

2011 JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Faith Lutheran Church

Pierre, South Dakota

605-224-2216



Community, Growth, Gratitude

By the Numbers-

* * * * * * * *

Greetings in the Babe of Bethlehem! Last year on Friday there was an interesting one-hour series called Numbers. It seemed they solved each mystery with some type of complicated mathematical formulas. While Lent is two months off, here is a great mathematical formula.

> 1 cross <u>+ 3 nails</u> 4 given

So, by the numbers—

800 - 800 square foot is the four room house we will finance in Haiti in a wonderfully creative act of ministry of Synod's World Relief and Human Care.

52/10 is the formula by which we will finance this House, our new monthly Building payment and the increased utilities that have come with it, and our increased Mission Commitment to our District Synod.

80/50 On September 6, 2011 we celebrate our 80th year as a parish. To my knowledge, Clara Hirsch is our only living original member. In December of 2011 we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our move to 714 North Grand Avenue and the Dedication of our new Sanctuary. We are planning a remarkable day with everyone who was here in 1961 as our special guests and Dr. Reed "Buy the Field" Lessing as our Guest Speaker. A pork barbeque, Zesto ice cream sundaes, and live music, what a day It will be.

Please start now! Please give us addresses of everyone you know that was here in 1961.

4,153.99 the amount of interest disbursed from our Endowment Fund. Gifts in 2010 were given to our Preschool, instruments for our music ministry, our Elevator Fund, the Central South Dakota Food Bank, to our District Missions and to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis for student scholarships.

40 It's a personal joy, but this June I celebrated the 40th year of my Ordination at Bethany Lutheran in Omaha, Nebraska. What a memorable day it was for my family and home congregation.

 ∞ That's the number symbol for infinity. That's how a Pastor feels at Christmas, the cards, the greetings, the gifts, the acts of kindness. It is all very humbling. I wish to say a hearty, huge, THANK YOU!

3:16 Well, one last number. It is the number all of Christendom knows, yes you're right, John 3:16. Yes, this is how much God loves you, He does the giving, He does the loving, we receive and with heartfelt joy respond. Well, by the numbers, we all have much to be thankful for. Thanks again, the Lord be with you!

With a thankful heart,

Pastor Brad Urbach



Hong Kong Bound Nick Hill, Jeff Logan, and Jared Doud are a part of a MISSION February 17-27, 2011 short-term Mission trip with others from our South Dakota District.

Our Board of Missions is hosting a Pancake Feed on Sunday, January 23 in the Christian Family Life Center. This is a Fund Raiser to raise significant gifts to assist Nick, Jeff, & Jared in their trip. The cost is about \$2,000.00 per person, which includes their air-fare, lodging, and food while in Hong Kong.

They do need to get air tickets soon so we would appreciate any gifts of generosity that could be given now to help them with that expense.

A Message from Pastor Willms

Good Christian Friends,

Recent events are driving these important words for us to share with one another. I have received three calls, in addition to the one I currently serve. One is the call to be Associate Pastor at Faith Lutheran instead of Assistant Pastor which I am now. Second is to be Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Chippewa Falls, WI, which now has been declined. Third is to be Pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church, Kaukauna, WI. There is much to be prayerful and on my knees seeking the Lord's Will about.

I would like to thank you for the many words of encouragement and for your prayers. Many have assured me that they are praying for us to stay and expressed their love for me and for my family and desire for us to be here. I am thankful that people like us and don't wish us gone. It is a joy serving here and being amongst all of you.

Today I want to share with you something that it is deeply important in the call process--Partnership. Paul writes in Philippians 1:3-6, "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Things

were a little different at the time of Paul, but in some ways, not really. Church leaders were on the move. When you read the New Testament, often one church sends someone to another and sometimes back again. Paul himself didn't stay anywhere too long, unless he was locked in prison. Before you get **alarmed**, I am in **no way** indicating that I will be moving, or that staying in a place forever is bad either.

The **important thing** is that churches in different places viewed themselves in partnership with those in other places. It really is one Church. So however the Lord decides to move people around, it is for the good of all. We are, after all, in partnership. I desire what is best for Faith Pierre, Zion Chippewa Falls, and Bethany Kaukauna. We all should. What is best for all, however isn't always easy to decipher. That is why we pray, and pray, and pray some more. We also cling to Paul's words, "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it to completion." We have a confidence because God does the calling and God carries things to their proper conclusion.

I had someone ask, "Do we get to vote in the final decision?" In a sense you have. It has been voted that I stay and be Associate Pastor. It has also been voted by your partners in various places that I go. So we wait on the will of the Lord. I feel the weight of that

every day. What is His will? Where does my will get in the way? Where does it match His? How does His will affect people in various places? Is His will difficult? Is it easy? What if I don't like it? I pray and pray and pray, and lean in confidence on the Lord. Please continue to pray, share with God your desires, and seek His will. In so doing you help carry the weight, for we are partners after all--Partners in the Gospel, with Paul, with Christians of old, and Christians now throughout God's Kingdom.

In His Service,

Pastor Willms



Official Acts

<u>Funerals</u> Norman Bierwagen Kenneth "Jeff" Jeffries Helen Weischedel



Gifts – We thank you for your December gifts to the Building/ Debt fund.

New T.V. We thank Mike & Ann Shoup for a new television for the Great Room and thank the three other families who graciously offered updated TV's.

Bank West Loan The Board of Stewardship has authorized another \$7,000 toward the reduction of the \$56,000 Interim loan with Bank West. This brings this loan down to a principal and interest due of \$8,318.39.

It is our hope to shred this loan note on February 6, 2011. Thank you again for your continued gifts to our Building/ Debt Retirement Fund.

Electrical We have roughed-in electrical wall boxes in the St. Luke, St. John, and St. Paul rooms.

St. Paul Room The materials are ordered to seal the remaining half of the St. Paul room. With all that done, all the floors will be sealed. This makes for a much cleaner Building. Thanks, Jay.

Insulation We thank Norm Neilan who volunteered to take all the left over insulation to further insulate the walls in the St. Luke, John, and Paul rooms.

Building News

Air Hockey We thank the Tronvold family, Jeff, Paula, Gerrit, and Kassie for the donation of an Air Hockey table for our Youth game room.

Dart Board We thank Darrell & Darlene Reinke for the gift of a Dart Board to our youth game room.

Music Room Border Our 1961 Fellowship Hall has been cleaned up and has taken on a new look. We have provided neat and well arranged storage for our Boards and special events like Mardi Gras. The Christmas decorations will now be placed in this area also so every year we don't have to go to the staff apartment on what always seems to be a bitter cold day.

This is also the area where our Sunday Schoolers practice music and our choir warms up. The Capitol City Barbershop crew also meets in this area on Monday nights.

We thank Jay Fredrich for putting up a new musical border on the North and East walls. Karen Lindbloom, our Music Coordinator will be adding some attractive musical posters. Sunday School rooms, the Holy Trinity Room, the Great Room, Jon's Place, Faith Lutheran Preschool, a music room and great organized storage, our 1961 part of our campus still serves us very well!

On September 18th we will celebrate out 50th anniversary of out 1961 move to 714 North Grand Avenue.





We would like to have a complete list of names from you of everybody, adult or child, who were members of Faith in 1961.

We also would like names and addresses of everyone you might be aware of who were members of Faith in 1961. We owe a big thank you for all those who had a big vision in 1961.

Different Gifts/Equal Sacrifice

Bible Study Opportunities

Genesis--Lifelight Class--Lifelight bible studies seek to give in-depth study of the scriptures. In this study you will be following the lives of Jacob and Joseph and God's plan for raising up a covenant people. The contact for this class is Marv Schweigert 224-5133 Meets Sundays at Church 6:30 PM begins Jan. 16th.

Thursday Morning Men's Study--Men of Purpose Series--Fearless Leadership--Joshua. Come and gather with men as we look into the life of Joshua and see what God teaches us about Himself and about our call to live as men in our families and world. Meets Thursday morning at 7:00 am, and for breakfast at 6:30 on the 1st Thursday of the Month. Starts Jan. 13th.

Lessons of the Church Year--This class on Wednesday mornings at church 6:30 AM. They study the appointed lessons for the week and helps to gain a fuller understanding of the text in preparation for what will be taught on Sunday. This class will start March 2nd. Contact Ruth Leidholt (224-8308).

Beth Moore Women's Bible Study--Stepping Up: A Journey through the Psalms of Ascent. Explore the major feasts of Israel and journey with Beth through this 7-session study. Themes of unity, joy, gratitude, redemption, repentance, the power of blessings, facing ridicule, and more are explored in detail. Modern-day believers in Jesus Christ can learn much from these treasured Psalms in their journey toward greater intimacy with God. Starts Jan. 20th 6:30-8:30 at church and runs 7 weeks.

> Christianity in the First Three Centuries--This class meets at church Wed. Evenings at 6:30 and is led by Bill Markley. They will be looking at the Early Church and how the Gospel Message transformed the world during times of persecution and hardship. That same message is transforming for today. This class will start January 12th. ____

Our Sunday Morning Bible Class will continue to dive into the Gospel of Matthew. This book is the lead book in the New Testament for a reason. Come and join us as we not only learn about our savior but from Him directly as he shares with us the Kingdom of God that comes in the gift of Himself. Our Sunday Morning class meets in between services in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45.

> Faith Legacy Series: The most influential person in the faith life of a child is their parents. This class will work with families on how they can teach the faith to their children in the home. The class meets for three weeks with each age group. The first age group this Spring is those 3 to 5 years old. If you have children in this age group please sign up. This class will be on Thursday night from 6:30-8:00 pm starting January 27th. Child Care will be provided.

Adult Inquires Class-A wonderful class for all that covers the basic teachings of our church and helps you understand what makes us Christian and specifically Lutheran as well. This is an especially important class for those who are new with us and who would desire to become a part of our Faith Family. This class meets on Thursday evenings at 7:30 beginning Feb. 10th. Contact Pastor Urbach for details (224-2216)

Early Communion Class--for youth and parents of our 2nd-8th graders. This will cover the basic teachings of the Lord's Supper and prepare youth to begin receiving the Lord's Supper. The class meets Saturday, Feb. 26th from 9:00-12:00 and then again Saturday, March 5th from 9:00-10:30. Contact the church office (224-2216) to sign up or for more information.

Wednesday Night Home Bible Study--Meets in homes starting on January 12th. The class will be studying the book of Job and is led by Bill Bossman. If you are interested, please contact Bob Miller 224-9955 for location.

Lay Leadership Institute--Our South Dakota District's Lay Leadership Institute classes available this Spring are New Testament and Teaching the Faith. If you would like to grow in your knowledge of the New Testament or in teaching these are great classes. There are several options from Auditing the class or being fully registered and involved in the the overall program. Speak with Pastor Willms if you would like to be involved at any level. Class takes place January 15th 1-4 pm.







Page 5



STEPPING UP

Beth Moore



Wulf CFO Appointment

We wish Jerry Wulf God's rich blessings upon his appointment to a 3-year term to the position of "Chief Financial Officer" of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In addition to being a CPA who has faithfully served the State of South Dakota in the Legislative Audit for 34 years, Jerry has also served the South Dakota District of the LCMS as its treasurer for 20 years.

Jerry will begin his new position January 31st. The Wulf's plan on keeping their home in Pierre at this point and Corinne will stay in Pierre until late spring. Both Jerry & Corinne have been "salt of the earth" parishioners in our parish. We will miss them personally and will need to fill a lot of places where they have served with others.

The process of selection was a long one. We are excited for Jerry's new opportunity to serve Christ's Holy Kingdom.

We will have a reception for the Wulf's on January 16 between services. President Dale Sattgast will attend.

Good Shepherd Window

Sunday, February 6

On February 6 at 10:30 we will dedicate a stained glass window in the Lobby that has been given to Faith by the Mundt family of St. John Lutheran in Agar. St John Lutheran closed on October 24, 2010 after 125 years of ministry. This window was in the Sanctuary. It has been shadowboxed by Bob Shoup who was raised in the St. John Church. Steve Stoneback has cleaned and repaired the window and Jerry Berg has helped with the protection glass. Todd's Electric has assisted with the backlighting.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's both Pastor Herman Bauer and then Pastor Edwin Beyer served Lutherans in Pierre as our District sought to form a parish in the Capitol City. So, as a parish we are grateful to the congregation and Pastors of St. John Lutheran for their role in our beginnings.

The window is an art piece of Jesus, The Good Shepherd. It now finds a home by, The Good Shepherd Room.

We will have a time of Fellowship in the Lobby of the Christian Family Life Center between services and we will invite members, we are aware of, who attended St. John Lutheran. Please make special efforts on February 6 to come and join us and former members of St. John Lutheran who can attend. We are prayerful for good

weather that Sunday!

Ushers

We will have an Usher's meeting on January 30, that's a Sunday at 2:00 p.m. It's a bye week in the NFL so we will give you something to do.

We will review our procedures, discuss your suggestions and thoughts. We thank you for serving. If you would like to be on one of our usher teams for either service please call the church office and let us know.



Festival of the Crèche



The Festival of the Crèche We are most grateful for all who made "The Festival of the Crèche" a marvelous time of witness to our community. We say thanks to:

- all who provided Crèches. We had an all time high of 219.
- Rebekah Circle for serv-• ing the goodies and cleaning up afterwards.
- all who brought goodies. It was a colorful selection of bars, breads, and cookies that was not only pleasing to the eye but to the palate as well.

- Leah Kirley, who once again painted an artistic rock Crèche scene. This year the winner was Ken Shelbourn.
- our Choir for a beautiful Advent trilogy called "A Little Advent Music."
- our Organist for the service was Jeanne Schweigert and for Sharon Berg for her flute accompaniment with the Choir.

Our tradition for the Baby Jesus is to have the most recently born baby boy in our parish and his parents to be the Babe, Mary & Joseph. This year that honor belongs to Noah Robert Koch and his parents Larry & Dee Koch. Our Wise Men were Jay Fredrich, Larry Coyle and John Barber. Our Shepherds were Darin & Luke Hodges, Tom & Christopher Schultz, and Michael & Nathan Shoup. Our Angels were Morgan Deis, Alyssa Bump, Carly Nieman, and Whitney King.

Men's Fellowship



Whist Party We had a great turn out. The winner of the Pierre Pride Dollars gift certificate was Scott Collison.

There will be NO January meeting. We will gather on the first Monday in February—that's the 7th and yes, the darts will fly!

Epiphany Evening Worship



Join us on January Wednesday nights the 12th, 19th, and 26th at 7:55 p.m.

These are services of Word and Sac-

rament following our HS98 Evening Prayer service. There is no Homily or offering, just Word, and song and the Lord's Supper.

Utopia in Haiti

Haiti is anything but Utopia. Yet through the efforts of LCMS World Relief and Human Care at least 3 Lutheran villages will be developed with small but well built houses. With nearly 300 homes in a village, the village also had a Church, a school, a medical clinic and an orphanage.

Our \$8,000 gift to build an 800 square foot home will help us build and extend God's Kingdom in Haiti where we have a very good Synodical relationship with our two partner churches.

Our giving starts Ash Wednesday, would it not be a remarkable joy if on our first Lenten Worship day we put a huge foot forward toward our \$8,000 goal? We have assured Synod our gift will be there by Easter.



Daycare News

Greetings to everyone from Faith Lutheran Daycare I hope that everyone is staying well and enjoying the holiday season.

We have been extremely busy at the daycare during the month of December. We have been doing crafts and making Christmas presents for all our Moms and Dads. The kids love doing arts and crafts so this has truly been an enjoyable time.

We have been learning the Christmas story during circle time and learning new Christmas songs and finger plays.

Daycare is always in need of craft supplies. If anyone ever wants to donate to the daycare just give me a call and we can arrange a time for drop off.

This Christmas.....

Let's give a little Jesus, a thoughtful word or deed.

An Act of generosity for someone who's in need.

Let's give a little Jesus to everyone we meet.

The sales clerk or the server, the person on the street.

Let's give a little Jesus to everyone large or small.

For Jesus, the Messiah, is the GREATEST GIFT OF ALL.

God bless everyone, and we wish you a happy holiday season, and a prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Noell Uhlir, Director

YOUTH NEWS

LYF Meetings: Our LYF will meet from 8:00-9:00 on Wednesday nights in January on the 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th. Enjoy Christmas with your family and make sure to check the acolyte schedule.



JYM Bowling Our JYM kids will go bowling on January 16th from 3:00-5:00 at the bowling alley. Bring \$5 to help cover some of the cost.

Faith Lutheran Preschool News

A Blessed New Year from Faith Lutheran Preschool! We had a wonderful time in December getting ready to share the story of Jesus' birth with our families at the programs. This is one of the best parts of the year for me. I love seeing how excited the children are to learn that Jesus was born as a baby for them. I pray that your Christmas was a blessing too.

During January this year, we will be emphasizing the color red, the star shape, the letters MNO and the number 5. A special activity during January will be Show & Tell each day. It is fun to see what the children have for new toys from Christmas and some very favorite ones, too. We will continue on with our tree study of raccoons. We will be making snow and snowman projects during our 'art time'.

The stories that we share with the children are all from the New Testament now, starting with Jesus visiting the temple. I like to tell the children that Jesus a little boy just like them at one time.

Stay warm and have a wonderful January. God's blessings,

Jan Larson, Director/teacher

January 2nd

Early: Jordain Rathbun and Austin Wagner Late: Brittney Munyon and Brooklyn Voeltz

January 9th



Early: Carly Niemann and Amber Ziebart Late: Janece Wetzel and Vance Weber

January 16th

Early: Brandi Ziebart and Jake Chambers Late: Blake Widvey and Mallory Hull

January 23rd

Early: Brandon Berheim and Rebekah Miller Late: Caitlin Bolte and Ryan Koch

January 30th

Early: Morgan Deis and Alex Neyhart Late: Colton Graves and Jared Neilan