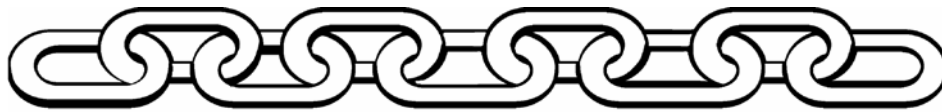


The LINK

July 2009



Notes from the Pastor

You are my strength when I am weak
 You are the treasure that I seek
 You are my all in all
 Seeking you as a precious jewel
 To give up I'd be a fool
 You are my all in all

How much is **enough**? If you've got **enough**, will everyone be able to see it and give you credit for having **enough**? What if you don't have **enough**? Then what do you have left? When you're applying for a mortgage, there is a lot of talk of "**enough**" and there are a lot of yardsticks to help you find out if you've got it, if you need more of it, whether *it* is credit or down payment cash or income, there is a lot of talk about **enough**. Will this be **enough** for the payment? will we have **enough** left over to do the things we like to do, like eat or be warm? Are we worthy of this mortgage (what a humbling question *that is*)? But more troubling still is the age-old question of whether or not you're *good enough*. Not just in the simple sense of day-to-day interactions, like "Am I good **enough** to be on the team?" or "Am I good **enough** to enter the race?" but the more pressing and punishing questions, the ones that eat away at us when we are alone, that bring in their wakes despair and fear. Questions like "Am I ever going to do **enough** to deserve

God's love?" or "How can I do **enough**, there is so much need in the world?" For your pastor the questions is usually a little more pointy. "Can I ever be **enough** of a pastor to lead these people?" This is the core of what it means to be a pastor, how you answer that question. Because some pastors are great preachers. Debbie's grandfather, Arndt, was one of the great preachers of his era in the church (in the Lutheran church or in any other for that matter) and I imagine that he was probably pretty good **enough** at a lot of other things as well, having enjoyed a varied and long life in the ministry. Our Pastor at home, Scott, runs a tight ship. He is more than good **enough** at administration and organization to lead a healthy congregation in Alaska and I have to admit that I occasionally slip into covetousness when I think of that particular gift. Some are holy **enough** (or so it would seem), some are prayerful **enough**, some are dedicated **enough** to visiting the sick and shut-in. Whatever it is that anyone ever thinks of as the main characteristic for them in their minister, you have to be **enough** for that. Why do you think pastors burn out? At some point you be-

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2009 Council

President	Mary Lou Christian
Vice President/ Building Committee	Steve Norton
Secretary	Laura Tighe
Buildings and Grounds	Patrick Fleming
Stewardship/Finance	John Morris
Personnel	David Bessonon
Worship and Music	Sue Pedigo
Preschool	John Hall
Sharing Faith	Tracy Caldera
Social Ministry	Lauren Morris
Christian Ed	Blythe Babb
Youth	Helen O'Donnell
Wedding Coordinator	Janis Motley
Treasurer	Connie Duncan
Financial Secretary	Tim Nelson
Organist/Pianist	Maryellen Birkland
Choir Director	Janice Hall
Office Administrator	Mary Lantz

Worship Themes

July 5th, 2009

Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 14

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. When we are sent from the assembly to witness and to heal, we are asked to be vulnerable, to be dependent on the reception of others. The Spirit always operates in the between: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

July 12, 2009

Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 15

When Amos told what he saw when God held up the plumb line of justice next to Israel—that the poor were being trampled—he was a threat to the power of priests and king. John the Baptist also spoke truth to power, and Herod had him beheaded. In Herod's fear that Jesus returned from the dead, we may hear for the oppressed; that all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in the company with them.

July 19, 2009

Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 16

Mark's gospel makes clear how great was the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.

July 26, 2009

Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 17

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference; it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

Linking the People of Faith

****Lyle Howe** made an emergency visit to Kaiser Hospital in Santa Rosa on May 19th and to the hospital in San Francisco on May 27th for the removal of a polyp.

****Wally Fawcett** had to have a toe removed and is fighting an infection with new medication.

****Jeanine Dahlquist's son Jeff** came for a visit from Dubai and spent 28 hours with his mother.

****Karen and Ward Casper's grandson, William** graduated from UCSB with high honors, majoring in accounting and a minor in sports management on June 13th, 2009.

****Troy Nelson, son of Darlyne and Tim Nelson** graduated from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.

****Debbie Carnahan's brother Nathan and sister-in-law Kris** from Australia visited in June for a week. Nathan then flew to Minnesota to help their mother, Gretchen move to Santa Rosa.

Notes from the Pastor cont. from pg1

gin to realize that you will never be **enough** for everybody and unless you are strong **enough** not to let that get to you, then it will eat you up and destroy you.

I freely admit that I am not **enough** for a lot of you in a lot of arenas. For that matter, I am fairly confident that with a lifetime of work and practice, ministry and study I can only improve that statistic by about ten percent and wind up at the end of my career, still not **enough**.

The problem is not, you may be glad to hear, *your expectations*. The problem in this case is *my expectations*. If I expect that by my own wonderfulness and skill and talent and raw nerve and love that I can be all things to all people, then all there is left to do is sit around and wait for the fall. You will find me buried under a great pile of **enough's**, crushed under the weight of my own expectations.

My old Hebrew Professor at Luther, Mark Thronvteit (could this guy be any more Norwegian?) used to tell me every so often "It's that kind of talk that'll keep you out of the Bishop's office, Carnahan!" and I think that he meant it as a compliment. I wasn't, well, *slippery enough* to participate in the church at that level according to him. That got me thinking recently when Bishop Holmerud came and preached at the combined worship service this past Sunday; what do you need enough of to be a Christian?

Because there was some rumbling about the sermon delivered by the bishop, about how it wasn't inspiring **enough**, or even interesting **enough**. These are valid criticisms and while it may be the topic of another article discussing how hard it is to preach to people you do not know, it raised the question of how good was good **enough** to be bishop. Good **enough** as a preacher, good **enough** as a leader, good **enough** as a visionary, good **enough** as an administrator, good **enough** as a shepherd.

And if those are the standards for Bishop, what are the standards for you and I? Do you give **enough**? Are you kind **enough**? Do you forgive **enough**? Do you love **enough**? Probably not enough to be bishop at any rate. Enough to be pastor? How about to be the beloved Child of God?

Nope.

That's the trap of the word **enough**. There is never **enough** righteousness, never **enough** gifts, never **enough** skills to make you good **enough**.

There is only grace enough. Grace enough and time; time to become the people we might be; time to grow and to learn and to live and to begin to understand. And grace enough to carry us when we falter and to guide us when we are lost; all of this is ours for free and forever.

But only through Christ. He alone is enough and with Him, we can be enough as well.

President's Report

What a glorious sound when we heard the combined choirs of Bethlehem, Thanksgiving, and Faith on Father's Day. Bishop Holmerud's message gave us time to pause and appreciate that we are ONE church serving in three different areas of Santa Rosa. Thank you to all who participated in this gathering: Pastor Carnahan, Crucifer Lilli Anderson, Ushers Joan Muzzin and Cora Darling, Reception Coordinators Linda Coffman and Ruth Thompson, Janice Hall and the CHOIR, food providers, and everyone who attended. It was a weaving of three congregations that bears repeating.

4TH OF JULY

In the spirit of our nation's birthday I would like to share some words of John Adams. John Adams took up his quill pen the night after the Lee resolution was passed in July, 1776, and wrote in a letter to his wife, Abigail. "Yesterday the greatest question was decided which ever was debated in America..... It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn act of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more !"

CELEBRATE YOUR FREEDOM

Mary Lou Christian

Mt. Cross Work Week

While Helen and I were down at Mt. Cross this spring with the elementary school kids I noticed that some of the trails at Mt. Cross have deteriorated a bit over the past decade and could use some TLC. I also thought how nice it might be if we found an opportunity to take a congregational retreat to somewhere nice for prayer and fellowship. I think that we have an opportunity to accomplish both of these at once.

I've been chatting with the folks who run Mt. Cross and they have proposed that we come down during the first full week in **August (Sunday the 2nd through Saturday the 8th)**. They have a light schedule for the end of summer session of camps and could accommodate us in one of the larger lodges (or two of them, depending on how many of us there were). As many of us who wanted to could work for the first half of the day and then relax a bit, perhaps taking advantage of the pool or the hiking trails themselves.

Dinner and other amenities could be negotiated.

I think that this would be an excellent chance to put our faith into action, actually make us of a "hands-on faith" by helping out one of our ministry partners while taking advantage of the opportunity for greater congregational bonding and fellowship, shared worship and work and a renewing of our minds and spirits in the beauty of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Please give this some serious thought. It is a great opportunity and I think we'd be wise to seize it.

Youth

Youth News

Sunday June 14 6 youth, Pastor Tim, Helen & John Hall played mini golf at Scandia. Jonathan had a hole in one giving him the best overall score, but Matthew was only 1 stroke behind.

Garrett lost several ball as he's got quite the drive - maybe he should head out to a real course! Helen & Maddie hit a hole in one on the 18th and each won a free round of golf! We enjoyed lunch at In 'N Out and had ice cream sandwiches on our return to church.

As always a good time was had by all.

NEXT UP - AFTERNOON AT SPRING LAKE

Sunday July 12

Meet at FLC following worship 11:45a.m.

We'll head up to Spring Lake. Paddle Boats-Swimming-Relaxing in the sun. Families Welcome!

Bring your own picnic lunch - beverages & dessert provided



Happy Birthday

Sue Pedigo	7
Aaron Hall	9
Mary Armstrong	10
Adina Cohen	11
Glen Crownover	11
Robert Maciejewski	12
Faith Parson	14
Nadina Stocklin	18
Margurite Crownover	20
Aaron Knight	23
Ruth Bell	24
Rachael Willis	25
Isabella Beal	30
Jin Kensinger	30
Mary Haller	31

Happy Anniversary

Linda and Steve Norton	2
Janis and Steve Motley	3
Kim and Doug Olney	8
Diane and Andrew Cohen	10
Judy and David Lorenzen	12
Karen and Ward Casper	30

Regularly Scheduled Events

Sunday Worship: 10:00 A.M. Service

Frequency	Days	Group	Time
Weekly	Sun	Adult Education Hour	9:00 A.M.
Weekly	M-F	Faith Lutheran Preschool	7:30 A.M.
Weekly	Tue	Breakfast at Coco's	8:00 A.M.
4th	Tue	Bridge Club	10:00 A.M.
1st	Tue	TIM Meeting	6:00 P.M.
2nd	Tue	Preschool Board Meeting	7:00 P.M.
3rd	Tue	Council Meeting	6:30 P.M.
1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th	Tue	Bible Study	7:00 P.M.
Weekly	Wed	Bible Study	11:00 A.M.
1st	Wed	Men of Faith	6:00 P.M.
3rd	Wed	Preschool Board	7:15 P.M.

~Serving This Month ~

DATE	USHERS	WORSHIP ASSISTANT	COFFEE SCHEDULE
July 5	TBD	Chuck Hammond	Laurie Wennes
July 12	TBD	Chuck Hammond	<i>(a volunteer is needed)</i>
July 19	TBD	Chuck Hammond	<i>(a volunteer is needed)</i>
July 26	TBD	Chuck Hammond	Pat and Geni Fleming

Building Committee

Choosing Our Future and Moving Ahead - -

We are still working! We are making progress with the City Use Permit (decision expected mid-July) and with a Five Year Outlook Report for our preschool program. We are beginning final design of the building and we could use some help with preparing a loan application. There is a lot of stuff to be presented before we are ready to make a final go or no-go decision so look for a steady stream of info packets in bulletins, future Links and smaller hand-outs between now and about mid September.

Steve Norton



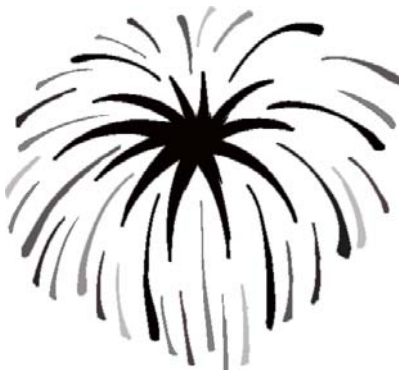
Faith Lutheran Church
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(707) 539-2521

Online Calendar:
www.lutheransonline.com/lo/faithsr
Click on "Church Calendar"



THE LINK
Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2009 ISSUE



Our annual church picnic is on the second Sunday in September, Sept, 13th after the service. It will be held in the picnic area, under the oak.

Speak to a member of Sharing Faith for any questions!

