

January 2014 Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501

Governor's Prayer Breakfast

You are invited to attend the 2014 Governor's Prayer Breakfast Friday, January 24, 2014

6:30am-7:30am

Ramkota Inn

Pierre, South Dakota

\$12.00

The speaker will be Tamrat Layne Admassu who has been actively involved in military and leadership roles in Ethiopia which culminated in his serving as the Prime Minister of Ethiopia from 1991 to 1995.

Tamrat served as the overseer of

the Ethiopian Red Cross Association. He has also received the Medal of Distinction from the International Association of Lion's Club.

Tamrat spent from October 1996 to December 2008 as a political prisoner in Ethiopia.

You are invited to come hear about his journey from communist revolutionary to a follower of Jesus. Be prepared to be "wowed"!

Reservations may be made by calling the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce by Wednesday, January 16 at 224-7361

OATMEAL FUNDRAISER

Oatmeal Fundraiser Sunday, January 5th in between worship services. We welcome you to come join Cordell Costar and our Hong-Kong Mission Team for a free -will oatmeal breakfast topped with ice cream and all the good stuff which will benefit our Hong Kong Mission team. Our oatmeal breakfast will be held in between our two worship services at 9:30 in the Christian Family Life Center. Please plan to come and enjoy a warm bowl of delicious oatmeal topped with ice cream!



SOUPER BOWL FEED

At high noon, a Souper Bowl Feed. You will have your choice between 2 soups in an edible bread bowl provided by the Board of Parish Fellowship.

A-L bring snacks, "finger food", appetizers
M-Z bring desserts

Door prizes at the noon meal.

A Souper Bowl
Friendship Sunday
February 2, 2014 A. D.

"Faith Praises" will assist
with our Worship

HONG KONG UPDATE

Hong Kong, known as the Pearl of the Orient, is located on China's southern coast and covers 426 square miles, an area which is about a quarter of the size of the state of Rhode Island. Of the 7.2 million people who live there, 95 percent of Hong Kong's residents are ethnic Chinese whose main religious beliefs include predominately: Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism with a mix of folk religious practices, and ancestor veneration. On February 19th, a team of four from Faith: Pastor Baumann, Bob Green, Nick Hill, and Nick's son Ethan Hill, will leave to journey to Hong Kong to serve as a short-term

mission team and will return to the United State on March 2nd. A second team from South Dakota and Wisconsin will be going to Hong Kong in April. That team will be considerably larger, perhaps in the neighborhood of 20-25 individuals. We praise God for the possibility of being able to send Toni Kenefick-Aschoff from our congregation as a mission team member with the April Hong Kong group as she has expressed great interest in being able to go back to Hong Kong for a second time. Your continued support for her participation in going back is such a blessing and so very appreciated.

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Witness, Mercy, Life Together

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR URBACH

Greetings to you in the Christ child!

First of all, I thank you for all the Christmas cards, they contained wonderful thoughts and many of them thoughtful gifts. I have been overwhelmed in these 39 Christmases by your kindness. So thank you so very, very much!

There are parts of a pending retirement that I feel I will welcome and other parts, like a 39 year run of Christmas Eve preaching that I will deeply miss. I try not to ponder this too deeply as it makes my heart feel heavy. Yet it has been a joyful heart lifting joy to have preached to God's people at Faith for 39 joyful Christmas Eves.

At our Thanksgiving Day worship, the Epistle lesson of Philippians Chapter 1, became emotional words for me.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; And this is my prayer: That your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth and insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."

Philippians 1:3, 7a, 9-11

It has been a remarkable partnership. I see how we have grown over the years, spiritually and numerically. Our campus reflects that internal growth. It has been such a joy to build the kingdom with you, not only at Faith, but the mission projects of outreach we have done to

grow God's kingdom beyond ourselves.

At Thanksgiving I referred to you as "love in a paper sack". The story I lifted from a Reader's Digest article. It was a moving story of a little girl's sack of treasures. I say it again, you have been "love in a paper sack" to my ministry and my family. So I say it again to you in the January pastoral letter—thank you!

The timeline—well September 1st is the "official" date for retirement. It will mark my

- forty year mark at Faith, as well as my
- 70th birthday.

I once thought 70 as pretty old, my goodness have I changed my tune! I never knew how young a 70 year old mind actually functions. My life has had some curves and some speed bumps, yet there have been many, many blessings living in Pierre and being Pastor at Faith Lutheran.

We hope to be calling right after Easter so that a new Senior Pastor will be in place before the Fall. I have stated to the Board of Elders who serve as our call committee, that I am willing to step aside earlier than September, for the good of the parish and its future ministry if this needs to happen.

Therefore, January 12, is a very important date, Pastor Sattgast, our District President, will be present that Sunday. He will not only preach but will also speak to the congregation at a 9:45 Congrega-

tional meeting about the process and it gives the congregation an opportunity to share with him your thoughts.

Our call committee consists of our Board of Elders plus our Congregational President, Steve Fiechtner; our Vice President, Brian Zeeb; former Congregational President Bob Shoup; and former chairman of the Board of Elders, David Zuercher.

As for our Director of Christian Education, that process will resume following the first of the year. This fall we had contact with three women who are DCE's in current positions. In all three of the situations their current situation seemed good for them and there was not an interest in pursuing a call.

Well, thanks again for all the Christmas thoughtfulness. You are a loving, kind, and generous people.

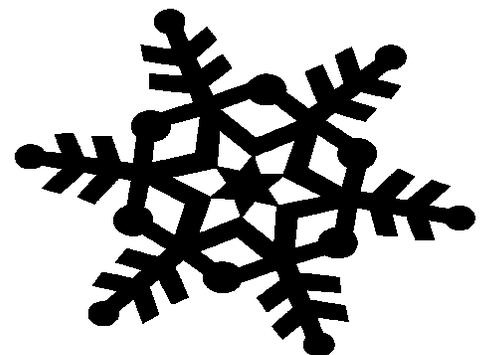
What a "partnership." Thank you for the loving labor in Christ that we have been able to do together!

The Lord be with you!

In the Holy Babe of Bethlehem.



Pastor Brad Urbach



Witness, Mercy, Life Together

“IN THE KNOW AT FAITH LUTHERAN...”

One of our favorite songs to sing during 2nd to 8th grade Midweek music is a song by Graham Kendrick entitled: “*Knowing You.*” The words beautifully capture the life we desire as Christians, a life that continually seeks to know Jesus Christ, and to make Him known. The words are as follows: “*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, there is no greater thing... You’re my all, You’re the best, You’re my joy, my righteousness, and I love you Lord.*” I tell you, it gives me goose-bumps to hear a hundred young students sing their little hearts out to that song during Midweek music time. That’s my desire as a pastor, that not only our young people, myself included, but everyone we touch with the Gospel, would continue to grow in, and know the power of Christ and His risen life. When we encounter Jesus, when we know Him as He is fully known... It is incredible!... It is life changing! Jesus doesn’t leave us where He found us, that the Scriptures make clear. It is exciting to be in a loving relationship with the Savior of the world who conquered death, in a relationship with the One who forgives you, with the One who accepts you, lovingly sees you in your sin-sickness, brokenness, and despair, and who rescues you. Yes! It is this Jesus who is our best. He is our champion! He is our full and complete joy as Christians and we would desire to not just know about Him, but to earnestly know Him more.

“...*You’re my all, You’re the best...*” Don’t be fooled by a world that tells you it can offer you the best. Money—not the best. Come and go relationships—not the best. Pick and choose your own philosophy and your own religion off the buffet menu—not the best. Monu-

mental independence and enormous personal achievement—not... the.... best! These are all fool’s gold. A life lived securely in the knowledge, care, forgiveness, and love of Jesus Christ—**the best!** Absolutely the best! A life lived serving others, and following the God given path He has laid out for you as a husband / wife / student / nurse / employer / mom / dad / rancher / farmer / etc.—that’s the best. Wherever we are in life, we can give God our best because He is The Best and He’s given Himself to us!

“*You’re my joy, my righteousness, and I love you Lord.*” I would share with you that I am not a pastor because of some profound or miraculous event, or because of some deal I made with God, or because I am more special than anyone else. No, I felt the internal call to be a pastor because the love of Jesus pressed itself upon me in my baptism and in the course of my upbringing as a young boy. I felt the Holy Spirit’s tug as I was encouraged and nurtured in the Christian faith by faithful parents, faithful teachers, faithful pastors. My dad faithfully brought me to Sunday school each and every week. It was very rare, perhaps non-existent that we missed a Sunday worship service at St. Stephen’s in little old Batavia, Wisconsin. I attended confirmation classes from 6th to 8th grade not once, but twice a week! My parents put me in a Lutheran grade school, and into a Lutheran high school in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Desiring to know Jesus even more and grow in His love, I continued my journey to Concordia Mequon at our Lutheran University there for my undergraduate degree, and then by God’s grace went on to

Concordia Seminary in St. Louis for pastoral training. The thing about Jesus’ unending and eternal love for you, is that once you taste it, you’re going to chase it as far as you possibly can into places and situations you never pictured yourself in. The cross Jesus bore for you and for me, it changes absolutely everything. It’s a love unlike any other. It grips us, holds us, and never lets us go. Knowing Jesus is the difference maker. This Jesus is God’s answer to sin, death, and the devil. His cross, His empty grave means our sins are atoned for, our empty grave secured. My journey as a pastor is one way I follow Jesus, yours is another. A life spent following Jesus, becomes shaped and molded to be more like His. And yet, following Jesus is not a glamorous life. In fact, it’s a tough journey to be a follower of Christ in today’s world, especially as Christ caring people who know Him and who make Him known, but it’s ours as Christians. It’s your journey this day as well. What a great privilege to know God and to be known by Him, to love Him and to be loved by Him, all because He first loved us.

“*Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You, there is no greater thing... You’re my all, You’re the best, You’re my joy, my righteousness, and I love you Lord.*”

God’s rich blessings to you as you desire to know the Savior even more this year through Word, worship, and receiving the sacrament of Holy Communion with fellow believers. Don’t just know about Him, but know Him all the more personally and deeply in this upcoming year.

Always Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joshua Baumann

Witness, Mercy, Life Together

THANK YOUS

Crèche Thank You We have a lot of thanks to extend for our 2013 Crèche Festival –

- Thanks to all who brought Crèches. We missed some of the crèches from prior years that we hope will return. There is a new crowd each year and some of the crèche stories are worth retelling year after year.
- Thanks for all the colorful breads, cookies, and bars. Many choices and it was fun to try them all.
- Thanks to those who were willing to play a role in the live nativity. Our Wise men: Lee Axdahl, Terry Leibel, and Jim Russell. Our Shepherds: David & Beau Keith, Tony & Noah Neyhart, Brian, Broch & Bryant Zeeb. Our Angels: Cassie Axtell, Hallie & Hanna Dunn, Brooke Kampfe and Martee Larson. Last but not least our Babe & Mary & Joseph:

- John Paul Baumann and his parents Pastor Joshua and Margaret Baumann.
- We thank the youth of the Pierre Youth Orchestra for playing the music under the direction of Moriah Wagner. We too, thank Karen Lindbloom for arranging for the Youth Orchestra.
- Thanks to the ladies of Rebekah Circle for serving the goodies and cleaning up the kitchen.
- We thank the Board of Missions and Evangelism for setting up the Fellowship Hall for the event and then cleaning up afterwards.

Our Beautiful Sanctuary! In these days of Advent as we prepare for the beauty of Christmas Eve, we extend our thanks to a number of our members for our decorated church. Thanks to –

- Our Eighth grade parents for the role preparing the Lobby Tree, the

- Christmas Youth sacks, our nativity set in the Narthex and decorating the choir area.
- Our Altar Guild for preparing the Sanctuary.
- Dale & Renee Knapp for the large eggs showing the journey of Jesus from birth to the cross.
- Steve Stoneback for the gift of the stained glass eggs which decorate the Sanctuary windows. They are beautiful and enhance this year's egg theme.
- Our Elders for securing and setting up the tree.

This year is our Egg and our Red year. We rotate our yearly Christmas design through a 3-year cycle: Eggs, theme color red; Chrismons, theme color gold; and angels, theme color blue.

All the eggs on the tree have been given by our families. If you are a newer family, and would like to place an egg ornament on the tree that the church would keep, we would encourage you to do so.

Official Acts

Baptisms

Tennisyn Vivian LaRoche
Oscar Lee Hatheway
Brycen Bernard Crusier

New Members

Brandon & Lori Butler
Shawn Castonguay
Bernie & Melody Crusier
Brenda Hemmelman
Gary Olivier
Gene & Diane Opbroek
Preston & Chrissy Scott
Dusty Waldron
Tony Wannebo

Wedding

Elizabeth Bergeson & Joshua Medcalf

SHALOM



We rejoice in the years we have shared with you!

In January we will say shalom to one of our faithful families as they move to Hill City. Doug and Pam Peterson have been a part of Faith for 35 years and have been very faithful in their service to Faith. All three of their daughters have been baptized and confirmed at Faith. God bless you Pam & Doug.

We also bid Ryan & Kim Olson and family God's good blessings as they transfer to Holy Cross Lutheran in Onida. God bless you Ryan & Kim, it makes good sense with living closer to Onida. We have enjoyed your time at Faith.



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YOUTH NEWS

Happy New Year!!! How have you asked God to help you grow closer to Him this year?

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! ... to all those who helped with our Children's Christmas Programs. Your time and commitment is a gift to our congregation and to the Lord Jesus!



JYM YOUTH! Our January activity will be pizza and Thunder Alley at Lariat Lanes **Friday, January 24th from 9:30-11:00 pm. (or till midnight if parent's consent)** Join Pastor Baumann for an evening together. We will

have pizza, drinks, and time in the Word at the ally. We will meet at Lariat Lanes at 9:30 p.m. and be done around 11 or so. Any parent(s) willing to help pastor chaperone the event are very welcome to do so and are invited to speak with him about it. Cost is \$10 with Faith paying for \$5 of that. Sign-up is on the back table in the Narthex.

Lenten Services... begin with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. Services will be at 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday in Lent.

HONG KONG CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

His leading and direction with our congregation and district involvement in short-term mission teams overseas, especially to Hong Kong. Currently, our February team has secured their plane tickets with flights out of Pierre, Denver, and San Francisco which we praise God for. The plane tickets are a major cost of the trip (about \$1400), with costs still remaining for in-country fees of about \$500 a person. Nick Hill is also working

to compose a printed keepsake to give to the Hong Kong students in the form of a "love letter from God" on nicely printed paper which they will be able to have as their own. To help defray some of those fees our team still has, we will be hosting a free-will oatmeal breakfast on January 5th which we hope to have you be a part of. It is exciting to think about the new connections God will give us and the opportunities to let Jesus shine through our

actions and words. Thank you for all of your prayers and generosity. We are truly blessed to be a blessing!

Pastor Baumann and the Hong Kong Mission Team



Witness, Mercy, Life Together

Acolytes

January 5

Early: Chelsey Meier, Morgan Deis
Late: Joe King, Julia Jares

January 12

Early: Samuel Ryckman, Cassie Axtell
Late: Shale Kramme, Jaden Filler

January 19

Early: Cade Larson, Martee Larson
Late: Abby Keith, Colton Graves

January 26

Early: Haven K.A., Burkelee K.A
Late: Devin Kampfe, Brooke Kampfe

Junior Youth Ministry (J.Y.M.)

Who: All youth 6th — 8th grade

What: A time of fellowship and fun activity for 6th to 8th graders.

When: Once a month. Times are generally listed in the church bulleting or on the youth bulletin board in the Narthex.

Where: Lariat Lanes Bowling Alley, PAYSA Skating Rink, Faith Lutheran Gym, the Black Hills, outdoors, indoors, and anywhere where we can gather for a time of fun connection and time in God's word.