

It Takes Faith To Break Tradition

By MARGARET MILLER
Church Editor

A church that dared to break tradition in its approach to Christian education is going to continue its pattern of change and growth.

The Faith Lutheran Church, 3000 Five Mile, Livonia, had operated a standard Lutheran day school for grades one to eight and had regular Sunday School classes for its children and youth until June of 1970.

Now, NEARLY a year later, the big church complex is pretty quiet most mornings and early afternoons. But in the after-school hours three afternoons a week, it's filled with busy youngsters enjoying a kind of church school they hadn't known before.

On Wednesdays, adults come to study in the Lutheran School of Religion that involves several other Lutheran congregations in Livonia.

And on Sunday mornings only the pre-schoolers and kindergartners go to Sunday School. Other children in the family attend church with their parents.

"It's a new beginning," the Rev. Roger Schief, pastor, said as Faith prepared to launch the new program last fall.

"It did take a certain amount of faith," slightly puffed Arnold Witt, director of Christian education, in surveying the first few months of operation.

WITT, WHO WAS principal of the Faith day school before being called to his present post, finds many advantages in the church's decision to stop putting such a large percentage of its resources into a day school that benefited only young children.

Numbers tell one success story, he said. "Last year we had 60 enrolled in the day school and 180 in Sunday School, and the two that represented some overlapping," he said.

"Now, in our program for children up to eighth grade, we have 355 enrolled. Of those, about 25 are not members of Faith but represent six different denominations."

Attendance regularity he described as "phenomenal."

"We never have less than 90 per cent present," he said, "and that's much better than it used to be in Sunday School."

THIS HE CREDITED partly to the new study series titled "Mission: Life" and carrying such intriguing grade course themes as "Wow, I'm God's Chosen One," "Do Good Things" for the fourth graders and "Decisions, Decisions" for the fifth and sixth grades.

Plenty of devotion on the part of the teachers, a larger block of time each week and the fact that the children don't arrive in Sunday finery also help make for success.

The new after-school education program and adult study series represent just a beginning in the innovations Faith wants to work out.

Another tradition will be broken this summer, Witt said, when the church abandons the Vacation Bible School set-up.

"We realize that our program this year tends to divide families, because different ages come on different days," he said. "So our activities this summer will be family-oriented rather than a school for only part of the family."

WITT SAID many of the arrangements for the weekday school this year were based largely on convenience, and hopes for more "structuring" in the future.

There also are plans to expand the adult School of Religion, and hopes to begin a program for pre-schoolers in early daytime hours soon.

Also still in beginning stages is a revamped youth program. "Instead of one youth group, we have several set up on the basis of interests," Witt said, "and this seems to be a good direction; and if they turn out to be not fulfilling their function, they can be disbanded without breaking up a whole program."

Tens at Faith also sing in a youth choir, and many have been regular assistants for the weekday school. The church has a room to use for its youth, and church leaders and young people are working together to determine its best use.

Still more attention is being given to the special needs of the post-high school young people. "More and more of our families include young people who are going to college at home or staying home while working," Witt said.

Faith is moving ahead with the idea that changes should be made carefully and with

study—but definitely should developing needs of the be made to meet the congregation.



FIFTH GRADERS learned about the serving of communion from the Rev. Roger Schief, pastor, and Mrs. Celena Witt, their teacher.

St. John's To Host Series On Renewal

St. John's Lutheran Church in Redford Township will host a series of meetings on charismatic renewal beginning Thursday, May 10. The Rev. Rodney Lensch of Valley Park, Mo., will be the guest speaker.



REV. RODNEY LENSCH

Teaching sessions will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings from 10 to 12 in the church, which is located at 13942 Mercedes, south of Schoolcraft and east of Inkster Road. Nursery care will be provided for young children.

Pastor Lensch will be available for counseling in the afternoons. Evening sessions will begin at 7:30 Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Saturday, there will be a luncheon at 12:30 p.m. and the final session will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Pastor Lensch emphasizes the Biblical principles of Christian renewal and the necessity of being filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to be ready for the second coming of Christ.

He is involved in an independent ministry and is greatly in demand as teacher-evangelist in churches, summer camps, retreats, seminars and conferences.

Pastor Lensch was reared in a Missouri Synod Lutheran family and was ordained in 1959.

Everyone in the area who is interested in the charismatic movement is invited to attend.

Members of the Universalist-Unitarian Church of Farmington will hold a public meeting to discuss plans for forming an integrated school as an alternative to public education.

The meeting will be held at 8 p.m., Wednesday, May 10, in the church, 23301 Halstead (north of Grand River).

Speakers from the Detroit Free School and the Becoming School of Troy will present theory and practical information for organizing a school.

Church To Discuss New School

The first spring card party for St. Colette Catholic Church of Livonia is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9, in the Daniel Lord Knights of St. Columbus Hall, 39050 George Medved, 36655 Grove Drive, Livonia.

Irene Stanko is chairman. Ticket are \$1.50, including refreshments and prizes, and may be reserved with Mrs. George Medved, 36655 Grove Drive, Livonia.

St. Colette Card Party Set



MRS. ELEANOR KLEIN and her sixth grade class all enjoyed getting out new study material. (Observer photos by Bob Woodring)

Boyer-Stevens Young Singer Visits University Hills

A former night club entertainer, Joey Stevens, who is now known by his original name, Dave Boyer, will appear in concert at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 13, in Ann Arbor Pioneer High School.



MICHAEL De YOUNG

The concert is being sponsored by Huron Valley Youth for Christ, and there is no admission charge.

Boyer came from a talented, musical family. At the age of 18, he was offered a featured singing spot on the Paul Whiteman show. From the beginning, he rose to fame in the entertainment world under the name of Joey Stevens.

The death of his father caused him to take a look at his life, "filled with jazz, booze, applause and girls, but meaningless nevertheless."

Boyer tells the story of his life in the recently-published autobiography, "So Long, Joey."

Church Plans 2-Day Sale

The Ladies' Auxiliary of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church will hold its first rummage sale Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13. The sale will be held in the red barn located on the church's property at 25125 Middle Belt, Farmington. It will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

Michael De Young, seven-year-old singer from Kalamazoo, will be soloist at the 11 a.m. worship service of University Hills Church in Farmington on Sunday, May 7.

The visit of the young musician, who has been doing solo work in the Kalamazoo area for two years, will be part of a New Member Sunday in the church located at Farmington Road and I-696.

Mr. and Mrs. William Koning and Mr. and Mrs. David Piesko and their families will be welcomed into membership.

Reception of new members, said Dr. J. Harold Ellens, pastor, is followed by the celebration of the eucharist.

"The congregation gathers at the church's 80-foot communion table," he added, "with 100 communicants seated at each sitting."

"Celebrating the communion seated together represents the fact that in meeting with God we do not come to please him or justify ourselves but, because of his grace and forgiving acceptance we sit down with him as his friends and partners."

A brunch in behalf of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America will be held at 11 a.m. Sunday, May 7, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Sherr, 22249 Morningside Drive, Southfield.

Lecture Series Planned

The Metropolitan Detroit Association for Research and Enlightenment, Inc., will sponsor a weekend lecture series May 12 to 14 in the sanctuary of North Congregational Church, 26275 Northwestern, Southfield.

"Your Use of Creative Energy" is the theme of the series, designed to present the psychic-philosophical material of the late Edgar Cayce, Christian mystic.

Dr. H.B. Puryear, director of education for the ARE, will speak at 8 p.m. Friday, May 12, on "Creative Energy, Essence of Life."

Dr. Puryear also will conclude the series at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 14, with a talk on "Love, Sex and Use of Your Creative Energy."

The other visiting lecturer is Mae Gilbert St. Clair, ARE director of readings research. She will consider "Family Relationships" at 8 p.m. Saturday, May 13.

The ARE is a psychological research society with headquarters in Virginia Beach, Va.

Baptist Church To Show Film

The film "Lost Generation" will be shown at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 11, in Nankin Mills Baptist Church, Ann Arbor Trail and Hubbard Drive, Westland.

A World Wide Pictures release, "Lost Generation" uses a documentary style to investigate attitudes on dissent, violence, the mood of America and answers that can be found in the decisions of the church. The opinions of people of various backgrounds throughout the nation have been filmed, along with comments by Billy Graham, Art Linkletter and Jack Webb.

CHURCH OF GOD

Riverside Park Church of God 17771 Newburg Road at Plymouth Road Livonia 464-0990

Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Evening Service 7 p.m. Wed. Night 7:30 p.m. Church 476-7933

CHURCH OF CHRIST

KENWOOD Church of Christ 20200 Marvian, Livonia 3500 W. Middle Road 476-8222

Bible School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 7:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY 7:30 p.m. Church 476-7933

SOUTH REDFORD Church of Christ

2555 W. Chicago 476-8222

Bible School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Church 255-3020

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church 42001 Fenwick Plymouth, Michigan 476-8222

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 7:30 p.m. Church 476-7933

Community Baptist Church

28237 W. Temple Garden City 422-3710

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 7:30 p.m. Church 476-7933

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

4651 Main Street, Plymouth 476-8222

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Evening Service 7:30 p.m. Church 476-7933

EVANGELICAL COVENANT

EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH 24331 W. Eight Mile Road Church KE 9-0225

SUNDAY SERVICES 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Evening Service 7 p.m.

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

CHURCH OF THE SAVIOR 38100 Five Mile Rd. Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Divine Worship 10:30 a.m. Evening Study Groups 7 p.m. "Worship Care is Provided at All Morning Worship Services" 684-1062

PRIMITIVE BAPTIST

Pontiac Primitive Baptist Church 29099 Whitlock St. (N. of Mid.)

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Church Training 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m. Church 474-4234

FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

27500 Shawanawee, Farmington Rev. Ed. Bunnell 476-9680

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Church Training 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

43065 Joy Road, Plymouth Phone: 453-8749 or 455-0022

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Church Training 6:30 p.m. Evening Worship 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Service 7:00 p.m.

Grand River Baptist Church

34500 Six Mile Road Livonia 1 mile west of Farmington Rd.

Sunday Services 9:30 a.m. Family Bible Study 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship (Inaugural) 11:00 a.m. Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

GREEK ORTHODOX

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church 25125 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington 477-1677

EPISCOPAL

The Episcopal Church welcomes you

SUNDAY SERVICES 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m. Evening Service 7 p.m.

Saint Andrews, Livonia 16380 Hubbard Road 421-8451

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. 10 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.

CHURCHES OF CHRIST

FARMINGTON 36500 Eleven Mile WEST OF GRADE ROAD SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Bible School 10 a.m. Wed 7:30 p.m. Worship

GARDEN CITY 1657 Middlebelt Rd. SUNDAY WORSHIP 11 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Bible School 10 a.m. Wed 7:30 p.m. Worship

LIVONIA

15431 Merriman Rd. SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:45 a.m. and 8 p.m. Bible School 9:45 a.m. Wed 7:30 p.m. Worship

PLYMOUTH

9301 Sheldon Rd. Bible School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Wed 7:30 p.m. Worship

Presbyterian

TV Channel 9 Sunday 9:30 a.m. Call or Write for Free Correspondence Course

ROSEDALE GARDENS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Hubbard at West Chalmers 476-8222

ST. MARK'S PRESBYTERIAN

28701 Joy Rd. (E. of Inkster) 278-9340

WARD UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA

Farmington Road and Six Mile Road 422-1150

ST. TIMOTHY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1700 Memorial Blvd. Carl Gunderson, Pastor 10 a.m. Worship and Church School (Nursery Care) 11 a.m. Coffee Hour

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

281-4466 477-0745

PARKDALE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

36518 Parkdale 1 Bk. S. of Plymouth and Levee Rd. Rev. David H. Krist

For Advertising Information

Please Call Ann Ryder 261-8600 ext. 280

PLYMOUTH First Presbyterian Church

701 Church 453-6465

PLYMOUTH

1100 a.m. Church School 11:00 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. Mr. Brown preaching

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ) LIVONIA CHRISTIAN CHURCH 36075 Oak Rd. 522-7188

ST. PAUL'S Presbyterian Church

27476 Five Mile Road 294-2147