

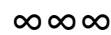
FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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FEBRUARY **FORWARD**
2009 **IN**
 FAITH

OUR MISSION STATEMENT
GOD'S PEOPLE UNIFIED IN CHRIST
AND ENERGIZED BY THE HOLY
SPIRIT, TO LEARN, GIVE AND SERVE



FAITH ECHO



February 2009

FROM THE PASTOR

Continued Blessings in the New Year to You.

As has been my tradition for the past seven February newsletters, I once again use this newsletter space for 'The Pastor's Annual Report.' It has been my experience that many do not have the opportunity to see a copy of the following report, so here it is.

THE LIGHT SHINES

As John reflects on the "Word was God" in his first chapter of his Gospel, this Word was the incarnation of Jesus. Jesus becoming flesh, one of us to love us, bless us and save us. John calls this Jesus "life, and the life was the light of all people". John says that in Jesus, **THE LIGHT SHINES**. As I have the pleasure to compile the pastors report of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church for the seventh time (May 14th of 09 will mark the beginning of my 8th year), **THE LIGHT SHINES** in the life and work of this church. Certainly 2008 had its challenges for us as a congregation and for us individually, yet in all of this, **THE LIGHT** has **SHINED** and **THE LIGHT SHINES** today and in every day of the future.

FAITH'S MISSION STATEMENT

During my first year as your pastor our council gathered to discuss what God would have us to be and do. The following mission statement was presented as a guide to our mission and ministry.—God's people unified in Christ and Energized by the Holy Spirit to Learn, Give and Serve.

FAITH'S VISION STATEMENT

The following vision statement was created to fulfill God's

mission statement for Faith Lutheran and it is as follows: unified by moving from maintenance to mission, energized through Holy Spirit-filled worship, to learn to be closer to God through prayer and bible study. To give of self through time, talents and treasures, to serve the needs of others in our church, community and the world, through Christ.

CRISIS OR OPPORTUNITY

THE LIGHT SHINES in your amazing dedication to God to give of your gifts of time talents and treasure for the work of THE LIGHT, Jesus. It's been a year and a half since our insurance has dramatically increased and your gifts along with our leadership's creativity have allowed THE LIGHT to continue to shine here at our church and in our community. A special committee has been formed to investigate capital campaign companies to allow THE LIGHT to continue to SHINE in the future. They have done a great job and a report will be forthcoming at this annual meeting. We secured a line of credit this past year which has helped with the insurance payments. Our synod is working on a way to possibly lower the insurance payments. A new policy begins in June. Our council is proposing a dramatically reduced budget to help to move from crises to opportunity or more appropriately called, a movement from maintenance to mission.

STAFF/VOLUNTIERS

THE LIGHT of Jesus SHINES so brightly in our staff and volunteers that work so hard for the Lord. Melinda Pensinger left us last year but now is back with us again as the financial secretaries job is now split again between her and Joanne Borkert. THE LIGHT SHINES in our music programs and through Jim Kreger. In Lisa Peters, our pre-school director, THE LIGHT SHINES in the children and also now in the Sundays school as she is helping there as well. THE LIGHT SHINES in Alice Wilson our custodian

CHURCH COMMITTEES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Rose Poidevin, Liaison

EVANGELISM

Bob Wolfe, Marguerite Kull, *Barbara Lindroth, Liaison*

FINANCE

Barry Moll, Betty Richards, Jerry Emmel

Jeanette Vesper, Liaison

LEARNING VILLAGE

Lisa Peters-Director, Barry Moll-President, Don Poidevin-Secretary, Sarah Polter, Bonnie Kintz, Jennifer Glasser, Kelli DeVore, Pr. Doug Wahlberg, *Doug Patterson, Liaison*

PROPERTY

Ron Shively, Larry Vandivier, Gary Lohr, Damon Shelor, Laura Barney, Connie Wattenmaker, Walter Dierks, *John Kintz & Len Barney, Liaison*

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Barbara Emery, Sheila Rogers, , *Liaison*

STEWARDSHIP

, *Liaison*

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Lou Keck, Lynn Beck, Jim Kreger, Jerry Emmel, *Ralph McDonald, Liaison*

YOUTH/ORGANIZATIONS

Mike Schmidt, Melinda Pensinger, , *Liaison*

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Rev. Dr. Douglas C. Wahlberg, Pastor
Rev. Clifford & Mitesaida Lewis,
Missionaries—Egypt

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

J. L. Kreger

OFFICE STAFF

J. L. Kreger, Office Administrator
Jo Anne Borkert, Financial Secretary

Volunteers for Filing and Reception

Dorothy Nelson, Marguerite Kull, Lynn Wahlberg,
Doris Brown, Mary Jane McArthur, Lois Duff,
Nancy Eng, Frances Vandivier & Audrey Downey

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

, President
, Vice President
, Secretary
, Treasurer

Len Barney, Gary DeVore, Charles DiFelice,
John Kintz, Barbara Lindroth,
Ralph McDonald, Pat McIntyre, Doug Patterson,
Rose Poidevin, Ron Shively, Jeanette Vesper

Web Site: faithlutheranla.org
Email: FaithLutheran@embarqmail.com
Phone: 239)369-6177
Fax: 239)369-3411

very brightly. THE LIGHT SHINES from our church council who continue to do the work of Jesus. All who work with our social concerns needs certainly are a beacon of light for our community. Our worship volunteers, altar guild, WELCA, and youth, property, and many others, THE LIGHT SHINES through you. What an awesome Christmas Play put on by our youth. All of you, THE LIGHT SHINES through you, you are needed, loved and appreciated.

INTERN PROGRAM

You have fallen in love with our intern program as THE LIGHT SHINES through these future pastors. We were not assigned an intern this past year, even though we did apply for one as was the wish of the congregation at our last annual meeting, because the seminary classes were smaller than usual. Our leadership has not included an intern in the 2009 budget because of income issues. A Christmas letter from our last intern David and Arianna is posted on a Narthex bulletin board.

STATISTICS

THE LIGHT SHINES in our growth pattern over the last year. The numbers now show a modest growth as we know have a total baptized membership of over 600. I'm sure we could spend some time gleaning the numbers as this has not been done for some time. Our church attendance has decreased for the third straight year. The decline was not as large as the last two years, so maybe this may be turning around as well.

PARISH HOUSE

Our Parish House has been in good use since our interns left in August. On 9-11-08, the 7th Anniversary of 9-11-01, 25 of us helped one of our members move into the Parish House after an eminent foreclosure. This person lived in the Parish House until he found a more permanent place

to move into, thanks to the help of our Social Concerns Committee. After being vacant again for a short time, a staff member of The Learning Village Preschool moved in with her three children because of an emergency situation. These four have lived there for almost two months. God has blessed us to be a blessing with this house! You may remember the Cuban refugees that lived there before our first intern arrived in 2004.

Thank you for my sabbatical and your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ as THE LIGHT SHINES in the glorious unknown future.

STATISTICS

Membership 2007	579
(Includes Associate Members 21)	
Baptized	579
Confirmed	503
Number of Families 2007	292
<u>Gains</u>	
Baptisms	4
Newly Confirmed	
Youth	4
New Members	23 Adults
(Includes baptisms, confirmations)	
<u>Losses</u>	
Transfers out	0
Deaths	5
Membership 2008	601
First Communion	2
(Includes Associate Members 20)	
Baptized	601
Confirmed	526
Number of families 2007	301
Net Growth	22

Sergeant Robert Waigand, US Army

WOMEN OF FAITH

Attention, women of Faith Lutheran. A woman's Bible study meets every Sunday at 9:30am in the Teen Room. Call Rose Poidevin, our Christian Education liaison at 368-5882 for all the information.

YOUTH EVENTS

Remember Teen Youth Meetings are Sundays from 9:30am-10:25am in Schmidt Chapel. Check us out!

a gift to complete [its] journey."

Miles notes that the gift exchanges never stop. If they did, they would lose their value and no longer be gifts.

"Thinking about [gift-giving] in this way may sound a little strange to us," Miles writes. "In fact, we would probably be offended [if we gave] someone a gift and then [found] that very gift in someone else's home. We also would feel awkward if we received a gift that we knew had already been given."

-David Miles

FAITH FAMILY MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

LCPL Logan Raymond

LCPL Hannah Frank

LCPL Trevor Frank

Airman Jennifer Iglesias, US Air Force, Lackland Air Force Base

Lance Corporal Tyler Blum, US Marine Corp, Cherry Point

Senior Airman Kenny Brooks, US Air Force, Davis/Moahan AFB Arizona

Petty Officer Tim Fjelsted, US Navy Reserves

Private 1st Class Nick Schmidt, US Army, Afghanistan

Baptized Membership

1998—483; 1999—481; 2000—480; 2001—476; 2002—506; 2003—577; 2004—514; 2005—525; 2006—554; 2007—575; 2008—601;

Average Attendance

1998 - 236; 1999 - 210; 2000 - 201; 2001 - 180; 2002 - 191; 2003 - 213, 2004 - 218; 2005 - 224; 2006 - 208; 2007 - 192; 2008 - 188

LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 25, 2009

Lent begins with an Ash Wednesday service at 5:30pm on February 25th. We will celebrate our repentance with the imposition of ashes on our foreheads and receive Holy Communion. A soup supper will follow after worship. As is past years, please come as you are and can after work, play, school, practice, etc.

Brenda Scheneman is willing to work with our youth again, as she did this past Christmas to provide short dialogues at each service. Thank you so much, Brenda, for your service to Jesus and our church and our youth in this way. The following is the theme and dates for this year's Lenten Season: The "I Ams of Jesus" by Gail Gaymer Martin.

All Wednesday evening services will be in our Sanctuary, as well as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

Wednesday, March 4, 5:30pm—**I am the Alpha and Omega**
Soup by Council

Wednesday, March 11, 5:30pm—**I am the Bread of Life**
Soup by Music Department

Wednesday, March 18, 5:30pm—**I am the Good Shepherd**
Soup by Youth Group

Wednesday, March 25, 5:30pm—I am the Light of the World
Soup by

Wednesday, April 1, 5:30pm—I am the Resurrection
Soup by

Maundy Thursday, April 9, 5:30—I am the True Vine

Good Friday, April 10, 7:30pm—I am the Way

NEW MEMBER CLASS AND NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

During Lent, I will, once again, teach a class on the blessings of the Christian faith through the Lutheran perspective, Sunday mornings between the services at 9:30am beginning March 1st. New Member Sunday will be Easter Sunday, April 12th.

Thank you for your partnership in God's Gospel of Jesus and may all be blessed in the new year as we do God's work.

Pastor Doug

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2009

	Month to Date	Year to Date
Revenue		\$330,699
Expense		(\$384,829)
Net		(\$ 54,130)

WITHIN THE FOLD

DEATH

Charles Goehle

01/10/2009

offer them a smoke and send the pipe back home with them. So you take the pipe down and give it back."

Miles points out that the Puritans would probably have been confused at the expectation that the pipe be again given as a gift, but that the tribe members are not acting selfishly here. Instead, Miles says, "a gift for them is only a gift if it continues to be given."

Miles goes on to say, "A friend gave me a fascinating book by Lewis Hyde entitled "The Gift" and in it [Hyde] traces this particular notion of [gift-giving] from cultures around the world and throughout history. One of the many places [Hyde finds this same notion of continual gift-giving] is with the Massim peoples, who occupy the South Sea Islands near the eastern tip of New Guinea."

"The people of this island participate in something called the Kulu Exchange. There are ceremonial gifts of armshells worn by men and necklaces worn by women that are given from one person to the next, island to island."

"People travel great distances just to deliver these gifts to someone on another island. The necklaces move clockwise around the circle of islands. The armshells move counterclockwise and it takes anywhere from two to 10 years for

be given.

"Thanksgiving is an interesting holiday in that it is based on a rather nebulous picture – of two very different groups of people ... sharing a meal together," Miles writes. He explains that we often assume the focus of the first Thanksgiving meal was a mutual understanding of the meaning of sharing gifts and being grateful. But, as his story reveals, there are many different ways to give and receive gifts.

Imagine that you are a Puritan and you come to [a lodge]. Your hosts, wishing to make you feel welcome ask you to share a pipe of tobacco," Miles writes. "The pipe is carved from soft, red stone, and was known to be a peace offering. As is the usual custom, your host gives you the pipe as you leave, and you are tickled pink."

"Such a fine gift, you take it home and prominently display it on your mantelpiece. Time passes by, and eventually members of the tribe come to your home and you suddenly notice that your guests are agitated upon seeing the pipe."

"You tell them how much you appreciate the pipe and how glad you are to have it, but that only seems to make things worse. Eventually, you find out that they are bothered that you still have the pipe and that the least you could do is

ALTAR GUILD

Sheila Rogers and Julie Yennerell

GREETERS

10:30 am Gloria Heidelmark & Joyce Lindig
(all month)

USHERS

8:30am **02/01** Ron & Sharon Shively
02/08 Mary Sue & Linda Carter
02/15 Larry & Frances Vandivier
02/22 Ed & Pat McIntyre

10:30am **02/01** Ralph McDonald, Charles Richardson, Marguerite Kull, Pat Grotsky, Margarita Wolfson
02/08 McDonald, Richardson, Kull, Grotsky
02/15 McDonald, Richardson, Kull, Barb Lindroth, Joan Sozzi
02/22 McDonald, Richardson, Kull, Gary Lohr

ACOLYTES

8:30am 02/01 Natalie Peters
02/08 Natalie Peters & Jeremy Smith
02/15 Jeremy Smith
02/22 R. J. & J. J. Iglesias

10:30am 02/01 Vinny Trosterud & Jake Zander
02/08 Chelsea Dzurinko
02/15 Janell & Katie Harvey
02/22 Jake Zander

READERS

8:30am Toria Via
10:30am Diana King

DRIVERS SCHEDULE

02/01	Will Rogers
02/08	John Kintz
02/15	Ed McIntyre
02/22	Damon Shelor

Happy Birthday and God's Blessing to:

Gary DeVore	2/01
Robert Colton	2/01
Evangelina Nunez	2/04
Mickie Shaw	2/05
Vickie Hawkins	2.06
Jaime Ruiz	2/07
Rosemary Hensley	2/08
Michele Smith	2/10
Diane Shelor	2/11
Charles Emery	2/12
Artelle Gordon	2/13
Ellen Motter	2/13
Laura Barney	2/13
James Brooks	2/14
Eleanore Griffith	2/15
Doris Brown	2/15
Ed Welk	2/16
Michael Shaw	2/17
Daniel Bawor	2/17
Mike Goosic	2/20
Mark Goosic	2/20
Jonathan Poidevin	2/20
Diana King	2/23
Verling Krissinger	2/23
Lindsay Rogers	2/23
R. J. Iglesias	2/25
Denise DiFelice	2/25
J. J. Fait	2/27
John Duff	2/29

Happy Anniversary and God's Blessing to:

Charles & Ruth Richardson	2/06
William & Diane Bernatz	2/08
John & Brenda Short	2/14
Lawrence & Frances Vandivier	2/17
Edwin & Betty Kelley	2/23

The Lord bless you and keep you.....Num. 6:24

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

The Circle of Giving
Greetings!

Carol Miles previously served as a homiletics professor at Luther Seminary. Her husband was a well-loved Presbyterian minister who tragically lost his life in an accident. Carol gifted our web site with a few of his stewardship sermons.

Below is a summary of a Thanksgiving sermon by David D. Miles. A link to the complete sermon is provided at the bottom of the page.

Grace & Peace,

[Jerry Hoffman](#) Director of the Center for Stewardship Leaders

Luther Seminary

Instead of viewing gift-giving as a one-time act, Rev. David D. Miles tells a story of Thanksgiving that reminds us some gifts are given just to