

December 6, 2016

Dear Members and Friends of Faith Lutheran Church,

I'm writing to you today to bring you up to date with regard to the financial condition of our church, and to ask for your help.

Overall, we are in pretty good shape. All our bills are paid, and we have a strong vision for our future together that incorporates vital worship, a special emphasis on young families, and a pursuit of excellence in the arts as a means of expressing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our **Mortgage Fund**, which we set up so that we would not allow our building mortgage to become our ministry, is in good shape thanks to your regular giving as well as the gifts of \$10,000.00 and \$20,000.00 by two generous FLC families.

Our **General Ministry Fund**, the one that funds all of our staff and ministries other than our mortgage, is in need of **our immediate attention**.

Giving to our General Fund is currently **11% below** where we were at this point in the year last year. That's a deficit of **\$20,900.00**. We were 17% below 10 weeks ago, so we are improving as the end of the year approaches. However, our rate of improvement needs to increase in order to be even with last year at the end of this year. Plus, our 2016 budget has a 2.5% increase built-in over the previous year. This means we will need to receive **\$55,119.00 by the end of the year** to make our budget. And, we all want to expand our ministry next year, not cut it back.

I am asking you, therefore, to pray about your current giving and to be open to increasing it. I'd like to also to consider a lump sum gift to help us catch-up by the end of the year. Sally and I together have been giving over 11% of my salary to the General Fund and \$6,000.00 per year to the Mortgage Fund, plus special offerings and additional charitable giving (including 15% from Sally's income). We are happy to give, and we see what is left after giving as our actual income.

We have come a long way together at Faith Lutheran Church, and I believe that God has plans for us for a long time to come.

We are looking forward to helping our community know what a Lutheran is as we approach the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in October of 2017! We are planning a film festival, a graphic novel distribution, a Lenten outreach emphasis, an expanded social media blitz, and more!

We had a booth at the San Dimas Fitness Festival in September for the first time ever, and we are planning to have a pioneering presence in additional local festivals in 2017.

We are planning to bring community music groups to our campus like the Gem City Jazz Cats and the Bonita High School Marching Band, which brings visitors and increases an awareness of our church. We will be building an expanded committee structure,

creative Bible Study opportunities, and a new Wednesday evening experience, as well as an expansion of our youth outreach.

God continues to lead us to a time of tremendous opportunities for sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ! I ask that you give according to the Bible's model of accountable stewardship: **first fruits** (the first check you write after receiving income), **proportional** (a percentage of income), **growth giving** (growing to 10%, that is, a tithe, and beyond) in response to the great things that God has already done, and is doing, for us.

Finally, please use the enclosed envelope to help us fund our ministry this year and give us a springboard to next. I thank you for your generous partnership in our ministry together.

Sincerely,

David Berkedal,
Pastor