

Faith Matters

January 2012



Pastor's Page

Dear Members and Friends of Faith Lutheran,

Did you know that the month of January is named for the Roman god Janus? Janus was pictured as having two faces, one looking forward and one backward. He was associated with times when people look both directions—beginnings, transitions and (logically enough) doorways.

As Christians, we do not give any credence to a god like Janus, but at Faith Lutheran, this January—even more than most—is a time of looking backward and forward. Three key examples come to mind.

3-PEAT and Give-12

In the last two months, the people of Faith responded with amazing generosity to the 3-PEAT challenge to meet all our ministry commitments without borrowing for a third straight year. As I write this, the 3-PEAT championship is not quite ours, but it is clearly within sight. **Thanks** to all who stepped up to the plate with additional offerings to keep Faith's ministry financially strong.

All through 2012, there will be a similar effort called **Give-12**. Each month, **Give-12** will provide information about Faith's ministry commitments and what the Bible teaches about responding to God's generous blessing with our own generosity. The goal of **Give-12** is to discover the joy of giving and to avoid the need for another big year-end push to meet the budget. How great would it be to celebrate Advent and Christmas without worrying whether the church can meet its expenses by year's end?

The *Legacy of Faith* and *Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward*

On December 31, *The Legacy of Faith* capital campaign concluded. In the past three years, the people of Faith contributed nearly **\$1.7 million** beyond their regular offerings! What a generous commitment that made it possible to build the beautiful new addition that is working so well.

There is still a significant mortgage remaining on the new building, so the next capital campaign, *Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward* begins this month. The goals of it are to raise funds to meet our monthly mortgage payment, secure a lower interest rate and reduce the principal on the loan.

Pledges to *Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward* will be made at the end of January. On Sunday, January 22, campaign visitors will drop off a giving packet at each household in the church. During that week, please pray and consider how God has blessed you to move Faith's legacy forward, then make as generous a 3-year pledge as you can. On January 29, the campaign visitors will pick up your sealed pledge and take it to the church. Until then, keep praying for God to bless this important effort.

Ministry Teams in Year 1 and Year 2

Last year, six new **ministry teams** were formed to help lead key areas of the church. They were staffed with volunteers the first year and have provided some really creative leadership throughout this year.

At the annual meeting this year, nominees will be elected to the ministry teams for the first time. The meeting is on **January 29 at 12:15 p.m.** (You will be home in plenty of time for your Legacy visitor to pick up your pledge!) Lunch will be served after the 10:30 worship service. Please mark the date and add your voice and vote to the direction of Faith Lutheran.

As we look backward and forward this January, please pray for Faith and its ministries, that God will continue to bless and guide us in service to Christ Jesus, our Lord.

See you in church!

Pastor Scott Grorud

Upcoming Dates to Remember...

Parent Huddle (Confirmation)

Wed. Jan. 4, 6 p.m.

Snow Tubing (56'ers and FLYouth)

Wed. Jan. 18, 5:15 p.m.

Legacy of Faith... Moving Forward Visits/Drop Off

Sun. Jan. 22

Seniors Potluck

Thurs. Jan. 26, noon

Legacy of Faith... Moving Forward Pick Up

Sun. Jan. 29

Congregational Meeting

Sun. Jan. 29, 12:15 p.m.

Mission Awareness Program

Wed. Feb. 2 (see Faith Kidz
News)

Life Line Screening in the Faith Center

Fri. Feb. 24, (see p. 3)

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, MN 55350
320-587-2093
www.FaithLC.com



Ministry & Mission *in action*

FLC Gives Back – Holiday Giving Report

- A few weeks ago, the Congregational Life Ministry Team asked members of Faith Lutheran to fill a rowboat, which was placed inside the church's south entrance. What resulted was an almost-empty rowboat transformed into a plethora of Thanksgiving food for area families in need. Thanks to the generous donations, we collected 535 pounds of food, which was given to the McLeod County Food Shelf and filled the Thanksgiving tables of families in need around McLeod County.
- Also in November, the Hunger Appeal challenge asked to double our support for efforts to combat hunger. Members moved by the Spirit more than met that challenge, giving \$10,338.58. THANK YOU for this tremendous showing of generosity. Your gifts will mean the difference between life and death in the Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya through the work of Lutheran World Relief. Kidz Against Hunger out of Stewart also is working through this same refugee camp. Lives are being saved. In addition, local hunger needs are also being met through the work of Common Cup Ministries and the McLeod County Food Shelf. Your generosity in gifts of money plus over 500 pounds of food stuff given is an expression of God's love to people in need among us.



Before



After

3-PEAT Thank You



We did it . . . Congratulations!

We achieved our own version of a "3-PEAT" by ending 2011 without borrowing money to meet our ministry obligations - making this the 3rd year in a row without borrowing funds for operating needs.

In Nov. 2011, we faced a serious challenge of needing \$160,000 in offerings by year-end in order to achieve a 3-PEAT.

At the time of printing this January newsletter, we have successfully accomplished our 3-PEAT goal and will end 2011 with a little cushion to carry over into 2012. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a reality. Thank You !!



Legacy of Faith . . . Moving Forward begins this month. This campaign has a goal of raising a minimum of \$1.4 million to pay our monthly mortgage payment, reduce our interest rate and work toward paying down our principal balance.

During the month of January, informational brochures will be distributed to all members of Faith.

Please begin discerning what your 3-year pledge will be. Campaign visitors will deliver pledge packets on Jan. 22 and collect them (with completed pledges sealed inside) on Jan. 29.



Bulletin Board

KidPower is a supervised, faith-based Christian program for children in grades K - 5 whose parents work when schools are not in session. KidPower is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on non-school days, and costs \$10 per child for 5-10 hours, or \$5 per child for up to 5 hours. For families with several children, the maximum payment is \$25 per family per day.

Upcoming KidPower dates for 2011-2012 school year:

January 16
February 20
March 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 & 16
April 6

Applications are available in the Faith Lutheran Church office. Call the office with questions: 587-2093. Only one application is needed per family per year. *However, you will need to contact the church office to register for the individual days your child attends.*

The "Lutran" Supper served about 150 people and raised \$1124 for Common Cup. Thank you to everyone who made this 3rd annual event a success. The Empty Nesters plan several fun events each year, and often ask for freewill donations, with all proceeds going to local charities. Giving back to their community is just one way the Nesters praise God for the many gifts he has blessed them with. The Nesters gather the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room at Faith for brainstorming sessions. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come as they can. The Empty Nesters group is not a committee or a club, it is just a group of people who enjoy giving back. The more, the merrier!

The Institute of Lutheran Theology needs the help of friends like you to carry on its vital work of educating the next generation of faithful Lutheran preachers and teachers. We have a group of individuals who together are offering a challenge grant of 100K until the end of January 2012. This means that the gift you give up to the end of January will be matched, thereby doubling its value. As the year comes to its end and the new year begins, are you able to help ILT with a gift? \$100? \$500? \$1000? Even if you can only give a smaller gift, it will be genuinely appreciated and carefully used. Please mail your gift to: Institute of Lutheran Theology, 910 4th St., Brookings, SD 57006. You can also contribute online by going to www.ilt.org and clicking on the "Support ILT" button.

Dr. Christoph, the head of G-News in Germany, a close friend of KK Alavi, and a world authority on Muslims, has helped to make available booklets and brochures about Muslims to our congregation. If you have interest in learning more, contact Dorothy Desens at 587-8777.

Life Line Screening at Faith Lutheran

Life Line Screening has screened over 6 million participants and has partnered with hospitals across the country. Why? Because the ultrasound screenings that they offer can help save your life.

Life Line Screening offers:

- Stroke/Carotid Artery Screening
- Heart Rhythm Screening (Atrial Fibrillation)
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- Peripheral Arterial Disease Screening
- Osteoporosis Risk Assessment

Get ALL 5 screenings for only \$149, a savings of \$126. Make an appointment for you and a loved one today.

Where: Faith Lutheran Church, Faith Center

When: Friday, February 24, 2012

Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-324-1851

(Priority Code: HSC6588)

To register online, go to:

www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners



Council Highlights

Topics discussed at the Dec. 20 Church Council Meeting:

The council reviewed the success of 3-PEAT and discussed ways to allocate any additional funds.

The role of the newly-formed Long Range Planning team was discussed.

The first FaithLife camp/leadership retreat is being planned for April or May of 2012. A task force to organize these camps will be formed.

The nomination process for new Ministry Team and Council members was reviewed in anticipation for the annual meeting.

The 2012 budget was reviewed and discussed.



Seniors Scene

It's January in a new year, and a feeling of "newness" is upon us. A new year to fill with activity, and snow and freezing temperatures (ugh!). But there's a new year of being together at Seniors Potluck, too. That's good! Our program on Thursday, January 26 is really new! Mr. Carey Linder, who is the Hutchinson Area Health Care Foundation director, will tell us all about the Harmony River Living Center. I've been visiting residents at Burns Manor who have attended meetings giving information about their new living place. For them it's a time of excitement mixed with a bit of anxiety. It's very hard for older people, who need a lot of care, to leave one place for another. Their "comfort zone" is being upset. Nevertheless, it is a new day for nursing home care in Hutchinson, Minnesota. I hope you have the opportunity to visit Harmony River and see how we are blessed to have finer accommodations for our Seniors. Come to Seniors Potluck and hear all about it. Member of Faith Lutheran or not, all are invited.



New & Noteworthy

DIG

After an amazing mission trip experience this summer, many youth expressed a desire to "dig deeper" into God's word. DIG is an attempt to do just that. This is a no-frills, in-depth, short-term commitment Bible Study for high school youth. DIG meets every Wednesday except the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Youth are encouraged to commit to attending the study on a month-by-month basis.

We'll spend the month closely examining a book of the Bible (like Philippians in November) or a theme through scripture (like the Christ birth narratives in December). We even try to memorize portions of the texts! Pray for our teens as they DIG!



Thoughts and Prayers

**Remember our Faith
members in Nursing Homes &
Health Care Centers**

Please remember all those who are serving our country through active duty:

Andrew Hantge (Navy, Everett, WA - son of Marsha Schmit and Robert Hantge)
Sam Butler (Iraq - Nephew of Matt Butler)
Lee Johnson (Fort Bragg, NC - son of Geri & Ralph Johnson)
Lt Katie McCormick (granddaughter of Liz & Don Krasen)
CAPT Gail Hathaway (Pearl Harbor - daughter of Marlin & Ruth Torgerson)
CAPT James Lepse (active duty - nephew of Lorraine Burch)
Jerod Paulson (Navy - nephew of Jeanette Fauskee)
Willy Eckstrom (Afghanistan - son of Dean & Karen Eckstrom)
SFC Guy Sing (Iraq - nephew of Tony Sing & cousin of Darlene Karg)
Jason Slinder (Kuwait - nephew of Betty Braun)
Colten Hughes (Iraq & Kuwait - son of Curt & Tressa Hughes)
Justin Olsen (Behring, Kuwait - son of Sharon Grivna and Jerry Olsen)

Hector

Jerome Lindquist

Dassel Lakeside

Eloi Hamre

Emmanuel Litchfield

Pete Hoefs

Prairie Senior Cottages

Delores Saar

Peg Tapper

Burns Manor

Valerie Fimon

Hazel Neuman

Agnes Rettman

Helen Goertzen

Muriel Zajicek

Charles Kisling

A Prayer for the Capital Campaign at Faith Lutheran

Submitted by the Capital Campaign Prayer Committee

Dear God our Heavenly Father,

We thank and praise you for being our loving father. You know our needs and know our problems, and we thank and praise you for having a plan for us to follow. We marvel at how our gifts and talents have been manifested here at Faith Lutheran, and ask that you guide our steps in the future, as you have done in the past. Your great love for us shines through each and every person. We are all part of your body, and ask that you use each of us to your good.

In Jesus name and for his sake,
Amen



Faith Lutheran Church

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Q: In the Apostles' Creed, it says that Jesus "descended into hell." What does that mean?

A: That phrase is based on I Peter 3:18-19, which says that Jesus "was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison." It suggests that Jesus proclaimed his victory over death to God's people who had already died.

The second article of the Creed follows a "V" shape. It begins with Jesus as "His (God the Father's) only Son our Lord" and then lists a series of steps by which he humbled or emptied himself: "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, crucified, died, was buried." It seems logical that "descended into hell" was then the last and worst part of his humiliation.

Actually, though, "descended into hell" is the first step up the other side of the "V." It was the first stage of Jesus' return to glory, a kind of victory tour to announce his triumph over the power of death. I Peter and the Creed suggest that this happened before his resurrection the women came to the tomb on Easter, but the precise timing is hidden in the mystery of God.

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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OUR MISSION IS:
BUILDING FAITH

*"EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY, FOR BUILDING UP
THE BODY OF CHRIST"*

EPHESIANS 4:12

TO LIVE OUT THAT MISSION, GOD CALLS US TO:

FOLLOW JESUS

ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL

INVITE ALL PEOPLE

TEACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH

HELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED



**Annual
Congregational
Meeting:**

Sunday, January 29, 2012
12:15 p.m.
Faith Center



Faith Kidz News

January 2012



Thank you to all the children and families who participated in the Christmas Program or Caroling this Christmas!

DVD copies of A Not-So-Silent Night are available by request.



**Questions? Please contact
Kacie Lange at 587-2093
kaciel@faithlc.com**

**Keep your eyes open for
these UPCOMING EVENTS:**

The 56ers are going SNOW TUBING at Powder Ridge. This is open to all fifth and sixth graders.

Date: January 18

Time: Meet at Faith at 5:15 p.m. (return by 10 p.m.)

If parents are willing to drive, we could return earlier

Cost: \$12.00



MISSION AWARENESS PROGRAM—FEBRUARY 1

During the two-hour late starts Faith Lutheran, Christ the King, Oak Heights Covenant and Peace Lutheran team up to lead 2nd—5th graders through different missions projects. We meet at Peace Lutheran at 8:30 a.m. and work on the project. We walk the kids to Park Elementary by 10:30 a.m. so they can go to school or catch their bus to another school. For February we will be making something to send to some of the soldiers from our congregations as a way of saying "Thank you" for all they are doing!

**REMINDER: THERE IS NO
SUNDAY SCHOOL OR FAITH
WEAVERS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1.**

