



FAITH IN ACTION

October 2019

NOTES FROM PR. JANA

“Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.”

This past Sunday, when I arrived at the church, I knew that I had lots of little things to take care of – little things like a bulletin insert that had to be printed with the most up-to-date names, a quick rehearsal with the choir, a few pastoral conversations, a last-minute sermon run-through, and an odd cricket-like noise that needed to be tracked down. Nothing too out of the way – just a few things I expected would keep me busy until service time.

And then, about an hour before service, half of the power in the church blew out. Not what a pastor wants on any Sunday, but particularly on a Sunday when you know you’re already running behind!

But Faith – what I saw in the immediate aftermath amazed and delighted me. We had congregation members who immediately dropped what they were doing to come and help – to check breaker panels, and bring flashlights, to walk the perimeter of the building to look for downed wires, and call Com-Ed. Choir members took over stuffing bulletins so I could crawl around in the boiler room. And when it became apparent that this wasn’t a quick and easy fix, and that we would need to move worship to the hall, the music staff already had plans, and backup plans in place, and altar guild had a makeshift altar lined up before I could even ask. Hymn books appeared from storage, windows were opened to provide a breeze, and ushers directed everyone into the hall as though we had planned this for weeks. We gathered together around tables, and sang to guitars. We communed in holy chaos instead of neat rows, and in the middle of it all the Spirit showed up and was active in this place.

Thank you. Thank you to those who helped make it happen, who rolled with the unexpected, who showed up and still worshipped in good humor and faith when things weren’t exactly what we expected. Thank you

for trusting that the Spirit shows up in the hall or in the sanctuary.

This resilience, this willingness to find God in unexpected places is the type of spirit needed in the world today. And while at the end of the day, a few electrical glitches aren’t that big a thing to overcome, I think it points to the strength, and flexibility of our congregation, to roll, to adapt, and to find a way forward following God’s call to faithful living no matter the circumstances. This is a gift – one on full display this weekend, and one that will serve us well in times to come, no matter what unexpected speedbumps we face. Blessed are the flexible... blessed are you!

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COMMUNITY LIFE

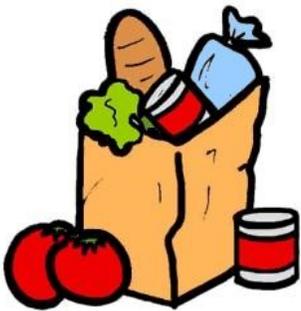
FALL FESTIVAL & TRUNK-OR-TREAT



On Sunday, October 27 from 12:30 to 2:00 we here at Faith will be sponsoring our first-ever Fall Festival. This will be an opportunity for children from our church and in the area to trick or treat in a safe environment. We are asking members to decorate your trunk and pass out treats from our parking lot. You may decorate your own or decoration kits are available through merchants such as Bed, Bath & Beyond. We will also need help manning the games and supervising the bouncy house. This will take many volunteers but should be an extremely fun event. Lunch will be provided to workers. You can come to church, enjoy lunch and stay for the fun. This is a great way to get to know our neighbors. Please come help us out! Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. For questions, please call the office or Shari Johnson at 815-725-2501 or 815-557-2546. Thank you!

MICRO-PANTRY

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



The Micro-pantry is being used by many people on a regular basis. It feels great to know that families receive healthy food and, also, many babies probably sleep better at night due to our supply of diapers. In addition, we provide toothbrushes and personal hygiene products. Please bring home the provided unused shampoo, lotion, etc. when you are hospitalized or enjoying a vacation. Remember the micro-pantry when you are at home or away.

Thank you for all the many items you have provided to help our community!

FALL LANDSCAPE CLEAN-UP DAY!

Mark your calendars and come help beautify our stomping grounds:)

Saturday, November 2

9a.m-Noon



COMMUNITY LIFE



FAIR TRADE COFFEE Don't forget to get your Fair Trade coffee and cocoa! The coffee is \$8 a bag and the cocoa is \$6 a can. See Karen Herrmann if you are interested in making a purchase to help farmers in developing countries.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us at a volunteer service event at Feed My Starving Children in Aurora on Saturday, October 26. Our shift will be from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm followed by a pizza supper. Hope you can join us! The signup sheet is in the narthex.

FALL GATHERING: CHAT WITH THE BISHOP

Come to talk about Synod mission statement!
Sunday, November 17, 2019—2:00-3:30 p.m.

**New Life Lutheran Church
249 N. Bolingbrook Drive, Bolingbrook**



ADULT FORUM: SANCTUARY ONE IMMIGRANT'S PERSPECTIVE

Join Pr. Jana and Brian in the Conference Room after worship as they reflect on Pastor Jana's experiences immigrating to the United States. Hear reflections on the various places they found 'sanctuary' during the process, and how that might help us think about the recent ELCA Churchwide decision about what it means to be a sanctuary church.

BE THE CHANGE

Our October Be the Change offering will be sent to the Lutheran Disaster Response. This is an important offering to help those in need following recent natural disasters.

THANKS!

Thank you for your generous donations for Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Forty-four kits were assembled on "God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday. The September Be the Change offering provided funds for additional kits. The kits were boxed up and will be placed on the Lutheran World Relief collection trailer on October 6 to be taken to a warehouse until they are distributed where they are



FAITH, PERSHING & KIDS HOPE USA

October is here and 27 volunteers are ready to start our Kids Hope USA program at Pershing School. Eleven Mentors are ready to start their mentoring sessions with students at Pershing, and eleven Prayer Partners will be praying for the Mentors and their students. Eight Scholarship Providers are providing online resources for the Mentors and Prayer Partners to use with their students.

This is just the beginning of this ongoing program. There will always be a need for more Mentors, Prayer Partners, and Scholarship Providers. If you're not able to become a part of Kids Hope USA now, please prayerfully consider joining us at a later date. Kids Hope USA is an important part of our ministry to our next door neighbor and the community.



Women of the ELCA

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WELCA MEETING

All women are invited to come for Bible Study on Thursday, October 10th at 7:00 pm. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us for study and fellowship.

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COOKBOOKS!



Cookbooks are still available for \$13 each! If you are visiting family or friends, take one along as a gift.

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ELEVENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING

Now is the time to start planning to attend the Eleventh Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, Arizona. Women from across the country and overseas will be gathering from July 16-19, 2020, to attend worship, Bible study, life-changing workshops, and more. Registration is now open at welca.org. For more information, contact Karen Herrmann, 815-436-7391.

WORSHIP NEWS

Lectionary Readings this Month

October 6: Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Ps. 37:1-9; 2 Tim 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

October 13: Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Ps. 111; 2 Tim 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

October 20: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 32:22-31; Ps. 121; 2 Tim 3:14—4:5; Luke 18:1-8

October 27: Reformation Sunday

Jer 31:31-34; Ps. 46; Rom 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

DON'T FORGET!

**SIGNUP SHEETS FOR
OCTOBER AND
NOVEMBER ARE
AVAILABLE IN THE
NARTHEX.**

THIS MONTH'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Assisting Minister:</i>	<i>Lector:</i>	<i>Nursery Volunteer:</i>
October 6	Ryan Eggert	Ryan Eggert	Gabby & Amanda Tancl
October 13	Cian Howson	Bill Niswonger	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
October 20	Carla Wastalu	Jean Razunas	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
October 27	Jean Razunas	Cian Howson	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Communion Assistant:</i>	<i>Ushers/Presenters (2 needed):</i>
October 6	Bonnie Badurski	Henry Williams
October 13	Karen Herrmann	Henry Williams
October 20	Bonnie Badurski	Henry Williams
October 27	Kay Champene	Henry Williams

<i>Date:</i>	<i>Cantor:</i>	<i>Flowers:</i>	<i>Candle:</i>
October 6	Bill Niswonger	Ed & Karen Stapleton	<i>Available</i>
October 13	Carla Wastalu	Carol Vicic	Carol Vicic
October 20	Bill Niswonger	<i>Available</i>	<i>Available</i>
October 27	Carla Wastalu	<i>Available</i>	<i>Available</i>

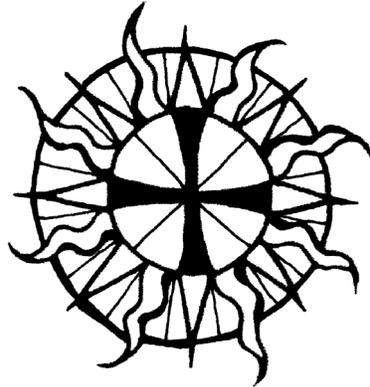
Acolyte:

FAITH BIRTHDAYS!

The following members of the Faith Lutheran family have upcoming birthdays! Prayers and blessings to you on your special day!

OCTOBER

10/2 Michael Koseck
 Louise Cassidy
 10/3 Stephanie Donahue
 Dolores Massey
 10/4 Kimberly Denson
 10/5 Diane Henry
 Anthony Mare
 10/6 Travis Denton
 William Peretti
 10/8 Jim Lauterbach
 Anita Burian
 10/11 Ryland Denson
 10/12 Jane DeWitt
 Thomas Johnson
 Angela Bailey



10/13 Carissa Kasprzak
 10/14 Autumn Koonce
 Shar Markese
 10/18 Robert E. McCallum
 Andrew Vargo

10/21 Robert J. McCallum
 Zak Warsaw
 10/22 Fran Campbell
 Jacob Donahue
 RJ Requena
 10/23 Judy Johnson
 Haley Otero
 Erika Rock
 10/24 Richard Pemble
 Jan Riemer
 10/30 Abigail Koonce
 Charmaine Mercer

ABUNDANT THANKS TO:

- ◆ Those that helped make the church picnic a success
- ◆ Dick Attaway and Tammy Reiher for their work to organize the photo directory
- ◆ Karen Herrmann, for all the work she has done organizing the KidsHope USA program
- ◆ Jean Razunas, and the constitution committee, for their work on revising the constitution
- ◆ Those who sponsored bibles for our youth – Carol Luthanen, Karen Herrmann and Bonnie Badurski
- ◆ Those who have brought in donations for the MicroPantry



FIRST WE GIVE OF OURSELVES

Join in the conversation as we, as a congregation, talk about what it means to grow in grace as a congregation. We will kick off these events during worship on October 6, and celebrate Commitment Sunday on November 17. In the middle, join us for the following events and gatherings:

Sermon series: Pr. Jana will be preaching a 6 week Sermon series on growing in grace and stewardship during worship.

Bible Study: Join us for bible study on Monday evenings, looking at examples from scripture about growing in grace. Join for conversation, questions and study about what it means to give generously as a Christian in this day and age. The Study will run Monday nights 6:30-7:30 in the Conference room, beginning October 21. If you can't join us in person, the studies will be available to take home as well.

Growth Gathering Meals with the Pastor: Wednesday October 30, 6-8 p.m., and November 6, 11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. Join Pr. Howson for an informal meal and conversation. Everything will be provided – just sign up and come!

GARDEN OF LIFE

The Garden of Life has done wonderfully this year. We had a slight calcium deficiency, but thanks to an early diagnosis and after a meeting of the minds, that problem was solved or “nipped in the bud.” We have shared our produce with our clients from the micro-pantry, friends at Faith, Morning Star Mission and the Blessing Bench (a food pantry ministry provided by First Lutheran and Santa Cruz).

It is hard to believe how much produce was gathered out of that small garden! We donated approximately 55 lbs. tomatoes, 20 lbs. zucchini, 40 lbs. green peppers, 60 lbs. jalapeno peppers and 65 lbs. cucumbers so far this year. Our season is going strong with new blossoms still being produced. As long as the weather holds out, so will the harvest!

A HUGE thank you goes out to the many volunteers who made it all possible!

HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO ADD TO THE NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER?

LET US KNOW BY OCTOBER 18TH!



COUNCIL SUMMARY

Summary of the Congregation Council Meeting of September 11, 2019

TREASURER'S REPORT: Bill Niswonger mentioned the deficits and asked committee chairs to watch budgets.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Jana has been very busy working with committees, teams, and council executives ramping up for the many fall activities, programs, and classes. She will attend the Courage to Lead for Young Leaders continuing education event on November 7-9. Caryn Stillman has done a great job at filling in gaps in church records.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jean Razunas is preparing for the September 22 congregational meeting regarding constitution changes. Council discussed the purchase of file cabinets and flash drives for keeping church records, and the storage or disposal of the altar rail which is no longer used.

TEAM REPORTS:

Faith Formation: Sunday School begins September 15. The first Sunday of each month Pastor Jana will conduct a multigenerational lesson. Regular children's lessons will be scheduled for other Sundays. A Trunk-or-treat event will be October 27, and Advent Kid's Camp will be on November 30, December 7, and December 14, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Property: Shari and Verlin Johnson thanked those who helped with landscaping. They hope to organize volunteers to care for small areas of the property next year. Produce from the Garden of Life has been greatly appreciated by Pastor Forni at Blessing Bench, the Micro-pantry, and Morning Star Mission.

Community Life: It was agreed that Sowing Seeds of Faith money (\$500) be used for Pershing School KidsHope activities. Personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief will be gathered through September. The Feed My Starving Children service event will be October 26, 2-4 p.m. with pizza following. The October Be the Change offering will go to the Lutheran Disaster Response.

Worship and Music: Jean Razunas has agreed to be the interim bell choir director.

Resource: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Phone Directory: Church members are encouraged to sign up. At least 32 family units are needed to qualify for bonus options.

Bonnie Badurski
Congregation Council Secretary