

FORWARD IN FAITH 2018

Stewardship Appeal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Faith Lutheran Church,

We have celebrated Thanksgiving and the incredible blessings bestowed on us. In response, we not only give thanks when we worship and in our daily prayers, but we can “live thanks” by our actions and our generosity. It’s our way of Thanks-Living.

On Christ the King Sunday, we proclaimed Christ as Lord. When he is center of our lives, all other priorities fall into place, including how we share, save, and spend our financial resources.

This Sunday, the first Sunday in Advent, we begin a new church year. It’s a time of new beginnings. We prepare to again celebrate Christ’s birth. And, we also look forward with hope for the future, as we continue to grow in discipleship.

This church year, our stewardship theme is ***Forward in Faith 2018***. On Sunday, December 17, you are invited to bring your financial commitments for our shared ministry at Faith Lutheran Church in 2018. I am excited to learn what God has in store for each of us, and our life together, as we move ***Forward in Faith!***

I’m grateful to be walking with you!

David Berkedal, Pastor

TWO PLEDGES FOR OUR SHARED MINISTRY EXPLAINED

THE GENERAL MINISTRY FUND

Our combined gifts to the General Fund help achieve our mission to introduce people to new life in Jesus Christ that grows into enthusiastic Christian living.

Your support is the lifeblood for the ministries we carry out in support of our mission, including worship, outreach, education, and community life for all ages. Joined together, we can share the Good News of Jesus Christ with one another, our community, and beyond.

Our congregation approves our annual budget (\$287,174), and our Church Council is responsible for the stewardship of our offerings. They provide oversight for not only our offerings, but for our expenses, seeking to provide the best possible management of our resources. We are grateful for all who have responded in recent months to the call **to fully fund our shared ministry in 2017**. Though our giving to the General Fund has slipped a bit in the past few weeks compared to last year, our giving overall for the year has been extraordinary, and we are confident that our giving will catch-up by the end of the year.

THE MORTGAGE FUND

Our facilities are tools for our mission and ministry. The Mortgage Fund provides support for monthly mortgage payments that total \$87,660 annually. We have kept these funds separate to help ensure that our mortgage does not eclipse our ministry and so that, if possible, we can intentionally pay down our mortgage more quickly, saving thousands of dollars in interest that can eventually be used, instead, for our mission.

When the balance in the Mortgage Fund grows above the needed minimum, we have the option to pay down the principal on the mortgage. Experience has shown that congregations that keep their mortgage fund separate from the general fund, often pay down debt more quickly, freeing resources to be used for ministry. We are grateful for the gifts toward the Mortgage Fund in 2017, which are just under what we need without having to dip into our small reserves.

FINANCIAL GOALS

The minimum financial goal for the General Ministry Fund is reach our budget, currently at \$287,174, and increase it for 2018 to a level where we can grow our ministry and call additional staff. We will set that amount at our congregational meeting in January of 2018.

The minimum financial goal for the Mortgage Fund is \$87,660. This is the amount needed to pay the mortgage for 12 months. The current balance on the mortgage is \$1,191,362.86 which was financed over 15 years, and will be re-financed, if necessary, after that time.

2018 Financial Pledge Form

Make a copy for your records, and bring the larger sheet to worship with you on **Sunday, December 17**. If you cannot be present that day, please bring or mail it to Faith Lutheran Church at your earliest convenience. We will tie our commitments to a Christmas tree, a visual reminder that our gifts and commitments are in response to God's greatest gift of all.

General Fund Giving

I/we commit to support the General Fund with a gift of financial resources over the next twelve months (January 2018 - December 2018) in the following way:

My/Our total General Fund gift is \$_____.

I/We prefer to:

Option 1: Give \$_____/week or \$_____/month.

Option 2: Give the entire General Fund support of \$_____ now.

Option 3: Give in another manner (please specify):

Mortgage Fund Giving

I/We commit to support the Mortgage Fund with a gift of financial resources over the next twelve months (January 2018 – December 2018).

My/Our total Mortgage Fund gift is \$_____.

I/We prefer to:

Option 1: Give \$_____/week or \$_____/ month for twelve months.

Option 2: Give the entire Mortgage Fund gift of \$_____ now.

Option 3: Give in another manner (please specify):

Option 4: I/We would like to make an additional gift of \$_____ to be applied to principal payments only.

Name/s _____

Telephone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Please pray for God's presence during this important time in the life of Faith Lutheran Church, that we might respond with generous hearts and grow in faith, love and service. Together, we can embrace the opportunities for mission and ministry as we move Forward in Faith in 2018.

