



# January

*take up the shield of faith* Ephesians 6:16

## January 2022 Newsletter

### From Pastor Nate . . . .

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow like so many people experienced significant pain and suffering. He was married twice and both of his wives died, one following a miscarriage and the other from 4<sup>th</sup> degree burns after her dress accidentally caught on fire. Longfellow himself was permanently scarred when he tried to extinguish the flames. He went through periods of depression and anxiety as a result of the death of each of his wives.

I have had countless people ask me over the years how do unbelievers cope with the suffering and loss. As a believer I can't answer that question. I don't know how they can make sense of suffering and death without the presence of our Savior and the hope of promised resurrection. Longfellow was a believer and he expressed this in his poem "Christmas Bells." He wrote this poem on Christmas day in 1863 in the midst of the Civil War. Longfellow longed for peace, especially after his son, Charles, was severely injured while serving as a union soldier. Below is an excerpt from his poem:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play, and wild and sweet  
The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!  
And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;

"For hate is strong, And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

With the violence and division within our nation over the past two years many may be asking if there is peace on earth. "For hate is strong, And mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men!" But as believers we know where our hope lies, a hope that will not disappoint us. (Romans 5:5) In this New Year may the bells peal more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men."

Happy and Blessed New Year!  
Pastor Nate Bjorge

**Faith's Core  
Values:**  
*Discipleship,  
Hospitality,  
Prayer,  
Service,  
Stewardship,  
Worship,  
and Unity*

## President's Message

Happy New Year Family of Faith,

Way too soon the excitement and joy of celebrating the birth of our Savior is but a sweet memory for this year. My prayer for all of us is that we feel that joy and excitement all year long. The birth of Jesus is just the beginning of His magnificent and saving life. As we opened gifts and enjoyed gathering together with family it reminded me of the wonder of Jesus' love and the gift of the gospel – one message at a time.

Winter is definitely here. I'm writing this on December 29 – beautiful sunny day – only 2 below. I mentioned the sunshine to our son and he said he had a really hard time understanding why people seemed to be so happy about winter sunshine when that usually meant it was very cold outside. Kind of like Arizona in summer when it's 115 in the shade and somebody says "Yeah, it's hot but it's a dry heat". It's still 115 and it's hot.

Winter is different for each of us. Some love the snow and cold and the opportunities they bring. Some hate those same things and just want to hunker down and wait impatiently for Spring. I think most of us are somewhere in between. I'm not a big fan of snow and cold but I'm thankful for the changing of the seasons. God designed the world like that for a reason. Somehow, having basically the same weather all year long would seem boring.

The beginning of a new year is always a bit of an adventure. What will the future hold? What challenges will we face? What wonderful things will we see and be part of? Fun to think about. The one constant is that things will happen and we need to show up to witness them. Something we need to keep in mind though is that yesterday is gone; tomorrow is promised to no one; the present is God's gift to us. The experiences of the past are lessons to build on; planning for things to come is important; but living today to its fullest and in glory to God is our gift to Him.

May you have an adventurous 2022. We have been blessed in so many ways and God will continue to be with us always. For that we are forever thankful.

In love and thankfulness for all of you,  
Howie

### Mission & Outreach Team

Faith Lutheran's Mission & Outreach Team approved its 2022 budget at its November meeting. The 2022 budget had relatively few changes from the 2021 budget, although a specific line item for Pregnancy Resource Center was added. The total draft budget (as of Nov. 9) was set at \$29,436. In addition, approximately \$6,800 remains to be spent before the end of the year based on 10% of donations to the General Fund. The team made the following donations on Dec. 14, in addition to its monthly gifts to Sunbeam Boys Home (\$200) and Nicaraguan Ministry (\$200): \$1,000 (additional) to Sunbeam Boys Home; \$1,000 to St. Paul Seminary; \$1,000 to Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge; \$1,000 (additional) to Pregnancy Resource Center; \$1,000 to Hands of Hope Resource Center; and \$500 to Sydney Holman, a local 8-year-old girl experiencing complications from COVID. The additional gifts, after approval by council, were paid out in December.

Faith Lutheran Mission & Outreach Team identified several potential candidates to serve on the team with three-year terms starting in January. The candidates include Karen Moen, Randy or Leanne Wolbeck, and Justin Juelke. George volunteered to ask the candidates to determine their level of interest. According to church bylaws, ministry teams can have between five and seven members. The M & O team currently has six members—Linda Lippert (done Jan. 1), Maureen Miller (done Jan. 1), Laura Fellbaum, Linda Collins, Gail Meyer and Pat Rioux. Ex-officio members include Pastor Nate and council representatives—George Sandy and Kennard Fellbaum. The team's purpose is to oversee the congregation's mission and outreach activities, including making donations to various ministries. The team receives 10% of all congregational General Fund donations to fund mission and outreach activities. For more information about the Mission & Outreach Team, please contact any team member (listed above) or the pastor.

## Mission Statement

As Children of God, we are called to love, glorify and submit to the Living Christ, ministering to others by the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.



Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to **stand** your ground, and after you have done everything, **to stand**. **Stand** firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the **Word of God**. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

**Ephesians 6:16**

**Faith Lutheran Church**

303 18th St. SE

Little Falls, MN 56345

320-414-0533

[faithlutheranlittlefalls.org](http://faithlutheranlittlefalls.org)

[secretaryfaithlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfaithlutheran@gmail.com)

## Youth & Family

A new year often brings renewed hope with it. To the world, this hope is found in a “new you” or a seemingly fresh start that only lasts the length of a person’s will power. But thankfully as Christians we can find our hope in a living and lasting hope through the resurrection of Jesus. We also rest in the knowledge that God is generous in second (and 442nd+) chances and empowers lasting transformation in a promised new life. In order to fuel his hope, Jeremiah calls to mind the steadfast love of the Lord which never ceases and his mercies which never come to an end, in Lamentations 3:21-23. May you start 2022 filled with HOPE because you are reminded of the faithful, steadfast, and abundantly merciful character of our Heavenly Father.

The high school youth finished out the year with worship, prayer, and of course broomball at the New Year’s Eve Bash. They had the opportunity to intentionally reflect on 2021 and dream with God about what 2022 may hold through prayer stations. Earlier in the month, confirmation and high school youth joined together for the Youth Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 15. At the party they frosted (and ate) cookies, battled it out in minute-to-win-it games and worshiped the Greatest Gift ever given.

We are kicking off the new year with fun and family. Families with middle and high school students are encouraged to join us at the Winter Family Night on Wednesday, January 5 from 6:45-8:15. We will serve you dinner, highlight winter student ministry events, reveal the summer mission trip location, and compete in a friendly game of Family Feud. All family members are encouraged to join the fun!

Thursday, January 6th there is Night of Hope Community Event w/special guests from MN Teen Challenge. This event is hosted in partnership by Stand Up 4U (the drug and alcohol prevention coalition) and area youth ministries. It is held at the Little Falls High School auditorium from 6:00-7:30pm with free pizza at 6:00 and program starting at 6:30. You should come to the event if you want to learn more about local resources and services available, current drug trends, and hear personal testimonies of those in recovery.

Lastly, another ALL family event is Three Bear Waterpark from 11am-3pm on Sunday, January 23rd. We will have a potluck meal after Sunday School and leave the church together at 11:30. Stay tuned for more details!

God’s blessings in this new year!  
Sara Stanton



## Congregational Life Team

Happy New Year greetings from all of us on the Congregational Life Team!

Howie and I just said “goodbye” to our kids and grandkids after several fun filled days of Christmas celebrations. Now our home is too quiet and we miss them as soon as they drive out of our driveway.

We look forward to their next visit! There are always good things to look forward to in the “new year”! May it be a year of good health, happiness, and blessings for all of us!

There will be a couple of changes in our team. Julie Shelstad will be our chairperson, Jackie Rutten our vice chair, with Jody Cox remaining as our secretary. The council reps will be decided at the annual meeting January 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Christmas Boutique brought in \$2,332.25 ! 10% goes to missions and the rest will be used when a need arises. Thank you, thank you, to everyone who made this event a success!

Stay safe and warm !

Bev for the team...Julie, Jody, Jackie, Gregg, Noel, Howie, and Karen



# December Council Minutes

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

*Present:* Judy Berger, Kennard Fellbaum, Joel Hanson, Justin Juelke, Howie Larsen, Tom Lippert, Denny Myers, Jim Nelson, Cheryl Rioux, George Sandy, Karen Underhill and Renae Stueber via Zoom

*Absent:* Pastor Nate

The meeting was called to order by Howie Larsen and opening prayer led by George Sandy.

**Secretary's Report:** George Sandy moved and Joel Hanson seconded to accept the November Council Minutes with a change of three congregation members on the nominating team instead of two. Motion carried. Sarah also shared a request from an education group who would like to meet every few weeks at the church. The council feels they would need more information including their agenda as well as the dates they would like to meet before a decision could be made.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim shared the November Financial reports. We are currently \$8,000 over budget in revenue which puts us at a similar position to last year. The mortgage principal balance is \$408,297. George Sandy moved and Denny Myers seconded to accept the November Treasurer's Reports. Motion carried. Jim also recommended we make plans to use or move the funds in the Other Pass Through Fund as they have been sitting since the beginning of 2021.

**Youth Director's Report:** Sara Stanton's report shared about the Middle School Late Nighter, The Chosen Christmas Movie Night and the Youth Christmas Party as well as the College Care packages the Youth team sent to college students.

Upcoming Youth events include Christmas caroling on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, The New Year's Eve Bash on December 30<sup>th</sup>, Family Night for Middle and High school families on January 5<sup>th</sup>, the Night of Hope Community event on January 6<sup>th</sup> and the Recharge conference on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Nate will be out of town on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, Greg Hyatt will fill in for him.

## Old Business:

### Ministry Team Reports:

Children's Team: The Children's Christmas Program went well and now they are working on the next set of Sunday School lessons.

Congregational Life Team: Boutique sale brought in \$2,332.25. There are no recommendations for where that money should go at this time. Bev Larsen purchased a Peace Lily for Kallie Doroff's funeral, from the Congregational Life funds. Next year Julie Shelstad will be president, Jackie Rutten will be vice president and Jody Cox will remain secretary.

Finance & Management Team: Discussed budgets at their meeting. Lyn Kull has agreed to be chair for next year.

Mission & Outreach Team: Mission team had additional funds so they requested additional payments: \$1,000 for Sunbeam Boys Home, \$1,000 for MN Adult & Teen Challenge, \$1,000 for Hands of Hope Resource Center, \$1,000 for Pregnancy Resource Center, \$1,000 for St. Paul Lutheran Seminary and \$500 for the Holman family to help with expenses for Sydney Holman.

Jim Nelson moved and Justin Juelke seconded to pay these vouchers as requested. Motion carried. The Mission & Outreach team is still seeking members and a chair for next year.

Worship & Prayer Team: Budgets were discussed at the last meeting.

Youth & Family Team: covered by Sara Stanton's report.

*Photo Directory:* What we have so far has been sent to the congregation but we will continue to try to update it.

*ReKeying the Church:* Kennard Fellbaum reported his estimate to have the outer doors all rekeyed will be \$213 which will include 30 keys. Howie Larsen moved we proceed, taking the money from the Other Pass Through Fund, Judy Berger seconded. Motion carried.

*Wireless Mics:* Justin Juelke purchased one wireless adapter for \$213.68 which came from the Worship & Prayer Music fund. There was a sale and Justin purchased two more for a total of \$341.88. Karen Underhill moved to approve his reimbursement from the Other Pass Through Fund, George Sandy seconded. Motion carried.

*Nominating Team:* Tom Lippert and Kennard Fellbaum are working to find candidates. When the candidate list is complete biography samples and team duties and responsibilities will be sent to the candidates.

*Audit Team:* Eric Schlangen has agreed to do our internal audit next year. This will be scheduled once all income and expenses are reconciled for 2021.

*2022 Budgets:* Jim Nelson went over the budgets. A brief review will be done at the January meeting including the income and expenses for December. Howie Larsen moved and Kennard Fellbaum seconded to approve the 2022 budgets. Motion carried.

## New Business:

*Kitchen Hygiene:* Justin Juelke would like to set up and standardize kitchen procedures as well as set up training. He will be working with Raquel Lundberg, for her knowledge of commercial kitchen practices as well as the Congregational Life Team to form a standard kitchen policy. Joel Hanson moved and Jim Nelson seconded to allow Justin to work on this into the new year. Motion carried.

*Employee Recognition (Bonuses):* Staff bonuses were discussed and amounts set. Denny Myers moved and Joel Hanson seconded to increase Sarah Kalkbrenner's bonus by \$50. Motion carried.

*Expansion Cost Estimates/Congregational Survey:* One item on the survey is to gauge the congregation's thoughts on when we will build the expansion. The preliminary survey was reviewed by the council. A few suggestions were made which will go back to the Survey team. Pete Larsen would like to get some cost estimates for expansion as well as estimates for installing a large, lighted cross on the side of the building. The council felt it would not be beneficial to get expansion cost estimates at this time but the cross estimates will go ahead.

*Blessing Boxes:* At this time there are no plans to continue with this project as someone would need to step up to lead the project. If someone would like to set it up, they can come forward to ask for support or funds.

*Window Coverings for Gathering Area:* Some of the windows above the entry doors in the gathering area are an issue this time of year when the sun shines in brightly on anyone leaving the worship space. The council would like the Finance & Management team to come up with a plan to cover or shade the windows. The cost can come from the Other Pass Through Funds.

*Annual Meeting:* Justin Juelke moved and Tom Lippert seconded to set the date of the Annual meeting for January 30, 2022. Motion carried.

*Security Protocols:* The security team's proposed duties list will be tabled until Dave ZumBerge can discuss them further with the council

Kennard Fellbaum moved and Karen Underhill seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with prayer.

The next meeting will take place January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sarah Kalkbrenner, Faith Lutheran Church Secretary

## Attendance & Offering

December	5:	144	\$ 5,908
December	12:	195	\$ 5,152
December	19:	173	\$ 12,507
December	24:	192	
December	26:	73	\$ 9,006