



THE FAITHFUL NEWS

Church Phone 812-282-6993

*"Faithful Lutherans sent by Christ to
serve God's children"*

DECEMBER, 2007



PJ'S JOTS

PASTOR JOHN HAWKINS

On, December 1st, I begin my twenty first and last month here at Faith as your interim pastor. I began my ministry with you during a season of preparation (Lent) and I remember saying it was a good thing. Now, I end my ministry with you after a season of expectation (Advent) and celebration of God's greatest gift, Jesus (Christmas). This too, is a very good thing. As I reflect on the preceding twenty months I am pleased with where we have been and where you are heading. Now that doesn't mean that I have put on "rose colored glasses" and do not realize that as change happens there will be "squeaks" in the ministry wheels. Everything that happens here at Faith is an opportunity for growth. I think that is true for each of us on a personal spiritual level and on a corporate spiritual level.

The ministry here at Faith has been given by our Father as a great opportunity to be together to celebrate His love and to share His good news about that love in our communities. I know that each of you has passionate thoughts about the ministry of Faith. It is when all those passions come together that ministry takes place. Should we all have the same passions, no! But we should all be willing to recognize and acknowledge each other's passions. How do we make all these passions or desires about our ministry come together? We have to be open to sharing them and discussing them in open and honest ways. We have to be willing to hear others thoughts and then pray about them.

Growth only happens when all passions and feelings are expressed with positive and prayerful consideration. On December 25th we celebrate the reason for our passions about the ministry of Faith, as that is the birth date of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As the program and plan for ministry growth here at Faith, for the year 2008, take shape in life, first, give thanks to God for our Savior. Second, give thanks to God for his love. Third, give thanks to God for each other. And fourth, ask God for his guidance as Faith moves forward in ministry.

I pray for God's blessing on each and every one of you during the Advent Season and Christmas celebration. I pray for God's blessing on each and every one of you as the new year begins and a new ministry opportunity is realized here at Faith.

Shalom

Pastor John



Farewell, Pastor John

Join us after worship on Sunday, December 23 for a pitch-in farewell luncheon as we say goodbye to Pastor John and thank him for his service with us.

Meat will be provided

Please bring a side dish to share.



OWLS

The OWLS began November with support for the Jr. Youth group. They prepared baskets to be delivered to Norma Boehme, Dorothy Clerici, Hallie Kusch, Betty McLaughlin, Roger Rice and Cleon Trusner. Thanks to the Jr. Youth group for this inspiration to service.

As a further expression of service to our community, the OWLS would like to donate \$50 per basket to the CLM for Christmas baskets. Seed \$ for this project may be generated by a return from tickets to the Thoroughbred concert on December 1st. Because we had a ticket order of at least 25 tickets for the concert, the cost per ticket was adjusted down by \$5. Any individual or couple who would like to donate that \$5 toward the CLM baskets is invited to let Dick Klemens know.

Dennis Johnson is collecting donations to further defray the cost of the baskets prepared by the Jr.

Youth group and the CLM baskets. Anyone in the congregation is invited to participate with a donation.

The OWLS will attend the Thoroughbred concert on December 1st. Anyone attending who would like to carpool should be at church by 1:00 p.m. on the 1st. We plan to have dinner at Cunningham's downtown after the concert.

Another expression of service for OWLS is available with donations to Heifer International. Instead of sending material gifts to friends and family this Christmas, you can send a gift card to let them know you have made a donation to provide self-reliance to a struggling family in the form of goats, tree seedlings, rabbits, honeybees, chicks, or ducks. These opportunities are defined on the order blanks available on the table in the narthex where you will find the gift card you send to let family and friends know about your designated gift

VIRGINIA KLEMENS

to Heifer International in their name.

Anyone in the congregation is invited to participate in this service project.

Dennis and Arlys Johnson are inviting the OWLS to a holiday celebration at their home on December 28th. Please let Arlys and Dennis know if that date is available on your holiday social calendar.

Best wishes to Dorothy McCall for a speedy recovery from recent health problems and thanks to Patti Smith for her recent recognition of Faith's veterans on November 11th.

We continue to look for opportunities for fellowship and service. Contact Arlys Johnson or Virginia Klemens while the Falkensteins are taking R and R in Florida. We miss their leadership and enthusiasm for fellowship and service. Let them know we do give a HOOT with your participation and support!

YOUTH NEWS

SARAH RIFE

Wow, can you believe that it's December, and that stores have had Christmas decorations out since Halloween? Do they want us to get ready for Christmas early or what? This December the youth will have their monthly meeting on the 2nd, with ice skating at Iceland to follow. Also on the 2nd, we will be having a bake sale/bid, so we would like to ask each youth to make their favorite dessert, and bid it off. The bids of this event will be held before and after church in the Narthex. The money from the bake sale goes to buy gifts for the angel tree kids. December 9th, the youth will do their annual wrapping of Angel Tree gifts. So be sure to bring warm clothes,

money to eat lunch, and any type of wrapping supplies that you would be willing to donate. Hope all of your voices are in tune by the 19th, because we will be going around to fellow members of the congregation, and cheering them up with our lovely voices. After we go caroling, we will meet back at the church to eat cookies and drink hot chocolate. Last month, the youth made over \$420 at the turkey dinner. Big thanks to everyone who came out and ate our delicious food and an even bigger thanks to everyone who helped prepare and clean up the dinner, we couldn't have done it without you.

CENTER FOR LAY MINISTRIES

SUE NEATHAMER

The Christmas Basket program for this year is going well. Many of the churches, businesses, schools and scout troops are doing food drives for the center. It looks like we will make our goal here at Faith of gathering 500 cans of corn.

Faith also requested names from the Center for the Angel Tree. Thanks to all members who are helping with these projects to make the holidays special for those in need.

The Center is close to purchasing the 217 East Maple

(BlissToo) property. The Ogle Foundation will give us \$98,000 towards this purchase after we raise \$50,000. We are very close to this amount now. Many of the graduates of Bliss House live at Bliss Too. It is a safe and affordable environment where they can continue to work on their long term recovery.

On November 8th, two of the Bliss House graduates also became graduates of the Clark County Drug Court.

The Kids Café served 415

meals in October. The members of this committee are looking for volunteers to help with preparing these meals on Wednesdays and Fridays at the Center. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please call the Center at 282-0063.

**CLM NEEDS FOR
DECEMBER**

Canned Corn

Can we reach 500 cans?

You bet we can!

Other non-perishable items are appreciated always

JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP

CHUCK LANDIS & SANDY NEATHAMER

Four youngsters and a small group of OWLS had a good time making cookies for Thanksgiving baskets for Faith's homebound members recently.

No activities are planned for December, but the group will meet again in January to plan more activities. The

Junior Youth Group is geared toward children K through 5th grade!



PRAYER REQUESTS

We ask God's special healing for:

Dot Clerici

Betty Condra

Hallie Kusch

Roger Rice

Walter Clive

Ron and Marilyn Thorenson

Betty McLaughlin

Ron Barr

Natalie Lane Clark

Dorothy McCall

Adam Sizen

Eric Hall

Makayla Mengen

Bob Dietrich

Buddy Hustedt

Fran Heuton

Betty Roethe

Patsy Heck

Melvin Minton

Our prayers for support and guidance are with Pastor Hawkins as he leaves his service with us. We offer prayers of thanks for his time here at Faith.

Prayers of thanksgiving are with the Phil and Meredith Jaeger at the birth of Piper Stone Jaeger November 10.

Prayers of thanksgiving are also with Jimmy and Nicole (Vogler) Tyler at the birth of Luke Keaton Tyler on November 14.

If you are in need of prayer, please contact Pastor Hawkins at 812-282-6993 or one of the prayer chain leaders: Betty Condra (282-2102), Vivian Smith (288-8531) or Nancy Vogt (282-2014)



The Faithful News is a monthly publication of Faith Lutheran Church, Jeffersonville, IN. Articles and information may be submitted to Patti Smith, secretary or Marsha Woods, editor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY

God's blessings to these December birthdays:

Nicodemus Durham 12/4
 Will Cooke 12/8
 Tom Neathamer 12/10
 Kate Scott 12/10
 Trish Perry 12/13
 Kay Winn 12/13
 Edwina Andregg 12/14
 David Mitchell 12/16
 Amy Holaday 12/17
 Dawn Bye 12/18
 Dana Glaab 12/18
 Don Smith 12/21
 Tami Czerwonka 12/22
 Jake Zimmerman 12/23
 Fred Czerwonka 12/25
 Becky Hall 12/25
 Carol Taylor 12/25
 Tyler Winn 12/26
 Lauren Rayborn 12/28

We celebrate with these couples having anniversaries in December:

Becky & Kevin Hall 12/3
 Donna & Mike Baugh 12/21
 Nancy & Travis Arbuckle 12/27



Congratulations, Grad!

Our congratulations go to Dr. Kristine Young, who successfully defended her dissertation to earn her Ed.D on November 3.

Well done, Dr. Young!

Faithful Quilters

We will not meet in December, but will resume on January 7 at the church.

Please join us for fellowship and hand work for those who use our warm, cuddly quilts. Also, remember to bring your lunch.

Angel Tree

Faith has "adopted" 21 angels from CLM during this holiday season. The angels will be displayed on a tree in the narthex beginning November 25. Unwrapped gifts need to be returned by December 9 so they may be wrapped by the youth and delivered to CLM. Thanks for your support of this ministry!

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Special Congregational Meeting Minutes
The Vote to Extend a Call To Pastor Scott Meier.

Meeting date: 10/21/07. Call to Order 12:02 pm

“GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME, ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD”

Pastor John gave a brief explanation of why he was leading the meeting.

Pastor John led a prayer and a reading from Ephesians.

Pastor John asked if there was a quorum present. It was acknowledged that there was.

An explanation of the call process was given. The procedure starts with the selection of a “Call Committee”. The call committee is given names from the synod. Arrangements are made and the candidate is interviewed. If after the interview the call committee and the candidate agree to proceed with the process the call committee forwards the name to the “Church Council”. Council sets up an interview with the candidate. If after the interview council and the candidate agree to continue, council provides an opportunity for the congregation to meet the candidate. Following this meeting the congregation will vote on the candidate. The candidate will be voted on with a 2/3 written vote. If the vote is in favor of extending a call, a second verbal yes/no vote is taken on the candidate’s compensation package. The candidate then has 30 days to accept/decline the offer. If the candidate refuses the offer the process starts all over.

Pastor John asked for the church councils recommendation and call documents. President Tom Hayes presented them to Pastor.

Pastor read the “Letter of Call”

The floor was opened for discussion. There were no questions.

Ballots were distributed and a vote was taken. The ballots were gathered and counted by Tami Czerwonka and Rick Barr.

The vote totals, 71 members signed in, 68 members voted yes to extend the call to Pastor Scott Meier, 1 no, and 2 abstained.

The next phase of the meeting was to vote on Pastor Meier’s compensation package.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Marsha Woods asked if this package was different from the synod guidelines. The answer was that council followed synod guidelines except on the housing allowance where council decided to go with 32% of the base instead of 30%.

John Taylor had a question about Pastor Meier's current housing situation. Council answered that Pastor Meier would plan on living with his father who lives in Louisville until his house could be sold and a new one purchased.

Marsha Woods asked if this package had been presented to Pastor Meier. Answer; no the synod would present it to him after they received it.

Barbara Morris-Nix asked about moving expenses. Pastor John answered that they are usually paid when presented to the congregation.

Donna Baugh asked about the health insurance portion of the package. How long are the children covered under this plan? Answer; usually children are covered until they are out of school.

Ed Peter asked if the package was figured for the remainder of 2007 or was it figured for 2008. Pastor John answered for 2008.

Nancy Thompson asked if we knew how much Pastor Meier was currently making. Answer; NO.

Arls Johnson expressed concern about the open ended moving expense. Marsha Woods replied that most Pastors are very responsible about moving expenses and that we should have enough money budgeted for this expense.

Vivian Smith asked how this package fits into our present budget.

Bill Holman responded that it does fit, and that it is actually about \$6585.32 less. The reason for the difference was due to the years of experience between Pastor John and Pastor Scott.

Without any further questions the compensation package was called for a vote. The package unanimously passed.

Marsha Woods moved to adjourn the meeting, Patti Smith seconded, motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 12:27.

Minutes Faithfully submitted,

Scott Rife

**WELCA
NOTES**

**December Meeting
Schedule:**

The next quarterly meeting will be Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 am to noon at the home of Marsha Woods. This is our annual cookie exchange.

Sunshine Circle Bible study's next scheduled meeting is December 12.

Wheadon Friendship Circle Bible study will not meet in December.



Sunshine Circle

The morning Sunshine Bible Study is changing its schedule to meet the second Wednesday of each month at 10 am.

It is undecided at press time whether the Sunshine Circle will meet in December. We pray for Dorothy's return to health. Please stay tuned to the announcements and bulletin for updates.

Wheadon Circle

The Wheadon Friendship Circle meets the third Tuesday of each month. Thanks to Peg Gernand for leading the November

meeting and beginning Lesson #4.

We will not meet in December, but will resume our monthly Bible Study on January 15. At our Bible study on January 15, we will finish Lesson Four, "Putting Your Feet to the Fire," in the Celebrating Friendship Series. This lesson explores commitments in friendships and we'll study examples of committed friends in the Bible. Come join us!

Our annual cookie exchange will take place at the home of Marsha Woods on Saturday, December 1. We will meet from 10 am to noon, so there will be time for those who plan to

join the OWLS trip to the Thoroughbred Chorus concert can make that event as well.

Please bring two dozen cookies, one to share at the meeting and one to package to give our home-bound members.

A light brunch will be served.

Part of the agenda will include discussion of what projects we want to continue and leaders for the coming year. If you have items for the agenda, please contact Patti Smith or Marsha Woods.

**Candlelight Christmas Eve
Eucharist Service
Monday, December 24
10 pm**



**Quarterly WELCA Meeting
& Christmas Cookie Exchange**

Saturday, December 1

10 am to noon

Join us for brunch & fellowship

Marsha Woods' home

162 Forest Drive ♦ Jeffersonville

Bring two dozen cookies!

RSVP marshamw@msn.com or

502-645-4725

LIBRARY NEWS

ARLYS JOHNSON

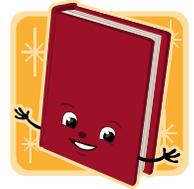
The 4-year olds of our pre-school now have the privilege of taking advantage of our church library. They visit the library every other Thursday for 35 minutes. We start out the class with the sharing of a book. The book is one we try to connect with the season of the year. We talk about the story and enjoy doing some sharing time. After the story the children are given the opportunity to look at books by themselves. They really love that!

We are all hoping that after Christmas break the children will get to "check out" a book from the library so they can share a book with their family. The seeds of

excitement for reading need to be planted when children are young. I believe we are helping to do that very thing here at Faith Pre-School.

I loved reading to my first grade class, so this has been a good experience for me as well as the children. Virginia Klemens is also helping with this project and I am sure she is also enjoying reading to our pre-schoolers.

If you feel the need to be a part of this excitement I am sure Nancy would love to talk to you about books that the library could use in our children's section.



PLOT

PATTI SMITH AND DON WALKER

The Parish Life and Outreach Team (PLOT) would like to remind each member of Faith that we are blessed with a number of active and varied ministries. Our Faith ministries range from The OWLS to WELCA, and from CLM to NOAH'S ARK. There are many other opportunities for ministry as well.

Each member or regular attendee of Faith is invited to join us in one or more of our opportunities to serve where GOD is working in the lives of others. We think you will have fun, learn, and see firsthand how you can truly make a difference by serving others.

The PLOT team met on September 23. There was a good representation of groups falling under this team. Several items discussed were;

1. OWLS gave an update on their schedule as well as noted that they are going to begin trying to work together with other groups in the church,
2. The Visitor Outreach program headed up by Tami Czerwonka needing some assistance which was offered by Donna Baugh, Dorothy McCall and Linda Woehrle,
3. The need for more Social events was recognized and Scott Rife agreed the head this area through the end of this year and try to plan couple of events during that time,
4. Dorothy McCall is heading the visitation of our shut-ins and brought up the problem that some of the shut-ins don't have up to date devices to listen to the taped services. We discussed this and Patti said she would discuss this with the Council at the next meeting, also,
5. A desire for a Men's group was discussed and we are currently searching for someone to head this project.

It was agreed by all present that this team will meet on a quarterly basis and the individual groups will continue to call their meetings as needed. Again we would like to extend an invitation to anyone in the congregation who is interested in the activities of the PLOT team to attend our meetings. Please contact Patti Smith or Don Walker if you have questions about any of our Faith opportunities. The Parish Life and Outreach Committee will also be holding the next quarterly meeting In January 2008. We will announce the date in the near future.

WEEKDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

CAROL TAYLOR

During the month of December the children will be busy hearing about God's first Christmas Gift, His son, Baby Jesus. They will learn that because God gave the first Christmas Gift, we now give gifts to each other on Jesus' birthday. All of the classes will be busy making gifts for parents that have been made with their own hands. They will even make the wrapping paper.

Each class will be telling the story of the baby in the manger at the Christmas program on December 20th. This will be the last day of school until January 3, 2008.

This past month I have been reading Henri J. M. Nouwen's book, Reaching Out. I felt the following was not only good to share, but a must to share with our parents. As I was reading I thought about Mary, Jesus' mother, and how hard it must have been for her to let that little baby who slept in the manger go out on his own. It surely would have been especially hard for her because she knew what his mission was and what the outcome of the story would be. We don't know our children's mission, but it is our job to prepare them to fulfill God's purpose for their life.

To quote Nouwen:

“ What parents can offer is a home, a place that is receptive but also has the safe boundaries within which their children can develop and discover what is helpful and what is harmful. There their children can ask questions without fear and can experiment with life without taking the risk of rejection. There they can be encouraged to listen to own inner selves and to develop the freedom that gives them the courage to leave the home and travel on. The hospitable home indeed is the place where father and mother and children can reveal their talents to each other, become present to each other as members of the same human family and support each other in their common struggles to live and make live. The difficult task of parenthood is to help children grow to freedom that permits them to stand on their own feet, physically, mentally, and spiritually and to allow them to move away in their own direction. The temptation is, and always re-

mains, to cling to our children, to use them for our own unfulfilled needs and to hold on to them suggesting in many direct and indirect ways that they owe us so much. It indeed is hard to see our children leave after so many years of much love and work to bring them to maturity, but when we keep reminding ourselves that they are just guests who have their own destination, which we do not know or dictate, we might be more able to let them go in peace and with our blessing. The good host, parent, is not only able to receive his guests (babies) with honor and offer them all the care they need, but also to let them go when their time to leave has come.”

This is one of our aims for your child. For children in the pre -K class one of these first steps of leaving will be as they enter kindergarten in the fall. Our aim is to have them as independent as they can be before they make this big move out of the home for a part of each day. We need your help, as their parents, to accomplish this aim. Please do not do for you child what he can do for himself. Please tell him and encourage him to be as independent in his care of himself as he can be. They should be independent in the bathroom, able to dress and undress themselves, take disappointment without a major melt down, and feel secure in themselves to try new things, taste new foods, and learn new skills.



FINANCE MATTERS

MOLLY HEGENBARTH

I would like to personally thank Veronica Rife and Carol Taylor for stepping up and helping with our first ever "Treasure Chest" stewardship program. They helped us understand what treasures are and how they can impact not only our lives, but the lives of others.

A multitude of questions have come up regarding where our pledges came in at. As of this writing, the final numbers are not in for our pledge numbers for 2008. Not everyone has had the opportunity to turn in a pledge card. There were 43 turned in as of November 12, 2007. As the final numbers

are available we will share that information with you.

As we approach the end of 2007, our giving is behind our expenses by approximately \$10,000. There is still time to bring your pledge current for 2007 or add a little more to help us meet our expenses and put a little cash back into the checkbook to cover those expenses yet to come.

I began my year stating that stewardship is not just a fall campaign. It is a year-long commitment. It involves more than making a pledge. It is deeds. It is actions; it is what we do make a

difference in the world. It can be helping with Loaves and Fishes, visiting the shut-ins, donating food to CLM or many other activities. The action of fulfilling your pledge also plays a vital part in the life of our church. If we cannot meet our bills, we cannot reach into the community, we cannot provide the support to our Faith Family, or if we continue to not be able to meet our bills - be forced to look at other changes within our church.

Look deep into your soul. Have you done all you can do? Can you give more? Can you reach out

and share your treasures with others? With Christmas upon us - do you have more in your Treasure Chest than you expected that can make a difference in someone life? What we each do has a direct impact on others. It also impacts what is returned to you. The more you give, the more you receive.

As you share our treasures with others, may God Bless your Holiday Season. May he touch your heart and make this season a special one for you!

LETTERS FROM ABROAD

LINDSEY LANDIS

Editor's Note: Lindsey is studying in Bologna, Italy this year. She writes a weekly column for IU's Indiana Daily Student about her experiences and observations while absorbed in another culture. She graciously granted permission for me to reprint this article for your enjoyment.

The National Anthem has never stirred deep feelings of patriotism and pride in me. I could live without baseball games and Mom's hot apple pie. I waited all of my life to get out of the U.S. I wanted to see exotic places, eat new foods and experience the art and history of faraway lands, because I felt that home was lacking a bit in the culture department.

Spending three months iso-

lated from the true "American culture" - which I took for granted for so many years - has made me come to recognize and appreciate what it means to be an American.

Don't get me wrong. I am not getting all sentimental about the stars and stripes. I have done my fair share of explaining that I wasn't old enough to vote when Bush was elected, therefore he isn't my fault. We also can learn a thing or two from the Europeans about how to appreciate and preserve the heritage that we have. But, especially as the holidays approach, I am starting to get a little homesick for the

little things that make me American.

I have been busy this week stringing popcorn to hang on my Christmas tree, blasting Mariah Carey tunes and making hot apple cider.

This weekend, a few of my American friends and I partook in the good ol' Midwestern tradition of a progressive dinner. For those of you who don't know what I am talking about, that is where you go to at least five different houses and you eat for at least eight solid hours. Each respective homeowner (or apartment-renter) makes a course in the meal. We had a wonderful time and

spent hours discussing the latest Hollywood scandals and singing trashy pop songs. God bless America.

I am really going to miss Thanksgiving this year, with my family and all the fixings. When you sit down this year to a huge turkey and mashed potatoes and green beans and stuffing and pumpkin pie (... OK, I have to stop because I am drooling on my keyboard), think for a minute about what it really means to be a citizen of the U.S. of A, and appreciate our traditions and customs, however silly and seemingly insignificant they may be.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CAROL TAYLOR

The Christian education committee met on Sunday, November 11.

It was decided that the Christian Education Committee would provide a Christmas evening program on Sunday, December 16. This would consist of a totally pot luck dinner at 6:00 and it would be followed by a play at 7:00 pm. It will be presented by the adult, teen, middle school, and children of the parish. This will be a play called "Come and Adore Him" by Gary Shank. There will be a copy of the script on a poster in the narthex. We hope people will choose to sign up to do one of the dialogues by Mary, or a shepherd or any of the other characters of the Christmas story. After the character describes his roll in the story, he/she will take their place in the Christmas Nativity scene. At the end of the play, Travis Arbuckle and Tom Hayes will accompany the group singing traditional Christmas carols. This should be a nice way to put the spirit of Christmas into the hectic days before this major holiday.

It was also decided to provide for each family an Advent devotional guide, and Advent calendars for the younger children. These will be on the table for you to pick up after church on the first Sunday in Advent, December 2nd.

The writing committee for next summer's Vacation Bible School is well on the way to a successful summer program. The theme will be Heroes of the Bible. The stories will be David and Goliath, Gidian, Samson, Mary, Jesus' mother, and Paul. Carol Taylor will be writing the pre-school material, Arlys Johnson will do the 1st and 2nd grade, , Virginia Klemens will work on the third and fourth grade material, and Nancy Falkenstein will be writing for the 5th and 6th grade students. Our next meeting is scheduled for January 28th at 7:00.



Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias will grace the altar again this year Christmas Eve. Should you care to purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, please complete this form indicating how many and to whom you wish to honor or remember, and return it by December 16, 2007 along with your payment. Poinsettias are \$15 each.

_____ poinsettias at \$15 each = \$ _____ enclosed total

Name _____

In honor/memory of _____

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

TOM HAYES

As I get older, lets face it I ain't getting any younger, Christmas has changed from material things I want, to spiritual needs fulfilled. The gifts I receive from family are more meaningful in their thought and effort instead of what the gift is. The gifts from God are more obvious than ever. I could go on for a while about the gifts He has given me. His son being the most important gift of all. As I say in the prayer, He has first given me myself, my time, and my possessions. I have a great family that I love and am grateful for. I have a good house that is full of love and compassion. I have good neighbors. I have a church family that I love and appreciate .

As Christmas season approaches we are to say good-bye to Pastor John on Christmas Eve. I know this is a tough thing to do -- it's hard for me too. This is the hardest letter I've had to write yet. Because I consider Pastor my friend and confidant, my spiritual leader and my brother in Christ. I also consider his time with us as a blessing from God. Pastor shows how God works through people by his example of leadership, perseverance

and attitude. I've said it before and I'll say it again, God placed Pastor here for a reason and I believe he fulfilled his mission here and then some. He kept us on track when we would start to drift. He didn't let us get complacent with our duties to God and the church. Pastor made sure that the Bishop and the Synod didn't forget we were here. Some Sundays he would just amaze me with his sermons, which were some of the most inspiring and uplifting I have heard.

In the movie The Kingdom of Heaven there is a line that goes like this "What man is a man that does not make his world a better place." I believe Pastor made this church a better place. He leaves the church ready for Pastor Meier to come in and take over with as little trouble as possible. And for this we are grateful.

Pastor, I'm sure I speak for the congregation when I say this. Thank you for sacrificing your time with your family to help us. Thank you for the effort that you put in your sermons. Thank you for your friendship and leadership.

For your compassion and wisdom. We consider you not as an Interim Pastor but as a Pastor who answered our call for help. So we remove the Interim from your title. Your picture will go up on the wall with our previous Pastors. You are always welcome here and as our brother in Christ we wish you well. We will certainly miss you. May you go with God and may He bless you as He has blessed us.

May the gift of Christmas bring peace, love and joy to everyone's heart.

God's Peace to You,

Tom

Annual Budget Meeting

The annual congregational meeting to adopt the budget for 2008 will be held following worship on Sunday,
December 16.

New Pastor Begins January 2, 2008

Pastor Scott Meier has accepted the call to become Faith's next pastor and will begin his service with us
January 2, 2008.

We welcome Pastor Meier and look forward to working with him toward our ministries.



DECEMBER

2007

NEWSLETTER



SERVING AT FAITH FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

USHERS: TOM HAYES, SCOTT RIFE, JIM AND MOLLY HEGENBARTH

ALTAR GUILD: BARB BREWSTER AND MARSHA WOODS

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT: SCOTT RIFE

WEEKLY ASSISTANTS:

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>ASSIST</u>	<u>ACOL.</u>	<u>CRUC.</u>	<u>NURS.</u>	<u>SOCIAL</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>AUDIO</u>
2	K. SCOTT	T. LANDIS	J. EMILY	LISA P.	McCOYS	K. SCOTT	C. LANDIS
9	K.McCOY	V. HAIRE	L. RAYBORN	?	ARBUCKLE	HAIRE	C. LANDIS
16	C. TAYLOR	T. MILLER	?	?	HAYES	HAYES	TRAVIS A.
23	VOLUNTEER	V. HAIRE	?	?	PITCH IN	FALKENSTEIN	TRAVIS A.
24	VOLUNTEER	C. FOX	S. RIFE	?	N/A	N/A	R. BARR
30	VOLUNTEER	E. MILLER	?	?	JOHNSON	STEABAN	R. BARR