



Faith Abounds

Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church – February 2009

Words from Pastor Kari...

When I was 18 years old, I took off on one of the first great adventures of my life. I said goodbye to my parents and little brother and flew to Minnesota to meet the team of 6 young adults with whom I would travel, live, work and play for the next 14 months. The seven of us had to get to work fast in order to become *Captive Free*, a Christian rock band, drama & puppeteer group and relational ministry team that would be touring the east coast, from Connecticut to Key West, Florida. We were young, idealistic, and full of enthusiasm about the Good News of Jesus Christ. We were certain that God had called us together as a team to share this Good News through music, drama, and relationship-building. Our hopes soared, our spirits danced, we laughed and sang and rejoiced in the Lord.

And then we hit the road.

As we traveled those many thousands of miles, unloaded and set up band equipment night after night, played concerts and led worship services, we began to grate on each other's nerves. Some of us sulked. Others blew up in impatience and rage. Some of us tried to pretend like everything was OK, growing more and more anxious inside. How could this be happening? We were following Christ! We were "walking in the light"! So why were we shrouded in the darkness of conflict and anxiety?

At one point in our long journey, we met with a wise pastor in New York who led us in a Bible Study on Forgiveness. Here's the passage we read:

"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:6-9)

The pastor emphasized that "walking in the light" does not mean that we never sin or have conflict with one another. Rather, it means that we "confess our sin" on a regular basis and Jesus "cleanses us from all sin."

As I look back over this our first year together as pastor and people, I see that we have faced many challenges and frustrations as a Body. We have occasionally gotten on each other's nerves. Some of us have sulked. Some of us have blown up in impatience and rage. Others of us have tried to pretend like everything is OK, growing more and more anxious inside. My friends, my brothers and sisters: this is part of being community in Christ. This is part of the challenge we face as human beings called into Beloved Community. God is leading us out and will not fail us. We experience God's faithfulness

every time we gather at the Baptismal Font or make confession of sin and receive absolution. We experience God's grace and renewal again and again at the Lord's Supper Table.

Our walking in the light of Christ is often "two steps forward; one step back." That's because of Sin. And it can be so frustrating. But Jesus has the power to transform Sin into New Life. And, with Jesus, the Holy Spirit transforms those steps into a dance.

One of my friends from *Captive Free* days is Jonathan Rundman, a Lutheran singer-songwriter from the Minneapolis area. Here are the words to one of his songs, which I shared during a sermon a few months ago:

FORGIVENESS WALTZ

(words and music by Jonathan Rundman)

*it's like a dance, it's like a wheel
less like math, less like a deal
more like a heartbreak beginning to heal
we can start over, we know forgiveness
these are hard words to hear in a world where nothing is free
and it's hard to trust in a promise that sounds too good to believe
but know that it's true: this is for you
it's so easy to drown in the numbers and the judgments and earnings
keeping score, keeping track, keeping time, as the hours keep turning
but you can turn a new way - it's a new day
it's like a dance, it's like a wheel
less like math, less like a deal
more like a desert becoming a field
we can start over, we know forgiveness*

As we begin this new year as Pastor and People, let's give thanks to God for the blessing of the Dance . . . and pray that the Holy Spirit will empower us to forgive as we have been and are being forgiven!

- Jonathan Rundman is coming to Everett! Learn more inside this newsletter!

Upcoming Events



Please mark your calendars now!

- **Lunch Bunch - Tuesday, February 10 at 12:00 p.m.** – Valentine's Day Theme!
- **Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, Friday, February 13, 5-6:30 p.m.** in the F.Hall to raise funds for Camp Lutherwood.
- **Lenten Soup Suppers – Wednesday evenings in Lent beginning March 4 - 6:00 p.m.** Soup Supper in the F. Hall. 7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Service in the Sanctuary.
- **Ladies' Spring Luncheon – Saturday, April 18 at 1:00 p.m.** – Betsy L. speaking on the benefits of laughter.
- **Ice Cream Social – in June! (Date to be determined)**

- Youth Car Wash – in June! (Date to be determined)

Vision Statement

Faith Lutheran is a congregation, which *equips* members to be disciples of Christ, and *provides* for the spiritual well being of one another.

An Invitation to Prayer



“Let us pray for the whole people of God...”

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| † Hilda in late stages of cancer. | † Tom & Charlotte |
| † Family & friends of Erna on her death. | † Phillip for guidance and healing. |
| † Family & friends of Bill on his death. | † Georgia (mother of Diane). |
| † Ella for healing. | † Our Bantu family. |
| † Barbara for healing. | † Mayskiy & Prohladniy congregations. |
| † Elma , mother of Nancy. | † Maluhia Lutheran & St. Phillips Episcopal in Hawaii |
| † Dana (Bettys’ grandson). | † Our Trinity Lutheran College interns: Michele, Shannon, Jocelyn & Leanne. |
| † Pastor Dick. | † Pastor Iqbal and the Faith International congregation. |
| † Patricia & Jeffrey for continued healing & strength. | † Pastor Esa and the Micronesian congregation. |
| † Ken, Crystal & James deployed to Iraq. | † All others in our Faith & Zion families who are ill or housebound. |

“Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”



The **Christian Faith International Fellowship** has started spiritual services in Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi at *Faith Lutheran Church, 6708 Cady Road, Everett, WA 98203.*

Our vision is to fulfill the great commission of our Savior Lord Jesus Christ and be disciples of Christ and provide Christian spiritual need and guidance. We want to reach those who don’t know about Jesus around us in neighbors and Ethnic communities. We have a strong evangelism spirit to win souls for Jesus.

All are welcome to join us every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Contact: Rev. Iqbal, pastor. Phone number: 425-290-5872, 425-353-4758. Fax: 425-335-4716 or email: pastoriqbalmasih@verizon.net.



*Invitation to Pastor Kari's First
Anniversary*

The Mutual Ministry Committee requests the pleasure of your company at a

**COMMUNITY CELEBRATION FOR
PASTOR KARI REITEN'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY**

on Sunday morning the 22nd of February, 2009

at 10:30 a.m. in the Faith Lutheran church Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Please bring a donation of canned food for the South Everett Neighborhood Center

Special Guests: Pastor Jami Fecher (Pastor Kari's mentor) and friends from Gift of Grace Lutheran Church in Seattle. Pastor Iqbal and the Christian Faith International Church, Pastor Esa Inek and The Pentecostal Church of Micronesia, Zion Lutheran Church, The South Everett Neighborhood Center, The Volunteers of America Preschool, and The Venturing Crew. **Special Musical Guest:** Jonathan. It is good to recognize and celebrate our many connections as children of God and the Body of Christ.



Annual Meeting

Please come to this very important meeting on **Sunday February 1**, after worship. We will elect new Council Members, review and discuss the Council's recommendations on the Mission Discovery Process, and celebrate God's goodness in our midst.



Final Council Meeting for 2008 Council

Knowing that January 13 would be our last Council Meeting as a whole group, our Bible Study focused on recognizing and giving thanks to God for the leadership team the Holy Spirit had pulled together and empowered with Spiritual fruits.

Our guiding text was, *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*"

Please continue to pray for the Faith Council in this time of transition. Also for those whose terms are completed, as they turn their energies and gifts toward other areas of leadership and service within the congregation. As they leave their roles on Council, we are grateful for:

Bud's diligent and open-hearted leadership as president 2008-2009

Inge's sense of humor and deep compassion for those in need

Ginni's forward-looking leadership in hospitality

Rick's passionate commitment to Jesus Christ and willingness to pour out his technological skills and interests for the sake of the Gospel.


 *New Council Retreat*

The Faith Lutheran Church Council 2009 will join together for a retreat on Saturday, February 7 at the home of Yvette and David. The retreat's focus will be on team-building and forming as a cohesive group. We will worship together, study the Bible, elect officers, and seek to clarify our purpose as this congregation's leadership team. Please keep your new Council in your prayers.

 *Mission Discovery Process*

The Council has recommended that the Congregation review and move forward with the Mission Discovery Report and Recommendations that came out of the 6 month Mission Discovery Process led by Pastor Red. This report and recommendations will be available on Sunday, January 25 and will be a key agenda item at the Annual Meeting on February 1, 2009.



After exploring this question thoroughly through Scripture study and conversation, the Faith members of the Joint Council Task Force presented the Mission Discovery Report and Recommendations to our Council in November. We look forward to continuing this conversation and continuing to step boldly into our future as disciples of Jesus Christ.

 *Jonathan Rundman coming to Faith!*

Jonathan will help lead us in worship at our **Community Celebration of Pastor Kari's One-Year Anniversary on Sunday, February 22**. He will also be playing a concert that day at the Fremont Abbey in Seattle. You won't want to miss it! For details, check out his website at www.jonathanrundman.com .



Jonathan a singer-songwriter who tours the United States sharing his musical gifts and the Good News with Christian and secular communities. He's gotten some great press in recent years, especially for recent recordings. His album *Sound Theology* included one song for each week of the liturgical calendar, even a song for Ash Wednesday!

Jonathan's songs were featured in Thrivent Financial for Lutherans CD and Cookbook Project. The cookbook sold out instantly, with proceeds going to causes such as Disaster Relief and Habitat for Humanity.


December 2008

 * Offerings *

December	7	\$ 2,664.00
	14	823.00
	21	180.00
	24	431.11
	28	2,983.18
	30	<u>6,700.00</u>
Total		\$13,781.29
Expenses		\$12,459.32




February Birthdays & Anniversaries


1	Heather
4	Cynthia
8	Joyce
8	Taylor
9	Ella T
14	Michael W
16	Cynthia
18	Inez
19	Arvid, Pastor Kari
20	Jim
28	Hilda

<u>Feb. Anniversaries</u>
Rick & Diane



Serving Us In Worship



February Deacon-Bud Alkire

Assisting Minister (Reader)

Feb. 1	Ethel
8	Ken
15	Bud
22	Andrea

Communion Assistant

Feb. 1	Bruce
8	Sonja
15	Karen
22	Ella T

Altar Guild

Feb. 1	June
8	Winnie
15	Carol
22	June

Acolytes

Feb. 1	Aubree
8	Kayla
15	Shannon
22	Taylor

Flowers

Feb. 1	Jennifer & Stan
8	Ella & Glenn
15	Ginni & Dave
22	???

Coffee Hosts

Feb. 1	Sonja
8	Carol & Frank
15	Ethel & Don
22	Marian / Mamie

Minister of the Altar

February - David

Sunday School

February Teachers – Jennifer & Ginni
February Snacks – Marian

Ushers

Feb. 1	Glenn & Ella
8	Courtney /Janie
15	Cliff /Phyllis

Offering Counters

Feb.1	Norma /June
8	Andrea /Charlotte
15	Karen /Shirley

22 Shannon /Pat

22 Marie /Lois