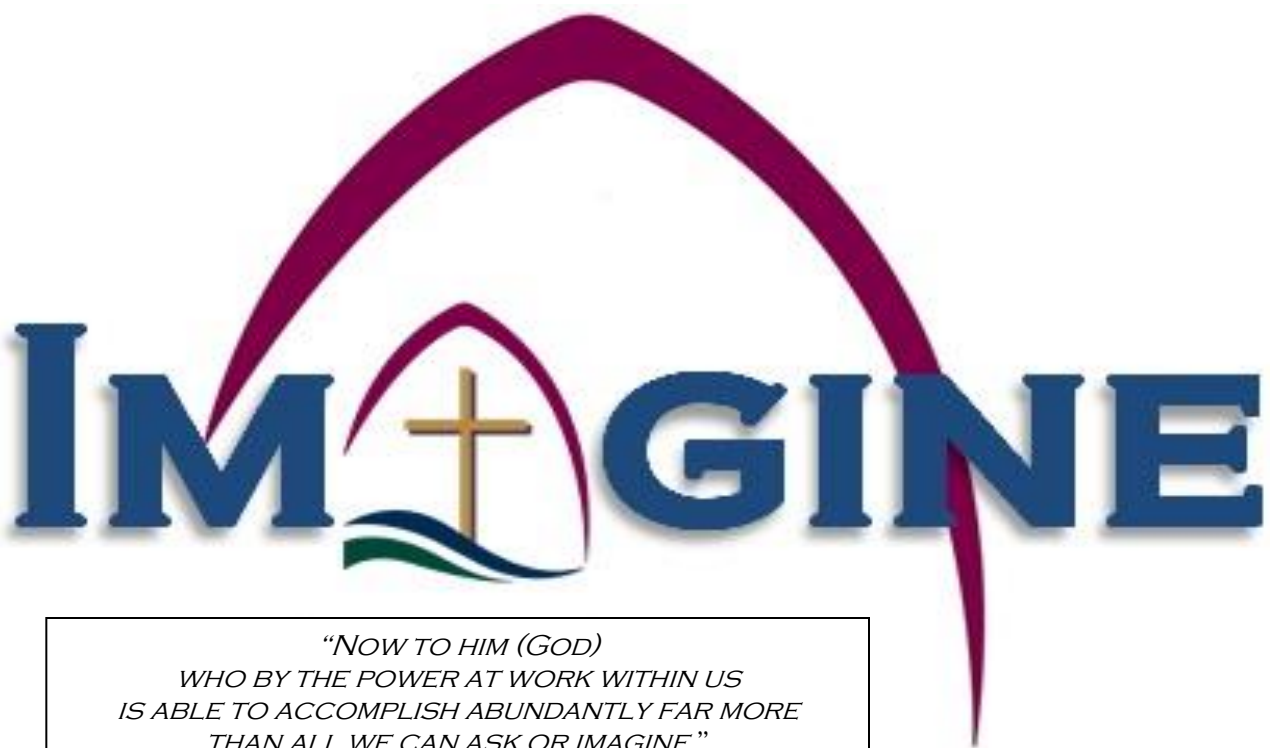


2014 Annual Report

Faith Lutheran Church
Hutchinson, Minnesota



*"NOW TO HIM (GOD)
WHO BY THE POWER AT WORK WITHIN US
IS ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ABUNDANTLY FAR MORE
THAN ALL WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE."
EPHESIANS 3:20*

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

2014 CHURCH PERSONNEL AND OFFICERS

Church Council Officers

President Kelly Pischke
Vice President Brian Lauer
Treasurer Niki Pokornowski
Secretary Wendy Mayland and Linda McGraw

Pastoral Ministry

Pastors Scott Grorud, Dave Wollan
..... Paul Knudson (part time)
Visitation Pastor..... Paulus Pilgrim (part time)

Lay Ministry Staff

Director of Children & Family Ministry..... Wendy Toops
Director of Music & Worship..... Mike Lauer
Director of Pastoral Care & Evangelism Marsha Schmit
Director of Youth & Family Ministry..... Gladys Bonnema
Administrative Assistant..... Wendy Mayland
Finance Coordinator Diane Pedersen
Maintenance..... Keith Lange
Custodial Assistance..... Jim & Virginia Brodd

Monday Volunteer Office Assistant Alice Fransen
Tuesday Volunteer Office Assistant Sharon Romo
Wednesday Volunteer Office Assistants LoAnn Hanson, Erin Eastman
Thursday Volunteer Office Assistants Muriel Dobratz, Linda Nyman
Friday Volunteer Office Assistant Elaine Blade
Wedding Consultants..... Niki Pokornowski, Lisa Ishihara, Diane Pedersen

Music Ministry

Worship Leaders – Sunday Morning

Marc Vaillancourt
Ronda Eckhart, Mona Hjerpe
Lara Liepold, Dick Nagy & DeNeil Thompson

Organists..... Shirley Holtz, Ronda Eckhart, Sharon Barton

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AGENDA
January 25, 2015 – 12:00 noon

Call to Order

Adoption of Agenda

Opening Devotion

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Auditors' Report

Pastors', President's and Ministry Team Reports

Order of Business:

- *Legacy of Faith... Moving Forward / Imagine* Capital Campaigns
- Election of Church Council and Ministry Team Members
- Approve 2015 Budget
- Staff Goals
- Other

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Please bring this report with you to the annual meeting.

Faith Lutheran Church Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2014 at 12:00 p.m.

Type of Meeting: Faith Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting

Meeting Facilitator: Ian McDonald

- I. **Call to order** at 11:58 p.m. by Ian McDonald
- II. **Devotions** by Pastor Dave
 - a. Handout given on "Reflection Cards".
- III. **Adoption of Agenda**
 - a. **Action:** Motion/Second/Pass – To accept the agenda.
- IV. **Secretary's Report**
 - a. In addition to the minutes; the minutes from the September 2013 Special Congregational Meeting on the Calling of Pastor Dave Wollan were handed out.
- V. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a. Amazing year end giving – offering income exceeded budget this year.
 - b. Lower expenses because Staff costs were lower and because of Pastor Randy's leaving.
 - c. Board approved the payoff of entire operating budget loan.
 - d. Church still has adequate cash balance.
 - e. Paying off the operating loan frees us an additional \$2,000 a month.
 - f. **Action:** Motion/Second/Pass – To accept the Treasurer's Report.
- VI. **Auditor's Report**
 - a. Julie Wendland did the internal Audit of 2013. She checked: 3 months bank reconciliation and disbursements and comparing checks to the expenses. Reviewed receipts and deposits. Reviewed Payroll records. No unusual transactions were discovered. The written report is kept on file in the church records.
- VII. **Pastors' Reports**
 - a. Pastor Scott presented.
 - b. Lot of changes for staff (Pastor Randy, Sue Graff, Roxanne Wigen leaving) and the addition of Pastor Dave.
- VIII. **President' and Ministry Team Reports**
 - a. Ian McDonald presented (Page 6 to 19).
- IX. **Order of Business:**
 - a. **Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward**
 - i. General fund monies are not used to pay for the mortgage. Legacy of Faith gifts are used for that.
 - ii. Offerings have covered the mortgage payments without using reserve funds.
 - iii. Estate gifts and past offerings allowed us to pay down \$220,000 extra on the mortgage principal.
 - iv. In three years of our loan, we have paid off 6 years of principal.

- v. Christine Ruppert of Thrivent Financial Presented:
 1. Loan started out at 3.2 million, which is now paid down to 2.7 million.
 2. Current interest is 5.375%.
 3. Thrivent has agreed to eliminate the ½% premium which will result in \$270,000 savings.
 4. Approved to lower our Interest rate to 4.875%.
 5. Note: FLC will continue to keep the mortgage payment the same, paying more on principal each month.
- b. **Report on Vision for Ministry Budget Plus**
 - i. Offerings exceeded our Ministry Commitments.
 - ii. \$7,000 was split between paying off on loan and leaving the other half for a surprise ministry gift.
 - iii. The ministry surprise is going towards 2 speakers to come to Faith. Jefferson Bethke & Daniel Taylor.
 - iv. The 3rd project that the ministry surprise may go towards is to find an office space for Rev. Steve King in Faith Lutheran. FLC is still working on this, no details yet.
 - v. Because of the positive impact with this surplus, \$3,500 was added as a line item onto the budget.
- c. **Election of Church Council Members and Ministry Team Members**
 - i. Pastor Scott reviewed the new council member terms and the ministry team member terms that were adopted last year.
 1. Correction Kent Jacobson is finishing his second year and Jan Kreie is being re-elected to the Church in the World ministry team.
 2. Ian McDonald is taking the other open space on the Nominating Team.
 - ii. Pastor Scott thanked all outgoing members of the Church Council and members of the ministry teams.
 - iii. No nominations from the floor.
 - iv. **Action:** Motion/Second/Pass – to have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the new Church Council and Ministry Team Members.
- d. **Approve 2014 Budget**
 - i. Due to the elimination of our past operating debt, we are able to decrease our overall budget by \$11,589 from last year.
 - ii. Mission giving is calculated to reach a tithe (10%) of offering revenue.
 - iii. The decrease in the personnel budget is due to several changes in staff.
 - iv. Question came up of why our budget this year is less than last year. Answered that we set our expenses for the year. Everything is a guess, not set in stone. Making the Budget balance to a zero – Expenses to meet Income.
 - v. **Action:** Motion/Second/Pass – 2014 budget.
- e. **Other**
- f. **Closing Prayer** by Pastor Scott
- g. **Meeting Adjourned** – Kelly Pischke (newly elected President) adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stacie Jurek, Council Secretary

PASTORS' REPORT

We were not sure that, a year ago, we could have *imagined* all the ways God would work in and through Faith Lutheran Church.

There's that word again. Imagine!

The Imagine theme caught on early in the year here at Faith. It was the theme of the annual council and ministry teams retreat, way back in April. The staff took some intentional time to dream and scheme around this theme over the summer. We kicked off the fall imagining together, using the theme to guide our preaching and teaching. And, of course, we finished the year imagining what we could do together in the Imagine Capital Campaign. Yet through it all, even with our big dreams and ideas, God, "by the power at work within us (was) able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we could ask or imagine," just as Ephesians 3:20 declares.

We knew our new staff would be great, but we could not imagine the influx of energy, vision, productivity and faith they would bring to our staff. Sue Graff, Kacie Fahey, and Julie Guggemos served us faithfully, and now Mike Lauer, Wendy Toops, and Wendy Mayland have filled their roles excellently, bringing their own unique gifts to each position.

We knew Faith had a good reputation in the community and was a welcoming place for visitors, but we could not imagine how many great new members we would receive this year! We received over 60 new members in 2014, and they have blessed us with the fresh perspectives and deep faith that they have shared with our congregation. This fall especially we have seen new folks walk through the doors every Sunday!

We set a goal once again (for the sixth straight year) to meet all our ministry commitments without borrowing any funds, but we could not imagine that we would end the year in an even stronger financial position than we started it. Generous year-end offerings provided the church more than the minimum cash reserve needed to even out the fluctuations in giving that occur throughout the year.

We hoped that the Imagine Capital Campaign would ignite the hearts of the people of Faith and motivate a generous response for the next capital campaign, and while the response was not more than we could imagine, it was strong enough that we will be in good condition going forward these next three years.

At the same time, God has continued to do even more than we can imagine through our many mission partners. Our relationship with the Tabor congregation in Ethiopia continues to deepen, as does our work with K.K. Alavi and his son Abdul in India. Faith continues to be deeply invested in the Augustana District of the LCMC, with Wendy Mayland and Diane Pedersen providing part-time staff support and Pastor Paul leading the district's Board of World Missions. We have enjoyed working with the new interim Augustana District service coordinator—some guy named Pastor Randy Freund.

It continues to be a joy and a privilege to serve this congregation. With an ever expanding group of invested leaders—from the ministry teams to the Church Council to other lay leaders—as well as a vibrant energy throughout the life of the church, there is lots of excitement and enthusiasm for what God is doing among us!

We want to thank all those who answer God's call and invest themselves in the mission and ministry of Faith. Together, we will continue to imagine how God is calling us to serve, and be more amazed at God's imagination and call for us!

Grace and peace

Pastor Scott Grorud and Pastor Dave Wollan

CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First of all, I need to express my gratitude to the members of Faith Lutheran Church for supporting the efforts of the church council, ministry teams, volunteers, lay leadership, pastors and staff this year. I also need to thank my fellow members of the church council and ministry teams for their service and efforts during this year of transition. We have had a year of transitions and growth! Who knew that we'd encounter so much excitement as servant leaders in 2014? Here are a few of the many highlights of how Faith Lutheran has grown in 2014...

- ❖ We held our third annual Faith Life Camp at Mount Carmel in August.
- ❖ Mike Lauer started his newly expanded role as Director of Music Ministry in January.
- ❖ Wendy Toops began her new role as Director of Children and Family Ministry in March.
- ❖ Wendy Mayland began her new role as Faith's Administrative Assistant in August.

- ❖ A new monthly Compline service began this year. It is a valuable and innovative addition to Faith's worship schedule that draws many people, especially young adults, from outside the church.
- ❖ We finished the *Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward* campaign on a very strong note. We actually received more in gifts than we pledged! Way to go everyone!
- ❖ We ran the new campaign called the *Imagine Capital Campaign*. We had a similar amount pledged from the previous campaign.
- ❖ We met all of our mission and benevolence commitments and finished a SIXTH year without borrowing money to fund operations... Give yourselves a BIG MAD PROPS!
- ❖ We continued to grow vibrant senior and youth ministries. It seems that out in the community we are known as the place to go for our youth. How can we not be proud of that?!
- ❖ There are so many more important elements of Faith Lutheran, I can't even begin to list them all...
- ❖ Last but not least, please be proud of our church! God works in this church in such unimaginable ways! Please give Him a great big thank you and Amen!

Faith Lutheran Church leaves a mark on all of us in many ways...through volunteering, financial support, worship, children, faith education, our fellow members, and our pastors and staff. Every one of us has a way to give to this church. This year, I challenge each of you to figure out how you can be a bigger part of the church. Think about what you have to contribute. It can be big or small! You are an important part of what happens here. I am grateful to have had this experience as your Council President. I have learned so much after my three years on the council. I used to just come to church and be completely oblivious as to what happened in the background. I figured that as long as I came to church, that is how I contributed. I didn't really know that it was important for me to be involved in our church! This experience has taught me what does happen! Maybe you can take part and learn as I did. Thank you again for the opportunity to represent you as Council President for the past year.

Kelly Pischke
Faith Lutheran Council President

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE AND EVANGELISM

"...For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."

How blessed we are to know that the Holy Spirit lives in us and gives us the words we need at just the right time! What a privilege it is to work in a place where the name of Jesus can be spoken openly and honestly. What a joy it is to serve YOU - the people of Faith Lutheran Church!

2014 in review:

- † Pastoral Care: I met with the Pastors weekly to review care needed for our Faith family and helped to make home visits to shut-ins, worked with Befrienders, organized the Caring Card Ministry and facilitated Marriage Care classes
- † Congregational Life Team: Worked together to organize fellowship events and ways for the congregation to come together to support others with such things as "Fill the Boat" which provided over 1000 pounds of food this year to the local Food Shelf
- † Evangelism: "Internal evangelism" means helping you to find things you enjoy doing within our church while serving the needs of the congregation. This also includes organizing and welcoming new members and helping them to find their niche here
- † The Institute of Lutheran Theology: ILT works with supporting congregations to educate the next generation of faithful Lutheran preachers and teachers. One quarter of my time was spent working as the Administrative Assistant for Development for the Institute

May the Lord bless and keep you in 2015!

Together in Christ, Marsha Schmit

REPORT FROM PASTOR PAUL KNUDSON

This past year has been a very satisfying and to me productive year of ministry. It has been a year especially focused for me on leadership of multiple mission endeavors. This has been coupled with ongoing pastoral leadership in the internal life of the congregation. I will lift up first mission leadership and then other expressions of service.

Missions

1. Leading the Augustana Board of World Missions focused this year on bringing to fruition a major partnership with the Tabor Congregation of the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. After leading a delegation of eleven from the States to Ethiopia in January, this partnership has developed dramatically. Members have and will read of its development, and I will not detail it here. I write monthly thank you letters to donors. Faith Lutheran Church, with additional gifts from members, has given nearly \$11,000 to this partnership, another example of leadership from FLC.
2. I continue as the treasurer of the board of New Hope Mission Society. My main role is communications with special attention to writing monthly thank you letters to all donors.
3. I work with our congregation's Church in the World Team as a staff advisor.
4. I am working with a task force to seek to expand the witness of the Augustana District and other agencies to draw the national LCMC body into more intentional partnership in world mission. This is a significant initiative just beginning to develop.
5. I am giving leadership to the Augustana District communications on missions on its web page.

Internal Ministry Activities

1. I continue on a limited basis with the pastoral care ministry, visiting and leading devotional services with other team members.
2. I have taught various Digging Deeper classes
3. I gave limited leadership in the capital campaign, with my primary role being to give focus to estate planning as a long term ingredient in providing resources for facilities and other ministries of FLC.
4. My extensive reading does serve in my conversations with members and others seeking or resisting belief. This "apologetic" ministry is to me significant.
5. I think one role for me to play is that of an encourager. We have wonderful pastors, staff, and lay leaders. Giving thanks and praise to others is one of my callings.

REPORT FROM PASTOR PAULUS PILGRIM, VISITATION PASTOR

Pastoral visitation is my main focus...thus the title, Visitation Pastor. My fellow pastors and Marsha Schmit, with whom I share this visitation ministry, believe visitation is one of our highest priorities. Person-to-person visits bring the power of God's Word into specific hurts and needs we all experience. Especially as they multiply in old age.

My thanks to my fellow Pastoral Care partners, and to Faith Lutheran members, through whom God issued my call. Your support and encouragement has been firm. Please pray for Seniors, along with youth, children, and parents. God bless you all.

Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

I have been working at the church now full-time for one year. The last year has been defined by a variety of moments for me. I've had moments of laughter, humility, and of being overwhelmed by how much our youth love to help and be involved. I've also had moments of feeling inadequate, but as those have grown fewer and farther between, I have experienced moments of confidence, joy, and peace in this position.

High School

Continued Traditions- We have continued many traditions from last year including: FLYouth on Wednesday nights, Mission Trips, the Random Acts of Kindness Crew (RAKC), the discipleship group Dig, mini mission trips, free lunch, high school MEA retreat, 9th grade confirmation ceremony, free lunch, New Year's Eve Eve, and many more that I did not list.

New Traditions- Faith Fams, High schoolers help with Confirmation Sunday School, bringing offering to youth night, meetings with couples who are new to dating, and finally a Christmas party for our leaders. We also have transformed our alumni lunch to an alumni event, and we are having our 9th grade confirmation students meet with a pastor or myself as an "exit-interview" to build relationships and encourage future growth.

Middle School

Continued Traditions- Many traditions within confirmation have continued including confirmation, confirmation hang time and Confirmation Sunday School.

New Traditions- Powerhouse has been resurrected as an outreach to hang out with friends and invite them to church.

Prayer Requests- I would love prayer for continued spiritual growth this next year; that God would be growing me as a leader and as an individual. I also request prayer for the youth. You can pray that God would be working in their hearts, convicting them and leading them toward godliness.

As I read through my report from last year, my main focus was "the transition" that I was going through and that the youth program was going through; what I was learning, and growing. Here I am now, one year later and while many programs have continued, I am running with them, beginning my own ministries, and truly have joined a team of leaders that are trying to impact this community for Jesus. I have been overwhelmed and shed many tears over how this year has gone. Many of you have blown me away with your compassion and faithfulness. Although we all try to do things on our own, I know that I couldn't do any of the work I am doing if I didn't have the great models, encouragement, and prayer warriors like yourselves. Thank you, Faith, for being faithful ministers of the good news.

In Him,
Gladys Bonnema

From the Director of Children and Family Ministry

Vacation Bible School

- Faith Lutheran-I took the lead for the VBS held at Faith for our 3 year olds-Kindergarten students. We experienced a week on a Safari [June 16-19, 5:30-7:30 p.m.]
- Christ the King- Kim Asche took the lead for VBS at CTK with our 1st-5th graders [July 21-25 1 p.m.-4 p.m.]. I was able to flex my creative juices and come up with some exciting games relating to the Bible message for WEIRD ANIMALS.

Camp

- GLLM Camp- Attended Shores of St. Andrew Bible camp with 4 of our youth August 3-8th.

Christmas Program

- A Christmas to Believe in
Description: Due to being let down by Santa Claus, Billy questions the meaning of Christmas. Grandpa and Billy take us on an exciting adventure through the true Christmas story. In the end, will Billy decide this is truly, "A Christmas to Believe In?"
- Simply Christmas
Description: A magical Christmas story told through song and our special guests: Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, and Wise Men.

56'ers

- Started September 17th
- This year we are learning about the Scary, Gross, and Weird stories of the Bible.
- We have between 35-40 students who regularly attend.
- Out of the 35-40 children who attend weekly, 15-20 of them do not attend Faith Lutheran Church. It is a great opportunity to connect with students!
- We have a new face almost every week!

- We recently started having High School students and some parents come so we can break into small groups to review the lesson, which has proven to be very successful!

Release Time

- We are learning about the Ten Commandments.
- We have a deal that if we have 3 good days in a row they will get a FUN day! They are great kids, so we have had a few FUN days so far this year!
- We have about 60 children attend weekly.
- Held a late-start release time event to pack the Operation Christmas Child Boxes. We packed about 97 boxes, there were 14 adults, and 30 students that participated. Thank you Patsy and Jeff for working with Thrivent to set up an Action Team and to all those who volunteered and donated items!
- We also have several kids who do not attend Faith Lutheran Church who come to release time!

Sunday School

- We held our 7th Fall Extravaganza on Sunday, September 7th.
- We are using FaithWeavers curriculum from Group Publishing again this year.
- In addition to FaithWeavers we are again using Sola Publishing Small Catechism materials. We are using this to educate our students better on Lutheran theology.

Faith Family FUN!

- This is a new program we are starting, to expand our ministries to encompass families.
- These events will engage different age groups throughout the year. Some for young families, middle school, grandparents, high school, etc.
- We aspire to build multigenerational events and create a space to experience life alongside those in our church and community.

Wendy Toops

Director of Children and Family Ministry

MUSIC & WORSHIP COORDINATOR

Worship – As the Director of Music and Worship, I work with the Music and Worship Ministry team to enhance the worship experience for the congregation on Sundays, festivals, and holidays throughout the church year. Our team has created and facilitated activities such as the live nativity, the Last Supper table and Faith by the Fire. Furthermore, I pick selections for the choir and bell choir to play at the services. On occasion I will also lead worship at the various services. I have had the privilege of leading worship at Harmony River this year, which is for our members and other members of the community.

Special Music – I have organized special music opportunities for our various ensembles and many gifted musicians in the church. I have had the pleasure to accompany or simply schedule their performances. The pastoral staff has requested a few special pieces that I have performed as well. We are always blessed to have special music at our services and we are always excited for new people to try their hand at one of the services.

Ensembles – On a weekly basis, excluding the summer, I prepare, practice, arrange and facilitate performance with Ringers of Faith and Faith Singers. Each group meets once a week for an hour to rehearse and performs once a month. We've seen some of the membership change throughout the last year and we are hoping to see increased attendance for both groups this coming year. The Run-Out-of-Robes campaign will start again. Last year I began, or revamped, the youth band, which we call the FLY Band, and it was a lot of fun to work with the youth and see them turn into a band that is energized and humbled by the worship leading experience.

Compline – On the first Sunday of each month, we hold an evening worship service called Compline. My role in the service is to select and arrange the music, rehearse with the band, and lead the worship. I have also spoken at a few of the services and helped generate ideas for our elements and themes. The Compline band has been, in a sense, my laboratory for trying out new musical ideas, some to success and some to blank stares. The Compline band has been as small as three and as large as nine. Each month we're able to find a fresh look at what we hope is a consistent feel.

Youth – I help plan and lead music for both ages of Sunday School children, I lead worship at Confirmation, FLY Night, and the various retreats. Working with the youth is always a treat, because you

never know how the spirit is going to move on any given night. Working with the Sunday School children for "A Christmas to Believe In" was one of the most rewarding experiences I have had at the church. It was a pleasure to have the kids learn their lines and their songs, and see the whole thing come together in a very enjoyable production. We could not have done it without the generous support of many members of the church.

Lessons – I give lessons to church members and non-church members. I am always able and willing to give a lesson or run a rehearsal for anyone who needs to help with a song they are playing at church or in the community. I am also available for non-church related music lessons.

Other – Some of the other events I have had the pleasure to create or help with were Music and Worship Vision Potluck, The Hymn Sing, the Music and Worship Camp, Worship at Faith Life Camp, the FLY Band Retreat, Worship Leading for YouthWorks! RAMP, FLY Softball, Unity Gathering Worship, Caroling, the GDS Delivery Man, and many others. I have had no difficulty staying busy at the church this year and look forward to coming years at Faith.

Best wishes,
Mike Lauer

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Current members of the Personnel Committee are: Kelly Pischke, Brian Lauer, Kurt Hjerpe, Mark Guggemos, Ian McDonald, Linda McGraw, and Sara Wegner.

Each year, it is the responsibility of this committee to review all staff benefit costs for medical and dental premiums, life insurance, retirement, etc. We compare costs and set policy to stay within budget for these items. All positions are reviewed and recommendations made to council for any staff needs or changes identified. In addition, a yearly review is conducted with each staff person to reflect on past accomplishments as well as looking forward to the next year. We also work with the Finance Team to make budget recommendations for the next year's Ministry Giving Plan.

2014 was not quite as active as 2013 in that we were able to replace the empty positions we unfortunately had in 2013. Julie Guggemos resigned as Faith's Administrative Assistant. We were very fortunate to have Wendy Mayland take Julie's open position. We also welcomed Wendy Toops as Director of Children and Family Ministry. We are so blessed to have these additions to Faith's staff.

A big thank you goes out to our wonderful staff. Their dedication and compassion make our Faith family complete. To our many volunteers, Faith Lutheran could not operate without you. I know I speak for all our staff when I say your time and talents are very, very much appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Pischke, Personnel Committee

CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

Can you believe that it has already been more than four years since Faith Lutheran dedicated its new building addition? During that time, the new space has functioned so well, providing room for all the ministries of Faith as well as a number of other groups or agencies that serve people in need. As the building has been put to good use, faithful support from Faith's members has also allowed us to make great progress in paying for it.

The *Legacy of Faith...Moving Forward* capital campaign concluded at the end of 2014. Over its three years, the church received \$865,478! That is well more than the amount that was pledged to it (\$802,096). During the three years of LFME, Faith was able to pay down the principal on the loan well ahead of schedule, making six years' worth of principal payments in just three years. That will save thousands of dollars of interest over the life of the mortgage.

The *Imagine* capital campaign ran this fall. It was done entirely in-house. Sincere thanks to Debbra Marcotte, Mark Guggemos and Jessica Wendland, who served as the *Imagine* Vision Team. Thanks also to Pastors Paul and Paulus, who worked together to encourage people to plan estate gifts to the church.

Despite its shoe-string budget and organization, the *Imagine* campaign has so far received \$753,055 in pledges from 194 households. That is fewer households than pledged to LFME, so we hope that number

will continue to grow. We also know that there are households that will give without pledging, so we have reason to believe that the *Imagine* campaign will also end up receiving more in gifts than the pledged amount.

With this support from the congregation, the church should be able to make at least one major extra principal payment this year. We can also re-amortize the loan once each year. That will put more money each month to principal and less to interest. These moves will shave months, if not years, off the length of the mortgage. The principal of the loan is currently \$2.6 million (down from an original \$3.2 million!), so the end is not quite in sight, but there is definitely light at the end of the tunnel.

Thank You to all those who have faithfully supported the capital expenses of Faith Lutheran, along with its ongoing ministry expenses!

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Faith Lutheran Church Endowment Fund Committee for the year 2014 continued to follow the intended purpose of the fund to enhance the mission of Faith Lutheran Church.

The Fund disbursed generated income of \$18,162.49 in 2014 as follows:

- Global Missions – K.K. Alavi's work in India, Eastern European Missions Network, Global Heath Care Ministry and Lutheran Malaria Initiative
- Regional Mission – Lutheran Seminary Scholarship, Faith Lutheran Church Student Scholarship, Bible Camp Scholarships, Institute for Lutheran Theology and mission trips
- Local Missions – Christian Counseling Funds/Good Samaritan Fund, Common Cup, Church College Scholarship, FaithLife Camp, Prayer Shawl Ministry and Club 218

The Fund Committee continues to be diligent in carrying out the mission of Faith Lutheran Church realizing that we have the responsibility to be good stewards with these gifts that have been entrusted to Faith Lutheran Church.

MEATBALL SUPPER

Approximately 450 people were served at the 2014 Meatball Supper with a profit of \$3,711.65, which included a \$500 contribution from Thrivent Financial. Some leftovers were donated to Common Cup, which dispersed them to people needing a meal. Ten percent of the proceeds went to missions and 30% to the Legacy of Faith Capital Campaign. Thank you to Thrivent, all of our volunteers and people who attended. If you would like to help organize this event, please contact anyone on the committee.

Laurie Gelschus, Darlene Larson, Peg Christenson and Maria Weikle

20th ANNUAL FISH FRY

Due to the rising costs and the unavailability of rental fryers that we have used in the past, the Fish Fry Committee is disbanding and will no longer be hosting the annual fish fry. The committee would like to thank all the many volunteers over the past 21 years for their support financially and the many hours of prep work, frying and serving the hundreds of happy people that have consumed our tasty fish.

Fish Fry Committee

Club 218

Club 218 completed its 8th summer serving 26 children, 5 – 9 years old, from Hutchinson and Silver Lake. (15 returning children and 11 coming for the first time) Most children were from lower income families.

There were 22 high school and 3 middle school students who committed to plan and volunteer at least eight days over the summer, with most far exceeding that number. In addition, there were nine adults who volunteered during the summer.

Club 218 met at Faith Lutheran Church Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. for eight weeks. A typical day at Club 218 consisted of music, crafts, games, reading, Bible stories and a large group activity. Breakfast and lunch were provided to staff and children through the summer feeding program offered by Hunger Free McLeod. Through generous donations both from Faith Lutheran and individuals, the program continued at no cost to the families.

Shelly Grorud

FAITHLIFE CAMP

The third FaithLife Camp was held at Mount Carmel Ministries in Alexandria, Minnesota, on August 15-17, 2014. We had 43 campers (32 adults, 3 youth, and 8 children) staying in cabins and lodge rooms. The theme was "Recreate, Re-create" and faith-building sessions were led by Pastor Dave and Pastor Scott.

FaithLife Camp was a bonding time for the families, as well as a time to make connections with others in Faith's congregation. Activities in addition to the educational Faith-building sessions included campfires, free time (swimming, basketball, volleyball, tie-dye shirts, crafts, etc.), a camp-wide game, and our third well-received variety show. Meals were prepared and served by Mount Carmel. Childcare during the sessions was handled by Wendy Toops, Gladys Bonnema, and 2 volunteers from Faith's youth group. Feedback from campers was again positive, saying the camp was a good, faith-centered get-away for families and friends. Repeat campers are expected next year, and we have seen some camp friendships continue into our regular church life.

The fourth FaithLife Camp has been scheduled for August 14-16, 2015. Planning will begin soon. Prayerfully consider joining us this summer!

Respectfully Submitted by the Faith Lutheran Staff

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

"Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. I always pray for you, and I make my requests with a heart full of joy..." Philippians 1:3, 4

Our Faith Lutheran Prayer Shawl Ministry began in May, 2006. We have 15 women actively involved in our ministry. In 2014 we presented 61 shawls and our total shawls presented these past nine years is 748. Our shawls are given to residents of nursing homes/care centers, missionaries serving abroad, Common Cup Ministry, those who are hospitalized, those who celebrate milestone birthdays/anniversaries, those who are mourning the death of a loved one, our high school graduating seniors and others. The prayer shawl serves as a physical reminder that we remember them in prayer.

This summer we gave 3 prayer squares to all who were going on the mission trip – one to remind them that we hold them in prayer, one to share with someone they met on the trip and one to leave at home with family.

"Children are a gift from the Lord, they are a reward from Him." Psalm 127:3

Our prayer shawl ministry includes prayer blankets for newborn babies. A prayer blanket is presented to each family of Faith when a child joins their family. This year we presented 9 blankets for a total of 132 blankets given.

We supply yarn for our shawl makers. The yarn is purchased through gifts of money from the Women's Ministry, the Endowment Fund, Mission & Outreach and individuals. THANK YOU for your continued support. THANK YOU to all who create our beautiful shawls and blankets.

If you knit or crochet and would like to become a part of our Prayer Shawl Ministry please contact me at 320-587-6733 or grjohn@mchsi.com

Geri Johnson

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (FLCW)

Thank you to the many women and men who have volunteered so graciously over the past year in helping with the community meal, rummage sale, coffee hours, garden tour/salad luncheon, Music in the Park, bloodmobile, meatball supper, cake walk, prayer shawls, quilts, funerals, kitchen cleaning, global health kits, pillowcase dresses, FLCW board and much more. A special thanks to Ginny and Jim Brodd who work "behind the scenes" to set up before and after events.

Thirty percent of any funds raised went toward the mortgage principal for a total of \$2,173. End of year money gifts: \$1,500 mortgage principal, \$1,500 church general fund, \$150 Meals on Wheels, \$100 Common Cup, \$50 Cedar Crest Beauty Shop, \$50 Harmony River Beauty Shop, \$100 Random Acts of Kindness Fund, \$100 Outreach Meal Fund.

Respectfully Submitted, Bobbi Knudson, for the board of the FLCW

NEW HOPE MISSION SOCIETY

Our mission remains the same: Our Christian community desires to bring the love of Jesus Christ to the Muslim world.

New Hope Mission Society continues to live up to its name of bringing new hope to the Muslim world. With your help, we currently support missions around the world that bring the Good News to unbelievers by prayers and finances. We especially support:

- Frank Hutton in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area as he reaches out to International Students.
- Kim Gustafson in Minneapolis as he teaches missionaries how to talk to Muslims.
- In cooperation with Dr. Christoph from Germany, we continue to support Pastor Titus in northern Nigeria. His niece was one of the schoolgirls captured by terrorists and we continue to pray for the safety of Christians in Nigeria.
- The Otten School in India continues to receive our help. Pastor K.K. Alavi is on the Board of Directors of this school. It is a Christian school that welcomes all children Kindergarten-Level 12. Each day begins with a Christian devotion and all children participate in this – Christian, Hindu, and Muslim.
- Pastor K.K. has a strong beginning with his Bible School. There are about 20 students who are learning more about the Bible and how to talk to Muslims about their Christian faith. Abdul, Pastor K.K.'s son, is a very positive presence in the administration of the school. Abdul has indicated his desire to study at Institute of Lutheran Theology.

A mission trip to teach English As A Spoken Language was cancelled due to world-wide unrest. Right now, a curriculum is being developed and will be available to Pastor K.K.'s students on YouTube. If any of you would like to be a part of this vital Christian ministry to Muslims by serving on the Board of Directors, please leave your name at the Faith Lutheran Church office or contact Dorothy Desens.

Submitted by Dorothy Desens, President of New Hope Mission Society

SENIORS MINISTRY TASK FORCE

Current Task Force members are: LoAnn Hanson, David Franzen, Alice Fransen, Gary Hoffman, Ron Anderson, and Ginny Brodd. Our thanks to them for faithful service.

The year 2014 saw some hard work and some reversals from previous goals for the Seniors Task Force. Continuing their focus on fostering quality spiritual life for Faith Lutheran's senior members, we dug into last year's stated goal of providing a visitation program. Our goal was to bring God's love and presence specifically to Seniors through simple, one-on-one, person-to-person visits. Our Befrienders have been doing that for quite a few years, and the blessings of their ministry has been so beneficial to many. Our intention was to organize a new group of visitors to work alongside Befrienders, supplementing and enhancing their ministry.

As we started to organize this, we began to question it. Rather than "re-invent the wheel," so to speak, by starting a whole new organization with similar purposes, we wondered if it might be less confusing if we put our efforts toward supporting and working directly with our Befrienders. That made more and more sense to us. A joint meeting of representatives of the Task Force and Befrienders confirmed that conclusion. Consequently, we are now working on expanding Befrienders. We want to help them seek new visitors, and offer simple training as needed. We hope YOU will volunteer to be a visitor, or will give a "yes" should you be asked. You can talk to Marsha Schmit or Pastor Paulus.

Our Task Force will continue our annual event offerings as well---Bless the Years Sunday, Seniors Potluck meetings, etc. We owe much to the 13% of total membership who offer their time and skills to assemble bulletins and newsletters, serve at funerals lunches, help with Kid Power and Club 218, serve at monthly community meals, help with Operation Christmas Child boxes, and many other volunteer activities. Thanks, Seniors!!

Pastor Paulus Pilgrim

CONFIDENTIAL E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

"Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything..." Philippians 4:6

We have 36 men and women who receive prayer requests via their e-mail. Our prayer warriors pray specifically upon receiving the confidential request.

Please submit your prayer requests to me at grjohn@mchsi.com

If you would like to become a Faith Lutheran prayer warrior, please send me your e-mail address.

Geri Johnson

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS

A total of 15 funeral luncheons were served in 2014. It is an honor to serve grieving families.

Thank you to the callers, the kitchen supervisors and to the 154+ workers who helped to serve almost 2,000 guests. The congregation is divided into 10 groups, each with its own caller. You are encouraged to say yes, whenever possible, when you are called to work at a funeral luncheon. Volunteering at these occasions is also a way to become better acquainted with other members of our Faith family. If you would like to help with this ministry by being a kitchen supervisor, or an on-call worker, please contact Darlene Larson at 583-2939. To God be the glory, as we serve in His name.

FAITH LUTHERAN QUILTERS

Our quilting ladies meet regularly the first Wednesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. as well as other times on occasion. In 2014, of the quilts made there were 48 donated. Twelve to a homeless shelter in St. Cloud, 12 to the VA Center of McLeod County, ten to the Salvation Army in St. Cloud, six to the Alliance for Abused Women, five to Common Cup, two to Green Lake Bible Camp, one for a benefit. We also made 30 rugs for orphans. There were 40 newborn kits assembled and sent to Global Health Ministries. Finally, we made and distributed 105 baby blankets. Thirty to a homeless shelter, 20 to the food shelf, 35 to People Serving People in Minneapolis, ten to Alliance for Abuse and 10 to the Salvation Army in St. Cloud. We are so thankful for the donations of fabrics, used sheets and other sewing supplies. Two ladies cut fabric for tops at church. Several ladies sew tops at home in order to complete this many quilts in a year. We enjoy our time together and are always looking for more helpers.

Submitted by Diane Ferguson

THRIVENT UPDATE

As of November 30, 2014 Faith's members had designated \$7,493 in Choice Dollars. These gifts are added to the general fund. People have until March 31, 2015 to designate 2014 dollars if they have not yet. Choice Dollars not designated by then will be distributed by Thrivent to organizations of their choosing. You can go online to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice to direct your dollars (you will need your member ID number) or you can call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" to direct your choice dollars. Thank you to the 46 Thrivent members who have designated their dollars.

Thrivent also contributed:

\$200 towards the baptism medallions that are given out to those who are baptized at Faith

Youth's Drive-In Diner \$500

Meatball Supper \$500

ActionTeam donating supplies to the Operation Christmas Child boxes \$250

ActionTeam Groceries for the youth's Christmas Cookie Sales \$150

ActionTeam Pie/Coffee explaining how the Choice Dollars and ActionTeams work \$250

Community Meals \$197

We can still earn fifty cents per dollar donated for community dinners up until February 28. If you would like to donate dollars to the community meal, you still have time to earn an extra punch with your contribution. Checks should be made out to Community Outreach Meal.

For 2014, \$9,540 has been made available to Faith Lutheran in some way by Thrivent and Thrivent members. Thank you to every member who has supported Faith Lutheran in this way.

If you would like to help with an event or have questions about how Thrivent dollars might be able to help with your event, please let Patsy Amundson know by calling 320-587-4761.

Sincerely,

Patsy Amundson, Volunteer Thrivent Congregational Advocate

MINISTRY TEAMS

Ministry Teams were created in an effort to broaden the base of leadership at Faith Lutheran, create clearer lines of authority and delegation for various duties within the church, and to make the decision-making process more transparent and efficient. Six Ministry Teams exist to oversee broad areas of Faith's ministry. These teams create, receive, evaluate and implement ministry programs directly and/or oversee work done by various sub-groups in the church. Reports from each of the six groups appear below.

CHURCH IN THE WORLD TEAM

2014 members of the Church in the World Team: Kent Jacobsen (chairperson), Jan Kreie, Randy Redman, Greg Pearce, Diane Enstad, Ellen Juul, Glenda Nelson, Jon Gelschus, and Pastor Paul Knudson (staff advisor).

The team's focus was on strengthening both our local and world mission endeavors. This involved not only monitoring the local and international mission causes we support financially. It also led us to look for ways for personal involvement.

Locally, the team wants to thank all the groups within the congregation who monthly served the community meals. We have heard so many great compliments from the people we serve. The friendliness of the servers is great and the meals are so good. As we serve others, we serve Christ Jesus. Please sign up again and keep the blessings flowing.

Our team directed \$300 to Common Cup to be used for a new initiative: helping those in need with funds to do their laundry. We keep wrestling with ways to interact with the homeless and others facing great financial challenges. We thank all our members who share this concern.

Another focus of our attention in 2014 was looking for ways to give at least symbolic support to young adults seeking to give witness to their faith in Jesus Christ. We are very much aware that we must encourage the next generation of leaders in the Church. In part, we do this through the budget, but also through special funding from members.

Church in the World Committee

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE TEAM

Members include: Sue Alrick, Michelle Leyde, Angie Lohrenz, Deb Marcotte, Janet Meier, Sue Peterson, and Marsha Schmit (staff advisor).

The primary task of the Congregational Life Team is to integrate church members into its life and mission. We seek to accomplish this through coordinating evangelism efforts in the community, welcoming and integrating new members, providing hospitality for members and groups meeting in the church, and promoting fellowship among members of the church. Highlights from 2014 include:

- Provided a picnic-style fellowship meal during Lent
- Recognized and honored those who served our country with red, white, and blue treats and American flag stickers during the Memorial Day weekend service
- Coordinated the treat schedule for outdoor worship services
- Coordinated the ice cream social
- Coordinated name tag Sundays
- Provided food for the Sunday School Extravaganza
- Called new members to inquire about their transition to membership within FLC
- Served pizza during new member orientation
- Coordinated a community outreach meal
- Collected food shelf donations (Fill the boat!)
- Coordinated the Christmas Giving Tree
- Organized the Christmas decorating (and take down) event volunteers
- Supported our teammate, Janet Meier, who filmed and edited a video of congregational teams
- Coordinated the "ask me" name tags for recruitment of congregational teams

As we look forward to 2015, we will continue to look for new ways to promote fellowship and keep church members engaged in the activities of our church. We plan to bring back the Mingle Box which is an intergenerational conversation between the church youth and adult members of Faith.

As always, we welcome any ideas for an activity or program enhancement. We ask that you contact Marsha Schmit if you have any suggestions.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Marcotte

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Members of the Discipleship Ministry Team are: Julie Renkes, Donna Eastman, Alice Fransen, Steve Killian, LouAnn Pershau, Pat May and Jessica Wendland. Staff advisors: Pastor Dave Wollan, and Julie Guggemos/Wendy Mayland.

The Discipleship team works to strengthen the discipleship of the church by:

- Providing learning opportunities for adults to grow in faith and ministry
- Leading stewardship education to encourage all members to manage their time, ability and possessions faithfully
- Providing hands-on opportunities for service in the church and community
- Relating to independent church organizations such as women's or men's groups (Seniors Ministry Taskforce, FLCW Board, Stewardship team, Men's and Women's Bible studies)

During 2014 the Discipleship team focused on the following activities:

- Continued the fourth year of "Did You Know" section that is published in weekly bulletins and used to improve awareness of opportunities and services provided by Faith.
- We were an advisory group for FaithLife Camp that included the review of the camp brochure.
- We assisted with speaker Daniel Taylor who came in April. He is the author of *The **Skeptical Believer**: Telling Stories to Your Inner Atheist*. He came and spoke throughout the community; including Faith Lutheran Church.
- Sunday, April 6th, we served approximately 50 people during the community outreach meal here at Faith, providing soup/chili and sandwiches.
- On August 3rd, we served treats and coffee at Library Square worship.
- This fall, we held another Community Service Sunday also known as Faith in Action Sunday on Oct. 12. We had over 20 volunteers, including youth, focusing on helping individuals in the community with washing windows, weed pulling and delivering 35 care packages to nursing home residents and shut-ins. Everyone enjoyed the day and the opportunity to see directly how their contributions impacted the people in our community.
- Our team is developing a welcome brochure that will be placed in the blue pew pads and the kiosk to give contact information, worship schedule, how to become a member and a map. The plan is to see this expand into a trifold brochure with more information that will be placed in a wall mount display located by the entrances.
- We had a great time participating in the video Congregational Life made to explain what all the teams do.

As we look forward to 2015, we hope to continue to come up with new ideas for growing the faith and ministry, and providing hands-on experiences for all members. A focus will be on organizing opportunities to get adults interacting in enjoyable activities such as a golf outing.

Thank you to all the members of the Discipleship Ministry Team for sharing their time and talents this past year and helping us build a stronger discipleship for the Faith family.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna L. Eastman

Spiritual Formation Team

2014 Spiritual Formation Team members were: Mandy Baldry, Gladys Bonnema (staff advisor), Jodi DeMeyer, Shelly Grorud, Eric Haffley, Janelle Reid, Richard Settergren, Erika Smith, Jessica Smith, Wendy Toops (staff advisor), and Dave Wollan (staff advisor). The Spiritual Formation ministry team has a wide variety of Children's and Youth ministry activities and programs that it works with every year. Our members are leaders, parents, and participants of Sunday School, confirmation, and youth night. They help assist our Children's and Youth directors in programming, planning, advertising, and evaluating. In 2014 we focused on:

3 years old- 6th Grade

Extravaganza –

- The Fall Extravaganza was held on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014 and was a success. We organized, prepared, and executed the extravaganza to kick off the new Sunday School year.
- Sunday School orientation meetings were held before the church services and encouraged everyone to stay for church and the Extravaganza.
- The event followed the 10:10 church services.
- Activities included: large inflatables, an Angry Birds game, Bingo, popcorn and pizza, just to name a few.

Sunday School

- Music- Thank you Marc Vaillancourt, Andrea Wollan, Cyndi Lauer, and Mike Lauer for leading music.
- Offering- Donate supplies to Operation Christmas Child and Food Shelf.
- Teachers- We help call and solidify teachers for the upcoming year, as well as our teachers, substitute teachers, and brainstorm new ideas involving Sunday School.

Christmas program-

- Prepared and served treats for the 3 yrs-1st grade and 2nd-6th grade programs.

Red carpet Sunday-

- Decorated and led groups to experience the "backstage" of Faith Lutheran Church.
- Brainstormed ideas, found volunteers, designated day and time for the Spiritual Formation team to decorate, made trading cards, and bought supplies.

Club 218

- Club 218 runs from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, June to August.
- Helped out where needed when High School youth were unavailable during weeks such as the Mission Trip.

Sprouts

- Sprouts, a ministry to young children during the 10:10 worship services, is still going strong this year.
- We are involved in leading Sprouts periodically throughout the year.
- There are typically 20-25 kids who utilize this program on Sunday mornings during the 10:10am service.

Confirmation

- Confirmation meets weekly for 7th and 8th graders during the school year.
- Support from Gladys, instruction from pastors, music provided by the youth and Mike Lauer, and our members and other parents leading small groups
- Helped chaperone their retreat to Green Lake Bible Camp from Nov. 7th-9th, 2014.
- We confirmed 28 students in 2014 on Reformation Sunday, October 26th.

High School

Youth Night-

- Helped lead and participated in weekly youth night
- Execute new events at youth night like Faith Fams and Bible studies
- Provided leadership for our snow tubing event, Mini Mission Trips, senior recognition brunch, and the MEA retreat.
- Supported The Random Acts of Kindness Crew (RAKC) and the discipleship group, Dig

Mission Trip

- Supported the mission trip to Cortez, CO by providing leadership for the Pizza Fundraiser, Drive-In Diner, Mission trip reunion, and Easter Breakfast

Club 218

- Coordinated and participated as the staff of Club 218
- Planned and executed meal time, station activities, free time, and large group activities

Community Outreach Meal

The Spiritual Formation Team hosted the August Community Outreach Meal, serving tacos.

MANAGEMENT MINISTRY TEAM REPORT

2014 Team Members: Kelly Pischke, Brian Lauer, Niki Pokornowski, Linda McGraw, Jim Christensen, Ross Jurek, Scott Grorud, Diane Pedersen (staff advisor).

The Management Ministry Team oversees the finances and property of the church by:

1. Supervising the budget process of the church and the allocation of all funds.
2. Securing adequate insurance to protect the church and its properties.
3. Keeping record of all money and property donated to the church and investing or dispersing of funds as directed by the Church Council or congregational meeting.
4. Providing monthly financial report to the Church Council.
5. Overseeing the maintenance and improvement of the church properties.
6. Recommending, supervising and supporting the church custodian(s).

Here is a quick recap of 2014:

- Purchased 50 chairs for the foundation space
- Purchased four tables to be used for activities in the gathering space upstairs
- Purchased chairs for Sunday School rooms upstairs
- Dealt with leaks in the Narthex roof
- HVAC computer was upgraded
- Changed our insurance carrier from Church Mutual to Lutheran Trust-better coverage at a lower cost
- Dealt with elevator repairs
- Replaced duplicator with a color copier
- Pictures were taken for a new pictorial directory
- Obtained a grant from Thrivent for our Community Outreach Meal program
- Met our mission and benevolence commitments
- Have closed our books with a positive balance since 2009 (six years)

This team had a great year with much hard work and success. Thank you, members of Faith Lutheran, for your ongoing support of all that takes place in your church.

Respectfully Submitted by Kelly Pischke,

Faith Lutheran Church Council President and Management Ministry Team Member

WORSHIP TEAM

Members of the Music and Worship Team for 2014 were: Heidi Froemming, Dennis Wedge, Lynn Winslow, Denise Kruse, John Muske, Jeff Amundson, Cindy Gregorius, Barb Anderson, and from the staff, Mike Lauer. We provide an active, enriching worship life for Faith Lutheran by giving special attention to important liturgical days and other notable days in the year.

- Lenten Services: Promoted services to the congregation through posters placed at both entrances to the church.
- On Palm Sunday, we supplied Palm Branches.
- On Maundy Thursday, we staged "The Last Supper" in the gathering space before and after the services.
- On Good Friday, the Faith Singers presented "Prayers at the Cross"
- On Easter, members of the Bell Choir rang bells at the beginning of services and Emma Wollan played a drum roll on a floor tom.

- In March, we organized a Music Vision potluck to create ideas for the upcoming year.
- In May, we organized a Hymn Sing, where several hymns were presented with their appropriate texts.
- We organized the transportation of the sound equipment and other accessories for the outdoor summer services.
- In October, we held what we hope to become an annual Faith by the Fire campfire.
- Planned and served the Community Outreach Meal in November.
- For an Advent service, we organized, contacted, and participated in "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."
- In December, we organized, contacted, and participated in Christmas Caroling.

A warm thanks to this team for all of their hard work and diligent attention to detail. They have created many special events for Faith Lutheran to enhance our worship experience.

Submitted by Mike Lauer, Director of Music and Worship

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Church Council consists of four congregational officers and ten additional members. All Council members also serve on one of the six ministry teams. The officers all serve on the Management ministry team. Two of the remaining council members serve on each of the others. The ministry teams include two to six other members. The President and Vice-President serve one-year terms that are not renewable. The Treasurer and Secretary serve one-year terms that can be renewed once. All other terms are two years, renewable once (exception for unfilled terms).

Please note: All names in BOLD are nominated for election at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 26, 2014. All other names are continuing their terms.

Congregational Officers:

President: Brian Lauer

Secretary: Linda McGraw

Vice-president: Wade Eastman

Treasurer: Niki Pokornowski

Ministry Team Members:

Church in the World

Church Council Representative: Jan Kreie (one year remaining)

Church Council Representative: Ken Holler (two-year term)

Members continuing their terms: Greg Pearce, Randy Redman, Ellen Juul (one year remaining)

Members to be elected: Diane Enstad, Dick Desens, Berta Yukel (two-year terms)

Congregational Life

Church Council Representative: Deb Marcottte (one-year remaining)

Church Council Representative: Michelle Malchow (two-year term)

Members continuing their terms: Janet Meier, Sue Alrick (one year remaining)

Members to be elected: Michelle Leyde, Laurie Gelschus (two-year terms)

Discipleship

Church Council Representative: Steve Kilian (one-year remaining)

Church Council Representative: Jon Wehler (two-year term)

Members continuing their terms: Julie Renkes, Pat May, LouAnn Perschau (one year remaining)

Members to be elected: Tessa Ewert, Mary Hodson, Shawn Anderson (two-year terms)

Management

Church Council Representatives: Brian Lauer (President), Wade Eastman (Vice-President), Linda McGraw (Secretary), Niki Pokornowski (Treasurer)

Members continuing their terms: Jim Christensen (one year remaining)

Member to be elected: Ross Jurek (two-year term)

Spiritual Formation

Church Council Representative: TBA (one year remaining)

Church Council Representative: Christine Ruppert (two-year term)

Members continuing their terms: Eric Haffley, Jodi DeMeyer, Mandy Baldry (one year remaining)

Members to be elected: Janelle Reid, Shelly Grorud, Alan Liepold (two-year terms)

Worship

Church Council Representative: Jeff Amundson (one year remaining)

Church Council Representative: Dan Brinkman (two-year term)

Members continuing their terms: Cindy Gregorius, Barb Anderson, John Muske (one year remaining)

Members to be elected: Mary Ann Kennedy, Jake McDonald, TBA (two-year terms)

Nominating Committee

Mark Guggemos, Stacie Jurek, Ian McDonald (2015)

Kelly Pischke, Kent Jacobsen, TBA (2016)

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

Verla Biddle	Ward & Kris Haugen	Devin & Tashia Nicholson & Norah and Iris
Joe Eck	Kevin & Mary Hodson	Ovie Ovadje
Cody & Tammy Erickson & Sara Cummings	Arnie & Glenda Jonson	Tim & Megan Piehl & Avari and Logan
Judy Felber	Samantha Kiecker	Cheryl Reece & Wyatt
Kyle Felber	Shelly Kirchoff	Derrick & Katie Schumacher & Peyton & Maddox
Jon & Alicia Frykman & Grady	Milt & Darlaine Lueneburg	Ivan Wersal
Scott & Lisa Gandrud & Isaiah and Bella	Jeff & Stacy Lux & Sidney, Mason and Aidan	
Tracy Hammer	Mike & Tracy Marquardt & Anna, Caleb and Billy	
Jon & Renee Hantge & Sam and Alex	Michelle Meis	
	Keith Nelson	

RECEIVED THROUGH THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

Adam Breitzkreutz	Paisley Kaping	Lucas Polzin
Karlson Buboltz	Carson Klitzke	Ella Roberts
Liam Evans	Rylee Koehler	Reese Rude
Christian Felber	Henry May	Whitley Russell
Isabella Gandrud	Iris Nicholson	Saige Spindler
Quinn Hoff	Norah Nicholson	Hawkins Thode
Layla Jutting	Noah Nussbaum	Jaiden Wakefield
Aiden Kabes	Liam Ovadje	Makaila Wakefield
Ruth Kamrath		

CONFIRMED AT FAITH ON OCT. 26, 2014

Colton Anderson	Emily Ehlers	Maguire Petersen
Makayla Anderson	Kennedy Graphenteen	Oscar Salazar III
Cody Andersen	Benjamin Hjerpe	Logan Teubert
Matthew Binder	Paige Jurek	Wyatt Teubert
Braiden Bjorge	Tamika Krueger	Tanner Timm
Kyle Christensen	Brendan Marcotte	Claire Trudeau
Alexis Crims	Devon Markgraf	Evan Westlund
Dylan Deopere	Tyler Miller	Emma Wollan
Olivia Dostal	Jack Olberg	Brianna Wright
		Brady Ziemer

MARRIAGES

Shelly Eichhof-Schuman and Jeffery Kirchoff	Brynn Haugen and Brian Albrecht
Lyndsey Felber and Brett Stadsklev	Stephanie Johnson and Brian Olson
Kelly Jo Helmbrecht and Joseph Rath	Nicole Newcomb and Matthew Schmieg
Taylor Renkes and Lance Swoboda	Kathryn Penkert and Jacob Shaw
Vanessa Fruetel and Kristopher Betker	Tasha Ziemer and Brent Christensen
Amy Drahos and Jeremy Koehler	Sara Johnson and Matthew Vanbuskirk

DEATHS/BURIALS

Darwin Berg	Ruth Kolbe	Roger Peterson
Mitchell Breitbarth	Gary Maahs	Wayne Pettis
LeRoy Christensen	Tami Newcomb	Agnes Rettman
Herbert Golberg	Adair Paulson	Gordy Tapper
Thomas Hudson	Earl Peterson	Peggy Tapper
Charles Kisling	Omar Peterson	LuVerne Wehking



Augustana District Service Coordinator Report

Pastor Randy Freund

In the brief time I have served as Service Coordinator, I am often asked this question: “What are the benefits of joining the Augustana District?” The answer to this good question lies in the answer to another one: “Does your congregation wish to partner with other congregations to serve the gospel at a critical time in church history?” I hope that, as a member congregation, you sense this partnership.

Why We Formed

In order to see where we might be headed in 2015, it might be good to remember why the Augustana District was formed. Leaders who were interested in forming a district asked questions like: How do we keep each other accountable to Lutheran theology? How do we support and serve congregations who request assistance with such things as the call process, conflict resolution, starting a mission church, congregation and youth retreats, etc.? How can we efficiently do mission work together to carry out the Great Commission?

The Year in Review

During this past year the Augustana District stayed focused on its objective and those three key words: Theology. Church. Mission. From theological conferences to confirmation retreats to conflict resolution seminars to a long range planning retreat to Woman of the Word conventions, our district has been active. This, of course, does not account for the relationships that have developed among leaders, clergy and congregations. Pastor Tom Christenson (S.D. Service Coordinator) has fostered key relationships in South Dakota. I think it is fair to say and important to note that our most active and vital work in this past year has come through the Board of World Missions. For good reasons, this is not likely to change. You will certainly be hearing more about the continued partnership with the Tabor Congregation.

It is also important to say a word of thanks to Pastor Mark Richardson for the dedicated service he provided the district as our first Service Coordinator. God’s blessings to Mark as he now focuses on his new call at Christ the King Lutheran in Hutchinson, MN. Thanks also to Faith Lutheran Church for their support and the Augustana staff of Wendy, Diane and Karen!

What’s Ahead in 2015?

- *A rededicated effort to help the district function as a truly “non-geographic” district.
 - *Assistance in fostering congregational partnerships and creative staffing solutions to help meet the demands of a changing church landscape.
 - *A revamped website to help us carry out the above objectives. Watch for the new logo also!
- Annual Convention – Saturday, April 25, 2015 - Christ the King Lutheran Church - Hutchinson, MN

Pastor Randy Freund - Service Coordinator
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