FAITH NOTES

12 N. West Street Yerington NV 89447 May 2022

Greetings Faith Family,

Deacon’s Corner

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What a beautiful and special Lenten Season we had followed by a wonderful Easter celebration. Jesus Christ has risen, He has risen indeed!

We were blessed in April to welcome seven new members into our church family as what we call, “communicant members”. They are: Maynard & April Green, Nicki Goodin, RuthAnn Johnston, Lou Ann McRoberts, Dawn Young, and Bart Macmillan. What a blessing! This means that they are a committed full part of our church family who has voting privileges when it comes to church business. As I have mentioned before, our church is not owned or operated by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS), but rather by our own local membership.

Some may ask, “Why is church membership important?” One reason is that our local church is blessed by God to remain open and functioning through membership. Our Heavenly Father delights in committed Christian followers of Jesus, and membership is just one more way we demonstrate our connection to a local group of believers in Christ. Another reason is that we are all members of one body (the church), and each of us has special skills, gifts and abilities that help that body in its mission to share the Gospel with each other and our community. Most of us attend church and stay connected because of our love for God and may not put church business on our list of “favorite things”. But, having a solvent operating church is one more way God does His work through His people acting as His hands and feet to share His blessings with others. I love being part of a church that sees this work not as a burden or as a duty of just a few leaders or the pastor, but as a blessing and gift for all to be involved in. As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work”.

So, please welcome these new members and get to know them and their stories of faith. Each of them brings special gifts through their presence. If you are not a member and would like to become one, please talk to me about it, and we can make it happen for you, too.

You may be aware that a few weeks ago, our members voted to partner with the Concordia Seminary and myself in sending me to the Seminary to become the pastor for Faith Lutheran. While this is an exciting opportunity, the enrollment process itself is quite involved and takes some time. I hope to be able to report more details on this opportunity in next month’s newsletter with a complete explanation of the process and timeline. I humbly ask for your prayers as we continue together on this journey. Thank you for showing your support.

May God Bless each of you with the Joy and Peace that comes from knowing that our Savior is risen, alive, and working in the hearts of Christians everywhere!

Deacon Steve Tomac

***Lowe Family Baptism***

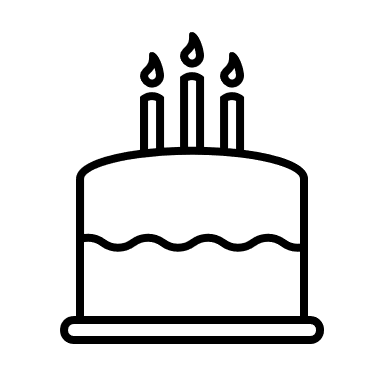
On Saturday, April 9th, Deacon Steve baptized four members of the Lowe family into the Family of God. FLC celebrates this very special occasion with Heather, Joah, Brayson, and Wrenly Lowe. Also pictured is Heather’s husband, Jon Lowe, who was able to be in attendance while on a brief leave from Camp Pendleton. Grandma Dawn Young will serve as the sponsor for the children.

Congratulations Lowe family!

A group of people posing for a photo

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5/10 – Sherri Theiss

5/27 – Richard Kaderlik  May Birthdays

May Elders Report

I want to repeat the last section of the easter sermon message regarding the name YahWeh. This impressed me and not only stirred me to practice breathing exercises but also realizing the brilliance of our God to instill his name upon our essence of life itself. By uttering His name with each breath we take He is fulfilling His promise that He will be with us, even until the end of time. Charlie.

There was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what his name is. God was gracious enough to answer, and the name he gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as YHWH.  
  
Over time we’ve arbitrarily added an “a” and an “e” in there to get YaHWeH, presumably because we have a preference for vowels. But scholars and Rabi’s have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds, or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels, it actually sounds like breathing.  
  
YH (inhale): WH (exhale).  
  
So a baby’s first cry, his first breath, speaks the name of God.  
A deep sigh calls His name – or a groan or gasp that is too heavy for mere words.  
Even an atheist would speak His name, unaware that their very breathe is giving constant acknowledgment to God.  
  
Likewise, a person leaves this earth with their last breath, when God’s name is no longer filing their lungs.  
  
So when I can’t utter anything else, is my cry calling out His name?  
  
Being alive means I speak His name constantly.  
So, is it heard the loudest when I’m the quietest?  
In sadness, we breathe heavy sighs.  
In joy, our lungs feel almost like they will burst.  
In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down.  
When we’re about to do something hard, we take a deep breath to find our courage.  
  
When I think about it, breathing is giving him praise. Even in the hardest moments!  
  
This is so beautiful and fills me with emotion every time I grasp the thought. God chose to give himself a name that we can’t help but speak every moment we’re alive.  
  
All of us, always, everywhere.  
Waking, sleeping, breathing, with the name of God is on our lips

**The Plagues**

**submitted by Joe Johnson**

Saturday April 9, 2022 I was channel surfing when to my discovery ABC was airing The Ten Commandments movie. When I visualize Moses, it’s always actor Charlton Heston. His arms spread open with staff in hand and wearing his Levi robe. Do you see the same picture in your mind? What intrigued me was a question of how much of this movie was Hollywood and how much was real? So, started my adventure to read Exodus.

It appears that Hollywood is somewhat accurate and also added and deleted a few things I didn’t find in scripture. Several things come to mind. Movie vs scripture: I didn’t find in scripture that Joshua found Moses in the land of Midian. In the movie Moses appears to be a learned man, however scripture denotes in Exodus 4:10 the opposite; “But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.”” I also don’t recall, in the movie, identifying all of the plagues that are described in scripture.

Squirrel! I got to thinking about the plagues. From my human wisdom point-of-view; (Ha!) I got to thinking that some of these things could be explained by natural occurrences. For instance; perhaps the blood was a “red tide” which was poison to the fish and frogs. Gnats and fly’s the results of dead fish and frogs. I went on justifying these possibilities. However; what stopped me in my tracks was the fifth plague. Read Exodus 9:3-6: “behold, the hand of the Lord will fall with a very severe plague upon your [Egypt’s] livestock that are in the field, the horses, the donkeys, the camels, the herds, and the flocks. But the Lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt, so that nothing of all that belongs to the people of Israel shall die. And the Lord set a time, saying, “Tomorrow the Lord will do this thing in the land.” And the next day the Lord did this thing. All the livestock of the Egyptians died, but not one of the livestock of the people of Israel died.” Wow, I thought, that is power and authority from our God!

To get a better understanding of the plagues, I checked out information on GotQuestions.org. It is a fascinating read.

The Ten Plagues of Egypt—also known as the Ten Plagues, the Plagues of Egypt, or the Biblical Plagues—are described in Exodus 7—12. The plagues were ten disasters sent upon Egypt by God to convince Pharaoh to free the Israelite slaves from the bondage and oppression they had endured in Egypt for 400 years. When God sent Moses to deliver the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt, He promised to show His wonders as confirmation of Moses’ authority (Exodus 3:20). This confirmation was to serve at least two purposes: to show the Israelites that the God of their fathers was alive and worthy of their worship (Exodus 6:6–8; 12:25–27) and to show the Egyptians that their gods were nothing (Exodus 7:5; 12:12; Numbers 33:4).

The Israelites had been enslaved in Egypt for about 400 years and in that time had lost faith in the God of their fathers. They believed He existed and worshiped Him, but they doubted that He could, or would, break the yoke of their bondage. The Egyptians, like many pagan cultures, worshiped a wide variety of nature-gods and attributed to their powers the natural phenomena they saw in the world around them. There was a god of the sun, of the river, of childbirth, of crops, etc. Events like the annual flooding of the Nile, which fertilized their croplands, were evidences of their gods’ powers and good will. When Moses approached Pharaoh, demanding that he let the people go, Pharaoh responded by saying, “Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go” (Exodus 5:2). Thus began the challenge to show whose God was more powerful.

The first plague, turning the Nile to blood, was a judgment against Apis, the god of the Nile, Isis, goddess of the Nile, and Khnum, guardian of the Nile. The Nile was also believed to be the bloodstream of Osiris, who was reborn each year when the river flooded. The river, which formed the basis of daily life and the national economy, was devastated, as millions of fish died in the river and the water was unusable. Pharaoh was told, “By this you will know that I am the LORD” (Exodus 7:17).

The second plague, bringing frogs from the Nile, was a judgment against Heqet, the frog-headed goddess of birth. Frogs were thought to be sacred and not to be killed. God had the frogs invade every part of the homes of the Egyptians, and when the frogs died, their stinking bodies were heaped up in offensive piles all through the land (Exodus 8:13–14).

The third plague, gnats, was a judgment on Set, the god of the desert. Unlike the previous plagues, the magicians were unable to duplicate this one and declared to Pharaoh, “This is the finger of God” (Exodus 8:19).

The fourth plague, flies, was a judgment on Uatchit, the fly god. In this plague, God clearly distinguished between the Israelites and the Egyptians, as no swarms of flies bothered the areas where the Israelites lived (Exodus 8:21–24).

The fifth plague, the death of livestock, was a judgment on the goddess Hathor and the god Apis, who were both depicted as cattle. As with the previous plague, God protected His people from the plague, while the cattle of the Egyptians died. God was steadily destroying the economy of Egypt, while showing His ability to protect and provide for those who obeyed Him. Pharaoh even sent investigators (Exodus 9:7) to find out if the Israelites were suffering along with the Egyptians, but the result was a hardening of his heart against the Israelites.

The sixth plague, boils, was a judgment against several gods over health and disease (Sekhmet, Sunu, and Isis). This time, the Bible says that the magicians “could not stand before Moses because of the boils.” Clearly, these religious leaders were powerless against the God of Israel.

Before God sent the last three plagues, Pharaoh was given a special message from God. These plagues would be more severe than the others, and they were designed to convince Pharaoh and all the people “that there is none like me in all the earth” (Exodus 9:14). Pharaoh was even told that he was placed in his position by God, so that God could show His power and declare His name through all the earth (Exodus 9:16). As an example of His grace, God warned Pharaoh to gather whatever cattle and crops remained from the previous plagues and shelter them from the coming storm. Some of Pharaoh’s servants heeded the warning (Exodus 9:20), while others did not. The seventh plague, hail, attacked Nut, the sky goddess; Osiris, the crop fertility god; and Set, the storm god. This hail was unlike any that had been seen before. It was accompanied by a fire which ran along the ground, and everything left out in the open was devastated by the hail and fire. Again, the children of Israel were miraculously protected, and no hail damaged anything in their lands.

Before God brought the next plague, He told Moses that the Israelites would be able to tell their children of the things they had seen God do in Egypt and how it showed them God’s power. The eighth plague, locusts, again focused on Nut, Osiris, and Set. The later crops, wheat and rye, which had survived the hail, were now devoured by the swarms of locusts. There would be no harvest in Egypt that year.

The ninth plague, darkness, was aimed at the sun god, Re, who was symbolized by Pharaoh himself. For three days, the land of Egypt was smothered with an unearthly darkness, but the homes of the Israelites had light.

The tenth and last plague, the death of the firstborn males, was a judgment on Isis, the protector of children. In this plague, God was teaching the Israelites a deep spiritual lesson that pointed to Christ. Unlike the other plagues, which the Israelites survived by virtue of their identity as God’s people, this plague required an act of faith by them. God commanded each family to take an unblemished male lamb and kill it. The blood of the lamb was to be smeared on the top and sides of their doorways, and the lamb was to be roasted and eaten that night. Any family that did not follow God’s instructions would suffer in the last plague. God described how He would send the destroyer through the land of Egypt, with orders to slay the firstborn male in every household, whether human or animal. The only protection was the blood of the lamb on the door. When the destroyer saw the blood, he would pass over that house and leave it untouched (Exodus 12:23). This is where the term Passover comes from. Passover is a memorial of that night in ancient Egypt when God delivered His people from bondage. First Corinthians 5:7 teaches that Jesus became our Passover when He died to deliver us from the bondage of sin. While the Israelites found God’s protection in their homes, every other home in the land of Egypt experienced God’s wrath as their loved ones died. This grievous event caused Pharaoh to finally release the Israelites.

By the time the Israelites left Egypt, they had a clear picture of God’s power, God’s protection, and God’s plan for them. For those who were willing to believe, they had convincing evidence that they served the true and living God. Sadly, many still failed to believe, which led to other trials and lessons by God. The result for the Egyptians and the other ancient people of the region was a dread of the God of Israel. Even after the tenth plague, Pharaoh once again hardened his heart and sent his chariots after the Israelites. When God opened a way through the Red Sea for the Israelites, then drowned all of Pharaoh’s armies there, the power of Egypt was crushed, and the fear of God spread through the surrounding nations (Joshua 2:9–11). This was the very purpose that God had declared at the beginning. We can still look back on these events today to confirm our faith in, and our fear of, this true and living God, the Judge of all the earth.

Joe

Post Script:

Following the writing of my previous newsletter l had a shower epiphany. Moses was a Levite, from the Tribe of Levi!

Levi is the third of the six sons of Jacob and Leah, and the founder of the Israelite Tribe of Levi.

Moses and Aaron became the prominent leaders of Israel at the time of the Jewish exodus from Egypt. Both brothers were from the tribe of Levi and together they guided the Israelites. While Moses acted as the main leader, Aaron took over the religious responsibilities. This prepared the way for the priesthood, who were exclusively responsible for Jewish religious rituals. The priests of Israel were a group of qualified men from within the tribe of the Levites who had responsibility over aspects of tabernacle or temple worship as well as overseeing the sacrifices and offerings of the people.

All priests were to be Levites, according to the Law.

Deuteronomy 18:1–2 says that the Levites had a very special inheritance from God: “The Levitical priests, all the tribe of Levi, shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel. They shall eat the Lord’s food offerings as their inheritance. They shall have no inheritance among their brothers; the Lord is their inheritance.”

The other tribes of Israel received a land inheritance, but the Levites received no land. Instead, the Levites were given certain cities within the other tribes’ territories.

Notable descendants of the Levite lineage include: Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Samuel, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Ezra, and Malachi.

Joe

Children’s Church ChatDiagram

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May 2022

Greetings to you from the kids and volunteers of Faith Lutheran Children’s Church. It’s hard to believe that we are wrapping up another year of learning about God at FLC.

This past month, we have enjoyed our series learning about Joseph’s life. The kids are making connections between Joseph of the Old Testament and Jesus, their Savior. “God is good….All the time” has been our lesson thread throughout this study.

*The last session for FLC Children’s Church will be Monday, May 23rd.* We’ve had a fantastic year. Even though we didn’t get our program up and running until November with just 4 kids, we are finishing up with 13! Our kids are doing a great job of getting the word out to their friends and classmates about what a great time we have on Monday afternoons. They are really living up to the challenge of spreading the good news. We are entering into that busy time of year, with many extra-curricular activities pulling our children in different directions. I am so thankful for the faithful group we have, and I thank God for the opportunity to spend time with them.

Also, we are thrilled to once again to be having our Mini-Golf and BBQ Fun Day at Murl and Ardell Wiliams’ lovely home near Wilson Canyon on Monday, June 20th. So if you’re looking for something fun to do on that day, meet us at church at 10:00 for the caravan out to Murl and Ardell’s home. Thank you Murl and Ardell!

Mark your calendar….June 27th thru the 30th we will once again be hosting another amazing Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Faith Lutheran. This year we will be “GROWING WITH GOD!” It will be based around a farm theme, which will be so fun to put together. Please be looking for important information over the next several weeks. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Laura Tomac at 775-465-8116. We’re always looking for folks who can help out with snacks, crafts, decorations, etc. Also, please pass the word on to your friends, family, and neighbors with kids. The VBS will be appropriate for kids ages 5-10. We will have a simple registration form available soon. Please keep our planning process in your prayers that this event will be a successful outreach not only to our church family, but also our community.

Sincerely Serving,

FLC Youth Volunteers

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| **Faith Lutheran Church    May 2022** | | | | | | |  | | |
|  | | | | | | |  | | |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | | **Saturday** |
| **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | | **7** |
| -Service w/o Communion 8AM  Baptism/Confirmation  -Fellowship 9:15AM | -Soul Sisters 4PM  -Men’s Group 5PM  -Council Mtg 6PM |  | -Ministry Team @ 3PM  -Worship Team @ 4:30 PM  -Bible Study @ 6PM |  |  | | -Coffee Fellowship  8:30-10AM |
| **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **13** | | **14** |
| -Service w/ Communion 8AM  Baptism  -Happy Mothers’ Day! | -Children’s Church  2:30-3:45PM  -Soul Sisters 4PM  -Men’s Group 5PM |  | -Ministry Team @ 3PM  -Worship Team @ 4:30 PM  -Bible Study @ 6PM |  |  | | -Coffee Fellowship  8:30-10AM |
| **15** | **16** | **17** | **18** | **19** | **20** | | **21** |
| -Service w/o  Communion 8AM | -Children’s Church  2:30-3:45PM  -Soul Sisters 4PM  -Men’s Group 5PM |  | -Ministry Team @ 3PM  -Worship Team @ 4:30 PM  -Bible Study @ 6PM |  |  | | -Coffee Fellowship  8:30-10AM |
| **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26** | **27** | | **28** |
| -Service w/ Communion 8AM | -Last Day of Children’s Church  2:30-3:45PM  -Soul Sisters 4PM  -Men’s Group 5PM |  | -Ministry Team @ 3PM  -Worship Team @ 4:30 PM  -Bible Study @ 6PM |  |  | | -Coffee Fellowship  8:30-10AM |
| **29** | **30** | **31** | **JUNE  1** | **2** | **3** | | **4** |
| -Service w/o  Communion 8AM | *MEMORIAL DAY*  -Soul Sisters 4PM  -Men’s Group 5PM |  | -Ministry Team @ 3PM  -Worship Team @ 4:30 PM  -Bible Study @ 6PM |  |  | | -Coffee Fellowship  8:30-10AM |

FAITH NOTES

12 N. West Street Yerington NV 89447 Sunday Worship 8am

May 2022

