



September, 2021

From the Pastor



Grace, Mercy and Peace be to you from our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

I have recently been reading about the Reformation of the 1500s. More specifically the last words of Luther before his death in 1547. Also, the words of Elector John Fredrick the Magnanimous, ruler of Saxony, as he was in jail and threatened with death by the Emperor Charles V after losing a war and refusing to compromise his beliefs. These two men's words also reminded me of C.S. Lewis and his reaction to the threat of the atomic bomb. All three of these men were responding to a crisis of epic proportion.

For all of his bravado you have to imagine that Martin Luther could have had doubts that he was doing the right thing. After all, because of his writings (even though they were focused solely on the truth of the Word of God) the church and all of Europe with it was in chaos. He had effectively changed the whole landscape of the world. All he ever wanted was to study the Word of God and find comfort and peace there. He was 62 years old and seems to have died of a heart attack. So, let us look at the last words of Martin Luther.

His last words were a prayer. He said, "...I pray Thee, dear Lord Jesus Christ, let me commend my little soul to Thee. O heavenly Father, if I leave this body and depart, I am certain that I will be with Thee forever and can never, never tear myself out of Thy hands. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." He was then asked by another pastor "Reverend Father, are you willing to die in the name of the Christ and the doctrine which you have preached?" Luther said "Yes" and died shortly thereafter.

Martin Luther wrote a lot. We have over 50 volumes of his works published into English. He translated the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament into German. He was a professor, respected by very intelligent men, including Erasmus. With all of this prestige and intelligence and learning he relies on the simple words that any child raised in the church knows. It is the one verse out of the Bible that even many non-Christians recognize, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son". It is as simple as it is profound. God has done the work of salvation, our only hope rests in the fact that he loves us and will never let us go. As Luther said "I can never tear myself out of Thy hands." He understood how great is God's love for us. This is what enabled him to go against the pope, the whole Roman Catholic Church and the Emperor himself. He knew God loved him and he would not give up that confidence for anything. He died confident in his confession.

John Fredrick was not a pastor, but a politician. However, he had been taught from his youth the scriptures and as he says "by diligently searching the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures, I have also learned to know, and unswervingly to adhere in my conscience to this, that the articles composing the Augsburg Confession, and whatever is connected therewith, are the correct, true, Christian, pure doctrine, confirmed by and founded in, the writing of the holy prophets and apostles..." He then affirmed that he could not in good conscience reject these teachings without violating his faith and endangering his soul. He believed that if he denied his Lutheran (Biblical) faith, he would be denying God and he would rather rot in prison or die, than turn from it. Here is a layman who was taught the truth and sacrificed his land, his fortune, his freedom and his very life rather than deny is Lutheran faith.

Both of these men believed that it was more important to fear God than man. They both were willing to sacrifice everything rather than change what they believed. They were willing to die in their faith, than fall away and live a long and peaceful life. I have often prayed that I too would be willing in that day to die rather than deny what I believe.

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That brings us to C.S. Lewis who when writing about the threat of atomic war looming over the world in his day he wrote this: “ Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways.” “...if we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things – praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts – not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.”

He was not facing imprisonment of death immediately, but he is still in the same mindset of Luther and John Fredrick, let us not live in fear of dying, but rather rejoice in living. Especially living and doing that which God has called us to do. As we read a couple of weeks ago, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Eph 2:10

With new variants of the virus, chaos on the world and national stage we are in a time of great fear and anxiety for many. But as Christians who know that God loves us, we do not need to live in fear, but rather continue to love one another and pray for everyone, that we might do the works that God has prepared for us. Remember, this situation is not a surprise to God, that means that the works he has prepared for us to do were meant to be done at this time in this situation. We should live with the expectation that we are under a death sentence, after all everyone dies, but that is not an excuse to be filled with fear and worry and doubt, but rather an opportunity to turn to the Lord for strength and peace. The peace that only he can give and which surpasses all understanding. To live is Christ and to die is gain. In the in-between is an opportunity to be filled with joy, because God so love you that he gave His only begotten Son to die, for YOU. Peace be with you. Amen.

### Adopt a Chaplain

Meet Chaplain Sol Grosskoph, stationed in Germany. He is the newest addition to our Prayer Ministry. Under the auspices of the LCMS, congregations have been invited to adopt a Chaplain to pray for them and for their ministry. Chaplain Grosskoph is originally from Shawano, WI. He was recently married and his wife works at the base hospital. His first prayer request for us is for God’s blessings and guidance on a temporary duty assignment. As Council Secretary, I have become his correspondent and will keep you informed of what is happening in his life. He did tell me that his work load counseling has increased, especially among the younger service men. I find that encouraging that they are seeking the Lord and His counsel. Please keep Chaplain Grosskoph and his wife in your prayers.

Blessings,

Jean Roehrs, Prayer Chairman

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**



**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Aug. 10, 2021**

The President called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

**PRESENT:** President Glen Collier; VP Jim Jones; Financial Secretary Marilyn Howard; Recording Secretary Jean Roehrs; Head Trustee David Benson; and Communication Chairman Kelly Freeman. Absent: Treasurer Judy Faries, Head Elder Mert Janovec, Fellowship Chairman Margaret Greenslade, and Pastor Pook.

**Opening Devotions:** The meeting opened with prayer.

**REPORTS**

**SECRETARY:** Minutes of 7-13-21 approved as printed.

**TREASURER:** Absent. Printed report distributed.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** Report distributed.

**PASTOR:** Absent.

**VICE PRESIDENT:** No report.

**PRESIDENT:** No Report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Altar Rails:** The wood is available and work has begun.

**Security:** Work is underway to install the door camera and communication system.

**Bookkeeper:** There were no responses to the ad placed with the district. Jim will draw up a letter to be sent to area churches asking about a possible bookkeeper. Kelly will get the name of the group recently hired in Sun City Center.

**Adopt a Chap:** Jean shared an email received from Chaplain Sol Grosskoph, our adopted chaplain. She will continue communicating with him on behalf of the council.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Parking Lot:** In need of repair. Dave will explore costs, etc.

**Movie Night:** Tom Barlow has requested permission to resume holding Movie Nights. Fellowship will be asked to provide popcorn and those attending can help themselves. He also asked to resume his former position of liaison with LCEF. Permission granted by consensus.



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**Fellowship:** More people need to become involved in providing the Sunday morning refreshments.

**Enlarging the storage room:** It was felt that this suggestion by the Pastor was not necessary at this time.

**Sun City Center Men's Fair:** Jim MOVED we pay the \$200 registration to participate in the Men's Fair Oct 28, 12-3 p.m. Motion seconded and carried with all voting yes.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

**COMMUNICATION:** A report was distributed with the metrics for the month of July. Of the 188 Friday newsletters mailed out, approximately 96-109 read it on a regular basis. Paper copies and sermon transcripts are mailed to 18 shut-ins. There was also some discussion about the height of the electric sign; that it was difficult to read. Kelly will assume responsibility for programming the sign.

**ELDERS:** No report. Kelly did have a copy of the minutes of their last meeting which mentions some planned activities such as new member welcome and bring a friend Sunday. There was no mention of who was in charge of these activities, if they should be advertised in the newspapers, or any planned program. The council voiced concern that when any group plans an activity, they must assume responsibility for the planning and implementation. If there is to be food, who will provide it, serve it, and clean up afterwards. There should always be someone in charge of the event that questions can be directed to.

**LWML:** The officers met and planned the agenda for the year. The Sept. 9 meeting will feature a Prayer Service, *Living in Love, Bearing Fruit*, written by District President Greg Walton. All members of the congregation are invited to this 10 a.m. service. A salad luncheon will follow.

**TRUSTEES:** The kitchen stove hood needs to be hooked up to the fire alarm system to be in compliance with government rules.

The next Council meeting will be **September 7, 2021**, at 6:00 pm  
The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. followed by prayer.

Jean Roehrs, Recording Secretary

## **Please wear your name badges!**



If you are a Faith Lutheran Member and have not ordered (or if you have misplaced) your name badge, you can order one using the order form and envelope found on the book shelf at the Eastern entrance to the church.

Instructions are there for your convenience.

If you are not a member of Faith, please sign your name on the Welcome name card and place it in the plastic holder found on a table in the Narthex, to wear for one Sunday or keep it to wear week after week.

**Opportunities for you to grow and become involved...**



**Pastor's Sunday Bible Classes**

meet in the Great Hall at 9:15 am.

The Divine scripture readings will be discussed in depth and he welcomes questions.

Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut, and join in the discussions.

The offerings received at this time go to benefit pastoral students at the Concordia Seminary.

[Lifelight Bible Study via Zoom](#) is held the third Friday of every month.



**HAPPENINGS AT FAITH**

**WOMEN OF FAITH**

Yes, Women of Faith are making doll clothes! We've been spending our Thrivent Action Team money on toys for the migrant children and found some 24 inch dolls that didn't have a change of clothes, so we're planning on tucking some into each box. Otherwise, you'll find us (please do!) every 2nd and 4th Wednesday working on our pieced quilts and lap robes. Please, contact Margie Weiss at 941-757-7307 with any questions.



**SEWING FOR CHRIST**

We have been fortunate not to get infected by the new virus. We are vaccinated and are looking forward to the third injection. So you can join us without fear. We continue to work and try our best to accomplish something. God is very kind to us. Come visit us once in a while. Call the church to make sure we are there or Gloria at 941-755-5092.





Our Food Barrel, in the Narthex, is for your generous gifts of non-perishables and paper products for those less fortunate. Please consider bringing at least one item each week to help give nourishment and bring a smile to someone in need.

### GREETERS NEEDED

A way for you to become involved and become acquainted with members and friends of Faith is to volunteer to be a greeter. We are asking for volunteers to assist in greeting guests as they come in for the 10:30 am Sunday Divine Service. We would consider you an ambassador and just ask you to make everyone feel welcome. We especially want to be sure we connect with new people attending Faith. We have a number of helpful materials to offer new comers to the church and we want to be sure they are made aware of them. New visitors should be asked to sign the guest book, given a "Welcome" packet, and introduced to other members. They should be encourage to make a name tag for themselves and to sign the burgundy attendance books. If time and opportunity allow, you might find out the church they have been attending and if they are familiar with the Lutheran Church. (Booklets about Lutheranism are included in the "Welcome" packet.)



### SWEET TREAT PROVIDERS NEEDED

Another way for you to become involved in church activities is to volunteer to provide coffee bites for Sunday Fellowship, following the 10:30 Divine Service. We are in need of volunteers who could bake or purchase 3 dozen cookies or 2 dozen pastries to bring in for our Coffee Fellowship. There is nothing to do but bring in the treats and leave them on the counter in the kitchen. Monica and Margaret will set them out and clean up. Everything can be left in the purchased package or home goods should be put on a throw away paper plate. Two people are called to help with the sweet treats each week. If you can help out, please see Margaret or Monica. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

**If you can help, please call the Church office at 941-776-1395 and let them know how you would like to help us with either or both of the above volunteer needs.**

**Fall is Here!**

## *GRIEF SHARE*

The second session of GRIEF SHARE, a support program for anyone seeking help and encouragement after a loved one's death, came to an end on Monday, September 23rd.

During the thirteen week program we met twenty-two people who were grieving the death of a loved one and shared in the video and workbook program "The Journey from Mourning to Joy". The video presentations featured practical suggestions and reassurance by some of the nation's foremost Christian counselors and grief experts. The video was followed by group discussions led by Pastor Poock. Participants expressed their thanks to Faith for providing such a consoling and helpful program. Some are looking forward to attending Session III that begins on Monday, October 4th at 6:30 pm in the Great Hall.

If you know of someone that has lost a spouse, close friend or relative that could benefit from attending this program, please ask them to contact the church office between 9 am and 12:30 pm Monday through Friday at 941-776-1395.

This outreach program is still in need of volunteers who would be willing to help facilitate. If this is something you would be interested in doing, please let Mert Janovec, Head Elder know by calling the church office at 941-776-1395.

**PERSONALIZED CHURCH HYMNALS** will be ordered on **September 6th**. If you are interested in purchasing one or more for you / your family, please complete a request form found on the Narthex table and put it in an envelope provided, and then place it in a collection box or give it to the Church Secretaries. Be sure you have included \$40.00 cash or check, made out to Faith Lutheran Church with **HYMNAL** on the memo line.



During Advent and Lent, Pastor is planning on leading a study of how Hymns have been used to set the stage for Worship and how the Hymns relate to the Divine Services. So this is the time to purchase your hymnal.



## FAITH WOMEN IN MISSION

The **LWML** fall season will begin Sept. 9, with a Prayer Service beginning at 10 a.m. followed by a salad luncheon. Please join in some Christian Fellowship and learn more about our LWML program. The activity booklet for the year will be available with dates for most activities planned which include packing Project Heart hygiene kits; packing Christmas shut-in bags along with a cookie exchange, and a Valentine Love Offering of baby items for Solve Homes. There will also be a Fall Zone Rally Nov. 13 at Good Shepherd LC Sarasota, and a Spring Zone Rally at Lutheran Church of the Cross, Port Charlotte. Mite Boxes are always available on the **LWML** table and new Quarterlies arrive every three months. You can also find a list of the current mission grant recipients on the table.

The district newsletter, the Evangel, is also distributed every three months via email. If you aren't currently receiving a copy, please let Jean Roehrs know and she will sign you up.

[jroehrs27@gmail.com](mailto:jroehrs27@gmail.com).

October is just around the corner and the 14th is our next day to assemble hygiene kits. Most needed at this time are wash cloths, shampoo (travel size), toothbrush holders, deodorant and nail clippers. Please place your donations in the bin to the left of the **LWML** table in the Narthex.

## Prayer Ministry

Prayer requests are emailed to Prayer Partners as they are received. If you would like to join in this ministry, please email [jroehrs27@gmail.com](mailto:jroehrs27@gmail.com) and your name will be added to the mailings. Many recipients have told us how comforting it is to know that others are praying for them.



## NEED A FRIEND? BE A FRIEND!

*I was in prison and you came to me ( Matt. 25:36b). And when did we see you sick or in prison (Matt. 25: 39) Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers you did it to me (Matt. 25:40*

Have the events of the past few months made you feel like you are in a prison? Have you felt lonely, just wanting to hear a friendly voice and know someone cares? If you would like to receive a friendly phone call a few times a week, just say "hi" "I care about you". "How are you doing?" then give your name and phone number to Jean at 941-417-7693 and you will be teamed up with a new friend.

Would you like to be a friend, bringing a little love and sunshine into someone's day? Perhaps a little 'son-shine'? Call Jean at the number above. You are blessed to be a blessing to others.





# Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry COMING SOON.... Sunday, Oct. 10

**Who:** Share Christmas with children in need overseas!

**What do I do?:** Take a decorated shoebox (or several) from the Narthex table and fill it with items for the children.

**When:** **October 10** is the kick off weekend! Boxes must be returned to the church by November 14.



**Operation Christmas Child** is one of the ministries of the Christian missionary organization SAMARITAN'S PURSE. Each November thousands of churches, groups & donors prepare and collect shoeboxes with toys, schools supplies, other small gifts & Bible story booklets. The boxes are sent to distribution sites and shipped overseas.  
Thank you for your support!

**For more information please contact:**  
Alice Bowen, [alicebowen84@gmail.com](mailto:alicebowen84@gmail.com)

## This Month's Privileged Servants



### Altar Guild

#### Wednesdays, 5pm

September 1 Eloise Schwarz  
 September 8 Monica Carezza/Susan Barber  
 September 15 Alice Bowen  
 September 22 Alice Bowen  
 September 29 Monica Carezza/Susan Barber

#### Sundays, 8:00 am /Sunday 10:30 am

September 5 Martha Riedl / Kiah Pook  
 September 12 Meta Green / Pat Barlow  
 September 19 Gwyn Pook / Nancy Niemi  
 September 26 Meta Green / Chris Stisser

### Elders

#### Wednesdays, 5 pm

September 1 Mike Freeman  
 September 8 Mike Freeman  
 September 15 Tony Bowen  
 September 22 Tony Bowen  
 September 29 Mike Freeman

#### Assistant

David Barber  
 Jeff Sattanno  
 Sameer Madidi  
 Joe Rawlinson  
 Curt McCarty

#### Sundays, 8:00 am

September 5 Tom Weiss  
 September 12 Denis Steinke  
 September 19 Tom Weiss  
 September 26 Dennis Steinke

#### Sundays, 10:30 am

Tom Barlow  
 Roy Heflin  
 Tom Barlow  
 Roy Heflin

#### Assistant

Chris Lindau  
 Chris Lindau  
 Caleb Pook  
 Caleb Pook

### Offering Counters

September 5 Jean Roehrs, Carol Schreiber  
 September 12 John Niemi, Nancy Niemi and Marilyn Howard  
 September 19 Lois Lannon, Bob Biebl and Jan Heider  
 September 26 Sherry Janovec and Larry Colton



## September Birthdays

- 1 Reatha Snyder
- 3 Carol Wissner
- 7 Daniel Pope Sr.
- 8 Ann Colton,
- 9 Karen Pollari
- 12 Dennis Roberts
- 13 Sandra Bessey, Judy Faries, Tom Barlow
- 14 Brenda Lovett
- 16 Lisa Ladwig
- 17 Austin Chandler, Chris Lindau
- 21 Connie Colton, Nancy Geist
- 22 Meghan Hughes, Ed Theres
- 24 Ruth Roberts, Kate Spirduso
- 25 Charity Crean, Sharon Fredrick
- 27 Dick Russ, Michelle Fluegge
- 28 Pete Asvestas
- 29 Heather Teitelbaum
- 30 Bill Dappen,

## Special Birthday Blessings to

Daniel Pope, Sr (95 yrs.)

and

Nancy Geist (91 yrs.)

as they celebrate their  
milestone birthdays

## September Anniversaries

- 1 John & Myrna Clouse (65 years)
- 5 Dawn & Lonnie Sumner (34 years)
- 9 Gary & Nancy Bonadurer (54 years)
- 19 David & Margi Krewin (29 years)

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Fellowship served a delicious brunch following the acceptance of 17 new members at the 10:30 service on Sunday, August 22nd. We served about 70 members and friends, thanks to volunteers: Dee Yuras, Chris Melchior, Pat Barlow, Sandy Bessey, Gwyn and Kiah Pooch, Monica and Margaret who provided pastries, cut up fruits, made veggie egg casseroles and sausage & egg strata, peach French toast, helped serve and helped with the clean-up. It couldn't happen without all the volunteers. Compliments were numerous and I think we all just enjoyed being 'free' to have some fellowship time.



A time of fellowship and coffee bites will continue following the 10:30 am Divine Service as we have some wonderful volunteers willing to bring in 3 dozen cookies or 2 dozen pastries. Two volunteers are called each week by Monica for their help in providing a sweet treat (coffee bite). Monica and Margaret handle clean-up.

**We sincerely thank:**

**Pat Barlow, Ann Colton, Diana Manning, Chris Melchior, Nancy Niemi, Carol Priest, Annette Schander, Monica and Margaret for providing coffee bites in August.**

**Nathan and Jessica Kneser, along with Brian and Debbie Kneser (Nate's parents and retired Lutheran Pastor), invite you to join them on a Holy Land Tour. The tour will expand your knowledge of the Bible and the sacred land. A journey following in the footsteps of Jesus will change the way you read the Bible and you will learn why scholars refer to it as the "Fifth Gospel". The tour will begin February 21 and end on March 2, 2022.**

**You will be touring:**

**Caesarea by the Sea, Munt Carmel, Megiddo & Nazareth  
The Sea of Galilee**

**Tel Dan, Caesarea Phillippi, Golan Heights, Bethsaida &  
Jordan River**

**Jericho, Qumran, Masada & the Dead Sea  
Bethlehem, Yad Vashem & Israel Museum  
Jerusalem**

**PLEASE pick up a brochure if you are interested in being part of this Holy Land tour. If you have further questions, call Nate Kneser (a new member as of September 22, 2021) at 321-331-6221.**