



The Grapevine

A Monthly Newsletter For The Family And Friends
Of Faith Lutheran Church Of Sonoma Valley

—Volume 4, September 2011 Issue—

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Dear Family and Friends of Faith,

Happy New Year!!! If that greeting seems out of focus, I would ask you to consider the following: we have several “New Year” observances in contemporary American culture. The most obvious being the turnover of another calendar year each January. But what actually is new about all of this? One twenty-four hour period of time (December 31st) gives way to another twenty-four hour period of time (January 1st). And we arbitrarily say to one another it is a brand new year, when in fact, life simply continues to move in its inevitable direction.

Then there is the new Christian year, which again quite arbitrarily ends with a twenty-four hour period of time (Christ the King Sunday in late November) to another twenty-four hour period of time (Advent Sunday at the beginning of December). But what actually is new? In this case, our focus of attention turns from the fulfillment of Christ in our midst to the promise once again of His coming, His birth, His ministry, and our on-going life of faith.

The actual New Year in our culture goes unheralded! Yes, New Year is really September (the weeks following Labor Day). Consider for a moment all the things that start up again after the brief summer hiatus — little ones enter the education system for the first time; those already involved face the prospect of new classrooms, new teachers, new curricula, new challenges. Parents bid fond farewell to their young adults who trek off to college and university. Here in the household of Faith, our music ministry begins anew and we add several classes to our experience of Christian education.



But I would propose to you that our life in Christ is a never-ending series of new beginnings each morning, new endings each evening, all “baptized” with the constant presence of God’s love and care in Christ Jesus. For, as we read in Acts 2:42

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The heart and core of our common life knows no “summer vacation.” The heart and core of our life continues throughout the year as we devote ourselves to apostolic teaching (Bible study), to the fellowship (our on-going love, respect, and care for one another in Christ), to the breaking of bread (the weekly celebration of the Holy Meal in which Christ comes to us in the bread of life and cup of salvation), and to prayer (our on-going growth in a life of prayer for others, for the world, and certainly for ourselves).

I commend you, dear reader, for the simple fact that there is no discernable “summer slump” here at Faith. Yes, our fellow members take time off here and there for travel, rest and relaxation, but, in the main, our attendance at weekly Bible classes and the celebration of worship has remained steadfast throughout the summer. We are continually being blessed by “new faces” appearing out of nowhere, becoming God’s special gift to us. Yes, September does bring with it a new sense of energy and commitment as we **devote** ourselves to apostolic teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of bread, and the prayers.

Stay steadfast in Christ!

Pastor Tom
CS

PRESIDENT’S THOUGHTS

Goehring Hall Floor

As many of you know, the ladies of Faith Lutheran Church and many within Sonoma Valley have enjoyed six annual teas. Although the tea is not intended to be a fundraiser, the tea committee has been able to support a number of projects with proceeds from these teas. In 2008, while decorating for the tea, the committee members noticed that the floor in the hall looked tired and well worn after 50 years of use. **Sandy Thompson**, the committee chair at the time, suggested using the tea proceeds to replace the floor and received approval from the church council to proceed with the project.

This year, the committee excitedly reported the funds were available to have the floor replaced. The project was turned over to the property committee to hire a flooring contractor to complete the job. Property chair **John Bordynski** eagerly contacted several flooring contractors, including Home Depot and Abbey Carpets. The tiles that were installed in the 60’s have held up quite well, but contain asbestos. John learned that no one will take on the job until the tiles are removed, which would be cost prohibitive. If the existing tiles were not removed, they would require sanding and preparations to allow tiles to be installed over them, which would present health concerns for workers and parishioners.

The church council members felt they had no choice but to table the project indefinitely. They discussed simple, low cost ideas to upgrade Goehring Hall, such as replacing the rubber molding with baseboard to match the railing attached to the west wall and having the floor professionally waxed. John met with the tea committee members to explain the situation and to discuss various upgrades for the hall. The committee unanimously agreed to cover the cost to add molding and have the floor professionally waxed. The committee is now considering replacing the carpet in the Family Life Center and hiring a contractor to paint Goehring Hall the same color as the Family Life center.

Thank you, Sandy, for initiating this worthwhile project. And, thank you, John, for the time you spent researching contractors. After three years of planning and advertising a new floor, it is disappointing to learn the project cannot proceed. However, it sounds like the floor will receive a facelift and look refreshed.

In love and service,
Cheryl Casciani

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY resumes on Tuesday afternoon, **September 6, at 1:30 pm** in the **Card Room of Merrill Gardens, 800 Oregon Street**. Led by **Pastor John Marozik**, we shall begin reading through the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews. This letter was written to a group of Christians with Jewish background who, faced with increasing opposition, were in danger of abandoning the Christian faith. The letter shows that Jesus Christ is the true and final revelation of God. Anyone is welcome to attend this weekly class. For more information, call Pastor John at 938-1191.

A SILENT VOICE . . . SILENT NO MORE We are very thankful to have such dedicated and talented musicians here at Faith Lutheran Church of Sonoma Valley. We praise the Lord for the summer music provided by **Mark Rasmussen**, our parish organist, **John Marozik** on flute, and various voices who have added music during the distribution of the blessed Sacrament on Sundays. A silent voice, our parish choir, will be silent no more!

Our choral season at Faith officially begins on **Wednesday, September 14th**, with our initial rehearsal at **6:30pm** in the choir section of the Sanctuary. **Peggy Carroll**, our spirited choral director, anticipates the faithful participation of our existing choir members and welcomes new voices. We would love to have you join us in regular rehearsal and participation in the Sunday liturgy. If you're interested, contact Peggy, and be prepared for a great big hug!

NURTURING A PASSION FOR PRAYER

Over and over, Christians confess that the spiritual discipline they struggle with most is prayer. Even though there are plenty of materials available about how to pray, what to pray, and how to be more effective in prayer, the problem is still a challenge for so many of us.

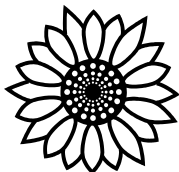
On the last Saturday of this month, September 24th, the women who comprise our Bible Study Fellowship, together with their friends and guests are invited to participate in our annual Fall Spiritual Retreat to be held throughout the campus of Faith Lutheran Church from approximately 9:00am to 1:00pm.

One of the purposes of our annual Fall Retreat is to launch the Bible study series which each of our three women's Bible Study Fellowship class gatherings will pursue throughout the year. The upcoming study is called "**Nurturing A Passion For Prayer.**" Throughout the year we will, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, consider such topics as: "What should our focus and attitude be when we pray? What role does Confession play in developing intimacy with God? How can we avoid distractions and learn to persist in prayer? What are some common mistakes in how we approach God in prayer? How do we handle the question of unanswered prayer? Do you know how to tell God how you really feel without whining? How can you impact the world with the power of prayer? What role does listening to God play in prayer?"

Please anticipate this coming Fall Retreat rich in devotion, fellowship, and sharing. Look for a special informative flyer in your mail file in the next few Sundays, and by all means, circle the date on your calendar and reserve it now for our annual Fall Retreat. (Men—your turn is coming. A Men's Fall Retreat will be planned in the near future as well!)

MANY THANKS Members of Faith Lutheran Church got into the spirit of the recent community cancer fund drive, "Relay For Life," and contributed \$672.00 to sponsor walkers and cancer survivors who participated. In addition to our contributions, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans added \$224.00 for a total of \$896.00 to be added to the community funds! Thanks to everyone who helped. If you have ideas for other projects, by all means, let us know.

Valerie Kemp & Mary Piller
FLC Thrivent Coordinators



NOTES FROM ANNIE'S ORGANICS

August 15, 2011

Hi Everyone,

It's been five months since I've sent an update on the progress of Annie's Organics. I didn't really have anything positive to say and I didn't want to send out a 'woe-is-me' and 'the weather stinks' report!

We had such a long wet winter and when we had sun, it was not enough. I was beginning to think that I had made a huge mistake imagining that I could grow vegetables. Well, the Lord, in His time, provides. And provide He did. Sunshine!

I have 18 different tomato plants in various stages of growth...some soon to be harvested, others a little later. After months of watching my eggplant, zucchini and yellow squash plants do absolutely nothing in the growth area, I am happy to say they are growing and have blossoms, and I am sure they will provide sweet succulent produce in the coming weeks.

I have also planted beets, carrots, beans and Lemon, White and Armenian cucumbers, which should be ready to harvest in another month or so. Everything in my garden just got started late. I suppose you could call them "late bloomers". He-he-he-he!

I have learned a lot about what to do and what not to do with regard to my little garden. With the horrible experience I had with this year's winter crop, I will grow my winter veggies in the greenhouse this fall. Early next spring, I will start the seedlings for the summer crops in the greenhouse.

Thanks for all your patience! I am sure that many of you are as frustrated as I have been waiting and watching for the garden to take-off. We're not alone. Everyone that I have talked to about his or her garden feels the same way. With a little more patience, you and I will be rewarded with sweet, organic produce!

Yours in Faith and Fellowship, Annie Dohse

PS: Come by and visit anytime you want!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

We celebrated the beginning of a new Sunday school year with a Rally Day Picnic on August 28. Everyone enjoyed a pot luck lunch after worship service, followed by activities for the children. The kids had fun with water balloons, face painting, crafts and games. It was so special to see all the kids playing together and helping each other.

We are so grateful to those who brought wonderful food, helped set up and stayed late to clean up. A special thanks to **Mike Ah San** for doing the barbequing for the picnic. And thank you so much to you, the congregation, for participating and spending the afternoon with us.

Sunday school has started! **John Casciani** will lead a **new Sunday class** for the older children, 5th grade and up. They will gather in the meeting room in Goehring Hall after the children's message during the worship service. The class will be an introduction into our Youth Group, covering more in-depth topics, mission work, world events, and service. Five eager students attended the first class. The preschool to 4th grade Sunday school class had seven in attendance to hear the story of Creation. Teachers for the fall are **Susie Ryan, Paulette Miller, Mary Piller** and **Lacey Parker**.



We look forward to a wonderful fall. Thank you, Faith Lutheran, for all your support.

The Education Committee
Lacey Parker, Chair



It has pleased Almighty God in His loving wisdom to call unto Himself the soul of our beloved **MAXINE YVONNE HOAGLUND** who died peacefully on July 8, 2011, just 4 days before her 90th birthday. We wish to extend a special thanks to her caregivers Elenoa R., Elenoa N., Kini, Mela, Lily and Alisia for their love and service for Maxine as her health declined.

The family also mourns the death of Maxine's son, **Neil Eric Hoaglund**, who died on July 20th. We express our sincere condolences and our confidence in the resurrection promise of our Lord Jesus to the extended family for the loss of these members.

A memorial service for Maxine and her son Neil was celebrated here at Faith Lutheran Church on Saturday, July 31, followed by a fellowship luncheon held in Goehring Hall.

Rest eternal, grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them for Jesus' sake.
Amen.

“PEOPLE TO PEOPLE VISITORS” Nancy Heil, the chair of our Stewardship Committee, in an endeavor to broaden our life of stewardship, has recognized the importance of simple fellowship visits with the members of Faith. She has gathered the following folks who call themselves “People to People Visitors.” They include **Nancy Heil, Judy Hill, Brenda LeCount, Janice Paine, Karen & Earl Petersen,** and **Mary Piller.** More people may be added as the months progress. When you are contacted by one of our “People to People Visitors,” please know that the visit will not have anything to do with financial contributions to the church. It will have everything to do with sharing simple moments of fellowship, getting to know one another better, and finding ways to serve any special needs that our members may have. It’s a delightful program and has been underway now for several months. It will take quite a while for the entire membership to come under the umbrella of these visits, so be patient. If you’ve not yet been called...you certainly are on our list!



ONE OF OUR FAVORITE HYMNS . . . A pastor was completing a temperance sermon when with great emphasis he said, “If I had all the beer in the world, I’d take it and pour it into the river.”

With even greater emphasis, he said, “And if I had all the wine in the world, I’d take and pour it into the river.”

Then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said, “And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I’d take and pour it into the river.” The sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood up and announced with a smile, “For our closing song, let us sing Hymn 365, Shall We Gather At the River.”

See you this Sunday—bring along a loud and joyful voice. See you at the river!!!