

November 20, 2016

FREEING FAITH

2017 Stewardship Appeal

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Faith Lutheran Church:

We begin a new year in the life of the Church next Sunday with the season of Advent. During the four Sundays, leading up to Christmas, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son.

As we gather in worship, we hear the prophet Isaiah, proclaiming God's vision for the world, and hope for the future. John the Baptizer cries out to repent and prepare for the arrival of the Messiah. Mary and Joseph model faithfulness, trusting in God's guidance as they journey through uncharted territory.

Soon the calendar year will turn as well.

During 2017 we will celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation when Martin Luther and other reformers pointed the Church of the day to the freedom of the Gospel.

This year, our stewardship theme is **Freeing Faith**. It continues the yearly titles we have used with our congregation's name. In 2014, we celebrated Faith Lutheran Church's 50th Anniversary with **A Focused Faith**. The following year, we began the next half century of mission and ministry, moving **Forward in Faith**. Last year, we reflected on God's activity in our lives through a **Flexing Faith**.

As we consider how we have been set free from the power of sin and death, so that we are *free to serve and give*, you are invited to provide your financial commitments for our shared ministry at Faith Lutheran Church in 2017.

This is an opportunity for us to respond with thanksgiving and joy, knowing that *Christ has set us free!*

I'm grateful to experience *freeing faith* with you!

Sincerely,

David Berkedal
Pastor