

October 2012

Dear Member of our Faith Community,

Our Mission, our God given mission, was and is today: to share the Good News of Jesus Christ so that others might witness our joy in God, hear the message of Christ, and experience God's love through our ministries and presence in this community while we too deepen our own walk with God and with each other.

In 2012, we have embarked upon our mission with renewed vigor, we have reinstated Vacation Bible School and expanded our Children's educational program with drama and music that brought us *Godspell*, to site but a few. We have also started a search process for a new Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults Ministries and begun to make our aging facility more energy efficient and, thereby, more cost effective. The enclosed document summarizes in words and pictures our "Mission from God". Please take time to peruse it.

Based upon the survey of the congregation that we conducted early in 2012 we have concluded that the difference between a covenant and a pledge simply diverts energy from our mission. Both have positive aspects. Therefore, we have chosen to combine the strengths of each and created a "covenantal pledge". It acknowledges that we covenant in faith to accomplish the work of the church knowing that some of what is needed financially has not yet been given. At the same time we pledge to do all we can to forward the mission and ministries of the church. This pledge aspect, which is measurable, will hold us responsible and accountable for long-range planning and how we are, or are not, achieving our goals in the years ahead. This will enable us to have a long-range plan and to implement it, making adjustments as necessary as we proceed on our journey.

Stewardship Sunday is November the 4th. Please bring your covenantal pledge in the enclosed envelope to this worship service or mail it to the church. Know that you can always change your commitment if circumstances warrant. On Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a special Adult Education program at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel to inform you of some aspects of our mission, to share with you our approach to becoming financially sustainable, and to give you an opportunity to ask questions and make comments.

Thank you.

The Stewardship Ministry

Vicki Christiansen, Dirk Gutzke, Jan Hessler, Craig Metros, Linda Steed, and Elly Walsh-Rock