

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
2008 Annual Report
“Thus Far Has the Lord Helped Us”
I Samuel 7:12

From Our Pastors

“Change, my baby’s got me locked-up in change”
Oops, the wrong words – I think the Beatles 1963 hit, was, “Chains, my baby’s....”

Yet change is all around us in our words. Social change, moral change, economic change, the changing of the guard, change for the sake of change, hey, got any change, sometimes it makes us want to scream!

This annual report tells us some things don’t change and some things do change. The writer of Hebrews says it well:

*Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday, and today and forever.*
Hebrews 13:8

How heart-warming, in the midst of so much uncertainty, Christ is always constant, always dependable, always there for us.

That is a constant expression in this Annual Report. There is a large core of deeply committed people who seek to do the business of the Kingdom at Faith Lutheran. Day in and day out they show care, vision, helpfulness, out-reach – all for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom. As your Pastors, we express our heartfelt thanks for all the willing hands and hearts.

Another striking thought in Hebrews:

*“Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you.”*
Hebrews 13:5b

This is incredibly assuring. Christ is constant in the midst of change. His love endures forever!

On the other hand, our ministry and our facilities do change.

Ministries change as we continue to seek ways of touching lives in our community with the Good News of Christ. Faith Lutheran Preschool, Faith Lutheran Daycare Center, V.B.S., our Crèche Festival, monthly visits to Betty’s Place, our Pastors at Maryhouse and Kelly’s, the list goes on and on. We constantly are seeking ways to sustain effective ministries and to add or change ways of touching lives in this community.

Our campus has seen large changes over the past 48 years, that “Huge” one half block and a beautiful new Sanctuary in 1961 have seen changes

- In 1978 a new Fellowship Hall was added which gave us worship overflow, classrooms, offices, upstairs restrooms, and yes, Faith Lutheran Preschool.
- In 1996 we added a lovely new Sanctuary, that brought a permanent Daycare Facility, a terrific new Preschool room, helpful offices, and expanded restrooms.
- To accommodate parking and the expansion of the new Sanctuary, we have over the course of years, purchased the three properties on the Euclid side of our campus.
- We were also able to sell the second parsonage, which was paid for, and we were renting on 4th Street by Jefferson School to pick up the two floor apartment across 2nd Street. It has been a Vicarage Apartment, our DCE residence, a guest house for visiting Pastors and missionaries, a place for our V.B.S. music teams and it provided, speaking of willing volunteers, a three stall garage in which both of our vans are stored, our

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Circuit Bible equipment, our large mower and other equipment for the maintenance of our campus.

Now, God willing, a final piece of our facility structure will fall into place. We will gather in our Fellowship Hall on February 22 to get updated building costs and updated congregational commitment resolves to make a final decision so that we can move to a ground breaking on May 3 for our Christian Family Life Center. So many people are working so diligently and giving so sacrificially. We are most grateful and hope to move ahead on this project that is over 16 years in the making.

We trust this new addition will not be a “chain” but a facility that provides challenging opportunities for good change that will provide even more fellowship, congregational and community ministry.

Finally, you have heard the old joke: “How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?”
Response: “Change!”

Well, that’s not true at Faith. We have met many changes, many challenges, many opportunities, with prayer, with discernment, and with vision. The outcome? God has continued to bless our congregation with spiritual and numeric growth.

Change, not a chain, but a challenge. May God spur us on to the challenge!

In the Changeless Christ,

Pastor Brad Urbach

Pastor Levi Willms

**INSTRUMENT OF
HIGHEST PRAISE**

“Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord!”
(Psalm 140:1)

The human voice is not only a choice gift of God to man, it is in turn an instrument of supreme worth for man to use in offering praise to the Almighty. Through song we can express our loftiest thoughts about God and His creation. Not all of us have trained voices, are able to sing tunefully, or can read music, but when opportunities are presented, everyone in whom the Spirit of God dwells can and should respond with joyful praise.

The human voice is the most perfect of all musical instruments. We all thrill at hearing the rich resonance of a deep voice, the warm beauty of a lush contralto, or the lofty tones of a lyrical soprano. All man-made instruments are mere imitations of the human voice; they may come close, but can’t duplicate it. The psalmist declared, “I will sing of the Lord’s great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.” (Psalm 89:1) God is glorified when our voices are raised in praise of Him.

Praise is a predominant theme in the Scriptures. The first reference to music in the Bible is found in Genesis 4. “*His brother’s name was Jubal; he was the father of all who play the harp and flute.*” From the very beginning, God made provision for the aesthetic – the soul expressions of man through music.

Our music reflects our physical, emotional and spiritual condition. Our voices reflect the genuineness of our personal relationship with the

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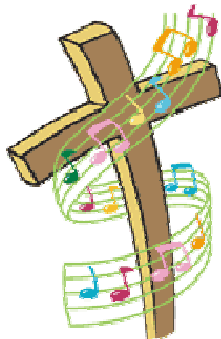
Creator. If our individual hearts and voices are not singing, what might this possibly say about our total view of life? The voice you are born with is God’s gift to you; the use of your voice is your gift to God.

I would like to thank the dedicated people who regularly sing with Faith Choir; to those who ring bells, play the piano, organ and other instruments; to those individuals who unselfishly give of their time and talent to beautify our worship services with musical witness for Christ. It is an activity that pleases God. The spoken word is certainly the body of worship, but it is the music that is the soul.

We have an active music ministry at Faith Lutheran, yet we are in need of more people to sing and take part. We welcome all ages, but have a specific need for young adults. It is your mission to carry on the church’s song and musical heritage to future generations. It is an opportunity to offer praise that our heavenly Father deserves. Praise of God through singing and music is to proclaim the Good News.

“Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known.
Join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the
throne.” Isaac Watts

Karen Lindbloom,
Director of Music



FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL

Preschool in 2008 has three sessions of 21, 24, and 13-students each for a total of 58 children.

Our five-year-old session meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:00-11:30. Our regular sessions are Tuesday and Thursday, both morning 9:00-11:30 and Tuesday and Thursday afternoon 1:00-3:30. Donna Gohl, Anita Marso, and Cathy Califf serve as teacher aides and do an excellent job! The dedication and love of children that these women have is outstanding. Thanks to the LWML for their generous donation to our program for the new games and equipment.

Each month we study a specific shape, number, color and letter, as well as rotate the toys, puzzles, books and games from the storage closets. Each week we follow a central theme that is related to a Bible story. We share God's love not only in the printed material, but also through our actions. It is our goal that the children will not only hear that God loves them, but see that love through us. Besides our full day of activities, which include stories, art projects, free play, rhymes, trike time, music, snacks, and group games, we also have field trips in the church van.

So far last fall we had a visit from Fireman John, Pastor Urbach, Pastor Willms, Deb Bumann with dental health, Miranda Meyer, Lauri Koenecke, and Angel Getz about nursing.

Last fall we were able to visit the Capitol to see the Christmas trees and feed the geese. Our Preschool also decorated a tree at the Mall with silver bells.

Many thanks go out to all who have in some way supported our program. The Board of Early Childhood Education is a real blessing in their encouragement. The Board of Trustees is always

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helpful in keeping our facility in working order. With our increase in class size, we are in need of parents to help drive us to our many outings. Without them, our field trips would not be possible. Thank you! Jay Fredrich, Pastor Willms, Pastor Urbach, Helen Kiepke, Bob Green, Pat Huisman and the members of Faith are always encouraging and supporting us.

*Jan Larson,
Preschool Director*



FAITH LUTHERAN DAY CARE

This has been an interesting year for our Day Care, and especially for me. The Day Care has been in operation for 21 years now, but this is the first year that I have been trying to run the show. But, there is no way that I could do anything without the help and support of the church, the staff, and my family.

I would like to thank the church members for their enormous support. Pastor Urbach has helped me to muddle my way through a lot of office work related to employee accounts and state reviews. Pastor Willms donates his time and talents with a monthly chapel for the kids. Helen has always been helpful whenever I have a question. The members of the Board of Early Childhood Education have also been extremely supportive and helpful for all the problems I have faced. Jan Larson has been wonderful for help when working with the families that attend both the Day Care and Preschool. The LMWL has once again blessed us with their

generosity by providing us with some of the proceeds from the Country Fair. Anita Marso also held a fundraiser for the DAY Care so that we could have a little money to buy small gifts for the kids when they are sick. Lurene Denke donated a small library of books to help with the Day Care curriculum for all the kids. And Corinne and Amelia Wulf repaired old pillows and pillowcases, and made many new ones. Corinne made the original set of Day Care naptime pillows 21 years ago. Thank you to all of these people as well as the members who support us by keeping us in their prayers.

We currently have a very solid group of workers at the Day Care, and everyone has been willing to pick up the slack when someone is sick. Currently our staff members are: Nick Wulf (director), Clareen James, Leah Lappe, Jeniffer Carr, Carolyn Kropuenske, Dodie Hardy, Kim Lagan, Amanda Tinker (high school helper), Angela DiBenedetto (high school helper), and Dean Brodkorb (cook). We have also been blessed with many wonderful people who have been willing to substitute when they can. Lois Erbe has been a substitute for the Day Care for many years, Diane Middleton is a recent addition to the Day Care and is very active in the community, Anita Marso continues to help out when she can even though she has retired, and Corinne Wulf has helped us to cover breaks and cook when staffing is tight. Thank you to all these wonderful women who save us when the other staff cannot come. Also, a special thanks to Jay Fredrick for maintaining not only our Day Care facility, but the entire church.

Our enrollment is currently at 40 children ages 2 months to 11 years. Filling spots has been a challenge lately. Several people who were on the waiting list have had difficulty with employment and have decided to keep their children home. Currently we are trying to find more children ages

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three and up. We also have several families interested in returning to Day Care for the summer.

I am confident that with everyone’s generous support, we will be able to have many more wonderful years of bringing the light of Christ to the families of our community.

Nick Wulf, Director

***LUTHERAN WOMEN’S
MISSIONARY LEAGUE***
“Serve the Lord with Gladness”

The LWML’s motto is “Serve the Lord with Gladness”. You will find this motto carried out everyday in the Faith Lutheran LWML whether it is serving funeral lunches, first Sunday coffee or coffee at Maryhouse, the women do it with gladness.

The LWML is mission oriented. It encourages women to live Christian lives. The six circles of Faith do this in many different ways: Altar Guild preparing the Church Sanctuary for Worship; Berea Circle taking care of the Library; Faith Circle preparing goodie boxes for the college students; Mary/Martha Circle visiting the elderly and shut-ins; Priscilla Circle supporting parents of Cradle Roll children and remembering them on special occasions, and Rebekah Circle’s support for the Daycare and Preschool, to list a few. They also do this by collecting “Mites” which are offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and LCMS. These contributions go toward our district and national mission grants.

The Country Fair is a wonderful annual event that brings the whole congregation together to put all their talents to work for wonderful mission projects. This years proceeds went to: **NATIONAL:** Orphan

Grain Train and LCMS World Relief and Human Care-Midwest Flood Relief 2008; **DISTRICT:** Children’s Home Society and Angel Flight Central; **LOCAL:** Pierre Area Referral and Back Pack Food Program; **IN-HOUSE:** New kitchen fund, Daycare, Preschool, LYF, Large Print Portals of Prayer and Goodie Box postage.

This years Christmas Party was a great opportunity for all the women of Faith to come together to celebrate the reason for the season; with a wonderful program by Priscilla Circle, gorgeous decorations by Mary/Martha Circle, fun ice breaker game by Berea Circle, a delicious lunch by Rebekah Circle and the hard work of clean up by Faith Circle. The proceeds from the evening went to Pierre Area Referral.

Continue to “Serve the Lord with Gladness”

Secretary, Melissa Brock

ALTAR GUILD



Altar Guild’s main purpose is to serve our Pastors, Board of Elders, and the congregation of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church by seeing that our House of Worship is in order throughout the seasons of the church year. Our members joyfully do this for the glory of God and the building up of His people.

Altar Guild prepares and maintains the paraments, linens, sacramental vessels, candles, altar flowers, and vestments for acolytes. Members decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree, prepare the Glory Cross at

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Easter, or decorate the Easter tree. Serving on Altar Guild is a spiritual commitment and a privilege.

All donations of flowers are welcome. Altar Guild gives special thanks for all the wedding flowers and special occasion flowers that have been so lovingly donated this past year.

Flower charts are provided for signup at Christmas and Easter to furnish poinsettias or lilies for those joyous celebrations. If you would like to provide flowers at any other time, please advise one of the Altar Guild members and alert the church office so it might be noted in the bulletin.

Altar Guild meets three to four times a year, usually in January, April, and November, and any additional times as necessary. We welcome anyone who would like to join us in serving the Lord. Please contact any member if this would be of interest to you.

Our membership includes: Chairperson, Sandy Bales, Secretary, Renee Knapp, and Treasurer, JoAnn Sanders. Christian Growth is divided between members. Other members include: Gloria Bump, Janice Deal, Lisa Donner, Phyllis Douglas, Lila Houck-Urlis, Jan Johnson, Doreen Kayser, Amie Miller, Arta Pahl, Sandy Peterson, and Gloria Welk. Honorary members are: Bernice Huber and Shirley Keller.

BEREA CIRCLE



In 2008, Berea Circle maintained the Church Library.

Christian greeting cards, napkins, jewelry, books, Bibles, videos and other gift items were purchased to sell in the Resource Center/Library.

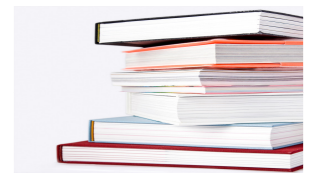
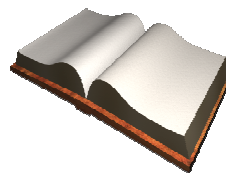
Members are available on Sunday mornings to assist you with purchases you may wish to make. The self-service envelopes are available for your use when circle members are not in the Library. We also have a table of mark down items, Check it out!

This past year, we have provided get-well cards to the LWML, which are sent to members of the congregation. We also provide birthday cards that are sent to the members of the Confirmation class by the LWML. The circle provided pins, which the LWML presents to the Confirmands and graduates in the spring.

Our circle assisted the LWML in serving treats at MaryHouse, first Sunday coffee, kitchen cleaning and funerals as assigned. We gave a monetary donation to PARS for the SHARE holiday meal project. We participated in the Country Fair.

Circle meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Library. Guests are always welcome.

2009 Officers and members are: Chairman – Donna Gohl; Vice Chairman – Doris Weischedel; Secretary – Ruth Leidholt; Treasurer/Ordering Chairman – Ruth Hansen; Christian Growth – Bernadine Hinckley; Caller – Velda Rediger. Members are - Mae Erickson, Joyce Nielsen, Ruby Thoen, Kathryn Urquhart, Lavonne Zeiszler, and Arlene Barker.



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FAITH CIRCLE



Faith Circle ministers to all members of the congregation through the purchase and placement of tracts in the rack located in the Narthex of our church. We pray that they will be helpful in your time of need.

We also work to minister to the college age students in our congregation by sending 55-65 goodie boxes twice a year: once for Halloween and once for Valentine's Day. It would be very helpful, so that we don't miss anyone, if you would contact the church office with the address of your college student so that we might brighten their day with a package from "home" at these holiday times. Along with the homemade and purchased items, we send along reminders to them that there are people in their home congregation who are thinking of them and encouraging them to continue to be faithful to their God. We want to thank those from the congregation who have assisted us with monetary support to help cover the postage costs for sending over sixty of these goodie boxes to college students from our congregation.

During the months of October and February, we change the meeting date so that it is closer to the shipment of our goodie boxes. Our regularly scheduled meeting is the second Thursday of the month at 7:00, meeting at the church, or in the homes of our members. You are warmly invited to join us in our Bible study and the fellowship that follows. You could contact any of our members to find out the meeting place or check the bulletin or church calendar.

Another of our responsibilities is to help with the scheduled events of the LWML. These would include serving coffee and refreshments at Maryhouse, providing rolls and serving for the church's First Sunday Coffee, cleaning the church kitchen, and providing food and serving for events such as funerals, weddings, and other events scheduled in our church throughout the year.

We want to take this opportunity to thank the ladies on our auxiliary list for the support that they show whenever they are called on for assistance in various ways. Their help has been very much appreciated.

Our members are as follows: Jane Braley-Chairman, Clara Shelbourn – Vice Chairman, Beth Schiltz– Treasurer, Mary Heidelberger – Secretary, Cindy Fiechtner – Christian Growth, Judy Coyle-Tracts, Rachel Aamold, Cheryl Brull, Susan Burroughs, Cindy Ellwein, Niki Gossman, Jolynn Haberling, Kathy Olson, Char Russell, Jeanne Schweigert, Susan Stoneback, Gloria Welk, Jessica Willms, Corinne Wulf, and Gloris Zoller.



MARY/MARTHA CIRCLE

Like Mary and Martha in the Bible, our members seek to learn more of their Lord and to serve Him by serving others.

We meet monthly for Bible study, fellowship (with treats) and a brief business meeting.

This year we remembered the elderly and shut-ins of our congregation with cards and visits at Valentine's Day, Easter and Christmas. We

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corresponded, on a regular basis, with Ronald Bagola, a handicapped gentleman living in a group home in Mitchell. We gave monetary donations for “share” meals and the Hospice Bed and Breakfast. We also took our turns, within the LWML, serving Maryhouse, first Sunday coffee, funerals and other assigned functions and duties, many times with the help of our great auxiliary members.

We meet at 7:30 p.m. on the 4th Thursday of the month—date and location are listed in the bulletin.

We are always hoping to welcome new seeking and serving friends.

Visit or call: Chairman – Grace Schmitgen; our secretary/treasurer, Linda Nill, or our other members: Mary Buxcel, Cathy Califf, Grace Curtis, Delores Jorgenson, Carolyn Kropuenske, Marie McIntire, Rena Ortbahn, Bev Parrott, Freda Peters or Opal Tousley. Shirley English is an honorary member.

PRISCILLA CIRCLE



Priscilla Circle’s main duty is the Cradle Roll. The special Cradle Roll board with all the children enrolled is in the Narthex. Each child is named on a little Lamb

with their birthday and baptism date. We send letters of Christian guidance to the parents that are timely for the age of the child during their first 3 years. This year we will begin using a new packet of material from Concordia. We will still remember the children on their birthdays, anniversary of their Baptism, and a small gift at Christmas. Baptized infants receive a growth calendar, Baptism tract, book and an audio cassette of songs. The banner that is displayed and the candelabra that is used at each baptism are two of our projects. This year

there were 24 children baptized and 8 child/adult baptisms. There are currently 72 on the cradle roll.

Birth congratulatory cards are sent to all new parents in the Pierre/Fort Pierre area.

During the year, we try to remember our members, their families, and some of our auxiliary members with gifts or cards in times of illness, hospitalization, bereavement, weddings, births, etc.

We assist LWML with serving 1st Sunday coffee, Mary House, kitchen cleaning and other functions as assigned.

We are pleased to announce 4 new members to our circle in this past year. Robin Peterson, Melissa Choate, LaVon Lidel and Velda Bartel.

Priscilla Circle welcomes guests at any meeting. Regular meetings are the last Monday of every other month beginning in January at 7:30 p.m.

Officers and standing appointments are: Chairman, Charlotte Hiller; Vice Chairman, Pauline Paul; Cradle Roll, Elaine Wagner; Treasurer/Birth Congratulations, Myrna Hartmann; Secretary, Anita Marso; Mission Inspiration, Peggy Urquhart; First Sunday Caller, Judy Costar; Mary House caller, Luann Zuercher; Kitchen caller, Margaret Kayser; Circle Caller, Arlene Buhl. Members are Jackie Hoefener, Lorri Rathbun, Lynda Wagner, Robin Peterson, Melissa Choate, LaVon Lidel, and Velda Bartel.

REBEKAH CIRCLE

Members of Rebekah Circle endeavor to enhance worship at Faith Ev. Lutheran by providing tools for parents in the



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form of “scribble sheets,” crayons, coloring books and books for little Lutherans during worship services. These supplies are situated in cabinets at the back of the church.

Each month Rebekah Circle enjoys projects from the Preschool and Daycare. At Easter, we make “palm branches” for these little Christians to joyfully portray the jubilation of the ride of Christ into Jerusalem. We are excited about developing new tools for use in the Preschool.

The pleasure of providing treats to residents of Mary House on given Sundays is very rewarding as well. Service to the residents of this caring, long-term care facility gives each of us a new focus. Additionally, it is our privilege to host First Sunday Coffees at Faith. We thank God for these opportunities to serve.

Rebekah Circle volunteered to provide support again this year for the Crèche Festival at Faith. It was inspiring to see the excitement that came from viewing the variety of crèches displayed.

Donna Park has cheerfully continued the task of trimming and counting soup labels as part of the education rewards program providing equipment to the Preschool and Daycare at Faith. Thank you Donna, you are a special blessing to us.

The library at Faith Lutheran is the meeting place for Rebekah Circle each third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. If you are not a member of a circle or are interested in our circle, please join us. You will be welcomed with love and joy---we promise!

Our members are as follows: Janice Dockter, Chairperson; Eleanor Kreitmann, Vice Chairperson; Pat Huisman, Treasurer; Lennis Axdahl, Lila Briggs, Melissa Brock, Joan Cash, Melanie Fuerst, Daleen Gore, Darlene Hallem, Clareen James,

Allison Jares, Betty Leidholt, Donna Park, and Lavonn Voita.

FAITH EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH BOARDS



There are many passages in the Bible, which speak to the work of the Board of Elders as God’s servants to His church here at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. One in particular can be found in Paul’s message to the church at Thessalonica (1 Thes. 5:16-18), “Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Throughout 2008, the members of Faith’s Board of Elders strove to follow God’s will for us. We prayed to open worship services. During our monthly Christ Care meetings, we prayed with our Pastors for those in need of healing, for those in need of comfort and for those celebrating great joys in their lives. We prayed at home for our families, for our friends, and for Faith’s pastors, staff, and all of the members of Faith Lutheran. Thanks be to God for the blessings He bestows on the flock of believers at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church!

The Board of Elders also provided support for our Pastors as they lead the work of His church in the communities of Pierre and Ft. Pierre. This past year the Board adopted a minimum Sunday school attendance requirement (50%) for all 7th and 8th

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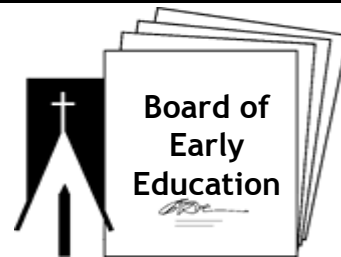
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graders as they work toward confirmation. We also helped work through the financial challenges associated with bringing Concordia Benefits plan health insurance and retirement coverage to all eligible Faith Lutheran staff, including Day care and Preschool staff. In consultation with the Pastors, the elders also approved the scheduling of a midweek summer worship service to begin in June of 2009.

The elders also helped bring the word of Christ into the community through service to others. Elders authorized the distribution of more than \$1,600 from the Love Fund to individuals and families in need. Many times our service somehow revolves around food. On March 17, as in years past, the elders helped to prepare and serve the Passover meal. On May 29 we served 208 on-site meals to people at the Banquet at Southeast Methodist in Pierre and packed another 100 meals to go. On August 4, many members of the Board of Elders joined with lots of others to help move tables and chairs from the church to the staff-housing parking lot for the congregational brat feed. In collaboration with the Board of Missions, a couple of times each year we help serve a light meal to welcome new members into our Faith family. We also take donuts, juice, and coffee to share with the residents at Betty’s Place. More blessings and more reasons to give thanks!

Sometimes a strong back is all that is required of an elder. This year right before Thanksgiving, Dale Hartmann led a crew of able-bodied elders in harvesting the sanctuary Christmas tree from the backyard of Creighton and Judith Miller. What a great tree! Thankfully, the only casualty of the whole process was Faith’s hand-crafted tree stand. It appears that Johnny Zeisler will have a chance to get re-acquainted with his handiwork!

Curt Everson, Chairman



The Board of Early Childhood Education is the advisory board to Faith Lutheran Daycare and to Faith Lutheran Preschool. Both of these programs are not for profit and self-sustaining, so budgeting is our main challenge along with staffing and attendance.

The Board consists of six members, Bonnie Bauder, Randy Hartmann, Allison Jares, Margaret Pier, Neil Schochenmaier and Tom Schultz. These board members are dedicated to ensuring that the two programs succeed and I would like to thank them for their hard work and commitment. I also want to thank Tina Titze on behalf of the Board for her four years of service that ended this year.

This year saw many changes for the Daycare, both challenges and opportunities. Long time staff member Donna Anderson left the Daycare to be Director for a new daycare at her church. Thank you to Donna for providing many years loving and caring service to the Daycare and we wish her success with her new adventure. Joyce Solem also left the Daycare this year after serving as Director for seven years. Thank you Joyce for the dedication and devotion you provided to the well being of the children over the years.

Nick Wulf is the Director for the Daycare and is doing very well at his new position. In addition to keeping the Daycare staffed and enrollment up, Nick has been involved with planning for the new daycare facility in the Christian Life Center. He has also been working hard to ensure that the Daycare is in full compliance with State regulations.

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The Daycare can care for up to 48 children and generally, enrollment is at 48 with families on a waiting list to enroll. Currently, there are openings in the three to five year old range. Caring for the children are three full time and five part time staff, as well as a volunteer and a cook. The Board is very pleased with the present staff and recognizes all their hard work and dedication to caring for the children.

Faith Lutheran Preschool started out the school year with a smaller number of students than last year, but new families to our community have brought their children to the Preschool and the present enrollment is at 57. Jan Larson is the Director and is assisted by Cathy Califf, Donna Gohl and Anita Marso.

We wish to thank Jay Fredrich for his hard work in all he does for the Daycare and for the Preschool. In addition to keeping the facilities clean and well maintained, Jay provides carpentry and handyman skills completing projects for the programs.

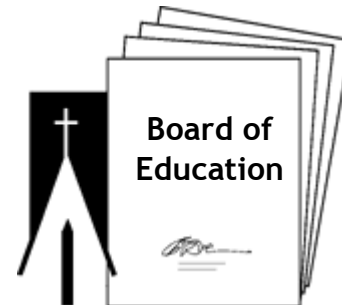
We would also like to thank the Board of Trustees for their ongoing support of the programs as well. This year's major project was the installation of two new swings in the spring that were purchased in late 2007.

The Programs continue to raise funds through Dakotamart receipts, Campbell Soup labels, and Land O'Lakes milk container caps. In addition, they have received gifts from the LWML Country Fair. The Preschool has also received gifts from private individuals. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the fund raising activities, which have been used to purchase equipment and supplies for the programs.

Finally the Board wishes to thank Pastor Urbach, Pastor Willms, the Church staff, and Linda Nill (Treasurer) for their continued support and

assistance in the operation of the Daycare and Preschool programs.

Neil Schochenmaier, Chairman
Board of Early Childhood Education



The Board of Education at Faith is responsible for providing religious instruction for all members of our congregation. This is accomplished through Sunday School, Midweek, Confirmation Classes, Adult Bible Classes, Vacation Bible School, and Summer Sunday School.

Some of the Board duties include:

- * Monitoring halls during Midweek,
- * Filling Sunday School and Midweek teacher slots,
- * Organizing and selling Midweek supplies for children,
- * Organizing and helping with games for Rally Days,
- * Hosting Christmas Coffee for all Sunday School, Midweek, Daycare and Preschool teachers,
- * Heading up the Christmas party for all Midweek students at the Aquatics Center,
- * Hosting teacher lunch in April for all teachers in appreciation for bringing the Good News of Jesus to our children,
- * Hosting the ice cream social for all Midweek students in May,
- * Preparing and planning for Vacation Bible School in June,
- * Planning more spiritual growth for the entire congregation through the wonderful leadership of Pastor Willms.

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I Samuel 7:12

Our Board consists of: John Koch - Chair, Heidi Kampfe - Vice Chair, Beth Schiltz - Secretary, Jeff Tronvold, Jan Chambers, Dave Siebrasse, and Bob Green.



The Board of Missions and Evangelism’s role is to promote the message of God within our congregation as well as in our community. The Board also is supportive of missionaries working around the world. This is accomplished through sending welcome letters to new members of the community, co-hosting new member receptions, sending personal notes to visitors who have worshiped with us, hosting community events, donating time and money in the community when needed; and sending letters of support and encouragement to the Borchards in Papua New Guinea, the Kashenovs in Kazakhstan, and the Utechts in Rosebud, SD.

Projects of note that the Board of Missions and Evangelism has done this year include:

- ❖ Hosted Café Sola during the Epiphany Event, which included selling coffee with the proceeds going to LCMS World Relief.
- ❖ Hosted a Compassion International Luncheon for those in our congregation sponsoring children through this organization.
- ❖ Gathered volunteers together to travel to Rosebud, SD to attend church, visit the Utecht family and their congregation, and to

help with maintenance and construction projects on their church.

- ❖ Hosted a meal for the Captive Free members during Vacation Bible School.
- ❖ Served root beer floats after the Captive Free concert during Vacation Bible School.
- ❖ Found sponsors and walkers for the annual CROP (Community Response to Overcome Poverty) walk.
- ❖ Organized the Trunk ‘n Treat event on Halloween, handed out flashlights and candy to an estimated 700 children.
- ❖ Helped organize the annual Creche Festival.
- ❖ Participated in the monthly visits to the residents of Betty’s Place to share fellowship and breakfast.
- ❖ Supported the broadcast ministries of Lutheran Hour, KSLT, and Main Street Living.

Members of the Board of Missions and Evangelism include: Leslie Hicks, Steve Wilson, Cindy Fredrich, Lana Dahl, Cathy Brock, Brenda Kleinjan, Tony Neyhart, and Robert Overturf.



The Board of Parish Fellowship promotes fellowship for the members of Faith Lutheran Church. We do this by organizing events that include fun, food, and laughter. We wish to feed the body and nurture the soul. Some of the events we organized this past year included:

- Epiphany Event at the Aquatic Center

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- Mardi Gras evening meal/event
- 5th Sunday Potluck lunches
- Brat & Burger Feed
- Rally Day noon meal
- Church Golf Scramble and Pizza Party
- Mission Fest ham meal
- Contacting those for Christmas Committee

Leaving the board this past year were Tyler Spomer and Melissa Neyhart. Thank you both for your year's of faithful service. We also welcome our new board members for the coming year with Ryan Cumbow, Amy Eldridge, and Rhonda Peterson. Returning board members include Bill Blauert – Chair, Lennis Axdahl – Vice-Chair, Lori Wilson – Secretary, Eddie Aamold, Lisa Donner, and Kenny Doppenberg. A big thank you to all who served this past year and agreed to serve for the coming year. We look forward to another year of fun events and hope to see you all there.

Bill Blauert
Chairman, Board of Parish Fellowship



During 2008 a number of issues were addressed by the Board of Trustees, board membership changed, and new officers were elected. In June, Steve Johnson, Ed Poile, Dave Johnson, Scott Collison, and Jerry Stern left the board. Dale Knapp became board chairman, Roger Larson vice-chairman and Leonard Spomer secretary.

Building maintenance has been handled throughout the year in a very efficient and very professional manner by Jay Fredrich. Jay has been very effective in bringing to the board's attention those issues and problems that must be addressed in order to maintain such a facility as ours. With his special skills and talents Jay has also been able to keep the church campus clean and in good working order.

During 2008 the Board of Trustees was able to bring to the campus a new shed for storage, two new linden trees, caulk the parking lot cracks, maintain the lawns and buildings, cover the cost of all utilities and vehicle needs within the budget proposed.

In November, a new budget was proposed with an increase of approximately \$20,000 to \$102,600 for 2009. Approximately half of the line items in the new budget line items remained the same for 2009. The changes made were to the property improvements which went from \$8,000 in 2008 to \$20,000 in 2009. This increase would allow us the chance to address the need for new floor covering in the Sanctuary. The Capital Purchase was increased from \$3,000 to \$8,000 in 2009 in order to allow the church the opportunity to purchase a new floor scrubbing machine which will be needed after the completion of the new structure. Utilities were reduced from \$20,000 to \$18,000 because it was realized that those cost were not as high as the board had anticipated. Funding for vehicles was increased to \$3091.32 because the vehicles are getting older and may need additional repairs.

Finally, as board we like to applaud our facility manager, Jay Fredrich, for the excellent service he has provided for the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church.

Dale Knapp, Chairman

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In 2008 the Board continued to work with Capital Funding Services on our congregation's three-year sustained giving campaign to build our Christian Family Life Center.

Our congregation's stewardship and sharing of the Lord's financial blessings continued to grow the assets in the Building Fund. The Building Fund ended the 2008 year with \$ 1,377,906.73.

We increased our gift to the LCMS South Dakota District again to continue our congregation's support of the mission work within our district.

Our members further embraced the Simply Giving program which makes stewardship giving simple and automatic for both generous tithes and commitments to the "Building Together In Faith" sustained giving campaign.

The Board of Stewardship is thankful to the Lord for:

- Each congregation member's prayerful and steadfast commitment to stewardship;
- Marvin Schweigert, our Financial Secretary;
- Linda Nill, our Treasurer;
- Tom Schultz, our Preschool Financial Secretary; and
- Our dedicated fellows who each week count and post the weekly offerings.

Board of Stewardship members are: Chad Heinrich, Chairman; Paul Nelson, Vice Chairman; Char Russell, Secretary; Laurie Schultz, Carla Heller.

In thanks to the Lord for His continued blessings,

Chad Heinrich
Chairman, Board of Stewardship

FAITH LUTHERAN WEB SITE



The web site for Faith Lutheran was redesigned in the Fall of 2008. The new web site is more organized and dynamic. It includes a CMS (content management system) which allow our staff, LYF, and others with permission to sign into the website and make changes within their pages, which in turn helps keep the the site alive with current information and events about the life of our congregation.

Members can visit the web site to view the weekly bulletin and the monthly calendar. If you have highspeed internet access, you may want to check out the weekly sermon, which is digitally converted and uploaded for viewing. The special events section features a photo gallery as well. The e-mail list contains many addresses to whom regular messages are sent. As well as names of our regular members of the church body, the list includes our extended families, friends, past members, and vicars and others.

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The web site also has received plenty of traffic this year with 45 visits per day. The bulk of our web traffic is from the United States but also consists of about 10 percent of the sessions coming from over 40 countries including Norway, Sweden, Russia, Australia, China, Ireland, Germany, Canada, and others.

The cost of the web site hosting and monthly maintenance fees are currently being donated by Dennis & Carolyn Ryckman of Factor 360. Carolyn also works very diligently at keeping our site current. Again the web site is: <http://www.faithluth.com> and our e-mail address is faith@faithluth.com



**OAHE CABLE
ACCESS STATION**

Our tape delayed television broadcast can be seen on Wednesday night on Channel 8 at 7:00 p.m. We pay \$500.00 per year plus a weekly fee of \$35.00. Our

Cable Broadcast may be sponsored for \$35.00. This covers the weekly fee. The cost of tapes, equipment and our annual fee is offset by having more than one sponsor per Sunday and we do some budgeting in our General Fund to assist with this.

We are grateful that Oahe Cable also re-broadcast our Christmas Eve Service several times this Christmas.

You may sponsor the Cable Broadcast and Sunrise for \$60.00. We are grateful to our video crew for their time and skills, they are: Dale Heidelberger, John Hepper, Steve Johnson, Mike Leidholt, Terry Leibel, Paul Lepisto, Doug Peterson, Brad Schultz, and Todd Thompson, and to Dennis Ryckman for downloading the weekly Broadcast on our Web Site and taking the DVD weekly to the City.

We are currently having some discussion with Oahe Cable TV about a live Broadcast as well.

SONRISE RADIO BROADCAST



It's live on "Today's KCCR" 1240 on your radio dial at 6:40 a.m. each Sunday. Sunrise had it's

beginning in the mid 1980's. Pastor Rick Hans, our Assistant Pastor, who had some experience with this on vicarage and Dave Mossner, who was Pierre's KELO reporter, gave this a shot. It has now sustained itself for 21 years.

Each Sunday morning at 6:30 both Pastor Willms and Pastor Urbach roll into the studio for an enjoyable 20 minutes of radio.

Sonrise gives us an opportunity to provide a weekly invitation to Faith Lutheran Church, tell people of special events, share God's Word in song and scripture, and to note some special memories and moments in the life of our families. While our actual expenses for Sunrise are \$50.00, you may sponsor Sunrise for \$30.00. We make up the difference with our multiple sponsors.

PRAYER CIRCLES

We have five Prayer Circles in the congregation. A prayer circle may be used for a time of joy or a time of struggle. Our prayers circles broaden our prayer concern for individuals and families.

You may call any prayer circle to share a prayer concern. Our Prayer Circle Captains are:

- | | |
|----------------|----------|
| Myrna Hartmann | 224-7039 |
| Ruth Leidholt | 945-1211 |
| Gloris Zoller | 224-2805 |
| Donna Leslie | 224-1770 |
| Elaine Wagner | 224-7640 |

If you would like to serve on a Prayer Circle, please call our church office.



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FOREVER YOUNG

Forever Young is a group of men and women in our congregation who are 55 years of age, or somewhere in that area, who gather once a month for a meal and fellowship. Forever Young generally meets on the third Thursday of the month, except during Lent when they meet on Wednesdays.

- Forever Young people take time to put Sunday Bulletins together and straighten the pew racks when needed. They play Bunko, bingo, sing for birthdays and anniversaries, and have wonderful fellowship time.
- On Ash Wednesday we have our Annual Chicken Feed.
- In July, we always have our 4th of July picnic lunch. The hot-dogs were provided, and everyone brought a dish to share. We sing some good flag waving songs and play a round of Bingo. In August, we usually have our annual fish fry.

We thank those who come early and faithfully get everything set up for Forever Young.

So come join Forever Young!
 Invite a friend!



YOUTH GROUP

LYF

Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) is the group at Faith composed of all our youth in 9th-12th grade. We typically meet twice a month for Bible study,

snacks and games as well as doing various outings, fund-raising and servant events.

2008-2009 LYF Officers are: Josh Hartmann, President; Caitlin Forman, Vice President; Crystal Ortbahn, Treasurer; Alex Voeltz, Secretary; Travis Jordan, Senior Rep.; Linsey Peterson, Junior Rep.; Rebekah Hartmann, Soph. Rep.; and Ryan Koch, Freshman Rep.

The Spring of 2008 like most Springs was filled with many events and meals. Lent was kicked off with a great Mardi Gras celebration. The Youth did a great job of decorating the place and setting up and running all kinds of fun games for the kids. They then served for the Lenten Coffees on Wednesdays following the Lenten services and were sponsored by Thrivent. The kids also put on their traditional Good Friday Potato Supper and the Easter Morning Breakfast as Fundraisers for the LYF. In the middle of this we also took a fun ski trip to Terry Peak and stayed with the Ganaways in Spearfish.

In late Spring and early Summer we found ourselves getting ready for a few major events and trips. We took a small crew to Sioux Falls in June and saw Micah Parker one of the speakers from the National Youth Gathering. We stayed with the Vanderpan family who have an awesome house with a basketball court and also a Packer theatre room. We then went to Wild Water West and it was freezing cold. Our other major trip was to Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso Texas. We went across the border into Juarez Mexico and did construction projects for the people there. The kids had a real eye opening experience there and they really wanted to go back again. They thus convinced me to go again this coming summer. I thank Dave Ortbahn and Jacob Shoup for being really good counselors for the group.

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We started the new school year with a barbeque at my house and elected the new officers for the coming year. In addition to our regular monthly meetings, the youth were involved with the Trunk ‘N’ Treat and it was a beautiful night, almost too warm for the hot drinks we were serving. We also tried a little different lock-in this year and had it on a Monday night into a Tuesday where they had no school. It was lots of fun and actually worked pretty well.

As we start up the New Year, we are doing some bowling and getting ready again for a fast spring of events like Mardi Gras and the Lenten Coffees and meals on Good Friday and Easter Morning. It will be exciting to go down to Ysleta and help people again this summer and to be busy fundraising. The summer also will have opportunities like Camp Minneboji June 14th-20th and Circuit Bible Camp July 13th-16th. We go to Mexico July 24th-August 2nd. It will be amazing how the rest of 2009 will just fly by, but will be left with good memories.

I close with saying that it has been a joy working with the youth at Faith. It will be exciting to see what God can do in their lives in the coming year and to continue to get to know them better. I hope that all of our youth can find LYF as a place where they know and trust Jesus more and also a place where they can learn to live together as God’s children, showing love and care for one another. I look forward to the coming year and I hope you will make it a point to participate.

In His Service,

Pastor Willms

OFFICIAL ACTS

Confirmations: Megan Arneson, Jacob Chambers, Mallory Hull, Elizabeth Irwin, Joseph Knofczynski, Ryan Koch, Jacob Larson, Rebekah Miller, Jared Neilan, Alexander Neyhart, Kyle Olson, Joshua Thompson, Alexis Waisanen, Alyssa Williams, Ron Blair, Jeremiah Fawcett, Rosemary Boardman, Stacy Ingram.

Baptisms: Aidan Douglas Clarke, Chloe Ann Gilkerson, William John Wilson, Rhayce Terren Barta, Zane Michael Meyer, Rebecca Elaine Spitzer, Aiden Dean Bauder, Stetson Wayne Jones, Paxton James Knittel, Eleanor Patricia Peterson, Lincoln Oscar Schoenhard, Stephanie Renea Gossman, Brodie Philips Malfero, Sophia Claire Bales, Brent Anthony Borresen, Jayden Kay McPherson, Raegan Joy Taylor, Paige Alexis Jonas, Lydia Adeline Choate, Elizabeth Kelly Endres, Jaden Walter Ottenbacher, Kiley Jean Pendergast, Caleb John Pendergast, Gage Ryan Cumbow, Kate Breann Schmidt, Jonas Ryan Olson, Brandon Thomas Aamold, Brian Lappe, Desquari William Demond Jennings, Nastassja Marie Jennings, Noah Riley Neyhart, Kaylee Marie Blauert, Evelyn Marie Houck, and Kaia Kolbie Bear.

Weddings: Abby Schlomer and Brandon Bacon, Jenny Jean Hatling and Brent Anthony Borresen, Michael Schultz and Katherine Hiatt, Kristen Berg and Matt Grohs, Debra Gannaway and Corey Bowman, Brant Douglas and Nicole Poirier, Tanner Kost and Brittany Alexander, Chad Johnson and Sonja Kinas, Phillip Michael Leidholt and Krista Lynn Epperson, Leah Kay Kropuenske and Brian Keith Lappe.

Burials: Brendan Michael Heuertz, Wayne Dalton, Marian Redden, Michael Braley, Floyd “Art” White, Agnes Sturm, James Monson, Joyce Pulfrey.

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ENDOWMENT FUND

Your generous gifts continued to help sustain the mission of the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Endowment Fund in 2008.

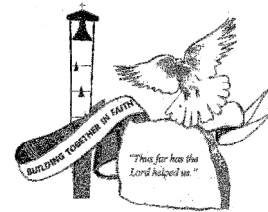
Since its start the fund has dispersed \$64,331.67 in income. In 2008 alone, the fund distributed \$5200.72 -- the largest income distribution in the Fund's history. The by-laws require that 15% of the income earnings be dedicated to missions and 15% be dedicated to assisting students studying for full-time church work. To see full disbursements check the 2008 Endowment Report in the Stewardship tract rack.

Your gifts to the Fund are prudently invested in a variety of income-producing investments that support the mission of the Fund. Income for Fund disbursements is generated by the Fund's holdings of CDs, Bonds, and a dividend-paying mutual fund. The Endowment Fund board prayerfully considers investments that will provide steady income and conserve the principal so that your gifts continue to make meaningful contributions to our congregation's mission.

Our Board of Directors are: Chad Heinrich – Chairman, Paul Nelson – Vice Chairman, Char Russell – Secretary, and Laurie Schultz – Treasurer.

Sincerely,

Chad Heinrich
President, Faith Ev. Lutheran Endowment Fund



Building Committee

The Building Committee for the Christian Family Life Center met for the first time on May 7, 2008. Since that time, the committee has been very active with monthly meetings.

The committee members are: Brent Adney – Vice Chairman, Scott Collison, Larry Coyle, Diane Deis, Steve Ingram, Jim Russell, Loren Schaefer, Neil Schochenmaier – Secretary, Laurie Schultz – Chair, Bob Shoup and Forrest Wixon. The Ex-Officio members are: Pastor Brad Urbach, Pastor Levi Willms, Jay Fredrich, Jan Larson and Nick Wulf.

The Christian Family Life Center will provide for a larger Fellowship Hall, and will relocate the Daycare from its current basement facility. This will allow for easier accessibility, and get the kids up into the light. Future classroom space on the second floor is also being planned.

At our first meeting, a vice chair and secretary were selected. The committee discussed contracting with Architecture Inc. of Sioux Falls to do the building design. Discussion was held regarding building set

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backs, variances, utility relocations, Daycare needs, plan revisions, and establishing a Kitchen Committee.

It was originally proposed that the kitchen be shared between the Daycare and the Fellowship Hall. Through input from the Kitchen Committee and the evolving design discussions, it was decided that separate kitchens would be needed. It was also decided to flip the building from the original concept drawings and the Daycare area was changed from the southeast corner to the northwest corner of the addition. This would give the Daycare easier access to the playground. Further changes resulted in the proposed Daycare site going into the current Fellowship Hall.

The Kitchen Committee did a great job of selecting a layout, and materials for the new kitchen. The design will be very similar to the kitchen in the Methodist Church. The design includes an efficient dishwasher.

In September, letters were sent to six contractors asking them for a letter of interest regarding our project. Four of the contractors were interviewed, and Sioux Falls Construction was selected to be our construction manager. Sioux Falls Construction was

the contractor who built our last project, which included our current church facility.

Sioux Falls Construction has been working closely with Architecture Inc. to find construction materials and techniques that will save us money. The goal is to have a quality project within economic constraints.

The underground utilities that were in the middle of our lot needed to be relocated in preparation of the upcoming construction. Contracts were made with the City electric department and Qwest telephone service to relocate their lines. The utilities were moved in October and November, and are now in the boulevard along Grand Avenue. The utility easement was vacated with a public hearing being held in December.

Architecture Inc. is developing final plans, with anticipated bid openings in March. A groundbreaking is planned for May.

Respectfully submitted

Laurie Schultz, Chair

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Stewardship Report

| Range | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| \$0 - \$50 | 103 | 94 | 97 | 78 |
| \$50 - \$300 | 114 | 127 | 122 | 93 |
| \$300 - \$500 | 56 | 42 | 33 | 38 |
| \$500 - \$1000 | 71 | 72 | 66 | 70 |
| \$1000 - \$1500 | 42 | 46 | 36 | 37 |
| \$1500 - \$3000 | 47 | 49 | 54 | 57 |
| \$3000 - \$4000 | 21 | 15 | 18 | 20 |
| \$4000 - \$6000 | 8 | 10 | 27 | 27 |
| \$6000 - \$8000 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 14 |
| \$8000 - \$10,000 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| \$10,000 - \$12,000 | NA | NA | 3 | 3 |
| \$12,000 - \$14,000 | NA | NA | 2 | 5 |
| \$14,000 - \$16,000 | NA | NA | 2 | 2 |
| \$16,000 - \$18,000 | NA | NA | 1 | 0 |
| \$18,000 - \$24,000 | NA | NA | 0 | 0 |
| \$24,000 - \$26,000 | NA | NA | 1 | 0 |
| \$26,000 - \$33,000 | NA | NA | 2 | 0 |
| \$33,000 - \$51,000 | NA | NA | 1 | 0 |
| \$51,000 - \$105,000 | NA | NA | 0 | 1 |

We live in a land of plenty, which promotes its own twist on contentment. Its version is “buy and possess.” Our culture is geared far more to the material than the spiritual. Our society tells us that we need and deserve more, and that life is not complete unless we have the finest homes and cars plus wealth and success. We are led to believe that happiness and contentment are within our reach if we just acquire a few more things.

Advertisements are geared to make us feel discontent so that we will buy more things to make us happy.

Greed will not allow contentment, because it always urges us to acquire more. A person can spend a lifetime chasing prosperity that, when found, often destroys him as discussed in the following story:

A ship full of men sailed to an island to look for gold. When they arrived, they divided into two groups. One group would dig for gold; the other would plant crops and prepare the food. As time went on, they found more gold. More of the men who prepared the food began to dig for gold. As more men came to

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the island, most of them also dug for gold. Even the ship was torn apart so the wood could be used to support the mineshafts. The story ends when some time later, people visited the island and found skeletons draped over vast treasures. Greed had taken over; and they had completely missed their meaning and purpose in life.

Money has been called “the god of those who have too much, and the goal of those who have too little.” Blessed indeed is the person who avoids these extremes. Max Anders said it well; “God wants us to have wealth; we must be careful not to settle for money.” Our goal as God’s people is to seek first God’s kingdom and His righteousness. He has promised to take care of our needs.

In the year of our Lord 2008 our total giving as a congregation was \$791,686.36, which was larger than our largest year of our congregation ever in 2007 of \$781,320.20 which had included the very large offering on First Fruits Sunday when we kicked off our 3-year “Building Together in Faith” Campaign.

Thank you for your steadfast and sacrificial giving that not only builds our Building Fund but also sustains the daily life of our congregation.

“God loves a cheerful giver”. Indeed!