



# March 2016 Newsletter

*take up the shield of faith*

Ephesians 6:16

## Take Note...

**Wednesday Lent Services:**  
March 2  
March 9  
March 16

**Maunder Thursday**  
March 24 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday**  
March 25  
12:00 p.m.  
At Grace Covenant Church

Don't forget our  
Soup Suppers  
before Lent Services  
at 6 p.m.

**Easter Sunday is  
March 27, 2016**  
  
**We will serve  
Easter Breakfast  
beginning at 8:00 a.m.  
followed by the Easter  
Worship Service at 9:30**

## From Pastor Nate . . . .

Our Father...

Martin Luther said, "Prayer is the most important thing in my life. If I should neglect prayer for a single day, I should lose a great deal of the fire of faith." He also taught that we should pray "Our Lord's Prayer" daily. But we should not become rote (without meaning) but we should meditate on the words that we pray. Below is an adapted version of John MacArthur's reflection on the words of the Lord's Prayer. The season of Lent offer us an opportunity to grow in our prayer life.

I cannot say *Our Father* if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily life.

I cannot say *Who art in heaven* if all my interests and pursuits are on earthly things, and I am not laying up treasure in heaven.

I cannot say *Hallowed be Thy Name* if I, who am called by his name, am not striving for holiness.

I cannot say *Thy kingdom come* if I am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty and accept the righteous reign of God.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven."

I cannot say *Thy will be done* if I am disobedient to His word, and am unwilling or resentful of having His will accomplished in my life.

I cannot say "in earth as it is in Heaven" if I'm unwilling to serve Him here and now.

I cannot say *give us this day our daily bread* without expending honest effort for it or by ignoring the genuine needs of my neighbor.

I cannot say *forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us* if I am unwilling to forgive others and be released from the pain, anger, or spite that binds me.

I cannot say *lead us not into temptation* if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot say *deliver us from evil* if I haven't put on the whole armor of God and am prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapons of the Spirit.

I cannot say *thine is the kingdom* if I do not give the King the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say *thine is the power* if I fear what my neighbors may say or do.

I cannot say *thine is the glory* if I am seeking my own glory first.

I cannot say *forever* if my life is bounded completely by the things of time.

I cannot say *amen* unless I trust that God hears my prayer and will answer.

Pray without ceasing!

Pr. Nate B Jorge

## President's Message

Dear Fellow Members of Faith,

Wow, February is history already! The hurrieder I go, the behinder I get. Your newly elected church council met this month and hit the ground running. We heard a report on a very successful Jamaican mission trip, the upcoming Father-Daughter Ball, and a late July Mt. Caramel family camp opportunity.

We discussed the need for a security system for the church and grounds. We looked at some proposals and estimates, and decided that more research needed to be done.

We discussed the Sunday morning coffee and decided to purchase the grinder and stay with the Faith blend. All funds from the coffee free-will basket will be used to purchase coffee and supplies for Sunday morning coffee. The Congregational Life Team will be in charge of Sunday morning coffee.

We heard that the concrete footings for the Columbarium will be poured this spring as soon as weather is permitting. No other information on the status of the Columbarium was available.

The church directory is still gathering pictures. Our own Cindy Stanek of Uniquely Captured Photography is doing the sittings. Thanks Cindy!

Church secretary Sarah is having trouble compiling a listing of Team members' names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers as well as who the team chairs are. Council members are to get this information from their respective teams and turn it into Sarah ASAP.

A continuing resolution to direct the church treasurer to roll any undesignated mission fund balance remaining at year end into the next years undesignated mission fund was passed by the council. This is in keeping with Faith's 10% mission tithe pledge.

We discussed setting 5- and 10-year visionary goals for Faith Lutheran. What do we want Faith Lutheran to look like in 5 years? In 10 years? Will we have a new worship space? Will we have a youth pastor? It was decided that we should solicit each Team's individual visionary goals to help us formulate goals from the ground up.

Please prayerfully consider these things and tell your council and team members what you think. Volunteer and participate in the family of Faith! Feel the joy and peace that our Father gives His servants who work His vineyards! Remember always, all things are possible with God.

For His team,  
Tom Lippert

## Mission & Outreach Team

### Jamaica trip is a success; Mission Team budget adjustments made

Thanks to the support of the congregation and the individual fund-raising efforts of participants, a total of 23 representatives (15 youth and 8 adults) from Faith Lutheran Church traveled to Jamaica from February 6-14 to perform a variety of projects and bring the Gospel to Sunbeam Boys' Home residents. Team members painted and performed other facility maintenance projects throughout the week, including installing electrical power to the home's butcher shed. The team raised \$3,439 through church fund-raisers. In addition, the Mission and Outreach Ministry Team provided \$1,400 in youth mission scholarships for the trip. The total amount raised for the trip was \$30,480, with \$25,641 of the total coming from team members. Expenses for the trip were \$25,333.28. As a result of being under budget, \$5,146.72 was unspent. Team members will be identifying appropriate uses for the leftover funds. Several team members shared the positive, spirit-filled experiences of their mission trip at worship service on Feb. 21. Moving forward, the Faith Lutheran Church Council authorized the Jamaica Team to establish its own bank account and handle its own expenses, providing an annual accounting/report to the council after its trip(s).

In another accounting change, the council passed a continuing resolution to transfer any used Mission and Outreach Team revenues at the close of the calendar year into the following year's accounts. As a result of this change, \$4,775.66 was transferred into the ministry team's 2016 budget from 2015.

**Other Mission & Outreach Team News:** The final report for the Operation Christmas Child report was presented and by all measures, the project was a great success. International, U.S., Minnesota and Baxter district numbers were all up by 7% to 10% over 2014 levels. Thanks are extended to everyone who supported this effort and especially to Kim Mielke for her leadership.

Former Mission and Outreach Ministry Team member Maureen has been appointed to the Sunbeam Association for Mission board of directors. Current Mission and Outreach Team member Sherry Bigalke is also currently serving on the board.

## News from the Congregational Life Committee

### February 2016 Meeting

Titus 3:5-8 *"He [Jesus] saved us, not because of righteous things we have done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out upon us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone."*

When we encounter opportunities to serve God, we don't always respond in the way He desires. Perhaps we think we can't because our schedule is too busy or we don't feel qualified. Those reactions will slam a door closed before we've discovered whether or not the Lord wants us to go through it. You have probably never thought of a refusal to serve God as a type of idolatry but that's what it is-bowing down to self instead of submitting to Him.

The Lord desires that His servants be willing to do anything-and that they will seek His specific plan for them. He uniquely gifts followers to serve according to His will. But when we've already decided what we can't do, won't do, or are ill-equipped to do, then we're acting by our own will.

You may serve the Lord as a godly parent, as a factory worker who shares the gospel with coworkers, or as a friend who takes time to listen to the hurting. No restriction exists on what God can do through the life of a willing helper. The strength of His Spirit overcomes human limitations. Don't have enough courage? God can fix that. Don't have the right skills? God can fix that.

Laying down our excuses is the wisest thing to do when serving the Lord. Trust that He will empower you to do whatever He calls you to do-and He will see to it that you're properly equipped and trained to do it. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* II Timothy 3:16-17 says that *"All scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the Man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."* **All HE asks is that you say YES!!!**

We are now in the season of Lent. Our Wednesday night soup suppers and services have begun. Would you please consider signing up to help us with these special meals? We do need your help. Our Confirmation Class is participating in the worship service and we need to come and hear the messages that they are proclaiming to us from the Word. March 27<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate our Easter breakfast and we will need many people to volunteer for this. We need you to sign up for some of the food for this meal and we will need volunteers in the kitchen to do some cooking.

We want to thank the Jamaican Team for providing Sunday morning treats for many weeks before they went on their mission trip. Now it is up to the rest of us to help make the Sunday morning coffee time so special and a time of great fellowship. Please team up with a friend and sign up for Sunday morning treats. Be creative and bring what you would like. Thank you in advance for all you are going to do in serving the Lord in this way.

Until next time: Patricia Fernelius for the team

## Mission Statement

As Children of God, we are called to love, glorify and submit to the Living Christ, ministering to others by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.



Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand** your ground, and after you have done everything, **to stand. Stand** firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **Word of God**. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

**Ephesians 6:16**

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## Children's Team Meeting Notes

February 10, 2016

Members present: Tracy Marcus, Leanne Wolbeck, Julie Basset, Annie Mathison

This evening members discussed a possible rotation of committee members as Leanne would like to move over to the Youth and Family Committee due to the age of her children, but she will wait until there is a member who would be willing to switch so the Children's team isn't left short of members.

Tracy will miss the next meeting due to Sam being deployed; please keep the Marcus family in your thoughts and prayers.

Leanne sent a message to Rachel from Living Hope; she's awaiting a call to determine if they will be hosting VBS this summer or if the rotation will come back to Faith Lutheran. Possible dates for VBS this summer are July 12-14, July 19-21, or July 26-28; these options will be shared with the church council.

The team discussed possible recognition items for the Sunday School teachers.

Lastly, the team discussed the spring church picnic. The team felt it would be appropriate to align it with the end of the Sunday School as in previous years; Tracy will check those dates with the church council.

Our next meeting will be held on March 9, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

### Attendance & Offering

February	7: 150	\$ 4,598
February	14: 153	\$ 4,869
February	21: 213	\$ 3,527
February	28: 8	\$



## Faith Comforters

### March News

II Corinthians 1:3-4 *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."*

If you read our report in the yearly annual meeting book, you will know a little bit about this group of ladies that meet twice a month and use their hands to do many projects. The things that we do are to bring help, comfort and joy to those receiving them. This includes prayer shawls to those who are hurting, whether they be sick, had surgery or a special need. Our quilting includes blankets for graduating seniors, baby quilts, and quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and other occasions. Baptism shawls or blankets are given at the time of baptism. Our Kindness Kits include many baby items made by our ladies that include blankets, bibs, burp cloths, layette items. These are given to help new Moms that really need them for their infants. Using our hands we also make cards for many occasions. We give these to our graduates, babies on baptism, confirmands. We have a cheer person that sends out thank you cards, sympathy cards, get well cards, and others as needed.

Starting in January 2016 the Faith Comforters have been hosting a Senior Lunch. For our January meeting we had 28 attending a delicious soup and salad luncheon. The fellowship was great and after our lunch Pastor Nate showed a short video that challenged us to have compassion to those that may need encouragement or just a friendly visit.

In February we also hosted the Senior Lunch. There were 32 that attended this luncheon. After a delicious meal we had Chaplain Gregg Valentine give a short talk to our group. He explained some of the things that he does as a Morrison County Chaplain and it really challenged us all to keep doing what we are doing. He told of blankets that he had given out to families after they had lost everything in a fire. He told of giving blankets to children after they had witnessed their grandfather killed in a tragic car accident. Many other examples were given but now we know how God uses many of the things that we do to bring help and comfort to not only those in our Family of Faith but also out in the community. Chaplain Valentine also thanked us for monetary support from our church and the many, many prayers that have helped him as he responds to many of the incidents he is called to. He has a calling from God to do what he does and we want to continue to encourage him with our prayers and support.

Faith Comforters will be hosting another Senior Luncheon on March 15, 2016 at 12:00 noon. We would like to invite all senior citizens to come join us and bring a friend with you.



**Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting**  
**6:30 p.m. February 18, 2016**

**Present:** Cheryl Zarns, Noel Guerard, Justin Juelke, Pr. Nate, Mark Whittington, Dave ZumBerge, Jason Leibold, Tracy Marcus, Kennard Fellbaum, Tom Lippert, Pat Rioux, Randy Wolbeck

**Absent:** Julie Bassett

**Treasurer's Report:**  
**as of January 31, 2016**

**PROFIT & LOSS YTD**

Income ..... 25,596.35  
 Expenses ..... 27,137.12  
 Adjusted Net Income after total  
 other expenses ..... <1,540.77>

**BALANCE SHEET YTD**

Total Current Assets ..... 121,648.91  
 Total Fixed Assets ..... 1,351,036.13  
 Total Assets..... 1,472,732.77  
 Total Liabilities..... 715,659.55  
 Total Equity..... 757,073.22

DESIGNATED Savings ..... 22,947.10  
 Gen. Reserve Sav. Bal ..... 25,077.80

The meeting opened with devotions led by Pastor Nate. Tracy Marcus moved and Mark Whittington seconded to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried.

**ATTENTION MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS**  
**and corresponding council reps:**

Monthly ministry team meeting reports are needed for the council to do the work of the church. These reports are DUE the 25th of each month and should copy Sarah, your team members, and ALL council members.

**Treasurer's Report:** The accounts balance with the financial secretary's report and with the bank. Pat Rioux moved to accept the treasurer's report with Jason Leibold seconding. Motion passed.

**Pastor's Report:** The senior lunch for March will take place on March 15, at 12:00 noon. Seniors are encouraged to bring a senior friend. At the February Senior Lunch Greg Valentine, Morrison County Chaplaincy, spoke on all that his job entails. It was very informative and enlightening. Please plan to join us in March.

The Jamaica Sunbeam Boys' Home mission trip went very well. Two team members will share their experiences this Sunday along with a slide show. Some of the projects the team helped with were painting, installing new screens on the windows, and electrical work. The team also visited a tech school where the boys can learn a trade. Pastor presented a detailed list of expenses, which totaled approximately the amount contributed just by the team members, resulting in mission fund remaining.

The contributions given for soup suppers during Lent will go towards Mt. Carmel camp scholarships. Mark Van der Tuig will preach February 28, and will also give the message at the Father Daughter Banquet that evening. Pastor Mark will also be at Mt. Carmel during Faith family camp week July 30 through August 8. Please consider camping during that time.

**Old Business:** Sign up sheets for the new picture directory are on the narthex table. Please sign up to reserve your time. Pictures will be taken in the nursery room. You are also asked to *Update* your contact information for the directory. Dave ZumBerge received an estimate from Radio Shack to install security measures both inside and outside our facility. After discussion, council members asked Dave to research the matter further. Jason Leibold will check with Central MN Electric on issues connected with installing security lighting and outlet wiring for the kitchen serving counter. Council members will contact their mission teams for the current team members' contact information which will be emailed to Sarah. The cement foundation for the proposed columbarium will be poured this spring.

**New Business:** There will be a sign up sheet in the gathering area for the Faith 24-hour prayer vigil to begin Good Friday, March 25, at 3 p.m. in one hour increments, ending at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 26. To facilitate the bookkeeping duties for the ongoing Jamaica mission trips, Pat Rioux moved with Noel Guerard seconding that a separate checking account be obtained from Pine Country for this purpose. This will require each Jamaica mission group to appoint a treasurer to take care of expenses, income, and miscellaneous bookkeeping items. This treasurer will give a detailed annual report to the council. Motion carried. Mark Whittington moved with Tom Lippert seconding that in a continuing resolution, the council treasurer will move the unused missions funds balance to the undesignated missions fund at the end of each year. Motion carried. Jim Nelson and Tom Lippert will take care of the property inventory/tagging. The Sunday School picnic will be held at Faith on May 15. Vacation Bible School dates will be announced at a later time. Regarding council members' mission team assignments, the following have changed: Kennard Fellbaum will move to Children's Ministry, and Julie Bassett will move to the Youth Ministry.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. The next Council meeting is Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Zarns, filling in for secretary Julie Bassett