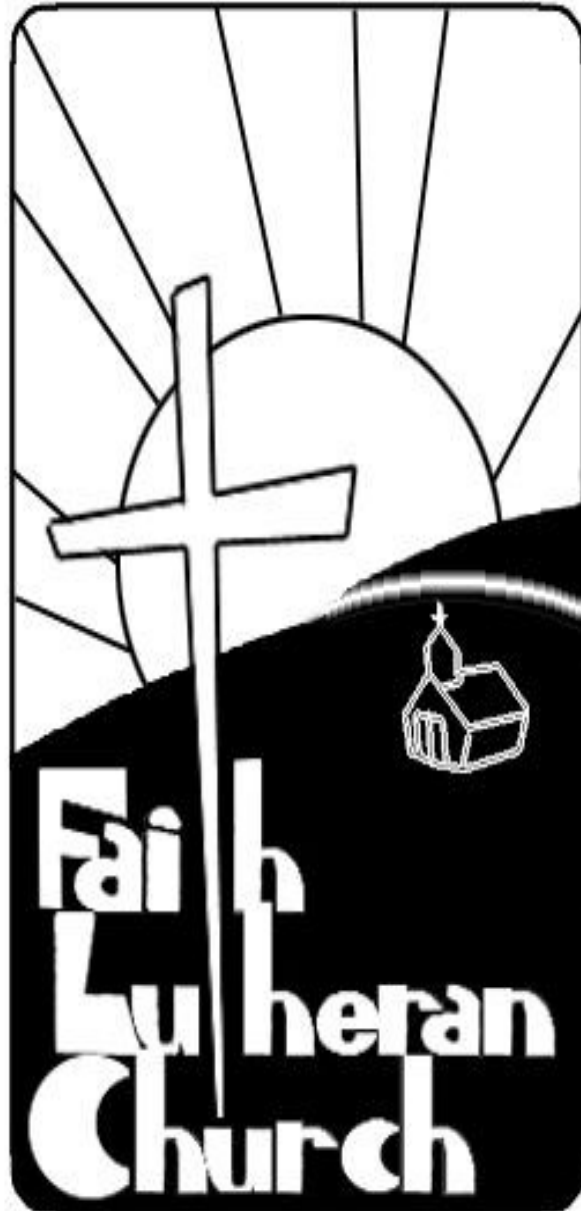


The Grapevine

February 2017

Inside this issue:

Clippings from the Vinedresser	2
Chili Dinner	3
Bible Study	3
Looking Ahead	3
Directory	4
February Calendar	5



Clippings from the Vinedresser



"The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Jeremiah 18:4-6

I have watched a master carver take his knife, and with a few deft flicks, take a badly deformed piece of wood and round it back into the shape. Just like that. The joke we novices crack is that one starts out carving an eagle and ends up with a humming bird.

"...reformation is not a one time deal. It is an ongoing process, a process that takes place not only in the institutional church, not only in the congregation, but in our hearts as well."

God is the master carver, of course. When we become deformed, when we develop rough edges, God takes the knife and rounds us back into form. Often times that isn't a very comfortable process for us; anytime we "go under the knife," there is short-term pain for long-term gain.

500 years ago, the church was badly in need of reshaping. The church which had a monopoly on faith and religious practice, had become intolerant and unforgiving, out of touch with the lives of everyday folk. The clergy was often uneducated, gaining their position as pastor by patronage. Elaborate building projects had left the church in desperate need of funds, which led to the sale of Letters of Indulgence, which when bought promised life eternal to the purchaser.

Clearly, the master carver needed to reshape the badly deformed church. The main knife God used was a monk, a professor of Old Testament, by the name of Martin Luther. God stirred up in Luther's spirit a burning zeal for the purity of the church. Luther argued that everything in the church must conform to God's Word. There were many things Luther wanted to

debate with the church leaders, 95 things to be precise, but the one that caught the most attention was the one that dealt with the purse strings. In particular, Luther argued that salvation was a gift of God's grace which came to us through faith (which was another of God's gifts). Therefore, Letters of Indulgence were an abomination; one could not purchase salvation. The practice must stop.

Luther's debate and consequent excommunication from the church launched what we now call the Reformation. Luther was by no means the only "knife" that God the master carver used (Jan Hus, John Calvin, and Huldrych Zwingli were some others). But his actions ignited the fire upon which others built.

As with any reshaping there was pain. Families and countries were divided. Innocent people were arrested, interrogated and put to death (by both sides of the fight). Hurtful words were hurled freely; rifts formed that still abide today.

500 years later the church is still in need of reshaping. There is not one single denomination that doesn't have edges that need to be rounded, bumps that need to be shaved off, including our own Lutheran church. You see, reformation is not a one time deal. It is an ongoing process, a process that takes place not only in the institutional church, not only in the congregation, but in our hearts as well. As long as sin exists—and it will until that final glorious day—reformation will be required.

So, let us be open to reform and change in our lives and in the church. And let us be open to be instruments of that change where God wills it.



Chili Dinner

Sunday, February 5 will feature our famous Chili Dinner. Following worship, we will gather in Cana Hall to enjoy chili and fellowship. Make a pot of your favourite chili and bring it to the dinner. If you are not a fan

of chili, bring sandwiches, dessert, or some other favourite food.

It might be cold outside, but it will be hot at the chili dinner!



Bible Study

We are embarking on a trip through the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, which tell us the story of Israel's greatest and favourite king, David. Starting with Samuel who anointed him, Saul his unfaithful predecessor, we learn some of David's pre-story. Then there is David's reign, his marital infidelity, family upheaval, and death. It is a most entertaining story, a story

all the more important because David's throne is the throne Jesus came to occupy as king forever.

We meet every second Tuesday in the chapel beginning at 9:45 a.m. In February meeting dates are the 14th and 28th.

We hope to see you there.



Looking Ahead

A couple of important events to mark your calendars for:

MARCH 1: ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

This will be a joint service with several of our Presbyterian and United Church neighbours.

MARCH 6-APRIL 12: WEDNESDAY LENTEN LUNCHESES

Held at Northminster United

Church, we gather for a brief worship over lunch. We will be taking a turn to serve. Keep your eyes peeled.

JUNE 11: JOINT PICNIC AT PETERBOROUGH ZOO

The GTA cluster of churches will meet for an afternoon of fun and fellowship in Peterborough. The zoo is great for children and is free. Watch for more information.



DIRECTORY

Faith Lutheran Ministries

We Worship Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Church Office 905-725-2755
email office@faithlutheranministries.ca
fax 905-576-8676

Pastor
The Rev. Dennis Becker 905-725-2755
dbecker@elcic.ca

Ministers
People of Faith Lutheran Church

Faith Place Administration ..905-576-8619
Ray Latour, Administrator

Support Services 905-436-1309
Gabriele Albrecht, Manager

Treasurer
Linda Fisher 905-723-0291

Faith Council

Faith Council Chair:
Will Bachewich 905-433-1606

Vice Chair:
Paul Wolfenberg 905-433-0265

Secretary:
Leslie Morrow 905-571-0845
Ed Albrecht 905-579-6803
Vickie Goddard..... 905-432-7444
Dayna Graham 905-240-5984
Kathy Habec 905-723-6690
Laurie Ikeda 705-357-3488
Joe Klimtschuck 905-391-9213
Wendy Ness 905-576-5724
Marty Schieman 905-576-6051

Sunday School
Lisa Bachewich 905-433-1606

Choir
Laurie Ikeda 705-357-3488

Women's Group
Elke Rosenau 905-432-2240

Youth
Tammy Becker 905-720-2444

Envelope Secretary
Gert Rosenau 905-432-2240

Communications Committee

Finance Committee
Irvin Linkie 905-723-0684

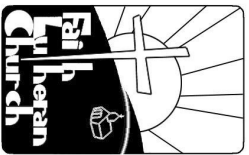
Mutual Ministry Committee
Angela Hauke 905- 723-3717

Property Committee
Will Bachewich 905-433-1606

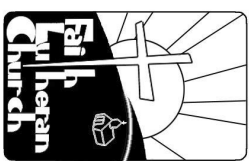
Program and Service Committee
Janice Plath 905-576-2257

Social Committee
Dayna Graham 289-240-5984

Stewardship Committee
Vickie Goddard..... 905-432-7444



February 2017



<p>Coffee: 5: Chili Dinner 12: Vickie Goddard 19: Joyce Geres 26: Nancy Patton</p>	<p>Communion Set-Up: 5: Laurie Molson, Leslie Morrow 19: Leslie Morrow, Laurie Ikeda Communion Servers: 5: Vivian Roth, Carol Plath 19: Kathy Habec, Gert Rosenau</p>	1	2	3	4
<p>5 Epiphany 5 Worship, 10:30 a.m. Chili Dinner, noon</p>	6	7	8	9	10
<p>12 Epiphany 6 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	13	14	15	16	17
<p>19 Epiphany 7 Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	20	21	22	23	24
<p>26 Transfiguration Sunday School, 10:30 Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	27	28	<p>Ushers: 5: Claudia Warrington, Ed Albrecht 12: Paul and Charlotte Wolfenber 19: Finley Schieman, Ray Latour 26: Bob and Arlene Jacobs</p>	<p>Readers: 5: Claudia Warrington 12: Carrie Becker 19: Finley Schieman 26: Arlene Jacobs</p>	<p>Flowers: 5: Live Plants 12: Donna Jennings 19: Carol Plath 26: Vickie Goddard</p>
<p>Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	20	21	<p>Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Pint with the Pastor, 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Counters: Donna Jennings Kathy Habec</p>
<p>Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	27	28	<p>Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p>Finance, 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	27	28	<p>Bible Study, 9:45 a.m.</p>	<p>Finance, 3:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Choir, 6:30 p.m.</p>

Faith Lutheran Church
44 William Street West
Oshawa, ON L1J 7N6
www.faithlutheranministries.ca

