MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BOB

Dear Friends in Faith,

It has been a while now since we have talked much about our Membership Covenant at Faith. I have been asked to spend a little time refreshing our sense of what it is and why we use this unique system.

For as much as we think of Faith as “our” church; and for as much as it is just that and we need to take ownership of it for ourselves; still Faith is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and we are accountable to the ELCA in Faith’s policies and procedures.

Faith’s constitution says:

This congregation shall be an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America or its successors, and of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This congregation is subject to the discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. [C6.01]

The ELCA requires that constitutions of its congregations contain certain provisions. One of those required provisions is that membership shall be determined as follows:

….during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation….  [C8.02.c]

From the very earliest days of its existence Faith has not used records of communing or financial giving as the basis for determining membership. Instead our constitution has call for annually signing the Membership Covenant as the means for maintaining membership at Faith. In 2012 the Synod Council of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin granted Faith an exemption from the requirement of the ELCA that we use communing and financial giving, and formally granted us the right to use our Membership Covenant to define who is and is not a member of Faith.

We are required by the ELCA to define who is a member of Faith. We are allowed by the Synod to do that by using the annual signing of the Membership Covenant. The only other option would be to use the standard ELCA method of communing and financial giving as the definition of membership. IF WE WERE TO DO THAT there are people who are currently members in good standing of Faith who would no longer qualify as members because they have not “COMMUNED AND CONTRIBUTED FINANCIALLY WITHIN THE LAST TWO CALENDAR YEARS.”

I hope you understand and support the Membership Covenant system because it is a more gracious system than the alternative!
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us
the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to him-
self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of re-
ociliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal
through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2Co 5:18
-20)

We are ambassadors for Christ, entrusted with the message of reconciliation. I am
particularly mindful of this passage as we wait for information concerning what, if
any, charges will be issued in the death of Tony Robinson. There is no good solution
to this tragedy. A young man's life is over. A policeman's actions are called into ques-
tion. Our community is just one among countless others struggling with the reality of
racial discrimination and inequity, and the resulting alienation, frustration and anger. And we are ambas-
sadors of reconciliation for Christ.

In order to be reconciled to one another, we must first be open to listening to one another. We must lis-
ten with open hearts and minds seeking deep understanding of another person's reality. At the recent
People of Faith United for Justice rally, Rev. Everett Mitchell invited us to "sit together" across denomina-
tional and racial divides and listen and learn from one another. Such "sitting together" leads to insight, un-
dersstanding, compassion and reconciliation.

May God guide us as we walk together as diverse people in our community. Together may we find recon-
ciliation and God's Peace.

Bishop Mary Froiland
June
Birthday’s

Happy Birthday!

American Red Cross Blood Drive
June 4, 2015
The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support for victims for disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission.

Thursday, June 4, 2015
11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Zion Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
812 Western Avenue
Columbus
THE RED LETTER JESUS
2015 Summer Preaching Theme

Once it was common to print the words of Jesus in red ink in many editions of the Bible. Maybe you remember. Maybe you still have a “red letter Bible”.

This summer we take up the theme of sayings of Jesus as quoted in the Bible. It’s a summer’s worth of remembering some of the remarkable things Jesus said, and thinking together about what they mean. Maybe we’ll even “debunk” some of those things people think Jesus said!

For example, Jesus never said “God helps those who help themselves.”! (Although Paul came close in Philippians 2:12-13)

However, Jesus did say “go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor,” Did he really mean that literally?

I once heard a joke that claimed “liberal Christians take everything Jesus said about sex figuratively and everything he said about money literally, while conservative Christians take everything Jesus said about sex literally and everything he said about money figuratively!”

Well, as Pr. Lisa says, Jesus said a lot more about money than he said about sex. But, of course, everything Jesus said was meant to teach something about the Kingdom of God.

Pr. Lisa and Pr. Bob will attempt to cover a representative sample of the range of things Jesus said, one saying per week. We’ll try to hear again how appropriate red ink just might be to the fundamental teachings of Jesus. There will be plenty to challenge all of us (including the preachers!) But we fully expect to celebrate that the good news is shot-through all of what Jesus said, even the “radical” things.

Maybe most especially those things!

We are looking forward to a stimulating, challenging, enlightening, and enjoyable look at “The Red Letter Jesus” this summer. Please join us in worship.

THE YEAR OF LIVING LIKE JESUS
by Ed Dobson

SUMMER 2015 BOOK STUDY

Do you remember the bracelets and other trinkets that were popular a few years ago that said “WWJD” meaning “What Would Jesus Do?”?

Well, Ed Dobson took that very seriously! He tried not only to think what Jesus would do, but to research what Jesus DID do. Dobson’s goal was to spend one year living as much like Jesus did as he could determine from the Bible and scholars. THE RESULT IS A VERY READABLE AND ENTERTAINING BOOK!

Dr. Dobson grew up in a very conservative Christian home in Northern Ireland. He moved to the United States and became a leader in very conservative Christian circles here. He worked for fourteen years for Jerry Falwell at Liberty Baptist University. He served as pastor of Calvary Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and on the faculty of Calvin College.

You can tell from the picture on the cover of the book of Dobson with a very long grey beard that he committed himself completely to this project. BUT, in the book you will quickly discover that Dobson’s adventure took him deep into the heart of grace, mercy, and the endless discovery of just what the way of Jesus looks like.

Warning! – It won’t be what you expect! But, you will thoroughly enjoy the read!

Join us this summer to look at the book that was the basis for the Columbus/Fall River Area Ecumenical Association’s 2013 Lenten service series. We will gather on Sunday nights at 6:30 for four weeks beginning June 7th.
COUNCIL HI-LIGHTS
May 12, 2015

- Troy Tadych shared information and history of Faith's Script program.
- Discussion of organizational tree (on the board in Fellowship Hall) and how it should "work".
- Discussed how to determine a directive for using designated funds for outreach ministries.
- Cathy and Lillie Elling reported on Faith's youth ministry.
- Jim Schieble shared the Heroic Quest for Boys program that will going on at Faith.

Lisa Sebranek
Council Secretary

APRIL TREASURER’S REPORT

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-Do you know a student in higher education? Lutheran Campus Ministry is on campus to help your young adults as they attend colleges, trade schools and universities. Please share their name, contact information and which institution they will be attending with your pastor or send it to the campus ministry at UW-Madison (www.lccmadison.org). The Lutheran Campus Ministry will distribute the names to the appropriate Wisconsin campus ministry. Email them to lccoffice@tds.net or mail to 325 N Mills, Madison, WI 53715.

Garage Sale

Faith's GARAGE SALE dates are Friday, June 12 from 8-5pm and Saturday, June 13 from 8-2pm (on Saturday starting at NOON all items will be “buck-a-bag”) with the proceeds going to benefit the Detroit bound youth. We will start taking donations the end of May. You can drop them off at church and place in the lower level classrooms or call the Elling family at 623-0436 for assistance. We will pick-up, collect and carry away for you. Any donation is appreciated. Please no adult clothing and no non-working appliances. This event is being sponsored by the students attending the 2015 National Youth Gathering in Detroit.

The Labyrinth & Prayer Garden committee will collect your extra Jung dollars in the envelope on the partition in the narthex. We use them for maintenance supplies.
The RED TENTERS’ BOOKCLUB
Our May selection is *Boston Girl* by Anita Diamant. We will meet Thursday, June 25, 7pm at the home of Mabel Hein. New members are always welcome. Contact Ruth at 623-3610 if interested.

**Do you know someone who needs or would like a pastoral visit?** If so, please be the eyes and ears of Faith’s ministry and let the office know about that need.

**Congratulations!**

**OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADS**
Paden Agnew
Leah Clark
Ben Destree
Kelli Hoffman
Hunter Hurckman
Robert Schultz
Emma Severson
Aubrey Weidemann
Lindsey Yuds
Andrew Zahn

**HOSPITAL ADMITTANCE**

**Be sure to let the church office know about hospitalizations!**

Several years ago the Columbus Hospital adopted a computer software system making the printed book that used to be available for pastors to check on members in the hospital no longer available. That makes it even harder for the pastors to find church members in the hospital unless you have let us know you are there. Also, when you are admitted to the hospital they should ask you if you would like a pastor visit. If you do not specifically say “yes” the hospital can’t even tell us you are there. We want to visit Faith members when they are in the hospital. Please help us do that by having someone inform the church office of your hospitalization and authorizing pastoral visits in your admission interview.

**Televised Service Times**
Digital channel 980
Cable channel 98
Faith’s worship services are aired on the following days and times:
- Monday @ 9am
- Tuesday @ 9am
- Wednesday @ 9am
- Thursday @ 9am
- Friday @ 9am

**Pastoral Acts**

**May 3, 2015**
Hudson Elliott Dykema
Parents: Josh and Dana Dykeman

**May 24, 2015**
Felicity Dawn Schleif
Parents: Chad and Kelsey Schleif

**Address Change**
Tim and Amanda Hole
Zachary Hannah
635 N Lewis Street
Columbus WI 53925

Kylie Severson
616 W Surf Street Apt. #2
Chicago IL 69657

**Phone Change**
Deanna Herrick
920-350-2911

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God's Beauty Just Outside our Doors!

Shantytown 2015

Eleven middle school and high school youth and three adults took up the pledge to collect funds for Habitat for Humanity, Columbia Sauk Affiliate, helping local families build their way out of poverty by spending a night under the stars building a home out of cardboard and tape.
Update from the Finance Committee: The Heavenly Father has continued to inspire the congregation to give what they can to do the Lord’s work. We pray for continued support going into the lean summer ahead.

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Thank you to those who donated food and items for the "Fill the Canoe" for the Food Pantry. About 30 bags were given for those in need, for Jesus, (Matthew chapter 25). Donations can be made throughout the year in the wooden box in the church foyer.

Thank you to those who gave talent, materials or offered help for the storage garage roofing and upgrades project: Bill Byrne, David Kikkert, Rod Schubert, Gene Boelte, Denny Langfeldt, Scott Mathwich, Bruce Miller, Mark McNamee, Del Yerges, Eric Yerges, Ben Van Horn, Harley Woodward, Brandon Kurth, Kyle Kary and Duane Gilbertson.

The Fur, Fin & Feathers committee will be having the July 4 Parade Foodstand at the Kurth Brewery parking lot. Because our committee is not large enough to fully staff the foodstand, we ask for your help. We will have a volunteer signup sheet in the narthex starting about mid-June. After the Fall fellowship event, remaining profits after the committee reserve amount is met, goes 20% to the food pantry, 35% to the general fund and 45% for the Organ replacement fund. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Mathwich. Thank you.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR TEENAGER?

Who is your teen’s best friend? Who is your teen’s greatest hero? What is your teen’s biggest fear? What embarrasses your teen the most? What is his/her favorite type of music? What person outside the immediate family has most influenced your teen? What is his/her favorite school subject? What is his/her least favorite school subject? What has your teen done that he/she feels most proud of? What is your teen’s biggest complaint about the family? What sport does your teen most enjoy? What is his/her favorite TV program? What really makes your teen angry? What would your teen like to be when he/she grows up? What is your teen’s most prized possession? What is his/her favorite family occasion? What activity did your teen enjoy most last weekend?

Miriam Neff, Condensed from “Family Life Today”
Looking Ahead! Community Grief Support Group Offered—Grief continues well after loss occurs and each individual experiences it in unique ways. It is not uncommon for grief to come in intense waves, especially within the first year. Many find it helpful to talk with others going through similar experiences. To support you during this time, Home Health United is offering a support group to anyone in the community who has experienced a loss. The group, “Spouse/Partner Loss” is offered at no cost to participants. The “Spouse/Partner Loss” support group will take place on Mondays, starting September 14 – October 12, from 6-8pm at Faith Lutheran Church in Columbus (120 Faith Drive). Home Health United is also offering a one night meeting “Grief Through the Holidays” on Thursday, November 12 from 6-8pm. Pre-registration is required, and a minimum number must be registered for the group to take place. For more information or to register, please contact Home Health United – Hospice at 877-356-4514 or RUsherwood@hhuwns.org. Home Health United – Hospice is also in need of volunteers in Columbia, Dodge, Dane and surrounding counties. Please visit the website or email Volunteers@hhuwns.org for more information. Home Health United – Hospice provides the care and support needed so patients faced with the end-of-life can spend their final days as comfortable as possible, wherever they call home. Have questions about Home Health United – Hospice or hospice in general? Call 877-356-4514 or visit www.HomeHealthUnited.org.

Tim Mathwich graduated from UW-La Crosse on May 10 with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Science and a Minor in Psychology. He has been accepted into the Physical Therapy program at UW-La Crosse which started May 26.

Courtney Severson graduated from Madison College on Friday, May 15 with an Associates Degree in Dental Hygiene.

Kylie Severson graduated from DePaul University with a MS in Applied Statistics/Biostatistics concentration.

Travis Schultz graduated from UW-Whitewater on Saturday, May 16 with a Bachelor's Degree in Business.

Paul Larson received his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from UW-Madison on May 15. He will be starting work a the Beaver Dam Community Hospital-Outpatient Rehab Clinic.

Congratulations!

THE “PREZ SEZ”

Faith Works-

I am getting to the age where I increasingly find myself in a room asking, “What am I doing here?” Call it aging or being busy, it is not always a bad question.

Recently, one of our lessons from the Word focused on James 2:14-17, “faith without works is dead”. The early Christians in Rome were known by their acts of kindness to the sick, the enslaved and the abandoned. “See how they love each other” was their reputation. The book of Acts is a book of action. Jesus didn’t sit still but went out healing, teaching and redeeming. Clearly ‘doing good’ is essential to spreading the good news of salvation by grace alone, because our words alone are not enough to show others the hope that lies within us.

The congregation tasked the council to find ways to use a portion of the parsonage sale to help Faith members to touch our neighbors and the wider world with Jesus’ loving hands and words. We have some ideas about this but would like to hear yours too. To that end we will be issuing a brief survey to Faith members. We hope to use the internet as one way to conduct it but will also have a paper version available. Watch for it in June.

In the mean time, please pray for the outreach ministries we support with our offerings via church-wide synods, both national and regional. Read about the good deeds being done in our name and give thanks that you are able to help through your financial and spiritual support. With that in mind and with the reminder from James to be acting, be asking God, “What am I doing here?” He has many suggestions daily.

Jim Schieble, Council President
MISSION STATEMENT

Joyfully recognizing God’s commitment and faithfulness to us, FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH exists to serve God through serving God’s people. We eagerly work towards the realization of God’s Kingdom by:
- Offering praise-filled worship to God.
- Nurturing individual spiritual growth.
- Fostering an environment of caring and acceptance.
- Reaching out to serve the needs of our community.

God’s love stirs us to touch others with the same love we have received—and invites them to share our life of praise and service.

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) Columbus, Wisconsin

AS MEMBERS OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WE PROMISE:

- To attend services regularly.
- To support the congregation financially.
- To live responsibly as a Christian witness.
- To become as involved as possible in the total life and work of the congregation.

And this we promise to do by the help of God.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

FAITH’S TOP PRIORITY VISIONING GOALS:

- Equip all our members for lifelong spiritual growth and ministry.
- Continue and build upon our tradition of being an accepting congregation that welcomes and serves all.

Adopted March 2010