

the voice



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Naples, Florida

**"I will give to the Lord the thanks due
to His righteousness, and I will sing
praise to the name of the Lord, the
Most High."**

Psalm 7:17

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**November
2020**

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The Shepherd's Voice

“And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, ‘For He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.’ And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.” - Ezra 3:11

Foundational Thanksgiving

I can't imagine what it was like to be driven away in exile by forces beyond my control, and after terrible strife and suffering finally being able to go home. If that wasn't enough, once getting back home finding it only leveled and left to rubble. Yet that is exactly where we find God's people in Ezra. In this too often neglected book of the Bible Ezra, a scribe, depicts the arrival of Judeans going back to their hometown Jerusalem after Cyrus allowed them to return and rebuild the temple. Quite a task that they never asked for but yet faced as a an ultimate result after falling away from God many years ago and living in captivity under Babylon as punishment. And what was their first goal? Set their foundation: the LORD God. Once they laid down their foundation for drawing back to Him, the temple, it caused them to give thanks and praise. From this moment the people of God not so much returned, but were perhaps more so renewed in their relationship with their loving Creator God. After all, when you lay down a foundation you are more than likely starting to build something *new*.

I've been hearing a word all too frequently, that to be honest with you all, my ears are becoming numb to: “return.” “When are we going to *return* back to normal? When will people *return* back to church? Will we ever *return*?” It's taken a hard lesson for me to learn in humility by the sheer grace of God, but I see it now in a different way. Like the people of God who had so much taken away in Ezra's time, for us in our chaotic climate of distress, politics, angst, and sickness **should we seek return or renewal?** I'm under the impression it needs to be the latter.

“Getting back to God” oddly enough is not about rehashing whatever sparkled view of the past we falsely worship and idolize, but rather being led forward and renewed by the everlasting promises of our God in Christ.

Jeremiah foretold that the restoration of Jerusalem (see Jeremiah 31:27-40) will happen and would establish God's new covenant with His people. Why so sure? This new covenant would be laid by the Messiah Himself. Considering this then, the peoples' desire to set the foundation of the temple and rebuild primarily points towards renewal. Their hope was centered in Jerusalem, the very city where Christ Jesus would be condemned and suffer death for God's people—those who by grace through faith cling to Him for salvation. In this light, their thanksgiving led them forward.

So, this Thanksgiving season seek renewal not return. In the midst of such faith-trying circumstances lay down your foundation as the people of God to lead you forward in His everlasting promises. What is that foundation? Faith and family.

Christ is the sure and certain foundation (see Matthew 7:24-27, 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 1 Peter 2:4-8). Building on anything other leads to destruction and dismay. In the faith God works in you (He is doing it perfectly by the way) be renewed. Be thankful that as God's child you have a perfect Father that never grows weary (Psalm 121) with you. His steadfast love truly does endure forever towards you. Give great shout and praise, God has fixed you upon the foundation of the risen Lord Jesus Christ. Your life as God's child is permanently restored.

Just as the Israelites were renewed in their thanksgiving to God, they were also awakened in their thanksgiving for each other. That hasn't changed for you either. You have been adopted into an everlasting family by the Father in His Son Jesus. In the rejuvenating words of the 20th century prophets Sister Sledge, “We are family...get up everybody and sing!” Sin, sickness, and exile threaten to separate us but are immediately silenced by the blood of our brother Jesus Christ (Hebrews 2:10-18). Blood really is thicker than water. In the family of God (which you are most certainly in) be renewed. Be thankful that as a member you have a perfect Father that has you claimed (1 Peter 1:3-9).

Let us then dear family seek renewal this Thanksgiving.

Thankful for Jesus and you, Pastor Sam



Pregnancy Resource Center
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Walk 4 Life & Fun Fest

Saturday, December 5, 2020

9am to 12pm

Golden Gate Community Park

To register please visit flcnaples.com

Mission of the Month - Amigos en Christo

We have been consumed by Covid-19 for almost 8 months. We have seen many die in our country and many lose jobs or suffer cuts in pay. We have seen unrest in our country and divisions that seem to run deep.

At the Amigos Center our lines are getting longer. While the pandemic seems to have quieted down, we have opened our clothing bank very, very slowly, with a maximum capacity of two people at a time.

We have started church services again and look forward to starting in-person Bible studies once more. It has been a long road from March. Covid-19 swept through, and at one point it was just Tulisha and I distributing food on Tuesdays. Now we are back with all the volunteers well, and none too soon as we continue serving more people.

Like you, we don't know what tomorrow will bring. We don't what will come when the workers return. But we stand firm in faith. Faith that God, Jesus Lord of all will be with us.

Romans 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Be patient, for we have hope in Christ. Amen

Holiday



BAZAAR

Handmade gift items from local crafters to suit everyone on your Christmas list!

All Covid regulations will be followed

Masks are encouraged

November 7, 9AM - 2PM


 HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Ashley Arsenault	1	Patty Wood	8	Lewis McDonald	22
Jim Handrich	1	Laurie Smith	9	Darren Miller	22
Steve Nelson	1	Janice Wassmann	9	Barbara Berryhill	24
Makenzie Wise	1	Michael Richardson	10	Marlene Hoffman	24
Bill Musser	2	Pam Di Sarro	11	Kingsley Durland	25
Gabriella Buonpane	3	Lisa McClendon	13	Lillian Renzi	26
Jared Nurenberg	3	Nancy Claus	15	Aidan Hawkesworth	27
Douglas Munson	4	Paula Leighton	16	Lynn Thiewes	27
Donald Harring	5	Lynn Baase	17	Bea Doonan	28
Nancy O'Hara	5	Meagan Peterson	17	Bill Eble	29
Adam Schmitt	5	Laura Proos-Ward	17	Cindy Eberhardt-Howey	30
John Born	6	Phil Beres	19	Marj Selky	30
Joanne Thornley	7	Sal Lupo	20		
Lorrie Minke	8	Bill Marceau	21		
Elaine Phelps	8	Irene Harring	22		

Norm & Mary Ellen Martin	1	Dick & Gail Robinson	22
Ron & Ramona Mitchell	1	Anthony & Debbie Buonpane	26
Hans & Joanne Meier	2	Carl & Jan Dickey	26
George & Grace Ferguson	3	Sebastien & Mary Saitta	29
David & Sammi Treglown	12		
Scott & Pam Peterson	14		
David & Kathy Chaney	15		
Eddie & Marta Adkins	19		


 Happy Anniversary

Hangings of the Greens - November 30

The time is approaching when Faith Lutheran Church will need its halls to be decked...Fa La La La La! The date has been scheduled for Monday, November 30 at 8:00 AM.

This year we will be doing an abbreviated version of our usual Christmas decorations. As COVID 19 will still be in our midst without an effective vaccine we must be vigilant about protection those who are willing to assist in the annual event. I will make every attempt to create and assign a specific task to those who are willing to participate. Once that task has been completed and providing we have adequate volunteers, you will be free to leave.

The Worship, Music and Arts Committee decided it would be best to have those willing to help do so on a sign-up basis. Should the concern about interaction in the congregation be too great, I will have to engage the assistance of an outside specialty group. I would invite you to message me at MS72450@gmail.com or 239-216-1866 if you feel you would be available.

The Worship, Music and Arts Committee is grateful to each of you for your prayers and possible assistance.

From the Director of Music

Hello Faith Family –

When we bring focus to the musical elements of any Lutheran divine service, there are a multitude of tasks occurring. Lutherans always give credence to a wealth of musical traditions and a variety of musical services.

Colossians 3:16 - Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

I have played many services for a variety of denominations as an organist and pianist. I have been able to experience how each of those denominations, but specifically the organists, approach each service and its music. Every organist has their own style in the way they provide the music for each service, but there are some rules which we all abide by when leading the congregation in song and praise – specifically hymns. Almost all the hymns we sing can be broken down into four main working elements, or voice parts: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The melody line, which we all sing together, is the soprano part. The other three voice parts provide harmony and foundation, which when combined with the soprano voice part results into one homogenous structure.

So how does an organist determine how they will play each hymn? Every organist approaches the basic structure in the same fashion: (1) the soprano and alto lines are both played with the right hand, (2) the tenor line is played with the left hand, (3) and the bass line is played with the feet on the pedal board. In simpler terms, an organist will take a hymn and separate it into three independent units which are assigned throughout the entire body. After determining where to play each part, the organist will then adhere to predetermined guidelines on how to “phrase” or play each voice part. A crucial element of hymn playing is how to “phrase” the music, or how to show and lead the congregation where to breathe. As organists, we must learn how to connect one voice line while lifting, or breaking, another voice line in the same hand. Each time we play, half of the right hand is working to connect the alto line with no noticeable breaks, while the other half of the right hand is helping to phrase the soprano line to lead the congregation on where to breathe. Imagine trying to write smoothly with a pencil and also type on a keyboard with one hand, at the same time! While all of this is happening with the right hand, the left hand is doing its own thing, and then the feet are independent of everything else. Sounds fun and simple, right?

After an organist has determined all these elements, the organist must then determine the *sounds/pipes* that will be used to give life to the hymn. Although there are basic rules every organist must follow in building sounds for hymn playing, this is the opportunity for the organist to implement their own creativity. It is a standard practice in which modern organists will change the collection of sounds for each verse, or possibly during the middle of a verse, but the exact combination of resulting sounds is set by the creativity of the organist. Depending on the music and the organist there are options for the organist to be able to expand on the hymn for the last verse and make it bigger, thicker in texture, or a completely different sound altogether.

Each time an organist plays a hymn, our brains are going a mile-a-minute with everything we must process, consider, and then produce. We will absorb the actual music, assign the various parts for our body to move and perform, think about the sounds, help produce the leading elements of the song, and so many other components. Even as daunting and complex this may sound, I can truly say that I am having the most fun and joy while doing these things. It is a true representation on how I am truly thankful for this gift from God. I hope you will have the opportunity to watch an organist up close some day. It really is a spectacle of joy and a complicated production to see.

Blessings to all,

Matthew, Director of Music & Organist

A Thanksgiving for Volunteers

This time of year I begin to think more about all the good things God has blessed us with through the year. I think about Thanksgiving and the thanks I feel for our country and our freedom. I think about Christmas and celebrating the birth of our Savior, giving thanks to God. And I think about all my Church family and what they do to help make Faith Lutheran Church a special place to worship.

All the people in our Church family are special people, and the volunteers who do much of the work of the Church are especially special. We all have time, talent, and treasures to give to our Church. Faith Lutheran Church is truly blessed to have a generous congregation with regard to treasures. We are also blessed to have some in our congregation who generously serve with their time and talent. The Officers and Church Council Boards, Committees, Ushers, Greeters, Readers, Counters, Choir, Musicians, Singers, and of course our paid staff....all are required to help keep our Church running smoothly.

While we are blessed with all this, we still have areas that are in need of volunteers. The **FLC Prayer Chain** has been managed by Michelle Hudson for several years. Please contact her if you are willing to take it over. The **Member Care Board** needs a couple more members to help spread the load of Member Care. Please contact Jim Handrich to learn more about this need and how you can help. The **Women of Faith** are in need of some additional leadership. Please contact Pam Di Sarro to learn how you can serve in this area. If you have other areas you would like to help in, or just want to learn more about these areas, feel free to contact me at president@fclnaples.com or Barbara James at stewardship@fclnaples.com.

Thank you, volunteers. You are appreciated, you make a difference, and I am proud to be a part of the Faith Lutheran Church family working with you. God bless us all.

Ron Mitchell
Congregation President

Lambs of Faith

Thank you for your generous donations to Lambs of Faith as Mission of the Month for September. We give thanks to God for your generosity and your thoughtfulness in remembering our mission to the children. We are so blessed to have the wonderful Faith family supporting the school.

The 2020-2021 school year opened with 26 students. The school usually has about 50 preschoolers, so with the need for Covid 19 restrictions, less students makes it easier to follow the guidelines from CDC. Less students also means less money coming in for the budget so once again thank you for your donations.

Each morning a temperature check is taken at the door before the students are escorted to their classrooms. Parents, friends or other family members are not allowed in the classroom area at the present time. Establishing a routine takes some time, but so far Miss Karen and the staff are doing well at getting the routine going.

Chapel services will be held in the Fellowship Hall instead of the Sanctuary to make the disinfecting easier to keep the area safe for everyone. Music classes will also be held in the Fellowship Hall.

We are thankful that you continue to keep Lambs of Faith in your prayers.....
Karen Frank



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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.

Faith Lutheran Church
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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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