset of various illnesses and afflictions that test our faith and our strength. These are opportunities for us to practice fellowship with one another.

In the coming months, we plan to provide more opportunities for fellowship at FLC. Shirley Hulse has taken on the role as Fellowship Director on Church Council and has several great events planned. The more opportunities we have to come together, the more we get to know each other, and the more effective we can be when needs arise.

Four weekly worship services provide accommodations for those with busy lifestyles. Fellowship events and activities will be great for getting more of us together who worship at different services. **We ask you to participate and support the planned fellowship activities coming up. Let's exercise fellowship in our Church Family at FLC.**

Ron Mitchell, Congregation President

Rowe Hudson, Congregation Vice President

LWML Report

Mites

Thank you for your continued support of collecting Mite money the first weekend of every month. In May your donation was \$36.00. In June your donation was \$52.00. So far, the total amount donated this year is \$364.80.

LWML Fall Rally

Save the date of Saturday, November 9, 2019, for the LWML Fall Rally. It will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cape Coral from 8:30-1:30. The theme is "A Joyful Heart". Put this date on your calendar so that your Saturday is free to enjoy other Lutheran ladies' fellowship and spiritual growth. See you there! More details will arrive in September. Look for the sign-up sheet in October.



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

Disaster Relief

The Mission of The Month for July is Disaster Relief.

Hurricanes, Forest Fires, Tornados, Floods, We get them all.

For our Disaster Relief Center we need volunteers for both summer and winter. Just let me know the months that you are available. Especially needed are RNs, EMTs, cooks, anyone with First Aid Training, and those with organization skills.

God may call upon us at any time and we are preparing to serve.

I can be reached at 239.207.6127 or lilgreyhare@comcast.net

Jim Miller

Concordia International School Hanoi

Concordia International School Hanoi (Viet Nam) is one of three pre-K – 12 Lutheran international schools that were all founded by the Lutheran church Missouri Synod to provide an American style education for expat families in Viet Nam. The other two sister schools of Concordia Hanoi are Concordia International School Shanghai (founded in 1998) and Hong Kong International School (founded in 1966). (Jim Handrich, a member of our congregation, served as principal at Hong Kong International School for twenty-four years and he will show a brief video and speak about Concordia Hanoi for the Mission Moment at our four worship services on August 10 and 11.)

Why did we select Concordia Hanoi as our August Mission of the Month? While both of our Lutheran International Schools in Shanghai and Hong Kong are self-sufficient through tuition and their own local fund raising, Concordia Hanoi is very new (2010) and still needs church support as they complete their new high school building and assume the related expenses for equipping it. We also chose Concordia Hanoi because a mission team of members from our congregation, led by Pastor Treglown, provided service and care in Hanoi during the summer of 2012. So, we at Faith have had a heart for mission and ministry in Hanoi and it's good to see students and teachers from Concordia Hanoi carry out some of those very same things each year during their service learning programs.

Concordia Hanoi has 88 on the faculty and staff and a student body of 490, coming from all over the world. After graduation, many of their high school students attend universities in the US. Because Viet Nam is a communist country and prohibits the direct teaching of religion, it is a challenging place for communicating in words the love of Jesus and our Christian faith. However, it is the very place where the deeds of our ministry and service speak volumes of our love and care for the people of Viet Nam and for the families Concordia Hanoi serves. Indeed, given its context, Hanoi is just the right place for our Lutheran church to have a school that serves children and families from all over the world.

Take a look at the August Mission of the Month bulletin board, as well as their web site, concordiahanoi.org, for pictures of the campus, students and more information. Thank you for supporting Concordia Hanoi, our August Mission of the Month.



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Naples, Florida



Faith Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. We strive to be a friendly, family oriented church united under the goal of enriching our community through the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Weekly Worship Opportunities:

Saturday:

5:00 p.m. Traditional

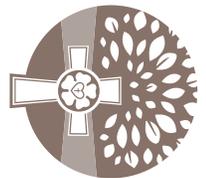
Sunday:

8:00 a.m. Traditional

9:15 a.m. Contemporary

11:00 a.m. Traditional

Holy Communion will be served every Saturday and the first and third Sundays of every month



FAITH
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Naples, Florida

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

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