

November 2015



December Newsletter



*take up the
shield of faith*

Ephesians 6:16



From Pastor Nate

I remember from the time that our daughter, Annika, was very young she has always wanted me to put up more lights for Christmas. I have never done very well on the outside of our house, but Kate has never failed to have every room inside of our house lit up with Christmas lights. Part of the beauty of the Christmas season is seeing the bright and colorful lights that are displayed at homes, businesses, streets, and parks around our communities.

The Christmas story itself is one of lights. The light that shone around the angels as they shared the message of Jesus' birth with the shepherds. The starlight that guided the magi. And in the Gospel of John where we read that Jesus is the "life and light of humanity... the true light that enlightens everyone."

Yet with all of the lights shining around us the hope of this season is that the Light of Christ will shine within us. St. Paul writes, "For God, who said, 'Let the light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Cor. 4:6) We are to "shine as lights to the world, holding fast to the word of life." (Philippians 2:15)

My daughter, Annika, is right in wanting more lights. We are called to be those lights for the world to see. "For the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true." (Ephesians 5:9) May the Light of Christ shine through our lives this Christmas season!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Nate, Kate, Kaj, Annika, & Haakon

Together in Christ!

Pr. Nate Bjorge

President's Message

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the Faith Family.
May you and your family be blessed with all you need.
Spread the word, "Jesus is the reason for the season"!

Mark Whittington, Council President

Mission & Outreach Ministry Team - December 2015

Mission & Outreach Team celebrates Operation Christmas Child increases

The number of Operation Christmas Child (OCC) boxes collected at Faith Lutheran increased and collections were up across the region as well. Mission Team member Kim Mielke, who coordinated OCC efforts for Faith said a total of 464 boxes were collected, with Grace Covenant Church in Little Falls, Community Country Church in Holdingford and Fellowship Bible Church of Pierz leading the way in helping Faith collect 118% of last year's total. A total of 2,000 more boxes were collected in the region, up to more than 12,000. While both the region and total boxes collected at Faith were up, the number of boxes donated by Faith members was down about 30 boxes from 2014 to 88 boxes.

In other Mission Team news, the 2016 budget has been prepared and will be submitted to Council for its December 16 meeting. Preparation activities for the Jamaica mission trip to Sunbeam Boys Home are continuing as are efforts surrounding the Lutheran World Relief backpack project. Finally, the team approved several donation requests as the year-end nears.

Worship Prayer Team/Altar Guild

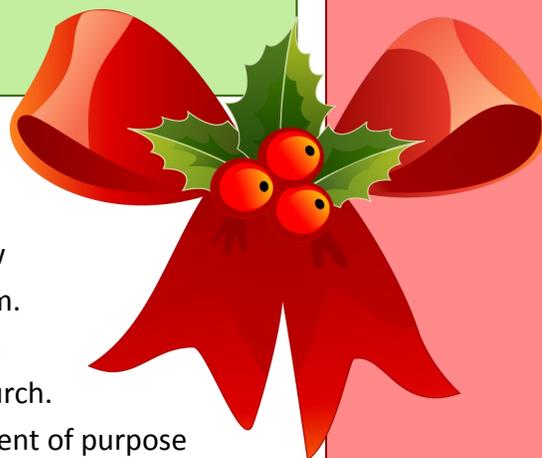
Yes, that's right. We are now the Altar Guild! We are now a subcommittee of the Worship and Prayer Ministry Team. We will continue to function as we always have, just with a new name that better reflects our duties within the church.

At our December meeting, we will develop a new statement of purpose and list of duties.

As we head into the holiday season and expect many people at church services, we need lots of help with communion, ushering and greeting. Why not try something new? We know you can do it! Signup sheets for upcoming services and the help that is needed can always be found at the table in the reception area of the church. Or, you can visit with any one of the Altar Guild members: Melissa Hanson, Amy Kowalzek, Sandy Berulson, Greg & Kathy Hyatt, Cheryl Zarns or Al Bauman.

Attendance & Offering

November 1:	212	\$ 6,485
November 8:	106	\$ 2,235
November 15:	172	\$ 6,232
November 22:	215	\$ 3,957
November 29:	210	\$ 5,056



News from the Congregational Life Committee

November 2015

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

November is the month that we celebrate Thanksgiving so we want to center our article on thanks. But this does not mean that this is the only time we should focus on giving thanks. Our verse above says that we should pray without ceasing and this means every day, many times a day and as we pray we should always be thanking the Lord. By the time that you read this we will already have had our annual Thanksgiving eve service and pie fellowship. We do want to thank you all for participating in bringing pies, whipped cream, and any other ingredient for our fellowship event. The pies that are left after this event are taken to the Community Thanksgiving Meal at the High School.

I would like to share the words of a special song that centers on thanks.

Thanks to God

Thanks to God for my Redeemer, Thanks for all Thou dost provide! Thanks for times now but a memory, Thanks for Jesus by my side! Thanks for pleasant balmy springtime, Thanks for dark and dreary fall; Thanks for tears by now forgotten, Thanks for peace within my soul. Thanks for prayers that Thou hast answered, Thanks for what Thou dost deny! Thanks for storms that I have weathered, Thanks for all Thou dost supply! Thanks for pain and thanks for pleasure, Thanks for comfort in despair! Thanks for grace that none can measure, Thanks for love beyond compare. Thanks for roses by the wayside, Thanks for thorns their stems contain! Thanks for home and thanks for fireside, Thanks for hope that sweet refrain. Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow, Thanks for heavenly peace with Thee! Thanks for hope in the tomorrow, Thanks through all eternity!

My heart pours out in Thanksgiving as I look at God's faithfulness in our church family and what God has done for us. May each of us daily remember to **ALWAYS THANK THE LORD!** Count your many blessings, name them one by one, and just see what God has done.

Our Faith Family Cookbook sales are going well. If you need a special gift for someone this Christmas or any other time, why not gift them with this marvelous cook book.

The annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale will be December 5th, 2015 from 9:00-2:00 PM. Many of us have been working hard to make this a success. Faith Comforters has been doing some special craft items. Please consider how YOU can help with this special event. We need lots of baked items, craft things, and your help setting up and getting ready for this day and workers for the day of the sale. Our new idea for this year is to make up theme baskets/containers to be sold the day of the sale. These would make great Christmas gifts.

Remember to Praise the Lord and give Him thanks this day and every day!

Until next time, Patricia Fernelius for the committee

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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**Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting
6:00 p.m. November 19, 2015**

Present: Al Bauman, Cheryl Zarns, Noel Guerard, Pat Rioux, Howie Larsen, Maureen Miller, Pr. Nate, Rich Collins, Mark Whittington, Dave ZumBerge, Tracy Marcus, Tom Lippert, Jason Leibold

**Treasurer's Report:
as of October 31, 2015**

PROFIT & LOSS YTD

Income	25,646.21
Expenses	20,099.51
Adjusted Net Income after total other expenses	5,546.70

BALANCE SHEET YTD

Total Current Assets	90,273.45
Total Fixed Assets	1,350,341.24
Total Assets	1,440,662.42
Total Liabilities	713,947.11
Total Equity	724,947.11

DESIGNATED Savings	13,800.24
Gen. Reserve Sav. Bal	25,062.18
Park. Lot/Landscaping Fund	247.63

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

ATTENTION MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS and corresponding council reps:

The annual meeting will be in January and we will need a report of your team's activities for the past year. That will be due after your December team meetings. Please send these to Sarah by December 31. Also please remind your ministry teams that monthly meeting reports are needed for the council to do the work of the church. These reports should copy Sarah, team members, and council reps.

Treasurer's Report: The accounts balance with Daven Hanson's giving report and with the bank. Howie Larsen moved to accept the treasurer's report with Rich Collins seconding. Motion passed. Council reviewed all the mission accounts and especially the Jamaica mission accounts making corrections and moving some paid outs to the correct account numbers. It is very important that each request for payment have the correct account number when submitted for payment. Noel reported that our insurance rates had increased substantially and that he would look into how to lower them. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Maureen Miller, seconded by Tom Lippert with the motion passing.

Pastor's Report: The "I Still Do" presentations are suspended until further notice. Approximately \$1500.00 has been raised through various fundraisers for the Jamaica mission. There will be another fundraiser opportunity after the December 13 Christmas program when the Jamaican team will serve a brunch. The Christmas program will be presented by the confirmation class. Recently, many of our congregation have been ill or housebound and Pastor has been busy with visits. He will be formalizing our volunteer Faith visiting team so that no one who needs a visit will fall through the cracks. Pastor shared with council an email from Doris Stumpf Uloth, daughter of Ed Stumpf from whom we purchased our church land. She recounted how happy this transaction made her father. Doris grew up riding horses and praising God on this land. We appreciate her heartfelt tribute to her father's love of God and that his land was used to build a church to praise God.

Old Business: The Father Daughter Ball, scheduled for February 28, 2016, will need many helping hands to succeed. Please consider serving on this important committee. Cyndi Stanek will be taking pictures after services for our updated church directory. Please plan to be included in the directory! Thank you, Cyndi!

New Business: Council tabled adopting the Altar Guild as a subcommittee of the Worship and Prayer Ministry Team until a statement of duties and responsibilities is submitted. Upon that motion, the Worship and Prayer budget will be divided to more accurately reflect the Altar Guild's projected expenses for 2016.

Mark Whittington distributed to the council the duties and responsibilities of the present Facilities Management committee. This committee will be a subcommittee of the Finance Committee, and reporting to the Finance Ministry Team and Council. Motion was made by Noel Guerard to accept the formalization of the Facilities Management committee as a subcommittee to the Finance committee, seconded by Maureen Miller, and passed.

Howie reported that the audit team this year will consist of Dean Bigalke and Mike March. Howie Larsen and Al Bauman will be the council reps on the nominating committee this year. This committee will need three more volunteers. Please see Howie if you are interested.

Daven Hanson, our Faith contributions secretary, would like to have a back-up counter for times when he is unable to be at church. Contributions are counted at church after services, and are recounted, documented in the Servant Keeper laptop program, and then deposited at the bank the following Monday morning. Daven has faithfully done this service for the last 3 years. Please contact Daven or Sarah in the office if you would like to help in this service to our church. Christmas Decorations will be put up Tuesday, December 1, at 1 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. The next Council meeting is December 17, Thursday, at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Zarns, Council Secretary