



The KEY

The newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

SEPT-OCT 2017

For the past several weeks, my Sunday evening ritual has been to sit in front of a TV with friends and watch the newest season of Game of Thrones.

One of the weeks early in the season, my brother was in town and participated in the Sunday evening ritual. As the lights in the room were dimmed and "Previously, on Game of Thrones..." blared through the speakers, he admitted he'd never seen an episode or read the books.

My brother was willingly about to spend the next hour of his life watching a complex character drama without the benefit of knowing what happened in the previous six seasons - which is not something I'd recommend.

It's also an experience that isn't too far off from how many of us encounter the Bible.

The story of God's people, a story that starts with the creation of the world in Genesis, continues with Abraham and then Moses and then the prophets before arriving at Jesus and then the early church, is detailed in the Bible.

It is a story that is more complex than even Game of Thrones, so when we only read a small piece here or there in worship, it can be difficult for even those who have read the whole thing to grasp the context of what is going on.

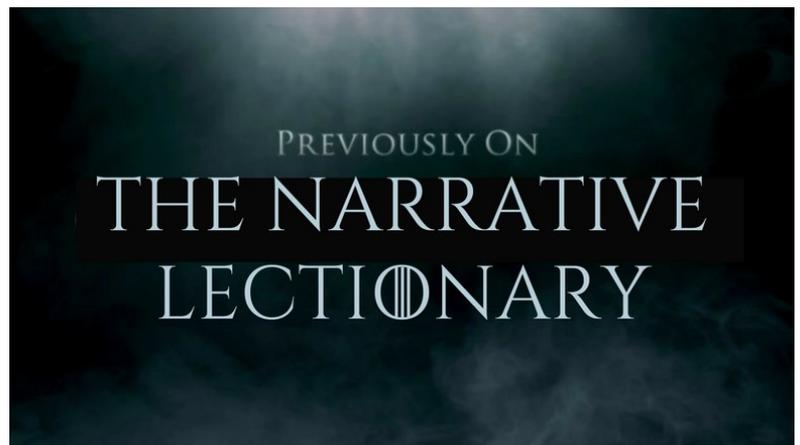
We may have no idea why it is such a big deal for the Jewish leaders to ask Pilate to step in at Jesus' crucifixion or what it means for Jesus to be referred to as the Son of Man (or Son of God - it seems obvious, but there's more there).

Which is why this fall, we're shifting to the Narrative Lectionary for worship.

The lectionary is a cycle of readings scheduled for each Sunday (and other worship days) in the life of the church. For many years, we have followed the Revised Common Lectionary, which includes an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, a New Testament reading, and a Gospel reading each Sunday. It can be easier to hear themes in the texts when various parts of the bible are placed side by side on a Sunday morning. The tradeoff is that it can also be difficult to follow the arc of the story of the biblical narrative.

The Narrative Lectionary reads a longer "preaching" text and a much shorter supporting text each Sunday; starting with Genesis and following the narrative sweep of the story of God's people. These longer texts allow for more context to the story. The more you're in worship, the greater your sense of what God is up to among God's people.

[continued on page 2]

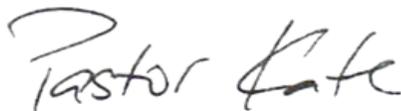


Almost as soon as my brother admitted that he'd never seen an episode of Game of Thrones nor read the books, someone hit the pause button and then gave him a quick rundown of what he needed to know before we watched the episode.

That quick recap probably helped him enjoy the show a bit more than if he had simply watched it with no knowledge altogether, though it would have been better if he'd seen the whole series or at least read the books.

Going through the Narrative Lectionary in worship should be closer to having watched the whole show. Hearing the major arc of the story from Sunday to Sunday should give you a better sense of what God is up to - both for the people of Israel and the biblical world, but also now, in our current world.

We hope to see you in worship Sundays this fall! †



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God's Work Our Hands Sunday: September 10, 2017

Contact: Pastor Yvette (pastoryvette@flcva.org)

On "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, ELCA congregations around the country celebrate that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

One of the many ways Faith serves our neighbors is by supporting our Missions of the Month, which include ministries that serve our immediate community and neighbors around the world. Our September Mission of the Month is Village of Hope Haiti, which provides, education, meals, and healthcare in the countryside 15 miles east of Port au Prince.



On "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday, we will remember Village of Hope in worship and hear about their work from Pastor Ron Qualley, Chairman Village of Hope's Board of Directors. Members will also have opportunities to support Village of Hope's ministry by purchasing beads and jewelry or sponsoring students of the VOH school. You can read more about Village of Hope on pp. 4. We will continue to collect financial support for Village of Hope throughout the month of September--please support them as generously as you can!

Another way Faith serves in our community is through our monthly bagged meal program--please consider volunteering to help prepare food or distribute food and clothing on Saturday, September 9th (see p 14 for details). Or, if you're busy on Saturday, check out the food packing event our neighbors at Good Shepherd Lutheran are sponsoring on Sunday, September 10, and consider joining them! (Details on p. 13.)

BACK TO SCHOOL



Recycling Backpacks

Contact: Mariln Haugen, Deacon of Social Ministry (mb_haugen26@comcast.net)

If any of you have purchased new backpacks for the school year (or for yourself!) and are looking for a good "new home" for the now old backpacks, Faith's homeless ministry would be happy to take them off your hands and out of your house. Our clients are always enormously grateful for new and/or clean, gently used backpacks for their personal items. As a matter of fact, thanks to some earlier donations from the congregation, we were able to give out over half a dozen backpacks at our monthly Saturday distribution in August. If you have any you'd like to donate, just bring them to church and put them in the white cupboards by the Jackson Street entrance. Many thanks from those we serve!!!

Important Sunday School Dates

Contact: Mary Carbone, Sunday School Director (mcarbone@maret.org)



Sunday School Teachers Prep Meeting

- Saturday, September 9 from 10:00am—12:00 pm

Sunday School Rally Day

- Sunday, September 10 at 9:15 a.m.
Parents of preschool and elementary-aged children are invited to bring them to the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 for fun activities, a service project, and open registration for Sunday School. Regular Sunday School classes will begin the following week on September 17th.

Confirmation Classes:

- Sunday, September 17 from 3:00p - 5:30pm
- Sunday, October 15 from 3:00p - 5:30pm

ELCA Youth Gathering Registration Deadline

Contact: Annie Hoefler, Deacon of Youth Ministry (annie.hoefler@gmail.com)

The deadline to register to go to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering is **October 1, 2017**. The Gathering will take place in Houston, TX on June 27-July 1, 2018. All high school youth, including those entering 9th grade in 2018, are eligible to attend.



September Mission of the Month: Village of Hope

Contact: Liz Talley, lizabethdawn@hotmail.com

Village of Hope is the grassroots effort of an ever-growing number of individuals and congregations who want to serve in ministry in Haiti. Village of Hope provides financial support to ministries in Haiti as well as opportunities for short term mission teams to serve those ministries.



HEALTH CENTER

The newest ministry of VoH, the Health Center has been open since April of 2012 and continues to provide primary healthcare not only to the students, staff and teachers at the VoH School, but to their families and community members as well. They provide the best possible physical, emotional and spiritual care for each of the patients. This includes vaccination and nutrition programs, laboratory testing, pharmaceutical services, pre-natal health care and community education programs for patients with diabetes and hypertension, all provided by Haitian medical professionals. The current staff has the potential to serve more than 50 patients a day.

VOH SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The VoH School provides quality education, in a Christian-based environment to over 600 children from kindergarten through high school. The students attend Chapel once a week, and services for the senior classes are led by high school students. Each day students receive a meal of rice and beans.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sponsor a Child Attending the Village of Hope School: Sponsoring a student is a distinctive and personal way to enhance and develop the life of a vulnerable child. The funds provided through sponsorships support the costs for the child's attendance at the school, such as text books, school supplies, a daily meal, vitamins and medical care. Full sponsorships are \$40 per month or \$480 per year.

Make a Donation: Donations of any size are always welcome! One-time gifts to the VOH School Scholarship programs can always be pooled to make a full sponsorship or scholarship. Donations to the Health Center help pay for medications, vaccinations and the food that is distributed through the nutrition program as well as the operation of the center.

Offerings made using the special "Mission Offering" envelopes in the pews, or through the online giving portal, during September will all go to VOH. You can also donate directly to VOH online at www.villageofhopehaiti.org, or by mailing a check to: VOH, Inc., 300 East Yamato Rd., Boca Raton, FL 33431

Go on a Mission Trip: At this time Faith does not have any trips planned, however individuals may contact the director in Haiti at villageofhopehaiti@gmail.com regarding possibilities to join up with a team that may not be full. The 2017-18 schedule is on the website: www.villageofhopehaiti.org.

Pastor Ron Qualley, former Senior Pastor at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax, VA and Chair of Village of Hope, will give the Temple Talk on Sunday, September 10 to thank Faith for our support over the years and to tell us more about the project. Be sure to come learn more about these great programs in Haiti! †

October Mission of the Month: Offender Aid and Restoration

Contact: Mary Hibbits, [mohibbits\(at\)aol.com](mailto:mohibbits(at)aol.com)

Offender Aid and Restoration is a community-based non-profit serving Arlington and the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church. OAR was started by five churches back in 1974. For 41 years, staff and volunteers have helped tens of thousands of men and women coming home from incarceration. OAR administers court-mandated community service programs, teaches classes in the jail, and gives a helping hand to those recently released from jail or prison.

OAR is here for you.

You are encouraged to call upon OAR for any help you need in reference to folks you know and serve who either have been in prison or have loved ones in prison. They have qualified staff to talk with you about strategies for helping individuals and families. Call anytime! (Call Elizabeth Jones, Acting Executive Director 703-228-7441.)

Project Christmas Angel

Last year, nearly 400 children received more than 1,100 gifts through Project Christmas Angel. At the annual gift wrapping party last December, more than 200 community members gathered to wrap all the toys at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Arlington.

This year's wrapping party will be on Wednesday, December 13th. Check OAR's website for an RSVP link that will be posted closer to the event date: www.oaronline.org.

OAR's Project Christmas Angel is one way Faith members support this organization. Each October donations of toys, sports equipment, art supplies, and gift cards are collected for children whose parents are incarcerated. Look for further information and the big OAR collection box in the Fellowship Hall at the beginning of October. Toys are given in the name of the absent parent, helping children know they are not forgotten. Your donations will make a big difference. Thank you for caring! †



OAR

Strengthening Community through Second Chances

Project Christmas Angel.
From www.oaronline.org

Discovery: Reflections on a visit to Israel

In May of this year, Faith member Corey Holmes traveled to the Holy Land as part of an initiative of [Peace Not Walls](#), a ministry of the ELCA. Corey was one of 16 young adults of color from around the country who was selected to participate in this trip, and subsequently will lead a similar trip for young adults of color in 2018.

This blog post is Corey's reflection on his time in the Holy Land.

I must admit, I was uninformed regarding the magnitude of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. I knew of Yasser Arafat and his commitment to peace in the Middle East, earning him a share of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994. I also understood that Israel was "holy ground" for God's people and the place where many citizens go to worship and visit holy sites. After visiting Israel for almost two weeks, it is still a very complex place where some form of all sides hold truth. This post is simply thoughts on my experiences while in Israel meeting with Palestinians, visiting holy sites, and listening to views on this conflict.

The remapping of lines to construct borders is nothing new. During 1884-85, the Berlin Conference in the "*Scramble for Africa*" divided the African continent among 13 European countries, in the quest for civility and a "*Christian way of life*". Imperialism and eventually colonialism was established, and currently Africa is starting to feel the effects of elitism and classism among its diverse populations.

Comparably, the first Prime Minister of Israel, David-Ben Gurion, with the blessing of U.S. President Harry Truman, created the independent sovereign state of Israel in May 1948. A few years prior, the United States was faced with a tough decision due to the potential alliance of the Soviet Union (its starkest enemy at the time), with Arab nations who held most of the world's oil resources. President Truman wanted the U.S. Department of State to conduct talks with both Jews and Arabs to see if a resolution was possible before intervening. In 1946, President Truman created a special cabinet led by Assistant Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Grady, to oversee the region and conduct negotiations with the British who held economic and political interests in Palestine. The U.S. Department of State recommended the creation of a United Nations trusteeship with limits on Jewish immigration, and the division of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab provinces, not **states**.

I have many takeaways from my trip to Israel, and I will try to compound them in a succinct way.

First, it is very easy to interweave the people of Israel (those who may like rap music and colorful clothes) with the Israeli state. There are many individuals and groups who support Palestine, whether it be a one or two-state solution.

Secondly, the militarization in the region is significant. Whether it's the numerous borders that separate Palestinians from friends and family; or the countless soldiers or Jewish citizens with guns locked and loaded in Jerusalem, this is not a space conducive for peace.

Third, I learned that religion is truly the most separatist faction created. I visited some of the most picturesque churches in the world and rarely did I find peace and serenity. I found elitism, non-inclusiveness, and the separation of people. **Before you judge, look at the churches in America (there is a stark similarity here)**. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said (paraphrasing), that Sunday mornings in church are the most separate times in America, and after traveling throughout Israel, I concur. However, the two church services that I attended were quaint, passionate, inclusive and spiritual (one service was even in Arabic)!

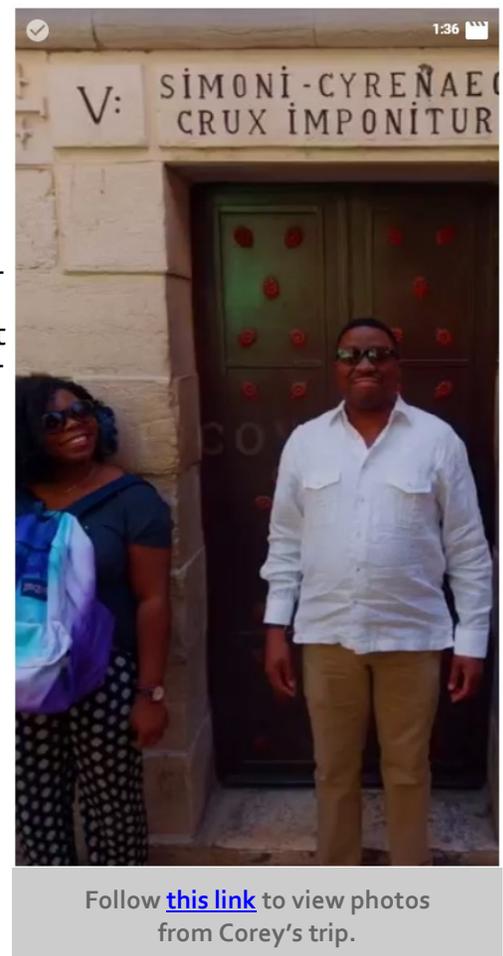
Lastly, people just want peace and the ability to live their lives. For instance, many Palestinians want one sovereign state, while others say the two-state solution is the only peaceful option. Even with borders, guns, separatism, and the increasing number of Jewish settlers on Palestinian land, many Palestinians still have hope, and want to live life like normal young people. For now, they are living their lives to the best of their abilities.

Recently, President Trump made a trip to Israel to chat with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He proclaimed peace would soon be realized in the region as he visited holy Jewish sites and made diplomatic speeches to the press corps. I believe education is the key to changing any society, and would like to see a Young Palestinian Leadership Program instituted by the United States. This would allow young students to be exposed to other cultures, and engage in dialogues outside of their conformed space. Perhaps, they could even produce solutions for peace, along with their young Jewish American counterparts. Sometimes, to find a solution, one must go outside his or her realm.

In 2019, my colleague and I plan to take young minorities from the U.S. to Israel and Palestine to chat with NGOs, Palestinians and Jews, churches in Israel, and global networks. I would like to have young people from Detroit accompany me on this journey. **The similarities of Palestinians and many black citizens in Detroit are eerily similar (lack of good public education, re-gentrification, and the lack of public services), but that is a conversation for another day.**

So, after the bloodshed due to the complexities of the relationship between Israel and Palestine what is next? How about a nexus of consumerism and capitalism? A recent article in the Washington Post was written about Bashar Masri, a Palestinian developer betting on the **"burgeoning Palestinian middle class"** with a **1.4-billion-dollar** mall in Rawabi, West Bank. There are many reasons to minimize this venture, starting with Israel's ability to control and shut-off Palestine's access to natural resources (electricity and water). Again, I want to focus on the parallels of black America and Palestine regarding possible positive outcomes. For all the negative statistics on black America: the highest male population in prison, lack of marketable skills in the job market, too many single black mothers, etc., there is no denying the buying power of this demographic. In 2011, according to the **Target Market News Report**, black American buying power was approximately **836 billion dollars** ranking them 16th ahead of Indonesia and just below South Korea.

Here is the point, if you build it they will come. In our global society, capitalism "trumps" everything. I believe Palestinians with discretionary income will want new *iPhones*, *BMWs*, and *80-inch televisions*. I tend to think people work harder and study longer to have access to their wants and needs. I believe the biggest upside to Masri's mall project is hope. While looking at so many dilapidated buildings in Palestine (no fault of the Palestinians), this would give young people hope to dream big. Anything is possible, right? †



Follow [this link](#) to view photos from Corey's trip.

The above article was first printed on the "Peace Not Walls" blog, an initiative of ELCA Young Adult Ministry and the Peace Not Walls Campaign. The blog can be found at:

<https://peacenotwalls.wordpress.com/>

The following is a reprint of a feature article that appeared in the October 2015 issue of *The Key* (Volume LXVII Number 10). It was written by Jen Moore, our former editor, who is currently beginning her third semester at the United Lutheran Seminary (ULS). She really "nailed" this piece, so when we found it, we knew that we had to share it again to honor the Reformation's 500th anniversary in October. Enjoy!



[Timeline](#) [About](#) [Friends](#) [Photos](#) [More](#)

 Doctor in Bible at [University of Wittenberg](#), [Wittenberg, Germany](#)



[Martin Luther](#)
1534

German Bible: done! Thanks for all your support, friends!

 Studied at the [University of Wittenberg](#).
Attended 1508 to 1512



[Martin Luther](#)

The common people, especially in the villages, have no knowledge whatever of Christian doctrine, and, alas! many pastors are altogether incapable and incompetent to teach. I think I'm going to write a

 Lives in the Black Monastery, [Wittenberg, Germany](#)

 Married to [Katharina von Bora](#)

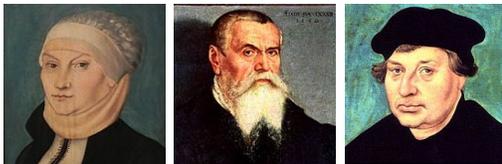


[Martin Luther](#) [Philipp Melanchthon](#)
August 1, 1521

Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong, but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the

 Born on November 10, 1483

FRIENDS



[Martin Luther](#)
April 18, 1521

I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me.—at [Diet of Worms](#)



[Archbishop Albrecht of Mainz](#) [Martin Luther](#)
November 1, 1517

Received your *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences* yesterday. I hope nobody else has seen this? #heresy

The Editor's Desk: Luther, Reformation and Social Media

Jen Moore, Faith's Former Communications Coordinator and Office Administrator



Antichristi, 1521. Lucas Cranach the Elder. A political statement by Luther's friend (and chief propagandist) on the practice of

This month's Key focuses on the theme of reformation, that process of improving something or someone, to make it new and at the same time clarify the essential heart of the thing that was there all along. Here at Faith, reformation happens on the individual level, through study of the scripture, worship, and fellowship; and at the institutional level, through congregational reflection on where the church has been and where it's going into the future. Through the Holy Spirit, God re-forms us every day, calling us to live out our faith in service to our neighbors, not only as individuals, but as the body of Christ at Faith Lutheran Church. It's why our young people make their public affirmation of faith on Reformation Sunday; in the same way that Luther's reformation began by articulating his faith, so do youth embark on the next stage of their lives in Christ with a statement of belief.

By all accounts, his own included, Martin Luther was a tortured soul. He reflected almost continually on his own sin, and felt that he could never measure up to God's expectations. Through study of the Psalms and the New Testament, he came to understand that salvation is a gift of God's grace, attainable through faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

Faith, for Luther, was a gift from God; the discovery of justification by faith was "as though I had been born again."

Freed from fear of divine condemnation, he was able to follow the example of Christ's saving actions and willingly serve God and his neighbors.

Luther's main worry? That his gullible neighbors were doomed to the fiery pits of Hell because they didn't know about Jesus Christ and had been tricked into believing that their salvation could be purchased through indulgences. Luther's revelation moved him to write the *Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences*, also known as the *95 Theses*, statements which were viewed as heretical by the church.

Friends translated the theses into German and printed and widely copied them, making the controversy one of the first in history to be aided by the printing press. Within two months, they had spread throughout Europe. Students thronged to Wittenburg to hear Luther speak. **In effect, what had started out as a desire to improve the church and share the good news of justification by faith became a movement for change spurred on by the social media of Luther's time.**

On the cover, we playfully imagined what Luther's Facebook page would have looked like. One can imagine a wide network of digitally connected friends and colleagues, all using the digital space to talk about and debate Luther's theology. In our inter-connected world, our personal experiences of God's grace and love have the power to touch other people, and our every action can have a positive impact. How might you respond to the grace you have been given and share God's grace with others? Whom have you been freed in Christ to serve?

We pray that you find in Faith a place for daily reformation, and that your service to others begins here.

~Faith Lutheran Church

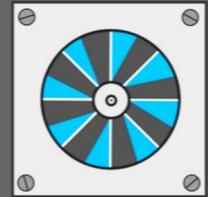


Thank you!

This year's VBS program was a huge success! We could never have done it without the many volunteers, both newcomers and seasoned veterans, who helped to make it happen. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm! †



AUGUST HVAC UPDATE



Over the last few years we have seen signs that our heating and cooling systems were nearing the end of their useful life. The church council, capital campaign team, and pastors, in consultation with the congregation, decided to make a comprehensive assessment of our current needs and anticipated future needs, and install an HVAC system that is tailored to meet those needs efficiently and sustainably now and for many years into the future.

In February of this year, Faith's Council voted to engage Arium AE, an architectural and engineering firm based in Columbia, MD, to conduct an architectural survey of the building. The field survey was completed in May, and the HVAC team met with Arium in June to review its initial report.

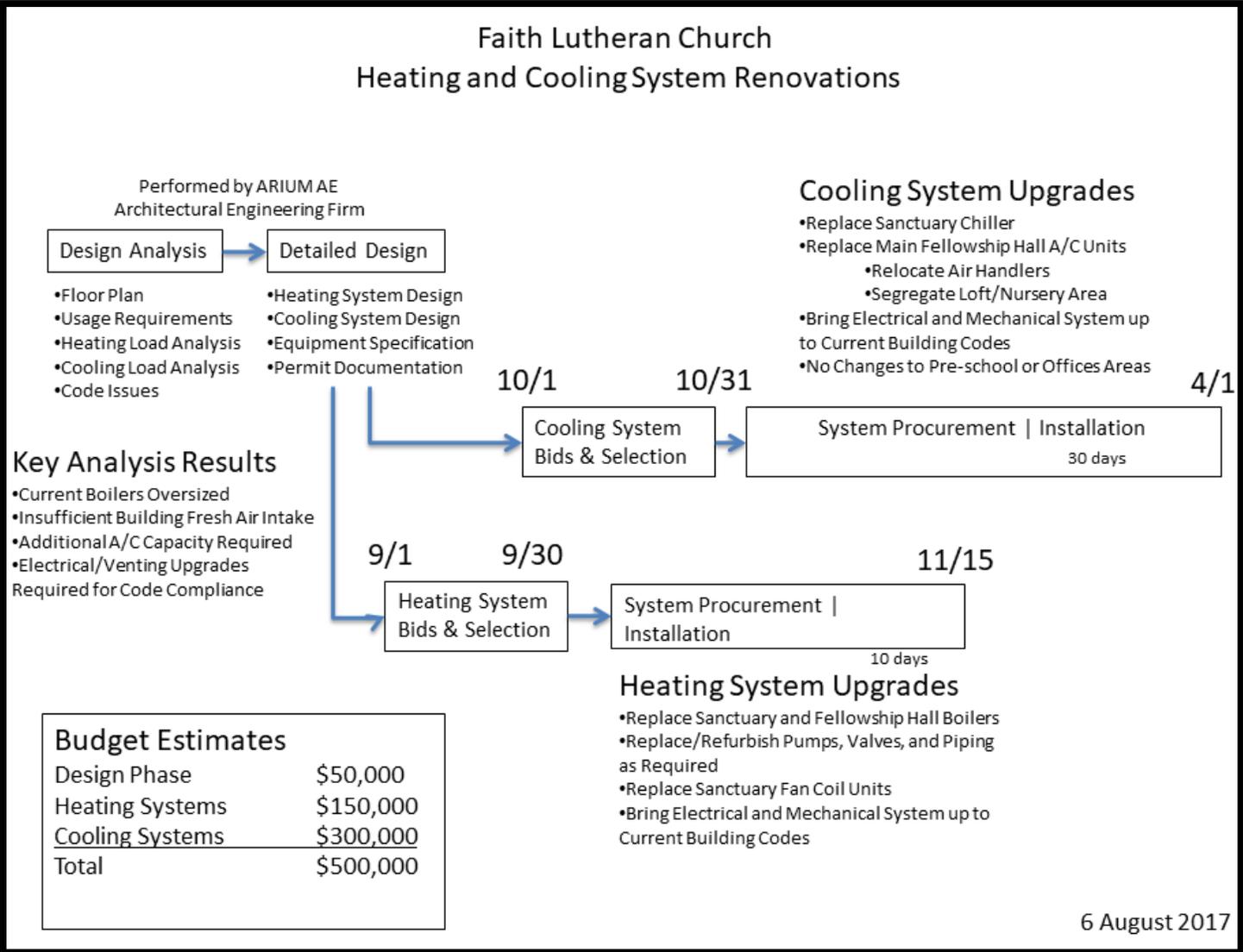
At the July meeting of the FLC Council, the HVAC team presented Arium's proposal to complete the next phase of the project, which will provide a comprehensive HVAC system design, including the documents we need to solicit bids from vendors.

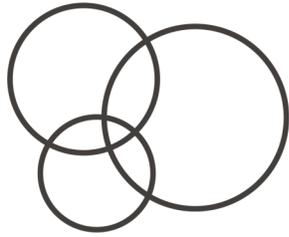
A flowchart detailing the timeline of the coming renovations can be found below.

In May, Faith received a generous stock gift that was designated for covering the costs of replacing our HVAC system. Proceeds from the stock gift amounted to \$513,000, which may cover a significant portion of the project, but likely not all of it. While we continue with next steps in the design and bidding process, Faith's Finance Team is working with our accountant to invest funds from the stock sale in order to maximize short term return.

The HVAC team will be able to provide an estimate of the total cost of replacing the HVAC system once we receive design documents from Arium and bids from contractors. The cost of Arium’s assessment and design work will be around \$50,000. The cost of this project is significant, but it is an investment in the facility that has been passed on to us from previous generations as a resource for our ministry together. Our hope and responsibility is to care for our facility and use it to be a gospel presence in our community now and for future generations.

We are grateful to the team of Faith’s leaders and staff who have been working together to move the HVAC project forward. The HVAC team includes: Greg Blatt, Jill Faris, Fred Kane, Jody Manning, Brendan Meyer, Julie Pandya, Brian Stutheit, Pastor Kate, and Pastor Yvette. †





CHURCH COMMUNITY BUILDER

Contact: The Church Office (office@flcva.org)

Church Community Builder is Faith's new and improved cloud-based church management system. It replaces an old system called Church Windows, which you probably would not have seen unless you worked in the church office or with the finance team.

Unlike the previous system, Church Community Builder seeks to engage you as members of an online community. If we have your email address, then you should already have received an email recently asking you to create a password and activate your account. If you did not receive it, then please contact the church office for help.

How can I access CCB?

A link to the [login page](#) is on the homepage of Faith's website. Use the "My Faith" button.

What can I do with my account?

You can update your address and contact information, check your giving record, view/sign up for events on the calendar, and more! We plan to build more small groups within CCB. This will give you a new way to connect with various groups that you participate in here at Faith, such as fellowship groups, Bible studies, and volunteer groups.

We recommend that when you activate your account, you take the opportunity to check over your giving records. If you have questions about your giving, then please contact the office.

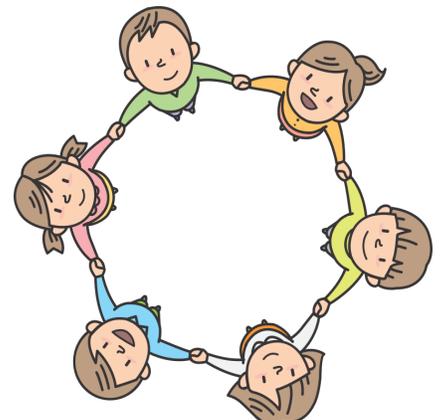
Learn more:

Watch an introductory video at <https://player.vimeo.com/video/159080052>. †

Faith's New Child Protection Policy

At its June meeting, Faith's council passed a new Child Protection Policy. The goal of the policy is to ensure that our church is a safe place for children, youth, and all our members and guests. A copy of the policy is available in the church office, and we will also have an information session regarding the policy this fall. Details regarding the information session to follow.

Many thanks to Kris Finney for her leadership of the Child Protection Policy Team, and other members of the team: Mary Carbone, Candi Meyer, Jeff Olson, Mary Quattlebaum, and Kim Upadhyaya. †





100 Volunteers Needed for The Amazing Food Packing Event

September 10th from 3:00-5:00
At Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Ezher Bloom Mosque are working together to host a food packing event that will create 20,000 meals and feed up to 120,000 people in Alexandria and Fairfax. We will pack food from 3-5pm and then share in a picnic from 5:30-6:30 to get to know each other better.

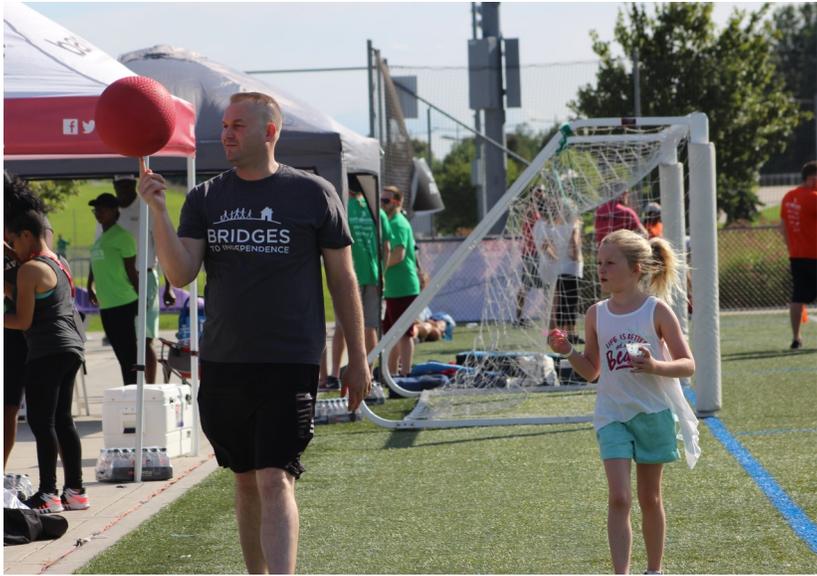
Location: 100 West Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301

Help us plan for a successful event by registering in advance at: WWW.GSLUTHERAN.NET or on our Facebook Page (@gsluth)



Safe at home Kickball Tournament 2017

Photos by Kris Finney (above) and Alisa Key (below)



Upcoming Events in Brief

- **Young Adult Group**

Nationals Game: Saturday, September 16 at 1:05 pm

Contact Pastor Kate (pastorkate@flcva.org) for more information or to be added to our Young Adult mailing list.

- **eXtra Years of Zest (XYZ)**

Tuesday, September 5:

Trip to Mount Vernon. Van leaves the church at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, September 19:

Visit the Franciscan Monastery in Washington D.C. Lunch at Duangrat's Thai on Rt. 7. The van leaves the church at 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 3:

XYZ Oktoberfest at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 17: Trip to Catoctin Orchard and lunch at the Shamrock in Maryland.

Van leaves at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, October 31:

Lunch at Raaga restaurant on Rt. 7. Meet at there 12:00, or van leaves the church at 11:30.

Contact Carolyn Baker for more information about XYZ Events: (703) 671-0312

- **Babies and Toddlers Story Time**

Sunday, Sept. 10 and Sunday, Oct 1 at 9:35 a.m.

Our monthly story time is for babies and toddlers up to 3 years old, with at least one parent or caregiver present with each child. After story time participants are welcome to join the 9:30 worship service.

If you would like to be one of the rotating volunteers who helps with story time, then please contact Rachel Ackmann (rachelackmann5@gmail.com).

- **First Friday Family Potluck**

Friday, October 6th @ 5:30 pm

Whether you're a family of 1, 2, or 7, all are welcome! Our monthly potlucks will resume this October with a taco night. Look for signup information to come!

- **Blessing of the Animals**

Saturday, October 7, 10:00 am

Gather in the upper parking lot off Jackson Street for a special service of blessing for our animal companions. All pet varieties are welcome on a leash, in a crate, in a bowl, or other habitat/container as appropriate.

- **Out of Darkness Walk: Support Pastor Kate's Team**

October 28, 2017 - 4:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Memorial

We are joining the community of nearly 250k people walking in hundreds of cities across the country in support of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's mission to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide. Pastor Kate will lead a team at the D.C. walk. You can support her by joining her walking team and/or donating. Learn more and get involved using the links at flcva.org/out-of-darkness-walk/.

- **Bagged Meal Preparation and Distribution**

Saturday, Sept. 9th and Saturday, Oct.14th, 1:00 p.m. / 5:30 p.m.

On every second Saturday of the month, we prepare simple meals in the kitchen and then I after that day hand them out directly to our homeless neighbors at an outdoor location in North Arlington. If you'd like to help, contact Paul Wengert: sandwich@wmalumni.com

- **Meals on Wheels**

Monday, Sept. 25th and Monday, Oct. 30th at 11:00 a.m.

Contact Bruce & Kay Flatin to be added to the list of substitutes:
bruceandkayflatin@me.com

The Narrative Lectionary

Beginning on September 10, we will draw our readings for worship from the Narrative Lectionary, a four-year cycle of readings. Each year follows the sweep of the biblical story chronologically, from Creation through the early Christian church:

From September to mid-December the preaching texts begin with the early chapters of Genesis, move through the stories of Israel's early history, the exodus, the kings, prophets, exile and return.

From Christmas to Easter there is sustained reading of one of the four gospels (the gospel for 2017-2018 is John).

From Easter to Pentecost the texts are chosen from Acts and Paul's letters.

The summer months are open, which provides an opportunity for sermon series that dig into a particular book or books of the bible, themes that run throughout Scripture, or teachings and perspectives from our faith tradition or church history. Some examples of sermon series themes are Ephesians, Revelation, Psalms, Sacraments, Creeds, or The Ten Commandments.

NEW Monthly Bible Study!

First Sundays, 12:30-2 PM. Potluck meal included!

We'll look ahead to the themes of our Scripture readings for that month, and discover together how we are part of the ongoing story of God's work in our world.



September and October Lectionary

September 3

13th Sunday after Pentecost
 Psalm 65
 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

End of the "Such Great Things" Sermon Series. We switch to the Narrative Lectionary.

September 10

14th Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 1:1-2:4a
 John 1:1-15

September 17

15th Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 21: 1-3, 22: 1-14
 John 1:29

September 24

16th Sunday after Pentecost
 Genesis 27:1-4,15-23, 28:10-17
 John 1:50-51

October 1

17th Sunday after Pentecost
 Exodus 2:23-25, 3:1-15, 4:10-17
 John 8:58

October 8

18th Sunday After Pentecost
 Exodus 16:1-18
 John 6:51

October 15

19th Sunday after Pentecost
 1 Samuel 3:1-21
 John 20:21-23

October 22

20th Sunday after Pentecost
 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 Psalm 51:10-14
 John 7:24

October 29

Reformation Sunday
21st Sunday after Pentecost
 1 Kings 5:1-5, 8:1-13
 John 2:19-21

Faith Lutheran Church

3313 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201

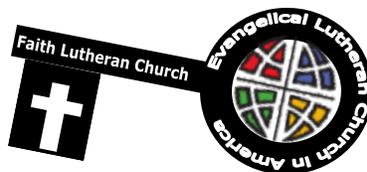
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Faith Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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Faith's 2017 Church Council

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