Musings

The Sharing of a Good Story...

Over the last month, I have had the privilege to hear many stories from the people at Faith – through art! I heard stories that I don’t think I would have heard in a setting without a task at hand that prompted the sharing of stories, associations and reflections. I heard these stories of joy and pain, grief and sorrow, hopes and dreams, humor and nostalgia of days gone by. The art created by the Visual Storytelling group enveloped all of these emotions and life experiences, and then memorialized them in a new and creative way.

I have been hearing other stories too. I had the honor and privilege to hear stories from the listening groups conducted here at Faith. You all have some deep concerns that are on your hearts and minds! The joys of facilitating these sessions were the connections that these sessions provided between people. I had someone comment how much they appreciated to hear that they were not alone in their concerns, and looked forward to seeking other people out to talk about coping skills, ideas and encouragement from one another… is that not what the body of Christ is all about – supporting our fellow Christians in their daily walk with Christ? Stories bring us together. Stories provide a way to enter into each other’s lives. Stories connect us to the past, present and hopes for the future.

There is another incredible story coming. One that is real, authentic, and transformational. It is a story that has been a part of us since the beginning of creation. In this season of Lent, we hear stories from Matthew of blessing and yet we know darker days are coming. These days are filled with hatred, betrayal, pain, grief and sorrow. These are the stories of God’s people. But there are also stories of hope, anticipation, confusion and love. These are the stories of God’s people, too.

Won’t you come and be a part of the story? The story of the people of God experiencing and sharing the stories of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? I hope you will take time this Lenten season to share a story; a story that connects you to someone in a new way, a story that reveals something new about what Christ is doing in your life today and a chance to share THE story – the story of God’s redemptive work in the unconditional and sacrificial love of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Sally Hanson, Pastoral Intern
Thanks from Pastor Heidi Johns...

My Dear Friends at Faith!

How can I begin to thank you all for the wonderful send off you gave me on Sunday March 9th? Your kind words, gifts, cards, prayers and presence overwhelmed me both in the morning services and at the party in the afternoon. My heart is full to overflowing from all the love I received that day. I felt the Holy Spirit supporting me through your prayers and blessing at the end of each of the Sunday services. It was so good to be able to greet so many of you personally throughout the day and share some memories.

I truly appreciate the generous financial gift that you all gave to me. Please know part of it will be used for a trip to New York City in April, including a Broadway show! The Glen Ellyn print has already found a prominent place in my home, even though I will soon have to pack it for moving! I am also grateful for the festive party and all the planning and volunteers needed to pull that off! Thanks to all who helped coordinate it.

My years at Faith were a blessing and I will carry many fond memories of my time among you. Thank you!

I also want to invite you to my installation service on May 31/June 1 at Good Shepherd in Cincinnati. The address is 7701 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, OH 45236. The service times are Saturday at 5pm; Sunday at 8:00; 9:30 and 11 am.

God’s blessings to you all in your continued kingdom work at Faith.

Pastor Heidi Johns
From the President of the Congregation Council …

March was a busy month for the Church Council. We held a council / leaders / staff overnight retreat March 14 and 15. Pastor Jim led several great discussions; examining the upcoming Sunday gospels, sharing transformative moments and exploring change & discernment. Everyone who participated left energized and excited for the future of the congregation.

The March Council meeting was Tuesday, 3/18. I feel like the Council is already hitting our stride as a group in only our second month of service together. Below are some of highlights from the meeting …

- We held a spirited discussion about the first chapter of our study book Changing the Conversation and it’s relevance to the situations we are facing in our congregation … I believe that there are additional copies available in the church office ($15) and I strongly encourage you to consider reading it along with us.
- With Pastor Heidi’s resignation, we passed several measures related to continuing our ministry.
  1. We voted to restore funding to the budget for another intern year, following the completion of Sally’s year here
  2. We approved paying Pastor Heidi through April 15th … this accounts for her unused 2014 vacation and provides her some paid time off before beginning her ministry in Cincinnati
  3. We instructed the Finance team to recast the 2014 budget; eliminating Pastor Heidi’s salary and benefits, adding funding for the intern, restoring the staff contractual benefits that were cut from the 2014 budget, accounting for the small cost of Heidi’s going away party, adjusting the utilities and church grounds budgets to account for the unusually high natural gas bills we’ve received and for the excessive snow plowing expenses we’ve encountered
  4. We accepted the proposal of a diaconal student, Christine Doidge, to work with us this summer as an intern (we will provide more details later)

We adopted the “No Firearms in the Building” policy (which I wrote about last month).

Remember, if you’ve ever wondered about what goes on at Council meetings, please know that we would be excited to have you attend. Meetings are typically held on the third Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 pm. In April, the meeting will be held on Tuesday the 22nd due to holy week.

See you in church.

Carl Henninger (HenningerCL@aol.com)

Adult Forum

On April 6, we will welcome a special guest presenter for Adult Forum, Dr. Bradley Hanson, Professor Emeritus from Luther College and Founding Director of the Grace Institute of Spiritual Formation. Dr. Hanson has been exploring a Lutheran approach to spiritual practices for over 30 years. He will be with us to lead us in an introduction to the spiritual practice of lectio divina. This prayerful way of reading scripture brings great blessing for both individuals and groups. Brad is a spiritual director and teacher who is eminently gentle and full of wisdom. This is one Adult Forum you will not want to miss.

There will be no Adult Forum on Palm Sunday, April 13 or Easter Sunday, April 20. On Easter join us in the Gathering Place for coffee and fellowship.
Exploring the Patterns of Worship – The Sending

We arrive at the sending after the rite of Gathering to the Word and Meal. We heard and proclaimed the Word; we were nourished at the Meal and now we complete the cycle, returning to the church’s entrance, the place of Gathering.

In the Sending, God blesses us and sends us in mission out to the world. God’s mission includes the gifts of grace that we share in worship and take those gifts of grace to our homebound; now, we are sent to continue our participation in God’s mission. With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ’s body in the world.

Sending of Communion

Once the meal has been completed, we prepare to be sent out in to the world. Our first action is to share this meal with those who were not able to be at our table. We send out this meal through the ministry of our homebound communion servers and bless their ministry.

Blessing

The presiding pastor proclaims God’s blessing on the assembly in this time of sending. It is a time of benediction, meaning hearing God’s good words. The pastor announces the blessing of God and may make the sign of the cross over the assembly. The assembly may make the sign of the cross along with the pastor as a final reminder of their baptism in Christ. This proclamation is not one of things hoped for but God’s word accomplishes what it says. Therefore, when the pastor pronounces the blessing on the people, it is an accomplished fact that they are sent out with God’s blessing.

Sending Song

The sending song is the final time that the assembly worships collectively. Singing at the sending strengthens the assembly as it prepares to disperse. Sending songs may give thanks for the meal just shared, may acknowledge gratitude for the assembly, or may empower the assembly for its mission in the world. At times, it may do all of these.

Dismissal

The dismissal allows the assembly a final praise and response to God for all the gifts received. This is God’s action – to send us out to the place of our vocation in the world.

Many portions of this article are quotes or paraphrases of:


Save the Date!!

The Second Annual “God's Work, Our Hands” ELCA denomination-wide service day will be on September 7. Last fall, thousands of congregations participated in local mission projects on one day. It was so successful, that the ELCA is planning one again for this coming fall, and this time, we will participate. Over the next few months, we will be asking you for ideas of what we could do for a one-day mission project right here in our own community. For now, mark the date on your calendar and make plans to be a part of Faith’s version of “God's Work, Our Hands.” What could it mean for 300 of us to work for a single day on a project or two right here at home?!
A Working Group

You're invited to join this small gathering of working folks who wrestle with the connections with faith and life -- especially their daily vocations. Sessions are scheduled for Sundays, April 6 and 13th, as well as the 27th. The sessions are held in the ESSE Lunch Room -- down the hall from the church offices -- during the Adult Education Hour (10-11 AM) on those Sundays. If you're looking for meaning and purpose in your work life, these experiences are for you!

April 6-12

It's Volunteer Appreciation Week!

People's Resource Center thanks Faith Lutheran Church and its parishioners for their partnership. With your help, we are meeting our community’s needs, neighbor to neighbor.

Thank you for your generosity.

www.peoplesrc.org

Book Group

Everyone is welcome! We meet on the second Tuesday of most months at 7:30PM in the church library.

On April 8, we will discuss Unafraid by Francine Rivers; this is Religious fiction about Mary, Mother of Jesus. On May 13, we will discuss Songs of the Willow by Jamie Ford. Songs of the Willow is the tale of 2 souls - a boy with dreams for his future and a woman escaping her haunted past - both seeking love, hope and forgiveness. On June 10, we will discuss A Girl Who Owned a City, by O. T. Nelson. In this book, children of Glen Ellyn, IL band together to find food, shelter, and protection after a disease takes the lives of everyone over 12. In the 39 years since this book was written, how would A Girl Who Owned a City change?

If you want more information, please write or call Martha at marsobie@aol.com or 630-858-1730.

Members and Friends of the Guild of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC)

Date: Saturday, April 5, 2014  Time: 9:30 am. – 12:30 pm.

Location: Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 119 West Wise Road, Schaumburg, IL 60193. Parking is free, the church is wheelchair accessible and childcare will be provided for children 5 and under.

Join us for brunch and fellowship with women from the Metropolitan Chicago Synod followed by conversation with three international students from LSTC: Lydia Hernandez-Marcial from Puerto Rico; Si Khaw from Myanmar (Burma); Padma Bundi from India. Come and hear the amazing stories of these three students; their calls to ministry, the obstacles they faced coming to LSTC, and how they will serve as leaders in the world church when they return home.

Your $10 donation includes brunch and Guild membership for one year.

Please RSVP by March 31st to Emily Abrahamson, LSTC Office for Advancement, 1-773-256-0710 or advancement@lstc.edu and indicate if you will need childcare.
Many Thanks

God is good. God answers prayer. Along our trying journey, you of Faith have trudged with us. For your continuous out-pouring of PRAYERS and SUPPORT, we give you enormous thanks.

We are overwhelmed with joy and gratitude for your love and kindness; cards, phone calls of concern and encouragement, prepared meals, visits to the house and hospital most especially by our wonderful pastors, help with needs in and around our house, i.e. raking leaves, mowing the lawn, cleaning gutters, driving Ben to and from therapy and the arranging of that schedule, grocery shopping and delivery, hugs and shoulders to cry on.

During this time we also had a construction project at our home. We want to thank those who prepared the house before and after the construction and provided excellent living arrangements when construction was going on in our home. (We apologize if we have forgotten anything.) You all have been there with us, every step of the way.

Ben is now cancer free, on the road to recovery and so happy to be back at Faith with all of you. Praise God! To Him be the glory. We are so blessed to have you in our lives and to be a part of this amazing Family of Faith. We are so extraordinarily grateful to you all.

"May God bless you and keep you, may his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may the Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26

Ben and Bonnie Bentsen

Library

The library has devotional books for Lenten reading. Come in and check out a book.

Library Committee

People’s Resource Center Sends Their Appreciation to Volunteers

People’s Resource Center offers hope and opportunity to our neighbors in need, and we do so because of the 1,500 volunteers who donate their time and expertise. People from a variety of backgrounds come to us to study for the GED test, learn English, prepare for a job search, improve their computer skills, and put food on the table. During Volunteer Appreciation Week, April 6-12, we’d like to thank all of you for making a difference in the lives of these families. We are grateful for your time and efforts to help meet the needs of the DuPage County community, neighbor to neighbor.

Since 1975, People’s Resource Center has been bringing neighbors together to respond to hunger and poverty in DuPage County. To learn more, please visit us at www.peoplesrc.org.

A note of Thanks. . .

Dear Member of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church,

A great big thank-you for making the month of February extra special for ESSE clients!!

They really enjoyed the wonderful visits, entertainment, and delicious treats.

Members of Faith are always so generous with their time and talents.

Thanks again, from the ESSE Staff
Music Ministry

Seven Words of Christ by Heinrich Schuetz on April 13, Passion Sunday

The Seven Last Words of Christ will be presented by the Sanctuary Choir, Soloists and String Orchestra on Sunday, April 13 as part of our Palm/Passion Sunday observance at both the 8:45 and 11:00 services. This masterpiece, written by the baroque musician Heinrich Schuetz, will be sung in English and is a powerful interpretation of the words that our Savior spoke from the Cross on Good Friday. Soloists include Evangelists: Cynthia Carrico, Allan Cheshire, Sue Cheshire, Plivi Inola, Jean Pfaff and Kathy Zima. John Whittington will sing the role of Jesus and the Tenor Evangelist will be Andrew Johnson. The orchestra will consist of three violins, viola and cello.

The choir and orchestra will also present the well-known and loved Ave Verum by Mozart in the service during communion. Palm/Passion Sunday this year offers you a great opportunity to invite friends, family and neighbors to share this unique and beautiful worship experience with you. You simply will not want to miss this.

Wednesday Mid Week Lenten Preludes for April

April 2  Todd Carrico plays organ music for Lent by J. S. Bach and Johannes Brahms
April 9 both of Faith's bell choirs will play arrangements of Lenten hymns.

Holy Week Music Schedule

Maundy Thursday - the Maundy Thursday Chamber Choir sings music by Witte, Guilmont and Madurga. Mark this worship which includes foot washing and the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday - The Sanctuary Choir sings music by Healey Willan and the Solemn Reproaches by Mark Mummert during the veneration of the cross.

Easter Vigil - A wide variety of hymnody and canticles and chants celebrating the Lighting of the New Fire and the First Communion of Easter.

Easter Sunday - Brass Quartet and Organ play hymn arrangements of glorious and victorious Easter hymns at 8:45 and 11:00. Also at 8:45 and 11:00, The Sanctuary Choir sings music by Gabrieli, Wolff and Leavitt. New Song and Good News will sing at the 8:45 service.

Lutheran Youth Choir International sets Early Registration Deadline of April 15

The Lutheran Youth Choir International (formerly the Lutheran Youth Choir of North America) has set an early Registration Deadline for their upcoming summer program. The early deadline date is April 15. Please see the website Lutheranyouthchoir.org for more details and then like us on Facebook or Twitter. The dates of the Festival of American Vocal Music is July 22 to August 3. Please help spread the word to any high school age singers that you know!

Also the choir has posted a new item on YouTube. In this video created by Beth Nyland, the choir is singing Home In Da’ Rock at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin, Germany last summer. Also did you know that a YouTube video “Hope for resolution” created by the choir from the 2008 tour of Germany, has had over 5,500 hits on YouTube?

Each Week Joyful Noise Provides a Memorable and Faith-Building Experience

When the singers of Joyful Noise gather, our time together does not begin with someone shouting for all of the kids to be quiet. Neither does it begin with whistles or hands held in the air in a dominating way, or any other kind of harsh message. Rather, I simply begin to sing. The kids are clued in to joining me. Sometimes I simply clap a rhythm and they clap it back to me. As they are clapping or singing along they are not talking and the entire period of settling down and becoming quiet takes about 10 seconds. They are being invited in a gentle, musical and respectful way to join in the Song.

This is only a small part of building a Memorable and Faith-Building experience for the kids each week. In our rehearsals we talk about what the text of a song means. They are asked to share, if they are comfortable with that, what they think the text means in their life. Many times the songs are memorized as we practice them, so that they can use God’s word to build their faith. Finally we join each week in prayer, either at the closing time or during the rehearsal time when it is appropriate to emphasize a thought or comment. Usually the kids hum on one pitch and then when I say the words “In Jesus’ name we pray”, they sing “Amen.” We use prayer to build faith. In Joyful noise we are aware that as someone has once said, “When you sing, you pray twice.”
2014 Calendar

The calendar can be accessed by linking to the following:

http://www.faithonline.org/calendar

Saturday, May 3
1:00 pm—3:00 pm
Faith Lutheran Church
Luther Hall

Spring Song

• Mothers, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, neighbors, friends
• Come for light refreshments and light-hearted music
• Fun for all ages
• Engaging program provided by professional entertainer —
  Kym Frankovelgia

• Offering to benefit:
  Children’s Resource Center, Lincoln School, Glen Ellyn

Hosted by Women of Faith Committee
Rainbow Place Preschool

Spring is new life – and are our preschoolers ever embracing that joy.

From the first visuals of bulbs popping up and the impending changes to the tall grass outside our doors that occurs and sparks much observation, spring is a great time for continued learning. Our MWF 4’s class has begun their bird unit and how cooperative nature has been with the first Robin spotted on the playground fence and the chirping filling our ears with music each morning. The T/Th 3’s class planted their grass seed project and will eagerly be awaiting it’s sprouting. Our Young 3’s class is excited to translate their complete love of sand play inside this winter to our sandbox outside. The all-day classes have filled the halls with rainbow colors and joyous smiles from our successful Dad’s Night celebration and are also transforming the art gallery from those adorable snow angels pictures with puffy paint snow texture to an array of blossoming spring colors.

Please be a part of our enrollment and growth for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year that we are planning now. Enrollment is in full swing and we would love for you, or families you know, to be a part of this ministry.

Contact us this spring, we would love to arrange a visit - there is so much more we would like to share with you -

Rainbow Place Preschool 630-469-6219
rainbowplaceflc@hotmail.com
F.L.Y. Faith Lutheran Youth

In our largely upper middle class suburban landscape, sometimes it's easy to forget that there are families in our community and even in our congregation who struggle financially.

At FLY (Faith Lutheran Youth), we are committed to making our events – including our summer mission trips – accessible to all, regardless of their socioeconomic status. To do this, we've spent the last year fundraising for our summer mission trip to Rwanda.

Our final fundraiser, our rummage sale, will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 8 am – 1 pm. To make this event a success, please consider helping in one of the following ways:

1. Donate your clothes, books, small electronics or appliances, holiday decorations, sporting equipment, furniture, and knick-knacks to the sale. Bring your donations to the stage in Luther Hall & place them BEHIND the backdrop. Unfortunately, we cannot accept computer monitors, TVs (unless they're flat screen), or car seats.

2. Volunteer to help sort and organize items for the sale any evening, April 21 – 25, from 6-9 pm in Luther Hall. Additionally, we need a few individuals with pickup trucks or vans to pickup larger items that week. If you're interested in serving in these ways, please contact Jen at 847-951-0232.

3. Spread the word. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors about the sale and encourage them to attend.

4. Come treasure hunting yourself! Saturday, April 26 from 8 am – 1 pm.

Thank you for all the ways YOU support our youth!

Jen Bradbury
Director of Youth Ministry

F.L.Y. Happenings:

Sundays, April 6, 20, and 27, 10-10:45 am: FLY Forum
Sunday, April 9, 7:45 – 8:30 pm: FLY Night
Sunday, April 13, 10 – 11:15 am: FLY Food Forum
Sunday, April 13, Noon – 2 pm: Rwanda Team Meeting
Monday, April 21 – Friday, April 25, 6-9 pm: Rummage Sale Set Up
Saturday, April 26: Rummage Sale
Sunday, April 27, Noon – 2 pm: Milwaukee Mission Trip Meeting
Wednesday, April 30, 7-8:30 pm: 8th grade orientation at FLY
Care and Concern

Mark Rudins, Carol Plusquellc, Carol Riphenburg, Tony Tyznik, Marilyn Tyznik

Those serving in the Military: Andrew Teague

Mourning the Loss of a Loved One: Mary (Emil) Petereit and Family, Brother, Paul Zettlmeier; The Malm Family, Friend, Gloria DeLaCruz; Sharon (Norman) Brockmeier and Family, Uncle, Harold Schlenker; Carol (Richard) Wray and Family, Father, Richard Schofield; Emmie (Andy) Pawlak and Family, Great Uncle, Lou Baker; Norman (Sharon) Brockmeier and Family, Sister, Carol Gastaldi,

Baptism

March 2 Nathan John Kozakis, Son of Mike and Erin Kozakis

Changes? Notify the church office!

Call the church office to make any changes to your family information:
☐ a change of e-mail address ☐ a new cell phone number ☐ adult children who have their own address

Or to answer questions about the website, call Sally Stauber, 630-469-2361, ext. 229

Faith’s Financials

Month of February —

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Thank You

To My Faith Family,

Many Thanks to all of you for your thoughts, prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and the beautiful altar flowers.

Emil and I are so blessed to be part of this Faith Family.

Thank you again and God’s Peace,

Mary Petereit