



Newsletter January 2015

take up the shield of faith

Ephesians 6:16

From Pastor Nate

Phillips Brooks was a great preacher who is primarily known for writing “O Little Town of Bethlehem.” He also made an insightful comment about Christmas. “The earth has grown old with its burden of care, but at Christmas it always is young, the heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair, and its soul full of music breaks the air, when the song of angels is sung.”

Christmas is over, at least according to the calendar. It is time to pack up the decorations, throw out the tree (or store it away if it’s artificial), return unwanted gifts, and finish off the egnog.

Every year it saddens my heart to see Christmas come and go so quickly. And I think that it is because as Phillips claims, “Christmas it always is young, the heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair, and its soul full of music breaks the air, when the song of angels is sung.”

But if we merely go back to our regular routines, haven’t we missed the point of Christmas?

The world may move on and forget but we are called to remember Emmanuel – God is still with us. Someone pointed out to me that the word “manger” is used 3 times in Luke’s birth story and each time we find Jesus lying in the manger. It is as if he is lying there waiting for us to pick Him up and hold Him in our arms. This is the essence of Christmas that Jesus was born unto us. “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.” I still remember holding each of our children when they were newborns. And there are times when I want to go back in time and relive those moments. Christmas is a time to go back in time and celebrate that baby in the manger.

Mary continued to treasure and to ponder all of the things that were said about Jesus as well as Jesus’ own words and actions. (Luke 2:19, 51) Regardless of the calendar we too can continue to ponder the birth and gift of Jesus given for us. He is a gift that transforms lives. He is a gift that can continue to bring hope and joy and a peace that the world can not give. As Phillips Brooks writes, “O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray, cast out our sin and enter in – be born in us today.” When we receive Jesus into our own hearts - the hope, the joy, and the peace are given to us. We can enter into the New Year trusting that God is with us, guiding and directing our lives to His glory.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Nate

Take Note



**Create in me a
clean heart,
O God, and
renew a right
spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10**

President's Message –

January 2015

In some ways, it's hard to believe that a full year has passed since I began serving as president of Faith. It's been an event-filled year with the opening of our new church facility in February, the blessing and dedication on March 23, the paving of the parking lot and the hiring of a church secretary this fall—just to name a few of the highlights. The annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25. The budget will be approved and new council members and officers elected. We truly are a blessed congregation, having a spirit-filled pastor and many volunteers willing to serve the Lord in so many ways. Please plan to be at the annual meeting, which will held immediately following worship on the 25th.

The slate of candidates for church council has been finalized and their biographies are included in this newsletter and will be posted at the church as well. We greatly appreciate the candidates who have agreed to be on the ballot. We have our regular slate of four three-year terms to fill.

As my year comes to a close, I want to once again thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. Please let a council member know if you have any questions or concerns about our congregation as we go about God's plan for us.

Thank you for your service in Christ,
Pat Rioux
Faith Council President

Note:

No reports from
Facilities and Maintenance Team
Children's Ministry Team

Worship & Prayer Ministry Team

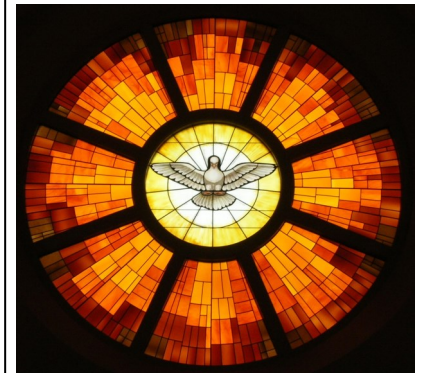
Notes from the Meeting December 3, 2014

As our year comes to an end we begin the church year with Advent, watching and waiting for Jesus to be born. We changed the colors from white to blue, a sign of hope. Coffee cups and mugs will be sold at the Christmas Bazaar on December 6th. Ryder Leif Fernelius will be baptized on December 6th. He is the grandson of Pat and Roger Fernelius. We discussed at our meeting about the Children's Service and communion on December 21st. Our Christmas Eve service will have three stations for Communion. Our budget for next year was discussed and approved at \$2,100. Christ came to us in the past as a baby at Bethlehem, in the present in the word and sacrament and the fellowship of the church and Christ's coming again in the future at the end of time. Let us all be ready and watching.

Worship and Prayer,
Amy, Melissa, Greg and Sandy

Attendance & Offering

December 7:	211	\$ 5,768
December 14:	191	\$ 4,140
December 21:	276	\$ 5,000
December 28:	136	\$ 10,052



*Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."
John 14:23*

December News from the Congregational Life Ministry Team From the meeting December 2, 2014

Isaiah 7:14 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." The promise has been fulfilled and now we have Jesus to celebrate at this season of the year and every day of our lives.

In the pages of Scriptures, several baby-boy births stand out as being recorded. However consider one special baby boy's birth. The description of this arrival was much more greatly detailed: a few words were clearly not enough to tell of Jesus' birth. In Micah, we were told where He would be born—Bethlehem. In Isaiah, that His mother would be a virgin and that He was coming to save people from their sin. Matthew 1:21 tells us, "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." The Bible gives us so many details of Jesus' birth that we don't have to just wonder. Just read the account in Luke chapter 2 again and be renewed each time that you read it.

Our Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale and Grandma's Attic was a total success. It was great to have such a wonderful area to have this event with lots of room to display everything. The decorating team has done a wonderful job of making our foyer glitter with holiday decorations. Thank you to **EVERYONE** who helped in any way at all for this very special event. There were great craft items, tables of delicious baked and food goods, wonderful items for Grandma's attic, and even some festive party wear items in the library. Thank you for contributing items, for setting up, for working the day of the sale, and for helping with the clean-up afterwards. The total amount that was taken in for the boutique was \$2,589.85. Ten percent of this amount will go to missions and the rest placed in an account for our facility and those needs.

The Congregational Life Committee will need to fill 2 positions by the first of the year. If you would be willing to work on this committee, please see one of us. You really do not have to work that hard as "many hands make light work." It is a fun committee to be a part of.

Discussion was held at our last meeting as to the possibility of making our own Faith Lutheran Cookbook. Please give our committee your feedback on this. If we decide to do this we would need favorite recipes from all of you.

Thank you to the members that serve on the Congregational Life Committee. It has been a great year and many things have been accomplished. Now as we look forward to 2015 we are in anticipation of all that God has for us in the New Year. Thanks be to God!

Until next time: Patricia Fernelius for the committee

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting—6:00 pm December 18, 2014

Present: Pr. Nate, Pat Rioux, Mark Whittington, John Albaugh, Al Bauman, Rich Collins, Howard Larsen, Tracy Marcus, Jim Nelson, Cheryl Zarns, Maureen Miller, Tom Lippert, Deb Colombe

Maureen Miller moved and Rich Collins seconded to accept the Secretary's Report. Motion carried.

Rich Collins moved and Mark Whittington seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. Tom Lippert went through the 2015 proposed budget line by line with council. Howard Larsen moved and Jim Nelson seconded to accept it. Motion carried. After discussion about Mission funding, Pat moved and John Albaugh seconded to take 10% of the weekly General Fund giving and deposit it into a newly created Mission Ministry checking account. Motion carried. Any giving envelopes with designated mission funds will go into this checking account. It is suggested that the Mission team elect a treasurer to track the debits and credits. A quarterly report will be generated for council on the disbursements.

Pat Rioux moved and John Albaugh seconded to give appreciation gifts to the following: Kate Bjorge \$500, Joan Novak \$300, Jenny Zietler \$150, Kay Campbell \$150. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

Pr. Nate would like to lead a 6-8 week session on marriage from materials still remaining from the "I Still Do" simulcast. He also reported that Greg Hyatt would like to lead a Bible study in the coming year. Sunday, January 25, 2015, was chosen as the date for the Faith annual meeting.

Old Business:

The Executive Council met for the annual Pastor evaluation.

Mark Whittington created a job description for the housekeeper position which will be posted in the next couple of bulletins. Applicants can pick up job applications and a copy of the position description in the office. The Executive Council will review and choose from received applications. Lyle Frerichs will be plowing the parking lot this winter and the donated snowblower will be used for the other entrances to the building. The main entrance will be shoveled off by volunteers. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Please consider volunteering. The Faith Boutique raised almost \$2,600, of which 10% will go to Missions. Howard Larsen moved and Mark Whittington seconded to purchase another coat rack from the Boutique funds. The motion passed. John Albaugh moved and Maureen seconded to approve the bid to build the new sound booth for \$4,000. Motion carried. Pat Rioux reported that most of the biographies of the council nominees have been received. Going off council at the end of the year are Deb Colombe, Jim Nelson, John Albaugh and Pat Rioux.

New Business:

The Mission Ministry team council representative John Albaugh requested the following funds:

LCMC \$500 to complete our annual commitment, Phil Zarns Sweden ministry \$500, Bonnie Bzdok's Resilient Uganda mission, St. Paul Lutheran Seminary \$500, and Bethany Barnett mission in Ireland \$500. John Albaugh moved and Tracy Marcus seconded to approve the funding with motion passing. Maureen Miller explained that Bonnie Bzdok is helping vulnerable Ugandan women learn self-supporting skills. Al Bauman talked about the need for a large TV with a good sound bar that would be wall mounted in the narthex. Discussion followed on the wiring requirements. Al Bauman moved and Rich Collins seconded that the necessary funds be used from the men's Wednesday breakfast fund for the purchase. Motion carried. Howard Larsen moved and Rich Collins seconded that \$700 be used from the furnishings account for purchasing table cloths and two more kitchen carts. Motion carried.

The next Council Meeting will be Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. at Faith.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Zarns, Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report: AS OF NOVEMBER 28, 2014

PROFIT & LOSS YTD

Income	290,641.39
Expenses	174,383.23
Adjusted Net Income after total other expenses.....	111,305.70

BALANCE SHEET YTD

Total Current Assets.....	88,298.59
Total Fixed Assets.....	1,316,444.98
Total Assets	1,404,791.30
Total Liabilities	757,486.97
Total Equity	647,304.33

Gen. Checking Balance available for operations	30,491.11
DESIGNATED Savings.....	7,161.95
Gen. Reserve Sav. Bal.....	25,004.57
Park. Lot/Landscaping Fund...	14,316.71

Youth and Family Team:

Upcoming events to mark on your calendars! Young, old, single and families — all are invited to join the fun!

January 11th from 1 - 4:30 at the Arrowood Waterpark in Baxter (Paul Bunyan). The Youth & Family committee will cover your pass to the water park, but snacks or refreshments are your responsibility.

February 1st and March 15th from 1 - 4:30 we are scheduled for our ANNUAL tubing at Camp Ripley — of course these dates are weather dependent. More details for the event as the date draws closer.

Any questions about these events, please contact Amber Rausch: (320)360-5804.

Mission and Outreach Ministry Team

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

When you are reading this, our team of 10 individuals will be in Jamaica on their mission trip. They are scheduled to be gone from December 27th to January 4th. Keep them in your prayers.

The Mission/Outreach team is wrapping up 2014 with a flourish. We approved requests to LCMC for the second half of our annual pledge of \$1,000, and \$500 to St. Paul Seminary. In addition we approved bequests of \$500 each to three international mission efforts all of which have local roots; Phil Zarn's Swedish Mission, Bethany Barnett in Ireland, and Bonnie Bzdok's Resilient Uganda.

The Christmas Child shoe box project was deemed a success, with 213 boxes collected with 117 coming from Faith. There were 9,786 boxes collect from the region which we are a part. Kim Mielke who co-ordinated the project so well, is willing to take it on again. Hats off to all who participated.

From the Mission Team, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, lets keep Christ in Christmas.

Pastor Nate Bjorge, Chair Heather Kelper, and John Albaugh, Kay Campbell, Cathy Frerichs, Kim Mielke, Maureen Miller, and Jan Schrupp

Church Council Candidates Biographies:

Julie Bassett

I was born in Duluth, MN, and raised in Hermantown, I have lived in Little Falls for the last 12 years. I am a single mom raising 2 girls (14 and 10), with a 3rd daughter who is married and lives in Bemidji. I work from home as a Medical Coding Technician. At past churches, my activities included Sunday School Superintendent and singing in the choir. Currently at Faith, I am serving on the church Facilities Committee. Activities outside of church that I have helped with include Girl Scouts, youth basketball and volunteer opportunities for the Convention and Visitors Bureau. I would be honored to serve on the Council here at Faith, should I be elected.

Faith is a living, daring
confidence in God's
grace, so sure and
certain that a man
could stake his life on
it a thousand times.

Martin Luther



Trail Life U.S.A.

Faith Lutheran is the charter organization for Trail Life USA, a Christian scouting program for boys (K-12).

If you would like more information about Trail Life, contact Aaron Olson 632-8330

Church Council Candidates Biographies (continued):

Noel Guerard

I grew up in the Lutheran faith in northeastern Washington state. I met Ann while I was attending the U.S. Air Force B-52 aerial gunners' course in California. We were soon married and lived in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan at K.I. Sawyer Air Force base. Ann resigned from the Air Force when Reanna, our first daughter, was born. After our second daughter, Audrey, was born, I was selected to attend helicopter pilot training and transferred to the Army. Our first son, Hunter, was born just before I completed pilot training. We were assigned to Ft. Hood Texas and I deployed to Desert Storm as a flight lead for an attack helicopter battalion. Odin, our youngest child, was born while we lived in Texas. I became an instructor pilot, and after a year in Korea, we moved to Germany. We took advantage of the chance to travel all over Europe on days off during our 4 years in Germany. I flew Blackhawk helicopters for the State Department while assigned there and completed a Bachelor of Science degree. We then moved to Italy and lived in a small village near Aviano for the last 3 years of our military experience. While stationed in Italy, I flew missions in the Balkans, Eastern Mediterranean, and North Africa. I retired from the military in 2001 after 23 years of active duty service. We moved to Royalton and I began flying medical transport helicopters. In 2006 I became a training captain/FAA check airman and was promoted to area manager, and then to the regional manager position. I retired from the regional manager position in November this year and now work in my wood shop. Ann and I have been married for 32 years and I feel really blessed that we met. We are original founding members of Faith Lutheran and, if elected, I look forward to serving as a Church Council member.

CarolRae Kalahar

I was born and raised in Little Falls; I graduated from the Little Falls Community High School in 1983. I attended SCSU until 1986; I took a year off and babysat my newborn niece, Sara! I went back to college after fulfilling my commitment of one year of babysitting!

I then transferred to The College of Saint Benedict. I loved this experience of attending a catholic college, a school that didn't omit our Lord Jesus Christ, but yet also required a theology class in order to graduate. Even though there were many other religious sects...of all nations, it was the Word of God that was the focus of this college. The only thing that was omitted was the accommodation of other gods!

I graduated in 1989 with a Liberal Arts degree and continued to live and work in the St Cloud area, mostly as an Interior Designer except for the last eight years of employment at FSI in Monticello, where I was a Promotion Manager.

I was diagnosed with scleroderma in 1993 and worked up until 2005. I then did volunteer work; Zonta (the betterment of women), Anna Marie Homeless Shelter, New Beginnings as a mentor for young pregnant girls, and currently St Otto's Care Center.

I moved back to Little Falls four years ago. I love being able to live close to my parents, better yet, joining their, (now our) church-Faith Lutheran! I am blessed to be an active member of Faith I enjoy the Bible studies and learning the Word of the Lord and sharing fellowship with other members.

Jason Leibold

I grew up in Little Falls and attended the Church of the Nazarene for many years. During my junior year of high school, I joined the Army National Guard. After graduation, I began working construction and then entered the Landscaping program at Central Lakes College. In May of 2000, I was united in marriage to Tammie and began a full-time job at Camp Ripley as a Track Vehicle Mechanic. We had our first son, Zachary in 2002 and, in 2004, after working at camp for 4 years and 9 1/2 years in the National Guard, I decided to start my own business. We now have 3 amazing boys Zachary, Jacob and Nicholas. I enjoy hunting, trapping, working and spending time with my family. My family and I now reside in Royalton and we are honored to attend Faith Lutheran Church.

Church Council Candidates Biographies (continued):

Jim Nelson

I was born in Thief River Falls, MN, and grew up on a dairy farm. I was confirmed at Silver Creek Lutheran Church, a 100+ year old country church near the home farm. I graduated from North Dakota State University, -home of the Bison- and taught High School Agriculture for five years before going to work for Land O' Lakes Inc., recently retiring after 34 years. I currently am self-employed and work as a business consultant for cooperatives in Central MN. Debbie and I were married in 1981 and have two children - Michael and Christina - whom we enjoyed visiting with over Christmas. We are past members of First Lutheran and were part of the original group that helped start up Faith Lutheran. I have served as Treasurer at both First Lutheran and Faith and currently serve on the Finance and Maintenance Committees. Debbie and I feel truly blessed to be part of Faith Lutheran and look forward to the many blessings that lay ahead for our church. I look forward to continue serving on the council should I be elected.

Pat Rioux

I was born in Chelmsford, England and grew up a U.S. Air Force (USAF) brat in several locations across the country before eventually settling in the Twin Cities. I was raised Catholic and played college basketball before joining the USAF myself. I became a Missouri-Synod Lutheran in 1982, shortly before my marriage to Cheryl in 1983. I have been the manager of communications and marketing at St. Gabriel's Hospital since 1986. I previously served on the board of elders, as well as in other capacities at Zion Lutheran Church in Little Falls, before briefly joining First Lutheran. I was part of the original group that founded Faith Lutheran in 2010. I have been involved in youth ministry activities and attended the LCMS National Youth Gathering in 2003. I coordinated several Sunday School Christmas programs over the years. I currently serve on the Youth and Family Ministry Team and help Cheryl with the video projection during worship. In addition to my church work, I am involved in the Violence Prevention Initiative of Morrison County, an effort to reduce domestic violence and bullying in the county, and previously coached girls' basketball and other youth sports. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving on the council at Faith should I be re-elected.

Dave ZumBerge

I was raised on a dairy farm near Arlington, MN, and attended a rural country church. My wife Patty is a teacher in St. Cloud. We both graduated from the same high school and have three children- Emileah who lives in St Paul and works in the psychology field, Natalicia who is a junior at Gustavous, and Stephanita who is a junior in Pierz. We live north of Little Falls on a small hobby farm. I am a 4-H volunteer and have been a wrestling official with the MSHL and a youth firearms safety instructor.

We are charter members of Faith Lutheran and were previously members of First Lutheran since 1989, where Patty served on council for 6 years. I worked with the First Lutheran Mission Team to help establish the Morrison County Chaplaincy program, as well as ushered, and assisted in youth outings.

I am a law enforcement officer, serving for over 30 years as a police officer in Arlington, MN, a deputy sheriff/welfare fraud investigator in Meeker County and as a MN State Trooper. I have served with the State Patrol since 1986 assigned to patrol stations in Minneapolis, Shakopee, and Little Falls. I have been assigned to the State Patrol Headquarters in Brainerd as a Lieutenant since 1999. I have experience supervising employees, overseeing crash investigations, strategic planning, budgeting, and other administrative duties. I have additional administrative/management training from the FBI and Northwestern University.

One retirement goal for me is to grow in faith by increasing my service to Faith Lutheran.