



# FOCUS ON FAITH WEEKLY

✦ FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ✦ GREENFIELD INDIANA ✦

This Week at Faith Lutheran Church

Sunday May 6	Monday May 7	Tuesday May 8	Wednesday May 9	Thursday May 10	Friday May 11	Saturday May 12
<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:15 am</b> Divine Service  <b>11:00 Sunday School and Adult Bible Class</b>	<i>Preschool</i>  Pastor's Family Day  Bells: 6:30 pm	<i>Preschool Bible Study</i> <b>9:30 AM</b>  Mary Martha 6:30 pm	<i>Preschool's Mother's Tea</i> 11–12:30  <b>Jr. Catechesis:</b> <b>6th Gr. 4:30 pm</b> <b>7th Gr. 6:30 pm</b>  Choir 6:00 pm	<i>Preschool</i>  <b>The Ascension of Our Lord with Holy Communion</b> 7:00 pm	<i>Preschool Field Day</i>  Mary Lou Tree's birthday celebration. 6-8	<b>Men's Bible Study</b> <b>8—9:15 am</b>

Weekly Divine Service: Sunday 9:15 a.m.  
 Sunday School and Adult Bible Study: Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Private Confession and Holy Absolution with Pastor is available by appointment

**Pastor Wm. Daniel O'Connor** email: [pastorwdo@faithgreenfield.org](mailto:pastorwdo@faithgreenfield.org)  
 Administrative Assistant e-mail: [secretary@faithgreenfield.org](mailto:secretary@faithgreenfield.org) Focus on Faith Deadline: 9 am Thursday

## FROM THE COUNCIL

Reminder: Beginning **today, Sunday, May 6** the **West Entrance** will be locked 10 minutes after the start of service. And unlocked after the Service.

Note: The west doors can still be used as an exit while they are locked.

## MARY MARTHA GUILD

Next Mary Martha Gathering is Tuesday, May 8. This is the last meeting before we break for the summer.

Refreshments will be served at 6:30. Program for the evening will be election of officers for the upcoming year.

Please plan to join us!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School is quickly approaching! It begins on Sunday, June 3rd and finishes on Thursday, June 7th. We will begin with a meal at 5:30 p.m. and conclude at 8:00 p.m. We still need lots of wonderful volunteers to help make this VBS a success! Please check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to see where your talents will help to bring God's word to children in a fun, active setting.

Also, if you have children or know of any children age 3 through 4th grade that would love to join us during that fun-filled week, there are registration forms and printed VBS information located in the Narthex.

If you have any questions, please see Mary Jo McConnell, Rebecca Shanton, Amanda Houser, Karen Fuller or Elise Temme.

## FROM LUTHER

“Along comes the clever harlot, namely natural reason, looks at married life, turns up her nose, and says: ‘Why must I rock the baby, wash its diapers, change its bed, smell its odor, heal its rash, take care of this and take care of that, do this and do that? It is better to remain single and live a quiet and carefree life. I will become a priest or a nun and tell my children to do the same.’ But what does the Christian faith say? The father opens his eyes, looks at these lowly, distasteful and despised things and knows that they are adorned with divine approval as with the most precious gold and silver. God, with His angels and creatures, will smile – not because diapers are washed, but because it is done in faith.” (from the essay: *The Estate of Marriage*, written in 1522, and quoted in Nestingen’s *Martin Luther: A Life*, p.61)

## REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

**C.F.W. Walther, Theologian** (May 7) – Carl Ferdinand Wilhelm Walther (1811-87), the father of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, served as its first President from 1847 to 1850 and then again from 1864 to 1878. In 1839 he emigrated from Saxony, Germany, with other Lutherans, who settled in Missouri. He served as pastor of several congregations in St. Louis, founded Concordia Seminary, and in 1847 was instrumental in the formation of the LC-MS (then called the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States). Walther worked tirelessly to promote confessional Lutheran teaching and doctrinal agreement among all Lutherans in the United States, and was a prolific writer and speaker. Among his most influential works are *Church and Ministry* and *The Proper Distinction between Law and Gospel*.

Collect: Almighty God, You give the gift of teachers to Your Church. We praise You for the gifts of grace manifested in Your servant Carl Ferdinand, and we pray that Your Church may never be destitute of such gifts.

## REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

**Job, Patriarch** (May 9) – Job was a blameless and upright man who came from Uz (Job 1:1), a land north-east of Canaan. The Book of Job examines the depths of his faith, which was severely tested through the sufferings God permitted him to endure. Despite the sudden death of his ten children and the loss of all his wealth and his health, Job refused to curse God: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return; the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the Name of the LORD.”(1:21) Still, in the midst of his tribulations Job questioned the meaning and purpose of suffering to the point of asserting his own righteousness (34:5-6). Finally, the Lord revealed that a man cannot know the mysteries of God (chapters 38-41). Job’s faith in his Redeemer and the resurrection ultimately prevailed (19:25-27), and the Lord ended up restoring his wealth and blessing him with another seven sons and three daughters.

Collect: Almighty God, You have surrounded us with a great cloud of witnesses: Grant that we, encouraged by the good example of Your servant Job, may persevere in running the race that is set before us as we look forward to the Last Day and the resurrection of the dead.

**Cyril and Methodius, Missionaries to the Slavs** (May 11) – Cyril (826-69) and Methodius (c. 815-85) were brothers who came from a Greek family in Thessalonica. The younger brother took the name “Cyril” when he became a monk in 868. After ordination, Cyril became librarian at the church of Holy Wisdom (Hagia Sophia) in Constantinople. In 862 the brothers were sent by the emperor as missionaries to what is now the Czech republic, where they taught in the native Slavic tongue. Cyril invented the alphabet known today as “Cyrillic,” which provided a written language for the liturgy and Scriptures for the Slavic peoples. This use of the vernacular established an important principle for evangelical missions.

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, we thank You for Your servants Cyril and Methodius, whom You called to preach the Gospel to the Slavic peoples. Raise up in this and every land evangelists and heralds of Your kingdom, that Your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our Savior: Jesus Christ.

RECEIVING IN FAITH :  
SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2018

Divine Service : 98

RESPONDING IN FAITH :  
APRIL 29, 2018

General Fund .....	\$2,918.80
Adult Sunday School .....	24.00
Loose Cash .....	37.32
Memorials.....	105.00
LCMS .....	100.00
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$3,185.12</b>

FROM THE PRESCHOOL

We want to thank each and every one who helped to make our Spring Breakfast fundraiser a big success! We are truly blessed to have your support. Thank you!

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We still have openings in all of our classes at the preschool. If you know of someone who might be interested, please “pass the word along”. Preschool brochures and registration forms can be found in the Narthex. If you have any questions or for more information, please contact the director, Rebecca Shanton. Her contact information:

at the preschool 317-468-0610,  
by cell 260-343-1602,  
by email: rshanton.faithpreschool@gmail.com.

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are a lot of opportunities to sign up for flowers in June, July and August. Cost remains \$30 for both arrangements or \$15 for one. Please sign up for your Sunday of choice. Thank you, Debby Thompson, Altar Guild Chairman.

IN THE LORD’S SERVICE  
ASCENSION, MAY 10, 2018

Organist..... Chris Wilson  
Crucifer..... Bailey Shanton  
Word Bearer..... Lili Jenkins  
Acolyte..... Garrett Hollis, Esther Surburg  
Communion Assist: ..... James Froiland, Shawn Houser  
Elder on Duty..... Mark Jenkins  
Altar Guild..... Kelly O’Connor, Lori Yeager  
Sound: ..... Greg Roland

IN THE LORD’S SERVICE  
SUNDAY, MAY 13, 2018

Organist..... David Temme  
Crucifer..... Garrett Hollis  
Acolyte..... Ethan Hollis, Evan Houser  
Communion Assist: ..... Matthew Surburg, Tim Wagner  
Elder on Duty..... Ken Peterson  
Greeters..... Ken and Susan Sedam  
Ushers: .... Richard Curry, Mike Schildmier, Jim Arthur  
Youth Assistant..... Christopher O’Connor  
Altar Guild..... Kelly O’Connor, Lori Yeager  
Sound: ..... Brian Atkins  
Fellowship..... The Fox families

ADULT STUDIES IN GOD’S WORD

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** This class meets every Sunday morning in the fellowship area of the church, immediately following our time of fellowship after the Divine Service. We are studying the book of Hebrews. Come join us!

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** This class meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 in the fellowship area of the church, with refreshments served 15 min. before. Come join us.

**SATURDAY MORNING MEN’S BIBLE STUDY**— This lay led study meets every Saturday at 8:00 am.

## CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

Rev. Dr. Nicholas Fuller is available for Christian Counseling. You will find more of his information in the Narthex.

Nicholas M. Fuller, DMin, LMHC  
Pastoral Counselor, 7002 Graham Rd. Suite 211,  
Indianapolis, IN 46220. 317-325-8286

Rev. Randall A. Schroeder, Ph.D. has an office in the Northeast Suburbs of Indianapolis. His office is located at Cornerstone Lutheran Church, 4850 E. Main Street in Carmel.

Please visit his website, [www.DrRandallSchroeder.com](http://www.DrRandallSchroeder.com) and read the "Testimonials" and Practical Wisdom on Life, Marriage, and Parenting under "Categories." Every Wednesday he posts a blog on Marriage, Parenting, or Life on his website that will also be sent to his Professional Facebook page, and LinkedIn and Twitter accounts.

For a parishioner to set up an appointment, please contact Dr. Schroeder at 260-348-8777 or through [www.DrRandalSchroeder.com](http://www.DrRandalSchroeder.com).

## ZION

Zion Lutheran Church's  
Joy Group—"over 55"

Invites you  
Thursday, June 7, 2018, 2 PM

Entertainment:

"New Horizons Jazz Band"  
(20 musicians who play Jazz and Big Band Music)  
Don Hein, Band Leader—Retired From  
Channel 13 Sports and Newscaster

Dessert Bar & Drinks  
Freewill offering

*Note: There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex as Zion wants to know the number of people who will plan to attend. I will send the count into Zion by June 1, 2018.*

*Mary Jo McConnell*

## LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

## Teachers needed

**Lutheran High School** is seeking qualified teachers to fill positions in Music, Art, and History. Call the school office, 317-787-5474, or email Michael Brandt, Head of School, [mbrandt@lhsi.org](mailto:mbrandt@lhsi.org), or Bev McIntosh, [bmcintosh@lhsi.org](mailto:bmcintosh@lhsi.org).

## Spring Concert – Sunday, May 6

The Music Department of Lutheran High School will present its **Spring Concert** on **Sunday, May 6, 4:00 pm** in the Ruth Lilly Auditorium. Please join members of the choirs and band for this free event as we finish off the year's concert season. Seniors will be showcased and recognized during the evening's show.

## CU Nebraska Vocal Jazz Choir Concert – Sunday, May 13

The **Vocal Jazz Choir** of Concordia University Nebraska will be in concert at Lutheran High School on Sunday, **May 13**. The Vocal Jazz Choir, under the direction of Dr. Kurt von Kampen, will present a free concert at **7:30 pm** in the Ruth Lilly Auditorium. Please join us for this fun filled evening of jazz favorites!

The 13-voice choir, selected from the University A Cappella Choir, performs accompanied and a cappella jazz and pop-influenced charts spanning eight decades of popular music. This year's set list includes Frank Sinatra's hits, "Fly Me to the Moon" and "A Day in the Life of a Fool;" the Ella Fitzgerald classics, "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered" and "Dream a Little Dream of Me;" several Broadway musical numbers including "Try to Remember" from the Fantastiks and "Singin' in the Rain;" and several settings by Anders Edenroth of The Real Group, including "I Sing You Sing" and "Since You've Been Gone" and others.

## Commencement – Sunday, May 20

Lutheran High School's 40<sup>th</sup> Baccalaureate and Commencement for the Class of 2018 will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2:00 pm in the Gymnasium. All are welcome to attend; doors will open at 1:00.

## Summer Sports Camps – June 2018

**LHS will offer summer sports camps** during June for boys and girls currently in grade school. Camps will be held for Boys and Girls Basketball, Boys/Girls Volleyball, Boys/Girls Cross Country, Boys/Girls Soccer, Boys Wrestling, and Boys/Girls Tennis. For information and to register, visit [lhsi.org](http://lhsi.org) (choose Athletics > Summer Sports Camps) or call 317-787-5474.

## FORT WAYNE SEMINARY

Students, faculty and staff along with their friends and family will come together for Baccalaureate and Commencement at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, on Friday, May 18. This will mark the close of CTSFW's 172<sup>nd</sup> year. Graduation events take place in Kramer Chapel, though all are invited to watch baccalaureate and the graduation exercises online at [www.ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel](http://www.ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel) or [www.facebook.com/ctsfw](https://www.facebook.com/ctsfw). Please note that all times are Eastern Daylight Time.

- **Baccalaureate**, 10:00 a.m., with the Rev. Arlo W. Pullmann of Laurel, Montana, as preacher.
- **Commencement Organ Recital**, 3:00 p.m., with Kantor Matthew Machemer as organist. (Please note, this will not be livestreamed. All must attend in person.)
- **Graduation Exercises**, 6:00 p.m., with the [Rev. Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill](#) as speaker.

Honorees at graduation shall receive the following special awards:

**Doctor of Divinity (D.D.) degree, *honoris causa***

The Rev. Dr. David Rakotonirina  
President of Fiangonana Loterana Malagasy  
Madagascar

Bishop Risto Soramies  
First Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland  
Helsinki, Finland

**Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.) degree, *honoris causa***

Dr. Bruce G. Kintz  
President and CEO of Concordia Publishing House  
Saint Louis, Missouri

**Alumnus of the Year**

The Rev. Richard L. Woelmer  
Pastor at University Lutheran Church  
Bloomington, Indiana

## KFUO LUTHERAN RADIO

*For churches outside the St. Louis area for the week of May 6.*

**Listen to Worldwide KFUO.org**, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFUO.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**This week on KFUO.org**, celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord on May 10 with live chapel broadcast from the LCMS International Center (weekdays at 10:00 a.m. CT), continue studying the Gospel of Luke on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and hit the halfway point of our study of the book of Jeremiah on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Follow KFUO Radio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for program updates, shareable content, and daily reminders of Christ given for you.

*For churches outside the St. Louis area for the week of May 13.*

**Listen to Worldwide KFUO.org**, your radio station for practical Lutheran talk, daily Bible and Confession studies, daily worship opportunities, and current issues from a Lutheran worldview. Programs are archived at KFUO.org for 24/7 on-demand listening. You can also find our programming wherever you get your podcasts! Have a question or comment? Find us at @KFUOradio on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**This week on KFUO.org**, we wish all mothers a Blessed Mother's Day, hear from Rev. Jonathan Fisk on his new book "Echo" on The Coffee Hour (5/17 at 9:00 a.m. CT), learn about Rev. Ryan McDermott's life as a missionary for deaf ministry in Togo, West Africa, on The Coffee Hour (5/18 at 9:00 a.m. CT), study the Gospel of Luke on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), and continue studying the book of Jeremiah on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT). Find these programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or wherever you get your podcasts.

**BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Pattie Fitzwater.....	5/6
Esther Surburg.....	5/6
Jim Wilson.....	5/7
Lori Yeager.....	5/7
Melissa Miller.....	5/8
Emily Rogers.....	5/8
Paul Surburg.....	5/8
Sharon Yeager.....	5/8
Diane Froiland.....	5/9
Tom Visnack.....	5/10
Carolyn Haas.....	5/11
Mary Lou Trees.....	5/11
Lynn Arthur.....	5/12
Rebecca Shanton.....	5/12
Bev Wilson.....	5/12

**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Ken Peterson.....	5/ 9
Mary Lou Trees.....	5/11
Brody Dishman.....	5/12

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

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**CHURCH LEADERS**

**Council:**

- Jeff Dickmander (Chairman)
- Brian Atkins (Vice-Chairman)
- Amanda Houser (Recording Secretary)
- Robert M. Yeager (Treasurer)
- Phyllis Arthur (Parochial Ed. Chair)
- Tom Fitzwater (Evangelism Chair)
- Mike Schildmier (Properties Chair)
- Rebecca Shanton (Parish Ed. Chair)
- Bob G. Yeager (Stewardship Chair)
- Tim Wagner (Elders Chair)

**Elders:**

- Tim Wagner (Chair)
- James Froiland
- Shawn Houser
- Mark Jenkins (Recording Secretary)
- Ken Peterson
- Matthew Surburg

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

*Note: Prayer requests will be listed for four weeks, unless longer is requested.*

- Family of Marilyn Rothkopf*  
Her passing
- Karen Dungy (friend and coworker of Amanda Houser)*  
Undergoing treatment for cancer
- Phyllis Kingen*  
Rehab
- Doris Bond*  
Recovering from illness
- Susan Harlow (friend of Pastor)*  
Leukemia
- Deb Engleman*  
Cancer
- Donna Kuppler*  
Homebound (in Illinois)
- Marjorie Lung*  
Nursing home bound
- Chuck LaVallee*  
Nursing home bound
- Betty Mattsey*  
Nursing home bound
- Don Pfaff*  
Homebound
- Peggy Price*  
Homebound (in Ft. Wayne)
- Ellie Trautmann*  
Nursing home bound (in Carmel)
- Emily Rogers (LWML National Board)*

**Serving our Country**

- Rob Wolfla, Nick Arthur
- James McConnell, Noah Heiwig (friend of the Yeagers)
- Will Harlow (friend of Pastor)

Please Contact Lori (317) 431-9514, and email address is [loriyeager@comcast.net](mailto:loriyeager@comcast.net) or [lryeager24@gmail.com](mailto:lryeager24@gmail.com) . You may also call or email the office to have it forwarded

*Please inform the office if a prayer, baptismal birthday, anniversary or birthday was missed or incorrect this week. Thank you.*



## FROM PASTOR'S PEN

Not long ago I wrote an article here in our weekly Focus On Faith that introduced the practice of offering the Sacrament of the Altar to children before their Confirmation. In that article I said that, in order to help us consider adopting that practice here at Faith, I would write a series of articles explaining its benefit. This is the first of those articles.

Martin Luther once said about the Sacrament of the Altar: “This Sacrament is the Gospel.” By that he meant that, in the Sacrament of the Altar, we encounter the incarnation, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our salvation; indeed, it is the incarnate Lord Himself – true God and true man – Who works the miracle of giving us His true body and blood to eat and to drink. Or to put it another way, in the Sacrament of the Altar we encounter the very presence of God Himself, Who in the Person of His Son comes into our midst to save us from our sins (Matthew 1:21). That is really what Christianity is about: being restored to the presence of God.

You will recall that, in the beginning of mankind’s history, in the Garden of Eden, God and man were together, in perfect communion with one another. The book of Genesis even says that mankind – both male and female – was made in the very image of God, after God’s own likeness (Genesis 1:26), and that mankind was to look after the creation in the stead of its Creator:

“And God said to them: ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’” (Genesis 1:28)

But of course that perfect communion between God and mankind was broken when the first man and woman: Adam & Eve, sinfully rebelled against God. We often think of that event as the Fall of man into sin, but I prefer to think of it as the Fall of man *away from God*, for that’s what sin does: it separates from God. Genesis even describes the moment that Adam & Eve were discovered by God to be sinners this way:

“They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife *hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God* among the trees of the garden.” (3:8)

By sinning against the Creator, Adam & Eve cut themselves off from His presence, leaving themselves, and the creation, far less than what God intended them to be. On the effects of this tragedy St. Augustine wrote:

“You made us for Yourself and our hearts find no peace until they rest in You.” (from his *Confessions* – Book I [1])

The entire story of the Bible after mankind’s fall away from God is the story of God’s enabling mankind to rest in communion with Him. It is the story of mankind being able to again rest in peace in the presence of God.



## FROM PASTOR'S PEN CONT.

That happens by faith in God's Son: Jesus Christ, the One in Whom God is again present. That is the message of Christianity, that the Creator has reached out to reunite with His creation in the incarnation, the enfleshment, of His Son. In the Person of Jesus Christ, creation is restored to its Creator; in Jesus Christ, mankind is again in communion with God.

St. John writes of this in his Gospel when he says that, in Jesus Christ:

“The Word (the Word by which God created all things) became flesh and made its dwelling *among us*, full of grace and truth,…” (John 1:14)

And St. Matthew writes in his Gospel that, the One conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary, shall be called:

“...Immanuel [which means, ‘*God with us*’].” (Matthew 1:23)

Throughout his Gospel Matthew asserts God's presence in Jesus Christ, asserting that nothing less than the very reign of God is at work in Jesus' ministry (4:17; 12:28). When Matthew's Jesus asserts that those who gather together in His Name are assured of His presence (Matthew 18:20), Matthew is saying that gathering together in Jesus' Name is gathering together with God.

Of course, since sin was what separated mankind from God in the first place, sin must be forgiven for God and man to again be together. So it is that, when Jesus gives the promise of His/God's presence in His Name, He does so in the context of teaching about forgiveness (Matthew 18:15-22). And near the end of John's Gospel, John portrays the Easter-Jesus as the “New Creator,” breathing the new life of His Spirit into His disciples, just as God had done with Adam in the beginning (compare John 20:22 with Genesis 2:7). And what did the new life of Jesus' Spirit empower the disciples to do? Forgive sins, of course:

“...if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” (John 20:23)

Through the forgiveness achieved in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the reign of God is active. Where the reign of God is active, God is present, working His will. God wills that His creation be restored to Him, which is why He sent His Son. Again, in Jesus Christ, creation is restored to its Creator; in Jesus Christ, mankind is again in communion with God.

What does offering the Sacrament of the Altar to children before their Confirmation have to do with this? That we will consider in our next article. Until then ...

Your Brother In Christ,

Pastor O'Connor