

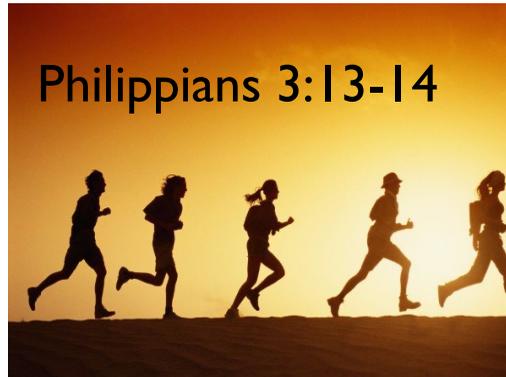
Forward in Faith  
2018 Stewardship Appeal  
Sunday, December 10th

## Stepping Forward In Faith

A voice cries out: *"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:3).* In the Gospel for today, the Second Sunday of Advent, John the Baptizer is introduced, as the prophet Isaiah's words are recalled. He is the voice crying in the wilderness: *Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight (Mark 1:3).*

In both lessons, the image is that preparation, of clearing the way so that the Good News of what God is up to in the world can be seen and heard. Like Isaiah, and John, we are called to prepare the way so that all may know of the Gospel ("Good News"!) of Jesus Christ. Instead of standing still, or sleep-walking, we are to be alert and awake and moving forward in our journey of faith.

Many today have electronic devices that count our steps. Wrist bands and smartphones can count the number of steps we take each day. We know that the more we are moving, the healthier we will be physically, and often emotionally as well.



One of the ways we can become healthier in our faith lives is by stepping forward in generosity. With the end of the calendar year approaching, take a few minutes to make these calculations:

- 1) How much will you share with all charities this year?
- 2) Of that amount, how much have/will you give in 2017 to support our shared mission and ministry at Faith Lutheran?
- 3) What percentage of your income (either from work or retirement distribution) is your total charitable giving?

For 2018, you are invited to step forward in faith by increasing the percentage of all charitable giving in 2018. Consider starting with a goal of at least 10%, and then building the rest of your budget for spending and saving and investing. Prayerfully consider the amount you will give for our shared mission and ministry in 2018, and bring your commitment to worship next Sunday. By stepping forward generosity, each of us can grow in faith as together we prepare the way of the Lord!

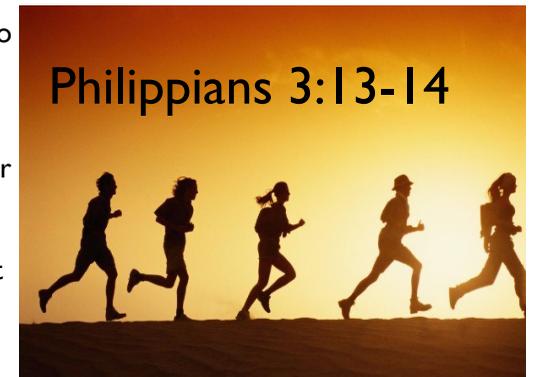
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