

Family Notes

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Pastor Mac's sermon, "*Feast or Famine*," reminds us of the abundance of God and the selfish way we so often abuse God's gifts. Great lessons today as our Forum program focuses on our hunger ministries here and around the world.

The Sacrament today will be administered by intinction. 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 25:1-9. After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing everyone up—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

Philippians 4:1-9. Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

Matthew 22:1-14. Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER:

God's ways produce feasts and abundance, a message that comes through clearly in our lessons today. Isaiah shares a vision of God's great feast where all the things that are harmful to God's people will be destroyed. He speaks of God's people being a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress. Hardly the message of our selfish society. When Jesus wants to describe God's kingdom, he too uses an image of a feast, and God inviting his people in. And finally, in the last words of this morning's second lesson, Paul invites us to seek the best and most noble in life. We're glad you're here for God's feast today.

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

Two weeks ago as 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.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Please check your mailboxes for materials pertaining to Tuesday night's meeting.

3rd Quarter Financial Statements

Your current "giving" update is now available thanks to Paul Mossberg. Please pick yours up in the narthex today.

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
Lois Wolfanger	Lilian Louie
Kathy O'Donnell	Bob Evans
Molly Whitney	Cynthia Burde
Astrid Ahrens	Bob Woodruff
Marie Varley	Linda Eriksen
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	Kristin
Bob Delatour, Sr.	Patti Graf

The Family of Wayne Gourley

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.

9/11 Observance

Last Sunday, *Performing Tribute* presented 9/11: *Ordinary People, Remarkable Stories* here at Faith. This unique experience brought together the unique and inspiring stories of those directly impacted by the events of 9/11, told by those who experienced them, including our own Desiree Bouchat. If you would like to share in an early spring bus trip to Ground Zero, please sign the sheet in the Narthex.

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...Our prelude today comes from Calvin Lu, a student of John Girvin, who will be performing this piece in Japan in November...it begins with a hymn-like tune, that gives way to a joyous dance theme...It sets the tone for today's gospel reading of the wedding banquet...The installation of the organ is continuing; this week a

shimmering String Celeste was installed, listen for it towards the end of communion.



2011-2012 WORSHIP AND MINISTRY THEME

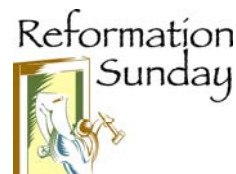
STORIES TO TELL, LIVES TO LIVE will be a wonderful gift to enrich our worship and to lift up our servant ministry. Watch for all of our ministry brochures.

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

OOPS

Last Sunday there were no new visitors at worship. This means we've now had at least one new visitor at worship for 1281 out of the last 1304 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!

SOLES 4 SOULS

Kelsey O'Connor is collecting gently used shoes of all kinds (men's, women's and children's) for an organization called *Soles 4 Souls* as part of her Girl Scout Silver Award. *Soles 4 Souls* collects shoes and gives them to people and areas of need in America

and around the world. Please bring your "soles" to the marked collection box outside the Office before October 23. Thank you so much!



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

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).



**BEGINNING WITH
MARK - Tomorrow**

Still not too late to join us for Pastor Mac's fall Evening Bible Study, *Beginning With Mark*. Tomorrow's concluding class meets 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.

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.** We've now returned to our winter menu of soup, chili, rice, string beans, cornbread, dessert and oranges. 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.jgirv.wordpress.com.

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.



**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.

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.

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

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.

DID YOU KNOW...

We welcomed Bishop Riley on September 25 as we rededicated our Ministry Center...Registration is now underway for 2 new Bible studies...September 11 was Rally Day as we returned to our regular worship schedule complete with our New Orleans Jazz Liturgies...our Membership Exploration Group met 3 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 1304 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:

Staff Sgt. James Christen, 29, USA, California
Sgt. Mark Cofield, 25, USA, Colorado
Staff Sgt. Patrick Dolphin, 29, USMC, Pennsylvania
Spc. Daniel Elliott, 21, USAR, North Carolina
2nd Lt. Jared Ewy, 33, USANG, Oklahoma
Sgt. Dennis Kancler, 26, USMC, Ohio
Sgt. William Paniagua, 28, USA, California
Pvt. Pawel Poswiat, 29, Polish Army, Poland
Pfc. Brice Scott, 22, USA, Georgia
Master Sgt. Benjamin Stevenson, 36, USA, Texas
Cpl. Maj. David Tobini, 28, Italian Army, Italy
Spc. Augustus Vicari, 22, USANG, Oklahoma
Sgt. Christopher Wrinkle, 29, USMC, Pennsylvania

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.

Knit Purl and Pray

Thursday, October 20, 7:30 pm



Knit Purl and Pray produces knitted/crochet scarves for the patrons of St. John's Soup Kitchen, baby hats for newborns at UMDNJ hospital and lap robes for the residents of Broadway house. Our newest ministry project is to provide prayer shawls (sometimes called comfort shawls) for congregants experiencing bereavement, health crises or other hardship. Confirmands can earn service hours for their help in making baby hats or afghan squares.

Knit or crochet items for our outreach projects can be placed in the collection basket opposite the church office. Yarn donations are also appreciated.

If you knit or crochet (or want to know how) stop by on

October 20 and find out how you can help. For information call the church office or Kathy Grubb at 908-347-3151.



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. 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.

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:

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

SAVE THE DATE:
NEXT 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: - "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, a member of our Family, 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. To help us plan, please sign up in the Narthex.



BROADWAY HOUSE

Our visits to Broadway House and our ministry with the AIDS and HIV patients there has resumed with our next visit scheduled for 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 suiterc157@yahoo.com.

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 – Chris Melhuish**
 11:00 – Mark Olson

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, Kathy Mytrowitz & Olympia Auchter

Upcoming hosts are:

October 9 – Kathy Mytrowitz & Olympia Auchter

October 16 – Open

October 23 – Jessica & Shayne Spencer

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.

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.



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 and 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.