“Rejoice always; pray constantly; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”
1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

I recently received an issue of “The Vine and Branches” by Abiding Word Ministries and read an article about the life of Charles Haddon Spurgeon who was called “The Prince of Preachers.” He lived in the 19th century and his weekly sermons were published in several newspapers including The New York Times. (How the Times have changed.) Charles claims that he had a conversion experience at 15 years of age. Because of a snowstorm the minister was unable to attend so a layman stood up and preached from Isaiah 45:22. In the KJV it read, “Look unto Me and be ye saved.” The layman exclaimed that it is no use looking to yourself; you will not find any comfort there. And then he looked right at Charles and said to him, “Young man, you will always be miserable unto you look to Jesus Christ.” Charles said at that moment he became transformed as the clouds and darkness were rolled back and he saw precious love and mercy of Christ.

It is certainly our human tendency to look to ourselves to find joy and satisfaction in this life. Like Frank Sinatra singing “I did it my way,” we “exchange the truth about God for a lie and worship and serve the creature rather than the Creator.” (Romans 1:25) And as Charles was warned, looking to ourselves and not to Christ can only end in misery.

Charles Spurgeon understood that no matter what circumstance we find ourselves in we need to look to Christ. Like St. Paul, Charles believed that God can be glorified through our suffering, when it draws us closer to Him and gives us empathy for others who are suffering. He lived through some devastating experiences and bouts of depression and yet he claimed, “I would go to the deeps a hundred times to cheer a downcast spirit. It is good for me to have been afflicted, that I might know how to speak a word in season to one that is weary.... Trials teach us what we are; they dig up the soil, and let us see what we are made of.”

John Baillie claimed that “True Christians are those who never for a moment forget what God has done for them in Christ, and whose whole demeanor and whole activity have their root in the sentiment of gratitude.” It often appears that those who have a truly grateful attitude are those who have experienced great hardship. They know firsthand the feelings of pain and loss. They understand that storms are an inescapable part of life, and they have learned not to cast blame but to accept the suffering and yes maybe even rejoice in knowing that the storms do not have the final word. Jesus is the Word that can roll back the clouds and darkness and shine the Light of salvation into our lives.

Have a Joy-Filled Thanksgiving!
Pr. Nate Bjorge

Upcoming Events

- November 28
  Thanksgiving Eve service followed by pie social

- December 7
  Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale—9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Howie and Bev Larsens’
Greetings in Christ,

The first thing that needs to be said in this month’s article is THANK YOU for your prayers, concerns, visits, calls and cards during these last several weeks following surgery on my leg. It’s hard to put into words how much they lifted my spirits and helped with the healing. I’m not sure why God needed to get my attention, but one thing He did do was show me (“remind” might be a better word) what love looks like. It looks like all of you in this wonderful family of Faith. I t especially looks like Bev. Without her tireless and unending care, I wouldn’t be anywhere near where I am in the healing process. I’ve been truly blessed to have Bev at my side for the last 45 years. I thank God for Bev and for God’s healing hand.

Our church building project is getting closer to the finish line. Darren Colombe is heading up the sheetrocking operation. We’ve had many volunteers helping him and this project is coming along nicely. Thank you to all who have worked on this effort. We will soon be taping the sheetrock and painting. We will need more volunteers for the painting. Most of you have painted before so experience should not be a problem. Rich Collins is our building volunteer coordinator. If he calls you for help, please say yes – it makes his job a lot easier and less frustrating.

As we approach the end of our building pledge drive (which, by the way, has far exceeded what was pledged), we need to be watchful about just giving a big sigh of relief, sitting back, and thinking we’re done. We will still have bills to pay and a mortgage that needs to be satisfied. After the church is completed, we must renew our commitment to meeting our obligations. This congregation has always been very generous and with God’s ever-present help, I have no doubt that the generosity will continue.

Thank you again for all your support. God loves you and so do I.

God bless you all,
Howie

Children’s Ministry Team

A mighty fortress is our God.

Congratulations to our confirmands!

Jillian Cox
Randale Fernelius
Kalley Stock

Attendance and Offerings

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Happy Thanksgiving
Remembering the goodness of God
Building Committee

October was a good month!! Becker got the building wrapped and the windows in and then moved inside to put plastic on the ceilings and sheetrock the ceilings. The classroom wing, narthex and fellowship hall ceilings are done and fire taped. We put up temporary doors to keep some of the wind and cold out of the building and one week later the people who were to install the doors showed up to install the exterior doors. Becker has the outside walls in the classroom wing insulated and sheetrocked. The narthex walls will be sheetrocked down to the agreed-upon 10-foot level. They have some framing work to finish on the kitchen walls.

Central Minnesota Electric finished all the rough-in wiring the inspection is done. They have also provided some temporary outlets in the classroom wing to make it easier to get the extension cords plugged in. They ran power out to the two outside heating units.

Thelen Heating has been installing ductwork in the classroom wing and the duct runs along the fellowship walls. They also set up the two outside heating units for the fellowship area.

Ballou Plumbing dug the gas lines for the heating units and started to make all the water connections.

Faith Lutheran has hired Darren Colombe to do the sheetrocking in the building from the 10-foot level down to the floor. He is depending on volunteers to help with the project. As I write this the classroom wing is almost done. At this point we need to thank all those who are volunteering with this project. There is a lot of sheetrock to hang. We also put up "sound board" on one wall of all the rooms in the classroom wing as well as insulating all the walls in this wing. We are in the process of renting a fairly large temporary heater for the classroom wing to get this area heated to a level where sheetrock taping can began.

The concrete slab under the canopy got poured, thanks to BMD Construction of Royalton. It's hard to get outside contractors to commit to non-scheduled work at this time of the year. Central Minnesota Paving paved the drive from the canopy to the handicapped parking area and the handicapped parking area. This is all that will get paved this fall. We must remember to give thanks to God for not having the ground freeze or be covered with a foot of snow at this time of the year.

We also need to thank all the volunteers who help clean up. I don't even know who they all are. In our lives there are so many unseen, quiet people who make things better for all of us. These people see a need and just go do it.

Mark Whittington has agreed to help with the day-to-day issues and coordination of different aspects of this project. Jim Kalisch is still very much involved. We bounce lots of perceived problems off him and he is also a great help with his computer skills and time.

Please keep all the contractors in your prayers. They have all been very cooperative and helpful with each other and with us. Also we must give thanks to God for all that He provides. Sometimes He even grants me patience and tolerance.

Peter Larsen, Building Committee

Youth and Family Ministry Team

Mission and Outreach Ministry Team

I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

Psalm 7:17

NIV

GoodSearch and GoodShop

When doing your shopping online, please remember to do it through GoodShop so that Faith will receive a percentage of your purchase! Last year we raised $232.55.

If you have not downloaded the GoodSearch toolbar, please visit the Faith Lutheran website and click on “GoodSearch” on the left and follow the directions there. Funds we receive through GoodSearch will support our Youth Ministry!

Let Us Give Thanks
Worship and Prayer Ministry Team

As always, we give thanks to God for your faithfulness in attendance and giving as together we ARE making a difference. Our attendance numbers have been increasing and through the many efforts of all our teams we have blessed others both in and outside of our congregation. Through fellowship with each other and hearing the Word of the Lord preached, we grow in faith and gratitude for our many blessings.

Paul Marcus shared that there is a need to replace some cords for the Praise Band. He will get the necessary equipment and submit a bill. The team discussed the importance of ensuring that the wiring is properly set up in the new building. Receiving guidance on the proper equipment to purchase as we get closer to our opening will also be needed. Various vendors have been or will be contacted to ensure that the appropriate equipment is purchased.

Thanksgiving Eve service (no communion) will be 7 p.m. Wednesday, November 27.

There will be a pie and coffee time following the Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving Day. We ask for pies to be donated for this event. Any pies that are not used will be donated to the Community Meal on Thanksgiving Day.

We are planning our annual Christmas bake sale/boutique which is always a fun and festive way to start the Christmas season. It will be held at Bev and Howie Larsens’ again on December 7.

If you get a chance, drive out to our church site and take a look at the progress! It is exciting! God is watching over us for sure!

For the team, Cheryl Zarns

Reminder for Communion

If you prefer grape juice instead of wine during communion, it is available. Please tell the person who is distributing the communion BREAD that you would prefer grape juice, and that person will take care of it for you.

Congregational Life Ministry Team

Autumn is here in beautiful color. It is a busy time for our Congregational Life Team. October 13, Faith welcomed new members, Bob and Bobbi Riitters and Aaron, Becky, Tucker, and Jonah Olson. Our vice president, John Albaugh welcomed them by reading a little “history” about each of them. A reception was held in their honor after the service. October 27 was our confirmation service and reception.

Our team and the kitchen team held a special meeting recently to discuss a “kitchen shower” to help furnish our new kitchen. More information will soon follow.

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If you get a chance, drive out to our church site and take a look at the progress! It is exciting! God is watching over us for sure!

Bev Larsen for Congregational Life Team

Therefore, since we are receiving kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful...

Hebrews 12:28
NIV
Council Meeting Highlights —

The fire chief recommends hard-wired smoke detectors in the classroom wing. Six fire extinguishers are required. Ductwork for heating is being installed in the east wing.

A motion passed to contract with Darren Colombe at the cost of his bid of $33,000 to proceed with sheetrocking and organize volunteers to work with him. Maureen will print sign-up sheets to circulate at church on Sunday.

The asphalt on the handicapped area is done, with a bill for $9,180. The parking lot needs to be bladed before frost sets in. The rest of the exterior of the building will have to wait for awhile.

We are now paying interest only on our construction loan, which we must continue to do until our mortgage papers are signed upon completion of the building. There is urgency in getting the building done.

Using money in the general savings account to pay rental for the school was discussed.

Pastor enjoys a bunch of really good kids in confirmation classes.

Confirmation Sunday will be (as is our tradition) on Reformation Sunday, October 27. There are three confirmands: Jillian Cox, Randale Fernelius and Kalley Stock.

Brad Bellamy and two other congregation members will serve with Pat Rioux and Rich Collins on the nominating committee. There are four three-year terms and one one-year term to be filled. A motion passed that the seat vacated by Gerry Boody not be filled at this time because it is so close to elections.

A planning committee is being formed for the dedication of our new building.

A motion passed that as an ecclesiastical body, our church council designate as a housing allowance, $5,000 out of Pastor Blaine’s salary as Resident Chaplain for the VA in St. Cloud. (This is pursuant to the approval of our CPA.)

Cake for receptions and flowers for confirmands on October 27 will be provided. A pie social after the Thanksgiving Eve worship service is being planned.

The Congregational Life Team will examine ordinances defining “heat and serve only” kitchen (as opposed to “commercial”).

Leanne Wolbeck, managing a list of all the items for our church, etc., should be informed every time anybody comes up with or is offered a good deal on furnishings or equipment or knows of items we already have that may not be in the list so that expenditures can be prioritized.

Paul and Lea Eldred, missionaries in Turkey whom we support, are in the States. They are not available to be with us on a Sunday, but could possibly attend a Mission Team meeting.

Pastor Bjorge reported that plans are under way for a March Mission trip to Jamaica, with a ministry called “Sunbeam,” supervised by the Klevers.

Another “Romans and Christians” event is coming up October 25.

Pastor Bjorge will be gone on November 10. Kay Campbell will preach that Sunday.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is at 6 p.m., November 20, at Hurrle Hall.

THIS IS AN ABBREVIATED REPORT. For a complete copy of the minutes, contact Council Secretary Orrine Hanson. Her e-mail address is: orrineh@yahoo.com

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15 NIV
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.

Finance and Management Ministry Team

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 6:13-18 NIV

Meals On Wheels
Praise God for Meals on Wheels deliveries! Faith no longer shares a week with St. Mary’s, so we especially welcome new volunteers. THANK YOU to our volunteers!

Delivery dates for 2013 are: December 23-27. If you would like to be a part of this mission, please call Ed Ososki for more information at 632-4806.

This is the church of the Living God, which is the pillar and foundation of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15 NLT

Go in Faith, to love and serve the Lord!