

Family Notes

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

In his sermon "*It's No Accident*," Pastor Jim outlines the tragic story of commitment, faithfulness, expediency and murder that challenges us to turn around and find our center, our foundation and our life in Christ alone.

The Sacrament today will be administered by Pouring Chalice. If you are visiting with us and believe as we do that in the Sacrament we receive God's gift of life and forgiveness, if you are a baptized member of the Christian Church, we hope you will join us at the Lord's table. Please note that we also have gluten free hosts.

Our Lessons:

Isaiah 5:1-7. The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

Philippians 3:4b-14. Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

Matthew 21:33-46. Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER:

As we enter the harvest season, images of vines, grapes and produce abound in the stories we hear from God's Word. Isaiah sings a parable in the form of a sorrowful love song where we find God the gracious vinedresser weeping over a failed vineyard. Jesus' own parable echoes Isaiah's mournful song, but there's a twist. In Jesus' story, there's nothing wrong with the grapes, it's the vineyard's stewards who make a play to the seize God's kingdom and all its good fruit for their own selfish gain. St. Paul ties the two stories together with passion and eloquence when he tells Jesus' followers in Philippi that the profit, goal and gain of life is our share in Jesus' resurrection. By the love and mercy of God, we find ourselves partners and co-heirs with Jesus of God's vineyard and all its good fruit. This is no accident. It's the Lord's doing, and it's amazing.

WELCOME

If you are visiting, we welcome you and hope you'll soon return to Faith, and that you'll feel free to share in all that is ours in Christ. Please sign our guest book and a visitor's card which you'll find in the pew. If you are interested in learning more about our community, please speak to Pastor Jim or Pastor Mac, or leave a note in the offering. Please stop by the Information Table in the narthex and pick up materials about our Family of Faith. While we encourage children's attendance and participation in our worship hour, we do provide nursery care for those needing this service. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to our downstairs Nursery.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Family of Faith is a Christ-centered servant community that strives to be loving, forgiving, healing and affirming, as it continues to seek new opportunities to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to the world.

Sustained by the Holy Spirit, we worship, serve, learn and grow together by sharing God's gifts of our time, talents and treasures.

(Check out our Mission Statement in the Narthex.)

MINISTRY CENTER REDEDICATION

Last Sunday we gathered for this historic celebration:

- Bishop Riley joined us to preach at both liturgies, led our Adult Forum and Rededicated our Ministry Center;
- Our partners in Ministry from Advent joined us for these Eucharistic celebrations;
- Pastor Kriesat joined us to help lead our worship;
- Vicar Jane returned from her Field Education site at Zion Lutheran Church in Rahway to serve as our Assisting Minister;
- Our choir wore new choir robes, a gift in memory of Paul Meinschein from his family; and
- Dr. Girvin played more of our new Organ as it is being installed.

This was truly an historic day as the Family gathered in thanksgiving for the commitment, vision and resources that have made this Center for ministry possible. It was a time to share thanks with all the folks who were a part of this ministry and particularly with KW Janne who faithfully guided this major undertaking.

MIDWEEK EUCHARIST – This Week

October's mid-week spoken Eucharist is this Thursday, the 6th, at 12:15 p.m. We invite you to join

us for this gift of grace.

9/11 Observance – TODAY

Today at 4 p.m., *Performing Tribute* will present *9/11: Ordinary People, Remarkable Stories* here at Faith. This unique experience brings together the unique and inspiring stories of those directly impacted by the events of 9/11, told by those who experienced them. Plan on being with us and invite your friends and neighbors.

Please Remember in Your Prayers:

Vivian Mossberg	Ron Waltemyer
John Glass	Sherry Peterson
Nancy Kordistas	Ben Santore
Ruth Bentley	Jan Siberine
Paul Lutz	Lucas Reiling
Constance Burde	Katie Anderson
Curtis D. Kelly	Annie Scherba
Eric Brodbeck	Jim Connaughton
Todd Shell	Julie Floch
Heidi Santore	Joe Auchter
Bob Bell	Carolyn & Art Engelken
PJ Sneeringer	Minet Merritt
Ted Moody	Andrew Stofa
Loren Zachau	Rose Ondich
Ann Bueschel	Donna Swanson
Jim Mastakas	Anna Mae Glassman
Nancy Wiles	Eunice Neubeck
Debbie Lewis	Theri Rossol
Linda Szegeti	Catherine Sommo
Tommy Byrne	Pat Bell
Elaine	Tish
Margaret Boyd	Lois Wolfanger
Tammy Siksnius	Lilian Louie
Kathy O'Donnell	Bob Evans
Molly Whitney	Cynthia Burde
Astrid Ahrens	Bob Woodruff
Marie Varley	Linda Eriksen
Ginny Sauerborn	Jim Daraio
Joe Valentine	Ted Suttmeir
Bobby Adair	John Jackmin
Donna Norby	Ginger Gormley
Nikki Szpond	Rita Regimbal
Henry Reinbold	Gretchen Dziedzic
Raymond Heuke	Frieda Andersen

To add to or remove a name from the prayer list, please call the church office. Unless we hear otherwise, names are removed after three months.

Music Notes

Our Sanctuary Choir has resumed its rehearsal and worship schedule, meeting at 7:30 pm each Wednesday in the choir loft... a great time to come sing with them, as new singers are always welcomed ...Our confirmation classes are doing well with learning how to sing a psalm with our new organ...they will be leading the congregation soon in a setting of Psalm 1...The installation of the organ is continuing; you will hear, over a period of 6-8 weeks, more of the instrument becoming available to the organist...for the prelude today, the organ registration (selection of stops) is a basic setting of 4 ranks together... listen for our communion hymn tune midst the beautiful Brahms texture... Our Faith Bell Ringers have also begun rehearsals, Wednesdays at 6:30 pm...For more information on any of our musical groups, please contact John Girvin at

john.girvin1@verizon.net

Pastor Away

Today Pastor Mac is with our partners in ministry, Advent Lutheran Church in Warren, where he is preaching. He will return following worship there for meetings here this afternoon.



2011-2012 WORSHIP AND MINISTRY THEME

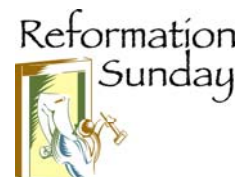
STORIES TO TELL, LIVES TO LIVE will be a wonderful gift to enrich our worship and to lift up our servant ministry. Watch for all of our ministry brochures.

Share your story, and tell us about the lives of faith, courage and discipleship that have inspired you by writing on the Stories to Tell; Lives to Live bulletin board in hall between the Ministry Center and fellowship hall. To guide your thoughts, think how you would answer these questions:

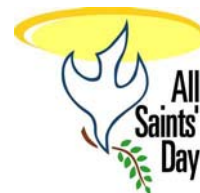
1. When was a time or a place when you felt God come close?
2. Whose life of faith and discipleship has been especially important to you?

Feel free to post pictures, drawings, notes and more and help the Family construct a wall of witness to God's presence in our lives and in our world.

FALL FESTIVALS



OCTOBER 30 – 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Lives Tell the Story
Sanctuary Choir, String Quartet



NOVEMBER 6 – 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Blessed Lives
Sanctuary Choir, Harp & Violin

VISITORS CONTINUE

Last week we again saw new visitors at worship! This means we've now had at least one new visitor at worship for 1281 out of the last 1303 Sundays. Make

this week the time to invite a relative or friend to join us for our worship gathering. Share the Family! Share the Faith!

THE MINISTRY CENTER

Your special mailing invited your prayerful and generous gift to further fund all the work on our Ministry Center. Over \$2,000,000 has been pledged and received and now we find ourselves with almost half a million dollars in final expenses that will have to be covered by our construction loan unless we receive sufficient gifts in the coming days. Incurring this debt will impact our ongoing ministries and so we pray for your sacrificial support.

If you have previously made a commitment and have been waiting to share your gift, NOW is the time.

If you have not yet made your commitment, please contact our Capital Campaign Chairs Theri and Fred Rossol (732-534 5350).

If you need assistance with stock transfers, please call the Church Office.

And as you feel blessed by this ministry that we share, we invite your special gift at this time.



**On Earth as in Heaven:
Praying at the Crossroads
Wednesdays at 10 a.m. -
October 5 through November 2**

Join us for a close reading and study of the Lord's Prayer and an ongoing conversation about being in relationship with God, discerning God's will and making decisions. Invite some friends. To sign-up, please use the registration sheet in the narthex or e-mail Pastor Jim (PastorJim2006@verizon.net).

SOUP KITCHEN

Our barbecues, enjoyed by all, have ended for this season. Many thanks go to those of you who gave of your time to serve during the summer months or to bake cookies or brownies to be enjoyed for dessert. WE NEED YOUR HELP. Gratefully there are always enough servers. Unfortunately there are not enough bakers. We ask that you make 4 dozen cookies or brownies. CONFIRMANDS, THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO EARN SERVICE CREDITS. On Saturday, October 8, our winter menu of soup, chili, rice, string beans, cornbread, dessert and oranges will resume. The servers will meet at church at 9:15am. We will make the cornbread and prepare the meal in Newark. Bakers, please leave your goodies in the church kitchen marked for soup kitchen anytime on Friday or by 9:00am on Saturday.

The sign-up sheets are outside the church office. If you have any questions contact Chris Bjornstad at 908-771-5527 or chrisbjorn@msn.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
THIS OUTREACH MINISTRY.

ORGAN UPDATE

Installation continues through this month. You can

see more about our new instrument and view a construction blog at www.jgirvin.wordpress.com.



FAITH NURSERY SCHOOL Registration Continues

Faith Nursery School continues registration for the 2011-2012 School Year. Three different morning classes are offered: a class for 2 ½ year olds that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays; a class for three year olds that meets on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; and a Pre-K class that meets Monday through Friday. If you are interested in more information or are ready to register your child, please call Susan Nord, Director, at (908) 542-1252.



BEGINNING WITH MARK - Tomorrow

Registration continues for Pastor Mac's fall Evening Bible Study, *Beginning With Mark*. Classes will meet each Monday evening, through October 10, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Mark will be our primary Gospel for next year's worship and was the first of the Gospels written. The Gospel of Mark encourages readers to participate in the story of Jesus, listen to his teachings, watch his interactions with followers and foes and finally stand at the cross and the empty tomb. The ultimate goal is to make us faithful disciples who discover that meaning and purpose are found in serving for Christ's sake. Register now by signing the sheet in the narthex or by emailing Pastor Mac at pastor.mac@verizon.net.

It's Pledge Response Time!

Respond Gratefully . . . for what God has given you.

Our role as God's stewards is one of the many dimensions of how we live our lives - but as stewards of the gifts we've received, we're also called to:

- Respond gratefully
- Give willingly
- Share abundantly
- Commit intentionally
- Contribute regularly

Your support is needed! For Faith to be able to continue to provide worship, education, service and mission outreach opportunities, as well as have a two-pastor church, we need the committed contributions of our members. This estimated budget for 2012 is \$840,000 so that we may resume our full commitment to the NJ Synod and cover the cost of our other missions for the year.

Please consider how you can help and kindly respond with your pledge today.

Thank you,
Faith Stewardship Committee

HELPFUL SUPPORT

When we had our gathering for parents of young children in the late spring, the suggestion was made that it might be helpful to gather parents who are caring for special needs children. If you would be

interested in such a group, please speak with one of the Pastors.

DID YOU KNOW...

Last Sunday we welcomed Bishop Riley as we rededicated our Ministry Center...Pastor Jim is conducting worship this afternoon at the Crane's Mill Continuing Care Center...September 11 was Rally Day as we returned to our regular worship schedule complete with our New Orleans Jazz Liturgies...we collected 85 backpacks in our annual collection which went to Newark and Plainfield...our Membership Exploration Group met 2 weeks ago and new members will be received shortly...AA meets Monday through Saturday mornings...Faith Nursery School is now registering for the 2011-2012 school year...we've had at least 1 new visitor 1281 out of the last 1303 weeks...a special welcome to all who are visiting with our Family today...check next week's lessons...we continue to have a host of new visitors - welcome...why not bring a friend to Worship next Sunday...2010-2011 calendars are available at cost in the narthex ...see you in church next week!

Family Prayers

We continue to pray for ALL those whose lives have been forever affected by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, especially the over 7300 service personnel who have been killed. Today we pray by name for the families of allied service personnel who have died in both wars. Please pray for the families of the following, all of whom died recently:

- Cpl. Raphael Arruda, 21, USAR, Utah
- Sgt. Benjamin Bourdet, 30, FRanch Army, France
- Lance Cpl. Christopher Camero, 19, USMC, Hawaii
- Master Sgt. Kenneth Elwell, 33, USA, Pennsylvania
- Sgt. 1st Class Wyatt Goldsmith, 28, USA, Washington
- Cpl. Frank Gross, 25, USA, Florida
- Sgt. Omar Jones, 28, USANG, Colorado
- Sgt. Edward Kohler III, 27, USANG, Pennsylvania
- Staff Sgt. Lex Lewis, 40, USA, South Dakota
- Sgt. Jacob Molina, 27, USA, Texas
- Staff Sgt. Brian Mowery, 29, USANG, Pennsylvania
- Spc Nicholas Newby, 20, USANG, Idaho
- Cpl. Mark Palin, 32, British Royal Army, England
- Pfc. Tyler Springmann, 19, USA, Maine
- Sgt. Jeremy Summers, 27, USA, Kentucky
- Sgt. Steven Talamantez, 34, USA, Texas
- Lance Cpl. Jabari Thompson, 22, USMC, New York
- Staff Sgt. Kenneth VanGiesen, 30, USANG, Pennsylvania
- Lance Cpl. Paul Watkins, 24, South African Army, South Africa

IRAQ/AFGHANISTAN

We continue to pray for all the people affected by the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our website offers prayers for these folks and affords the opportunity to list service personnel serving there. To include a name, please see Pastor Mac. Today we pray for SPC Joe Ellis, a member of our Family, who is on active duty at Camp Drum after a year in Afghanistan. We also remember Lt. Christopher Wilk, a friend of the Daniels and Kyle Fell, Anne & Fred's nephew.

We remember Scott Farrell in our prayers. Scott is a relative of the Novaks, who is now recuperating at home after being wounded in Afghanistan.

PLAN AHEAD

To help us better prepare for worship each week and to provide guidance for daily Bible reading, we publish the following Sunday's lessons each week. Take a few minutes each day to read over these Bible passages in anticipation of our sharing of the Word together. Next Sunday's lessons are:

17th Sunday after Pentecost



NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM?

We are exploring a trip to the Holy Land a year from now. If you would be interested in learning more about this possible journey, please email Pastor Mac at pastor.mac@verizon.net or call the church office. If we have enough folks interested, we will hold a preliminary meeting to explore options.

UPCOMING -

- Oct. 2 - "First Impressions"
- 2 - Performing Tribute
- 3 - Staff Worship Planning
- 3 - FNS Enrichment
- 3 - Evening Bible Study
- 5 - Confirmation Class
- 6 - Midweek Eucharist
- 6 - Staff Meeting
- 8 - Soup Kitchen
- 10 - FNS & Office Closed
- 10 - Evening Bible Study
- 10 - Finance Committee
- 11 - Staff Worship Planning
- 11 - Council
- 12 - Daytime Bible Study
- 12 - Confirmation Class
- 13 - Hospitality Task Force
- 16 - Spencer Baptism
- 16 - CROP Walk
- 17 - Staff Worship Planning
- 17 - FNS Enrichment
- 18 - Advent Council
- 19 - Daytime Bible Study
- 20 - Knit, Purl & Pray
- 20 - Evening Bible Study
- 23 - Kravchenko Baptism
- 23 - Fall Food Drive Begins
- 24 - Staff Worship Planning
- 24 - FNS Enrichment
- 25 - FNS Bach to School Night
- 26 - Daytime Bible Study
- 27 - Evening Bible Study
- 30 - Reformation Sunday
- 30 - Parent of Young Children

CHECK OFF

As we move to the final stages of construction on our Ministry Center, just a few items remain to be completed.

- Narthex Furnishings
- Library Furnishings
- Cornerstones
- Organ Installation

Watch the wonderful blog KW has prepared at www.flc-mc.blogspot.com.

SAVE THE DATE:
Sunday, October 16, 2011
To Take a Walk to End Hunger



Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

- **WHAT:** A 3 mile, community walk in New Providence to raise funds and awareness of hunger.
- **WHEN:** October 16th, 2011 @ 1:30pm
- **WHERE:** United Methodist Church, 1441 Springfield Avenue, New Providence

Pick up your sponsorship packet at church on Sunday or contact the church office or Chris Melhuish at 908-451-4815 for more information

Being an "E-Walker" is easy to do and makes it easy to collect contributions. Reach out to friends and family far away and co-workers too!

To sign-up on the Web:

1. Go to www.cropwalkonline.org / Select NJ / Select New Providence / Summit Walk
2. Click on "JOIN A TEAM" / Type: "Family of Faith Lutheran" and hit "SEARCH FOR A TEAM"
3. Click the link on the right is a link to "JOIN" then follow the instructions to register as a CROP Walker

Be sure to tailor your personal web page & email family and friends to contribute over the secure website

To make a contribution on the Web:

1. Go to www.cropwalkonline.org / Select NJ / Select New Providence / Summit Walk
2. Click on "DONATE" / Type in "Family of Faith Lutheran" and hit "SEARCH FOR A TEAM"
3. Click on "Family of Faith Lutheran" and then on the right is a link to "Make a Gift"
4. Follow the instructions to make a contribution

If you have any questions please contact Brian Rook (btr1106@yahoo.com) or Chris Melhuish (Chris.Melhuish@biomet.com).

In 2010 we raised over \$9,700 for Church World Service relief efforts and saw \$2,400 of those funds directed back to benefit the St. John's Soup Kitchen in Newark.

Let's meet our challenge in 2011 to raise \$10,000!

COAT COLLECTION



Once again, the Family of Faith is collecting winter coats for those in need. The Market Street Mission will distribute these coats to homeless and needy men, women, and children on Saturday November 6. If you have coats in good condition that you would like to donate please bring them to church and hang them outside the coat racks by the Office. The last day for dropping off coats is Sunday, October 30.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY

What a special time this month is as Doris Johnson celebrates her 25th anniversary as our church secretary. Doris has been such a special gift as our Family went through all the history that these years hold. We give thanks for her gifts, for her commitment and for the wonderful blessing she is to all of us.

ADULT FORUM

Our Adult Forum continues its weekly educational ministry this morning at 9:40 in Franklin Nelson Hall. Plan on joining us each week for these rich educational opportunities that share the faith and Faith. We gather at 9:40 each week for Coffee and light refreshments followed by our 50 minute program at 9:50.

TODAY: - "A RESOURCE FOR OUR MOST IMPORTANT MINISTRY"- Dr. Girvin introduces us to our new organ in this first of two fall programs (the second is November 13). Learn more about this wonderful new resource that will enrich our most important ministry, our worship of God.

OCTOBER 9 - "HUNGER STORIES AND MINISTRY RESPONSE" - A quick overview of our hunger ministries here in the Family and then our primary program as Beth Bertolini shares the horrors of hunger in East Africa from her niece who is ministering there, and a living witness to what hunger dollars do around the world.

OCTOBER 16 - "STORIES OF THE ESTONIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH" - Join us as Pastor Markus Vaga shares the inspiring story of faith of the Estonian Lutheran Church.

OCTOBER 23 - "DISASTER STORIES AND LIVES OF RESPONSE" - Midst all the disasters which seem to be constantly surrounding us, Carol Lee Tieman shares stories of her ministry with Lutheran Disaster Response and opportunities to share in this responsive ministry.

OCTOBER 30 - "HOMELESS STORIES AND LIVES THAT ARE CHANGED" - Claas Ehlers, Director of *The Interfaith Hospitality Network* nationwide joins us to share the vision and commitment that sees Faith giving leadership to the beginnings of a new ministry to care for the homeless here in Union County.

NOVEMBER 6 - "TENNESSEE TALES XIV" - Stories of our Appalachian Ministry which has now included over 200 members of our Family, changing lives here and in Cosby, Tennessee.



Families with Young Children Dress Up Lunch

Families with young children are invited to a Reformation Day/Halloween lunch and party after worship on Sunday, Oct. 30. After lunch, there will be special games and treats for the children and time for parents to talk about life and faith. Families are encouraged to bring their children's costumes for a little show and tell.



BROADWAY HOUSE - This Week

Our visits to Broadway House and our ministry with the AIDS and HIV patients there has resumed with our next visit scheduled for this Tuesday October 4 and Tuesday November 1. If you would like to learn more about this healing ministry please contact Vicar Jane at jane@mccready.com or Carol Suiter at suiter157@yahoo.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

What a special day 3 weeks ago as we began another year of Christian Education in our Family. Welcome back to all our students and a special welcome and thank you to our teachers who will be teaching this first semester:

The Sunday School stewardship project this year is *Raining Relief for East Africa*. This program will help people suffering from the draught in East Africa. This is done through Lutheran World Relief.

AA

The gift of healing is shared through our AA ministry each Monday through Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m. We give thanks to God for this healing ministry.

COUNCIL AT THE DOOR

If you have questions or suggestions for the Church Council, stop and see the Council Representatives at the door.

Serving today are: **8:30 – KW Janne**
 11:00 – Marti Neumann

Cross lapel pins identify our council members. We give thanks to God for these servants who undergird and direct our ministry.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us each week at 9:40 a.m. in Franklin Nelson Hall for coffee, light refreshments and fellowship before our Adult Forum begins. Thanks to today's hosts, Janet Bronocco & Susan Nord.



Upcoming hosts are:
October 9 – Kathy Mytrowitz & Olympia Auchter
October 16 – Jessica & Shayne Spencer
October 23 – Open

If you would like to host one of our October or November dates, please sign the sheets in the narthex or the Forum or call or write the Office.



A Bird's Eye View of the Bible Story

Come and gather round for big-picture overview of the Bible, its story, and how that story connects with our personal stories. This course will engage you in the biblical story through storytelling, visual sand art presentations and reflections on selected Psalms. Discussion will lead us to reflect on the meaning of the story and how they live in the story and the story lives in them. This course has been specially designed for those who are new to Bible study, so please invite your friends to join you. There are 16 sessions planned for Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. throughout the year. The first five start October 20 and run through November 17; the second session runs from January 19 through February 16; and the third session runs from April 26 through May 31. You do not have to commit to all 16 sessions to participate. To register, sign up in the narthex or e-mail Pastor Jim at PastorJim2006@verizon.net.

Confirmation Classes Underway - THIS WEEK

The fall confirmation course block is now underway, with an opening time for music and prayer at 5:30 p.m. A quick dinner will follow before we head off to class at 6:15 p.m. Please return your registration forms to the office as soon as possible and check the Faith confirmation Web site <http://famfaith.herewestandconfirmation.org> for course information and updates.

