

Spring 2013

5443 Sunset Road
New Port Richey, FL
34652

727-849-4418 phone

727-844-3541 fax

www.faithnpr.org

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Message from Pastor Baum

Dear Members of Faith Lutheran,

The last day of April, April 30th, is my last day to serve you as your Intentional Interim Pastor. What a year of 'changes' it has been, including a few addresses.

As our official relationship as Pastor and Congregation now closes, I want to share with you my hope. In the past year that I have been your Pastor, we have shared many special moments. There have been those special good times: baptisms...confirmations...weddings... and other fun activities. There have also been those times of sharing sorrow, with hospital and nursing home visits and funerals of loved ones.

My departure includes handing those pastoral responsibilities on to another. I want to give the new pastor a lot of space to develop his own ministry. I remember how I felt when I was the new pastor here, and I want to give him every opportunity to serve you as your new pastor. So, when you have need of

pastoral care or services, presently, call the vacancy pastor, and then in the future call on the new permanent pastor. If your daughter is getting married, and I'm invited, I'll be rejoicing with you...and if need be I will help by offering to go to the airport to pick up guests...But the new pastor will be the one and only to plan the wedding, counsel the kids, and perform the service.

I'll still see you around the area, home base is now the Tampa area...but, when we meet...don't ask me what I think about the new pastor or the latest changes and/or project(s). I'd appreciate knowing that someone is sick, and Suzy is graduating from college with honors and other joys and concerns within the church family. And I can answer certain questions so as to not leave everyone in the dark, BUT certain other areas are no longer my concern. I am, once again, part of the priesthood of believers at Faith, as is every member of Faith.

Together, let's continue our concerned relationship, but please understand and help me stay out of the pastoral role. The Lord already knows who your new pastor will be, and let him now be your Pastor in the next chapter of being the family of God at F L C.

In His Service,
Pastor Baum,
former Interim Pastor of Faith





Our Food Pantry is low.

Can you help us by donating any of the following items:

Brown Paper Bags

Tuna (any brand)

Fruit (any kind)

Soup (chicken noodle / tomato)

Boxed meals (i.e.,

Hamburger Helper)

Spaghetti Sauce (cans or jars)

Canned pork & beans

Large boxes/bags of Cereal

Spam

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Instant Potatoes

Boxes of Macaroni &

Cheese

Spaghetti (dry)

Vegetables: corn & green beans

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mon—Fri (Sept.—May)

9—11:30 AM

Mon, Wed, Fri (June—Aug.)

9—11:30 AM

Human Care Ministry

A message from Sandi Leenhouts, HCM Director:

"I want to sincerely thank everyone who responds to our Food Pantry requests. The Food Pantry runs a lot easier knowing we have your support. All your donations are greatly appreciated."

Did you know...the Human Care Ministries Board has 3 branches: Food Pantry, Needy Fund Ministry, and Bereavement Comfort.

Our **Food Pantry** provides food to the needy and homeless and receives its funding from our congregational donations as well as a

budgeted monthly allowance from the church.

With the summer months approaching, the pantry is very hungry! Any additional donations of food or monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Please earmark your contribution envelope "food pantry" if giving a monetary donation. See side list for a complete list of food items requested should you desire to donate a non-perishable food item. As well, from time to time, we do distribute coats, jackets, sweaters, and blankets. If you ever have any extra that you would like to donate, we are more than happy to take them

off your hands.

The **Needy Fund** assists our active congregational members who need additional assistance to get through a hard time. We have assisted our members with rent, utility bills, car payments, and more.

Our **Bereavement & Comfort** extension will provide support on behalf of FLC to those who walk through a bereavement period in life. Funding for this ministry is provided by the church budget.

(Submitted by: Sandi Leenhouts, Director)

Altar Guild

A huge thank you ladies for your hard work.

We know that cleaning and scrubbing and polishing at home is not nearly as enjoyable as it is when we fellowship together while "spiffing up" our sanctuary and chancel.

An article written by Elizabeth Dias of Washington, printed in *Time* magazine, April, 2012:

On Easter, in Christian churches large and small, many will hear the words of the 15th chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. Its about resurrection—first Jesus', then the great resurrection that is said to await all believers. The closing image of this mighty passage, though is about not Eternal bliss and peace but work,

deeds, action: "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord" wrote Paul, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." In a vision of ultimate reward, a reminder of what is essential: the work that is always at hand.

(Submitted by: Mary Oles, Secretary)

Ladies Guild

The Faith Ladies Guild meeting on May 1st will have a guest speaker, presenting us with "Master volunteer, Guardian ad Litem Program." Bring a friend and neighbor as we fellowship with our "Sisters in Christ!" Our hostesses will be Mary Oles, Jackie Christopher and Rose Wegner serving refreshments starting at 1:00 PM with program at 1:30 PM and business following. There will be an election of new officers for this following year as follows: 2nd Vice President - Mickie Ferguson; Secretary - Betty Holland; and Christian Growth Chairperson - Edie Knudsen.

Our Ladies Guild had a very successful Salad Luncheon along with a BonWorth Fashion show held on Feb. 6th in our CLC center. Proceeds will be announced at a later date. Thank you to all the ladies that helped make this a beautiful event.

The LWML Spring Rally was held at Holy Trin-

ity Church in Masaryk-town, Fl and was well attended by 60 LWML'ers from all over the Suncoast ZONE. Our Fall Rally will be held at Hope Lutheran church in Hudson. A date will be announced at a later time. Also the LWML National Convention will be held in Pittsburgh, PA, June 27-30, 2013.

Christmas Angels were sold at the Lenten suppers in March and April. Thank you to all who contributed and volunteered in making this a worthwhile project. As well, on March 13th, the Ladies Guild served the Lenten supper consisting of soup and sandwiches... "Thank You" Ladies for all your hard work and food.

The Executive Board would like to thank all the ladies that have helped in our Ladies Guild this past year...All who have served as Hostesses for our meetings; greeting card ladies - Mona Krupicka, Debbie Lackey and

Ardys Schoebel; Historian - Mel Reinstetie; Membership - Bev Kuhn; Visitation - Marianne Zeltner; Willing Workers - Jackie Christopher; and Funeral Committee - Betty Holland, Jackie Christopher, and Rose Wegner.

Have a blessed, safe, and healthy summer! We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting in September!

(Submitted by: Rose Wegner, Chair)



NEW SUMMER SERVICE

We will transition to one (1) service at 10:00 am beginning May 26.

Sunday School will be 9:30—10:45 AM

There will be no Adult Bible Study throughout the summer.

Saturday Worship & Praise will end May 18.



If you are one of our beloved “Snowbirds”, please remember to let the office know of your address change so we can be sure to keep you in the loop with important happenings.

Choir & Handbell Ensemble

Controversial eruptions took place during the last days of the Nazarene carpenter’s triumphant visit to Jerusalem, and quickly turned ugly; the event that followed forever changed history. Over the centuries, arguments have raged, wars have been fought and martyrs have died over the veracity of the New Testament accounts of the last days of Jesus of Nazareth—His death, burial and resurrection, an age-old story that divides Western history and forms the foundation of Christian faith.

Where has it all led? Christians know that the head that was once crowned with thorns is now crowned with glory and is now incumbent upon us to perpetuate the story of Christ’s great sacrifice for us and to bring the light of the gospel to those of us who are still in spiritual darkness. As Revelation 11:15 reveals to us “He shall reign forever and forever.” Throughout eternity we will be asked to come to the Lord’s Table and be Christ’s faithful people. What a precious gift we have to share.

Having sung many double services throughout Holy Week, the choir was all

set to go on a more relaxed schedule, but hopes were dashed as we learned that Leora had more work planned for us for the next two months. Each Sunday an anthem is selected to reinforce the theme of the sermon and to help give everyone faith, hope and inspiration. Hopefully, it will help encourage prayer and bring peace and tranquility into your lives and be a reminder of God’s love, guidance and His many blessings. There is little to tell about the Handbell Ensemble. Not enough people have volunteered this year or part of the last year to continue with the bells. About eight people are needed to enhance the bell music program. Bell choir doesn’t just happen! They are the result of many months, even years, of hard work on the part of the director and the ringers to help provide the congregation with handbell music that is beautifully and skillfully written in the handbell idiom in order to build a program of good music.

Let us applaud Leora for her marvelous selection of spiritual music which she has given Faith Lutheran Church for many

years. We are blessed every Sunday by her taking us on a spiritual stroll that helps create a dialogue between the Almighty and us. Although the choir’s work may diminish after Easter, Leora doesn’t rest too much nor does she give us much rest during rehearsals. She genially coaxes us through much music to encourage us to transcend our techniques and communicate a strong spiritual sense of otherworldliness and spontaneity through our music. She has multiple talents and knows how to use them, thereby making everything possible through her vast abilities and energies. She not only gives us leadership in technical facility but also in luminous thematic development.

Look for a break in the clouds. Let your life experience gain a new enthusiastic balance with intriguing new dimensions and let your tendencies to aggression dissipate. Seek the Lord and good in each other; don’t allow hatred to fester.

(Submitted by:
Robert Rutkowski)

Sunday School

How time has flown by. The Sunday School has been very busy the past few months. I know by the time you receive this Easter will have passed. We hope that you had a very blessed Easter and what a special season of the church it is. In Feb. the children sang for Jesus loves you Sunday and handed out hearts with candy kisses to the congregation. We also asked you to help a child that might not have an Easter basket to donate candy and Easter grass. Thank you so much. We were able to make up 141 baskets this year! These were shared with 3 schools: 75 to Cotee River Elementary, 52 to Richey Elementary and 15 to Amy Thompson, School for Autistic Children. They all were so happy. Also a special thank you to the Sunday School staff and our great Senior youth for helping to fill them.

The Sunday School put on the first Lenten dinner. Our Senior Youth helped clean up and collect the offering each week. We hope that you came to church on Palm Sunday. At the 11:00 service, the children were in costume, sang, laid down rugs and carried palms and then, Ryan Barraclough, who portrayed Jesus, entered on his donkey. They did a wonderful job!

On Good Friday the Senior Youth did the annual "Cross Walk". They start at Master Mechanics on Grand Blvd. and walk to Main St. and then onto church. At the end, everyone enjoyed pizza for dinner.

On Easter Sunday the youth put on a wonderful breakfast. Thank you to all who helped cook and make this fundraiser a huge success! We also

hosted an Easter Egg Hunt between services. A great time was had by all!

There are some special **Baptismal Birthdays**
April: Logan Kelleher and Madison Fleckenstein.
May: Autum Verheyen and Kristen Hahn.

Birthdays
April: Kristen Hahn, Joseph Wuest. Kayla Bezel, Emmaline Fowler, and Leah Wuest.
May: Jenna Hovseth.

We've been busy. Please continue to bring in your cans of food as we have so many families in need. It is greatly appreciated. Until next time, take care and God Bless you all for your support.

(Submitted by:
Sharon Rubia,
Sunday School Supt)

Members

Please do not forget to complete your Fellowship Card for attendance tracking. If you have an address or phone number change, you may note that on the card or contact the Office. If your information has not

changed, you do not need to complete the address portion of the card as we will have it on record.

As well, please be sure and let the office know of any updates to our prayer list that is listed in

the bulletin. We desire for this list to be as accurate and current as possible.



THANK YOU to Lewis Fowler for his time and dedication to our NEW church website! If you have not taken a look, please visit us at faithnpr.org. This was a huge undertaking that takes a lot of time and we are so grateful for his talent and commitment to Faith Church.



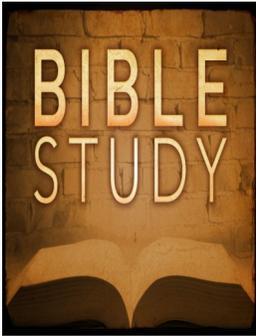
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CEF

CHILD EVANGELISM
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VBS is coming this summer! Mark your calendar for August 5-9 in the evening. We will be partnering our efforts with Child Evangelism Fellowship. Let's be sure and support this ministry with the volunteers needed to make this run smoothly for all to enjoy!



SAVE THE DATE

COMING
UP

We are having a fun filled day here at Faith on **Sunday, June 9th!** We'll have water fun for the kids, food, games, a bake sale, face painting and other great activities. Maybe even a bingo game or two. This will be a fundraiser for Vacation Bible School and a kick off for our Summer Sunday School Program. Bring your friends and don't miss this day of fun and fellowship! Watch for more details to come! If you are interested in helping, please see Sandy Thompson or call 848-2530 or 849-2343.

Study from the book of Psalms

Commentary on Psalms 65:1-12

All the praise the Lord receives from this earth is from Zion, being the fruit of the Spirit of Christ, and acceptable through him. Praise is silent unto thee, as wanting words to express the great goodness of God. He reveals himself upon a mercy-seat, ready to hear and answer the prayers of all who come unto him by faith in Jesus Christ. Our sins prevail against us; we cannot pretend to balance them with any righteousness of our own: yet, as for our transgressions, of thine own free mercy, and for the sake of a righteousness of thine own providing, we shall not come into condemnation for them. Observe what it is to come into communion with God in order to blessedness. It is to converse with him as one we love and value; it is to apply ourselves closely to religion as to the business of our dwelling-place. Observe how we come into communion with God; only by God's free choice. There is abundance of goodness in God's house, and what is satisfying to the soul; there is enough for all, enough for each: it is always ready; and all without money and without price. By faith and

prayer we may keep up communion with God, and bring in comfort from him, wherever we are. But it is only through that blessed One, who approaches the Father as our Advocate and Surety, that sinners may expect or can find this happiness.

Commentary on Psalms 65:6-13

That Almighty strength which sets fast the mountains, upholds the believer. That word which stills the stormy ocean, and speaks it into a calm, can silence our enemies. How contrary soever light and darkness are to each other, it is hard to say which is most welcome. Does the watchman wait for the morning? So does the laborer earnestly desire the shades of evening. Some understand it of the morning and evening sacrifices. We are to look upon daily worship, both alone and with our families, to be the most needful of our daily occupations, the most delightful of our daily comforts. How much the fruitfulness of this lower part of the creation depends upon the influence of the upper, is easy to observe; every good and perfect gift is from above. He who enriches the earth, which is filled with man's sins, by

his abundant and varied bounty, can neither want power nor will to feed the souls of his people. Temporal mercies to us unworthy creatures, shadow forth more important blessings. The rising of the Sun of righteousness, and the pouring forth of the influences of the Holy Spirit, that river of God, full of the waters of life and salvation, render the hard, barren, worthless hearts of sinners fruitful in every good work, and change the face of nations more than the sun and rain change the face of nature. Wherever the Lord passes, by his preached gospel, attended by his Holy Spirit, his paths drop fatness, and numbers are taught to rejoice in and praise him. They will descend upon the pastures of the wilderness, all the earth shall hear and embrace the gospel, and bring forth abundantly the fruits of righteousness which are, through Jesus Christ, to the glory of the Father. Manifold and marvelous, O Lord, are thy works, whether of nature or of grace; surely in loving-kindness hast thou made them all.

(submitted by:
Richard Jensen)

Psalms 65

1 Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion; to you our vows will be fulfilled.
 2 O you who hear prayer, to you all men will come.
 3 When we were overwhelmed by sins, you forgave our transgressions.
 4 Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts! We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.
 5 You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of

the farthest seas,
 6 who formed the mountains by your power, having armed yourself with strength,
 7 who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations.
 8 Those living far away fear your wonders; where morning dawns and evening fades you call forth songs of joy.
 9 You care for the land and water it; you enrich it abundantly. The streams of God are filled with water to provide the people with grain, for so you

have ordained it.
 10 You drench its furrows and level its ridges; you soften it with showers and bless its crops.
 11 You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance.
 12 The grasslands of the desert overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.
 13 The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain; they shout for joy and sing.(NIV)

Braille Center

Thank you all Braille workers for your hard work this past year. There will be no Braille construction until September 9th as there is

no work at this time. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Bob & Mickey Ferguson.

(Submitted by: Bob & Mickey Ferguson)

We are Going Green!

In an effort to reduce waste, cut costs, and save a few trees, the office will be going green with as much information as we can. And YES, this includes *The Messenger*. *The*

Messenger will be published and made available on our website for our next publishing. No internet? No worries! Paper copies will be available for those who do not have internet.

We are excited for these changes as we become better stewards of God's resources and as we move forward in this generation.



**Shhhhhhh...
 It's a Surprise
 Party !!!!!**

You are all cordially invited to a "Surprise" birthday celebration for Emma Pella's 90th birthday. Cake and coffee will be served after the 8:00 AM, 9:15 AM and 10:30 AM Services at Holy Trinity Land of Lakes/Lutz on May 26th, 2013. Please no personal gifts. However, if you so desire, a gift can be made in her honor to: The Little Lambs Pre-school or LWML.

Please call Suzie Miller at 813-288-0618 if you have any questions.

THE MESSENGER

Richard Jensen, Editor
raj311@verizon.net

April Goodger, Design & Layout
aprilgoodger@faithnpr.org

We're on the web!
Faithnpr.org



5443 Sunset Rd.
New Port Richey, FL 34652

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Jokes you can tell at church...

"Hi" from Richard Jensen, your Editor. This page is for jokes you can tell in church. Time and time again you keep sending me jokes so I figured I would share them with others. If you have a funny joke or short story I can use, please send them to me via email, raj311@verizon.net, or place them in my mail box. I hope to hear from you soon.

Creation

An atheist scientist came to God and said, "We've figured out how to make a man without you."

God said, "OK, let me see you do it."

So the atheist bent down to the ground and scooped up a handful of dirt.

But God stopped him and said, "Oh, no you don't. Get your own dirt!"

I Don't Want To Go To Church!

A mother went to wake her son for church one Sunday morning. When she knocked on his door, he said, "I'm not going!"

"Why not?" asked his mother.

"I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me. Two, I don't like them."

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