

FORWARD IN FAITH **2015 Stewardship Appeal**

December 11, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Faith Lutheran Church:

Advent is a time for *reflection and preparation*. During worship, we hear scripture lessons pointing to the arrival of the Christ Child, and we recall the ways God was at work in the lives of the people leading up to the birth of Jesus – the greatest gift the world has ever received.

During this season, we also hear texts pointing to the future – and the importance of preparation. We look ahead with hope to the fulfillment of God's intentions for all of creation.

During 2014, we celebrated God's work over the past 50 years in and through our shared ministry. Our theme was ***Focused Faith***. We had the opportunity to engage together in self-study and reflection as we considered where God is calling Faith Lutheran Church into the future. Now as we begin the next half century of our mission, we move ***Forward in Faith***.

During these next weeks, we are invited to provide our financial commitments for our shared ministry at Faith Lutheran Church in 2015. This is an opportunity for us to *reflect* on the blessings we have received and the abundance of God's grace. And, it is also a time for us to *prepare* what will be our joyful response through our financial support.

Mary and Joseph moved forward in faith, traveling an unknown future from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Nothing was certain, but they trusted God's abiding presence throughout the journey. In a lowly manger, the world received the gifts of love, joy, and hope.

May we also travel Forward in Faith, trusting that God is leading, and we will discover far more than we might ever imagine in our lives and in our ministry together.

Sincerely,

David Berkedal
Pastor