

Faith Lutheran Church

FAITHLINES

FROM PASTOR CODY

Cody Blust, Pastor
 Pat Hoar, Secretary
 Rebecca Keck, Music Director
 Shelley Grubb, Bell Choir
 Steve Conrad, Gardens
 Will Melick, Grounds
 Randy Peck, Custodian



another. As we seek to learn the way of God it means to learn to love one another and ourselves unconditionally, without consideration of the things humans say separate us. Learning the way of God means learning to be merciful to those who have wronged us. Living in the way of God means to show grace, share hope with those in need of hope, and working to make sure that everyone has what they need to live.

To request to learn God's ways is to ask to learn how to give freely of the abundance that has been showered upon us. To live in the way of God is to share the love, hope, mercy etc... that God has given to us. Through learning to serve others and to share the gifts that we have been given is what it truly means to live in the way of God. The way of God is the way of serving others and making sure that we are all seen and treated as equals, beloved by the God of the universe. Learning this way of living will not happen overnight, but will be a life -long process that we get a little better at each day. Knowing what it is we ask, I pray we all would continue to ask God to teach us to follow in his ways as we seek to bring God's love to all the world.

*"To God -
 whose power now at
 work in us can do
 immeasurably more
 than we ask or
 imagine."*
Ephesians 3:20, Inclusive Bible

Psalm 86:11-17 "Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name."

What does it mean to make the request that the psalm writer of Psalm 86 does. When we ask God to teach us his ways, what is it we are really asking for? Are we asking to be so righteous in regards to the law that we are seen as better than others? Is what we are asking to be more like God in respects to love, mercy, and unconditional love for the other? As Jesus taught us, we should seek to be more like God in the way we live our lives and how we interact with one

Inside this issue:

School Kits	2
Sanctuary Renovations	3
Birthdays and Anniversaries	4
President's Ponderings	4
Little Red Wagon	5
Picture Directory	5
Stewardship News	9

DAILY DEVOTIONS

The July through September daily devotional books Portals of Prayer and Christ in Our Home are available in the rack by the entrance door.

EUCHRE

We will be having Euchre on August 21st at 6:00 pm at the Eastern Star facility, Iris Section. Come join us. Please bring a snack to share.

SCHOOL KITS

With the beginning of back to school sales we are preparing for a new mission opportunity at Faith: Lutheran World Relief School Kits.

In many parts of the world children don't attend school because they don't have access to school supplies. When LWR School Kits find their way to these areas children are blessed with precious, needed supplies and school attendance goes up.

As you shop in the coming days, please be on the lookout for these supplies:

70 sheet spiral notebooks	4	each kit
Black or blue ballpoint pens	5	each kit
Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers	5	each kit
Box of 16 or 24 crayons	1	each kit
Pencil sharpener	1	each kit
30 cm ruler	1	each kit
Pair of blunt scissors	1	each kit
2 1/2 inch eraser	1	each kit

Please put your donations in the Lutheran World Relief basket.
Thank you all for your generosity!

See Kathy Noblit if you have any questions.

JESUS CALLING

We are starting a new book on Monday, August 3rd!: "The Gift of Years" by Joan Chittister. Laurel Johnson will be our leader. We will cover the Introduction: The Purpose of Life and first chapter titled Regret. The study portion starts at 11 am. We will meet in the LIBRARY room. Bring your lunch if you desire for our fellowship time following the study. If questions, contact Polly Norberg.

Mount Vernon Farmer's Market with the bonus of music from Kevin and Rick.

COMPOSER'S CRAFT

Come Thou Fount of Ev'ry Blessing

Some of our older and best-known hymns feature a word or words that always reminds us of that hymn, but whose meaning often escapes us. Such was the case with the previous version of *The Composer's Craft* gave us with the oft-appearing term *sublime* in our hymnody. This hymn, written in 1758 by Robert Robinson (1735-1790), is found in our "cranberry" worship book *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, numbered 807.

The word of note in this hymn is "Ebenezer," not identifying a particular person, but rather, a reference in the Old Testament to a monument. It appears in the beginning of the second stanza of the hymn thus: "Here **I** raise my Ebenezer; 'Hither by thy help I've come.'" How many times have we sung this and wondered what it meant? When it was written, clearly, those who were expected to be singing it were expected to know what that meant.

The expression "to raise (your) Ebenezer" comes from I Samuel 7:12 - "After the Israelites defeated the Philistines in the battle, the prophet Samuel gathered a large stone and placed it upright as a physical monument. He named it Ebenezer, declaring 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.'" (NIV)

The meaning to us is now clear, and is as true as it was in ancient Biblical times, and when Robert Robinson included it in his hymn. As Samuel originally intended, it was, after a great victory for the Lord was won, an acknowledgment of He from whom our strength and being come. Not just for clear blessings that are seen after a dramatic moment, but every year, month, week, day, hour, and moment, as witnessed in another great hymn *I Need Thee Ev'ry Hour* (#479, *Service Book and Hymnal* [the "red book"]).

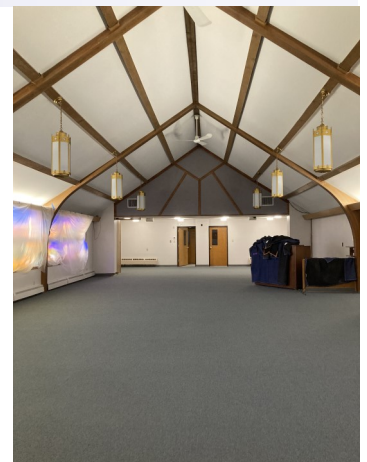
On another note, the term "fount" may also be one not familiar to some congregants. A fount is a spring of water, or the origin of such, and is often substituted by the related term *fountain*. It might be more familiar in use to Christians in reference to the baptismal fount.

Our feature hymn in this article was written by Robert Robinson, who lost his father early in life and became an uncontrollable child to his mother, who shipped him over to England to learn the trade of barbering. Instead, more of his attentions turned to running with a gang, and drinking to excess. During one such adventure, Robinson and his friends went to a fortune teller, and, upset by that experience, when Robinson sobered up, he suggested to his friends that they take part in a session by the evangelist George Whitefield. Within three years from Whitefield's sermon about scribes and Pharisees, which Robinson took personally, Robinson committed his life to Christ. After entering the ministry, he wrote this hymn to commemorate Pentecost.

The tune to this hymn was an American folk tune, its application to the hymn has been attributed to an 1813 hymn collection by John Wyeth (no relation to American artists N. C., Andrew, or Jamie Wyeth), under the name *Nettleton* decades after Robinson's death. *DK*

SANCTUARY RENOVATION

Just a little bit more and the work in the Sanctuary, narthex and stairs will be completed. There will be a final walk through by the committee and a final inspection for the work and then we can begin to move worship back upstairs. Stephen Volz is working on the altar and pulpit/lectern using wood from his garage that was damaged in the storm that hit while he was in Botswana. Stephen also painted the mortar joints of the bricks, and finished and installed the new wood that frames the brick. In addition, Jamie Turner the onsite supervisor for the McNight Group, had reclaimed barn wood and finished and donated this wood for the communion rails. Tom Noblit, our painter-in-residence, donated his talent and materials to do the interior painting. At this time, the actual completion date is not known, so watch for the activities of celebration as we dedicate this space to the worship and glory of our God...Marilyn Wilford



BIRTHDAYS

8/4 Connie Butz
 8/5 Nick Myrda
 8/7 Patty Keaton, Linda Weiland
 8/10 Larry Everhard
 8/13 Robert Rardin, Peg Snow
 8/14 Randy Shaw
 8/15 Bette Mishey
 8/17 Holly Denson
 8/19 Dianne Williams
 8/23 Becky Keck, Jan Frye
 8/24 Shirley Clapper
 8/25 Laurel Johnson
 8/27 Rebecca Ballard, Kathy Lamb



ANNIVERSARIES

8/1 Pastor Mark & Mary Leigh Wildermuth
 8/2 Peter & Karen Donadio
 8/7 John & Corin Haney
 8/8 Jim & Caroline Pletcher
 8/12 Allen & Melissa Dexter
 8/13 Dave & Karen West
 8/15 Steve & Sharon Conrad, Thomas & Ann Dice
 8/18 Dave & Pam Rowe
 8/24 Dan Werner & Cheryl Johnson
 8/31 Pastor Cody & Kaitlyn Blust



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS



Greetings from the hot, humid, hazy days of summer. Sometimes I wonder how so many of us grew up without the comfort of air conditioning. I have to admit that right now one of the things I am most grateful for is the life of Willis Carrier, who is credited with inventing modern air conditioning. Hopefully all of you are staying cool and healthy in this weather.

Lately the title of a folk gospel song, "They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love," has been running through my head. It has made me wonder how well my words and actions towards others convey Christ's love to them. I know there are times when I'm helping or listening to someone that I'm sharing God's love. However, there are also times when I fall short of that. When I get impatient in a slow-moving checkout or a traffic jam or hear someone criticizing my beliefs, I am not filled with loving thoughts. Frustration, anger and fear often sidetrack us from love. Those are the times when it's important to remember that God loves us even when we fall short, and that the Holy Spirit can help each of us share His grace, forgiveness, and love with others.

In Christ's Love,
 Sally Berger
 Council President

Sunshine and rain to grow our garden.

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD NEWS

A Note and Prayer From Bishop Dillahun

Friends in Christ, I invite you to join me in unceasing prayer for our church. The words below were shared on the Southern Ohio Synod Facebook and Instagram profiles on June 2nd. These words continue to resonate today.

God of Grace, forgiveness and reconciliation:

We pray for the whole church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Southern Ohio Synod, its congregations, universities (Capital University & Wittenberg University), seminary (Trinity Lutheran Seminary), Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities, Cultivate and Collaborative ministries, developing, redeveloping ministries, institutions.

We pray for our oneness in Jesus Christ as we witness in all ministries in this mission territory.

Neighbors, communities and the world cry out in pain and hurt over divisions, racism, biases.

Where there is error, direct it; hurt, heal it; need, provide for it; wrong, reform it; right, strengthen it.

May we see your face in each other as we live out our baptismal calling.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the risen Savior for the sake of the World.

Amen.

In Christ,

Bishop Dillahun

RED WAGON SUNDAYS



We are excited to announce the return of the Red Wagon Sundays! Red Wagon Sundays will be the fifth Sunday of the month, when applicable, and will have a special offering in addition to the normal one. The special offerings to be collected in a red wagon will go to different organizations within our community such as Food for the Hunger. These donations are separate from your normal Sunday offering. The first red wagon Sunday will be August 30th and we will be collecting donations to help the preschool start off their academic year on the right foot. Things they can use: White Card Stock, Clorox Wipes, WASHABLE CRAYOLA Broad Line Markers, Kleenex/tissues, Paper Towels, Huggie Wipes, Flour, Kool-Aid Brand Kool-Aid packets. If you have suggestions for future places to collect donations for please let Pastor know.

PICTURE DIRECTORY

Friends at Faith Lutheran:

It's good to know someone by recognizing both their face and name but with two separate services it is difficult to know each other simply with addresses in our directory. A committee has been established with the purpose of helping us recognize each other more easily and we would like your assistance.

During July and August the Directory Committee will get all the pieces in place and beginning early in September we would like to invite you to share your smiling faces for a photo directory. Dan Werner and Jessica Howard will be taking the photos and will develop a schedule that will best suit your family or you as an individual.

Our present thoughts will be that the directory will look much like our present directory but with photos added. We will consider security issues with technology and plan not to put the information on any social network. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please let us know. Wouldn't it be nice for a 10:30 person to meet an 8:00 person and be able to greet them by name!

Thanks for your help. Any question call Corrine Lund, 740-501-7241



BOOK CORNER

**Campolo, Tony, 20 Hot Potatoes *Christians Are Afraid to Touch*
Word Publishing, Dallas, Texas, 1988; 235 pp**

I was first introduced to Tony Campolo in a video series featuring him that was used as the basis for a Sunday School series at a previous church. Campolo was a sociology professor at a small Pennsylvania college, but also before that an ordained pastor serving a congregation. In the video series, the first thing the participant notices is his unique sense of humor and his rock-solid faith in Christ. His background is more fundamentalist than mainline Protestant, but his message appeals to all denominations.

At first glance, the reader may think "Well, this book was written in 1988 - 38 years ago - surely it is not relevant today." Surprisingly, that is not the case. Among the twenty examples he chooses to emphasize are "Why are many people down on themselves (and what can they do about it?)," "Can a mother of a preschool child have a career and not feel guilty (and where does dad fit into it all?)," "Should we pull our kids out of the public school system?" "Can rich people get into heaven? (or, can a Christian own a BMW?)" "When is it ok to tell the doctor to pull the plug?" "Can Christians kill?" "Is it ok to put your mother in the county home?" "Is a lot of psychological counseling a waste of time?" "Is it ever ok for divorced Christians to remarry?" and many others that may touch a nerve for us.

To many of us, many or most of these issues may seem to be resolved in our minds, at least in the current common culture. At the very least, we may seem comfortable with the freedom people seem to have to do things differently than our parents because of legal and culture changes in the last 50+ years. But Campolo always goes back to the Bible and cites passages that are troublesome to some Christians because they contract the common practices in our culture, most of which are accepted and practiced by church-going Christians. Campolo walks through these seeming contradictions and brings a clear, but compassionate understanding to the complexity of these issues, and, in the end, recognizes God's love and concern for his created humanity by reinforcing Biblical truths, but emphasizing the breadth of God's grace.

Reading through these pages will bring the reader back to the Bible and help put all these secular cultural shifts in a Biblical perspective. Revisiting these issues when one thinks they have been resolved, perhaps by placing them in our "inactive memory file," and find, in reading them, a discomfort is created or recreated that we do not care for. Campolo's observations from decades past can make the reader rethink, or perhaps for the first time, consider whether these changes have, from a Biblical perspective, actually made us happier, or, do the benefits that appear obvious at the time outweigh the resultant negative collateral effects of those changes?

This was a book I chose from the rather substantial library of a retired pastor who has recently passed and whose wife wanted to share his books with others who may benefit before donating them elsewhere or selling them to Half Price Books or at a garage sale. If only one of these subtopics touches your heart (or a nerve), and catches your interest, it would be well worth finding this book (not in print) at Half Price Books, E-bay, or a garage sale and giving it a read. At the very least, as an out- of-print paperback, it should not be very costly, and may be an expected blessing to the reader. I highly recommend this work as a practical and faithful source worthy of your engagement...DK

A nice church family! A young pastor and a productive quilting group.

TO KNOW AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE

In his sermon on Sunday July 12th, Pastor Cody told the story of the sower. As the sower threw seed down, some fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root. They withered away. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. This reminded me of my time in sales. I knew if I called on enough businesses I would get a new customer. I called on every business I could find. I "planted seeds". Hardly any of my prospects did business with me right away. I would still "water" the seeds (prospects) by keeping in touch with them. Eventually I made my business grow because I kept asking people to buy from me. I didn't give up because they said no initially.

Please keep asking people to come and join our church family. Keep watering the seeds.....Art Schad

FIRST FRIDAYS



The next First Friday will be August 7th from 6:00 - 9:00 pm.

The theme will be "Paws on Parade."

The event theme will feature a dog friendly evening with a dog costume contest, food trucks, family activities, and local vendors. Faith Lutheran will be part of the First Friday events with a booth on Main Street. We are looking for volunteers to help out with the events doing things like setting up, talking to people or running games, and cleaning up our booth after the event. There is a sign-up sheet by the church kitchen volunteers are asked to sign up on. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Cody or Kaitlyn for more information.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

The Faith Women's Board would like to thank all of you who donated to our ELCA Good Gifts fund this year. Because of your generosity we were able to purchase a community vegetable garden and a computer with internet access for a community center as well as 2 goats and \$20.00 worth of chicks. These ELCA gifts provide critical support to our brothers and sisters in various parts of the world including the United States.

You have made a great impact on the family of God. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VARIOUS MINISTRIES

If you have wanted to volunteer at Faith, now is the time. We could really use additional folks in our Communion Committee, Altar Guild, and Teller ministries. Call Pat in the office at 740-393-3666 for additional information.

Fabulous recovery for my friend, Nick and my friend, Norm.

ELCA NEWS

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Yehiel Curry **All Together in One Place**

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place" (Acts 2:1).

Every day, I receive emails and messages from members across this church. Many of you share concerns about the state of the world and how faith informs your response to troubling or perplexing events. Sometimes you ask me to speak out more often regarding current affairs, and sometimes you ask me not to speak so much. I cannot answer every message, yet I am learning from you and feel the heartbeat of this church through the concerns, fears and hopes you share with me.

To continue our conversation and respond to what I am hearing from you, I will issue a monthly message through the end of this year in a series called "All Together in One Place." Each message will share a pastoral word that witnesses to God's presence today, rooted in Scripture, our rich theological tradition and the social teaching that connects us for life together.

At the first Pentecost, the disciples were guided by the prophet Joel's assurance that, even in troubling and perplexing times, God is faithfully present.

Our baptismal vocation together is to serve God and neighbor in daily life, fostering "a faith that is active in love, a love, that seeks justice, and an insight that strives to discern what is right, good, and fitting" (ELCA social statement *The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective*, 1991, p. 6). Baptism invites us to love our neighbor, to steward creation, to advocate justice and mercy in situations of brokenness, and to seek peace.

As much as we strive to be "all together in one place," we may not agree on how to do this. The letters I receive testify that we span a beautiful and God-given diversity that invites Lutherans into deep listening, moral deliberation and a certain humility as we seek the common good.

In our differences, we can still be together in one place, when that place is connection in the unity that only Christ gives us (1 Corinthians 12:12-27). We stand in one place when we embrace the dignity of every human being by engaging others with curiosity and respect. We stand in one place when we shake off the immobility of fear to nurture connection in diversity. Our witness to the world embodies 2 Timothy 1:7: "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."

Just as those early followers of Jesus Christ experienced the power of the Holy Spirit, may we also trust when the Holy Spirit comes blowing into our lives to connect the body of Christ.

In peace,

The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Nurture Committee is planning to have a Church Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 29. Plans are still being finalized so keep your eyes on the upcoming bulletins for more information.

OUTDOOR SERVICE AND FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will be having our Labor Day outside worship on September 7th, with **only one service** in the Stone Garden Chapel. Our regular Fall worship service schedule will begin on Sunday, September 13th with our worship services at 8:00 & 10:30 am. Our Sunday School hour will begin at 9:15, and we will also continue our Fellowship Time at 9:15 am.

Faith Lutheran Church
170 Mansfield Avenue
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050
Phone: 740-393-3666
Fax: 740-393-2729
E-mail: faithlutheranmtvernon@gmail.com

We're on the Web!
FLCMTV.org

Our Mission Is To Know and Share God's Love



Worship Sunday 8 & 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15

STEWARDSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE PRESIDENT

Late in June we faced a critically low balance in our general fund which we announced in the weekly bulletin. The council voted in a special meeting on June 22nd to transfer funds from four dormant designated funds to help with that shortfall. Knowing that transfer would not carry us through the rest of the year without an increase in giving, I asked everyone to review their regular contributions to the church and to consider an increase, either on a regular or short-term basis. I am grateful to announce that many people were able to do so, and the average offering amount for the first two Sundays in July increased to \$4300, which is the weekly amount we need to continue our ministries within our congregation and community. Thank you to everyone for your continued stewardship and prayers in this regard.

For those of you who have not had a chance to read the bulletin announcements, some of the factors that contributed to this shortfall were higher snow removal costs during the winter, the doubling of utility costs, the loss of three generous giving units, and two Sunday services that had to be cancelled. It's also important to remember that the expenses of the congregation continue regardless of how many people attend services. Not everyone can attend each week, and in the summer weekly attendance is usually lower due to vacations and travel. Please do your best to continue your regular donations even when you can't attend. Please feel free to talk to me or any other council member if you have questions or concerns about this issue.

Another birthday with good health.