

MARCH 2014 NEWSLETTER

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

714 North Grand Avenue

PIERRE, SD 57501



Mardi Gras

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Tuesday, March 4, 2014
5:00-6:30 P.M.**

Come join us for an evening of fun!

Our Board of Parish Fellowship will provide the hotdogs, chips and beverages.

Our LYF will have booths set up for the kids to win all sorts of prizes.

It's all free, and it's for the whole family!

FREE! FREE! FREE!



Our Lenten Wednesdays and Evening Services

"Restored in Christ"

Ash Wednesday, March 5

11:00 & 7:00

Broken Hearts

Wednesday, March 12

11:00 & 7:00

Broken Vessel

Wednesday, March 19

11:00 & 7:00

Broken Trust

Wednesday, March 26

11:00 & 7:00

Broken Bread

Wednesday, April 2

11:00 & 7:00

Broken Promise

Wednesday, April 9

11:00 & 7:00

Broken Justice

Monday, April 14

Passover Meal

6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17

11:00 & 7:00

Broken Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 18

Baked Potato Dinner

5:00-6:15

Songfest

6:30-7:00

Worship Service

7:00 p.m. only

Broken Curtain



Pizza & Pool Party

Sunday, March 2

6-8 p.m.

At the YMCA

Sign up sheets are on the Information table in the Narthex so we know how much pizza to order for this event. Everyone welcome!



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR URBACH

Greetings in our Lenten Lord!

"Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love."

These are words from Joel 2:13 which is a sung response to the reading of the Epistle in Divine Service Setting One.

They are words of invitation, words that call a believer to *Restoration and Renewal*.

In the life of the Christian Church Christmas and Easter stand out as two large, large moments. While there are certainly others, the birth and resurrection of Jesus are not only familiar moments they are also key to the Theology of our church.

Yet, I too find great joy in the preparation time for these two large celebrations—namely Advent and Lent.

Lent is upon us.

- Our Wednesdays will take us to New Testament texts. As we look at the brokenness of our fallen world we will be encouraged as we learn we are *"Restored in Christ"*.
- On Sundays we will look to the words of Isaiah, that mighty prophet of old, for words of *Restoration and Renewal* under the theme, *"Good and Perfect Gifts."* I hope the *"Isaiah Call"*, which

will precede each sermon, will become meaningfully tucked in our mind. I too hope during the days of Lent we will learn a new Baptismal Hymn. Here is verse one of "The Gifts."

"The gifts Christ freely gives He gives to you and me To be His Church, His bride, His chosen, saved and free! Saints blest with these rich gifts Are children who proclaim That they were won by Christ And cling to His Strong name."

Among God's gifts to us are the gifts of His grace and love which we celebrate. We celebrate it in frequent attendance at the Lord's Supper. That is a part of the joy of being a member of faith. It is an important mark of our membership. We too, in keeping with the spirit of the Lord's commandment, worship our Lord each week unless travel and the complications of busy schedules prevents that. This too is a mark of our membership. One could easily add that our service and support of our beloved congregation is an additional mark of our membership.

This brings me to the heart of the balance of Epiphany, through Lent into the remarkable Christian Festival of the Day of Resurrection our theme of concern and prayer is for

- The *Restoration* of those who no longer worship in our assembly of believers

- The *Renewal* for those who have become negligent in their worship habits

Restoration and Renewal—please come home to the House of the Lord.

"I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go to the House of the Lord'". Psalm 122:1

In a light-hearted manner we sometimes speak of C & E Christians, that is, Christmas and Easter Christians. How sad when C & E comes and even then we are no longer in God's wondrous Sanctuary.

Here is a Psalm that we would hope resonates with every member of Faith.

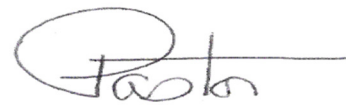
"I love the House where you live, O Lord, the place where your glory dwells." Psalm 26:8

Restoration and Renewal in the Sanctuary we love, that Holy place where we worship the Living Lord with the Assembly of believers, the beautiful house where His glory dwells.

Lent, a wondrous journey, a journey back home!

The Lord be with you.

Pastor Brad Urbach




“The Madness of Lent”

Are you ready for “March Madness?” No, I am not talking about NCAA college hoops, although I will be watching and cheering on my Wisconsin teams! I am talking about the penitential season of Lent, where we pause to reflect on our sin, our separation, and the wrath, anger, and “madness” God had stored up against us because of our great sin against Him.

On Good Friday, we see God’s full “madness” poured out onto His only Son, Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world (1 John 2:1-2). God the Father, fully and completely

turns His back on His only Son (Matthew 27:46), as there on the cross Jesus hung, and as there on the cross Jesus hung His head, breathed His last, and gave up His spirit (Matthew 27:50). It is truly “madness” and foolishness (1 Cor. 1:20-25) that God would go to such great lengths on the cross on Good Friday, and come through it all to the empty tomb on Easter Sunday to restore us, to show us love beyond measure. This hope is a now, but “not yet” reality for us. In the age to come, we will fully recognize the magnitude of what God has done for us (Revelation 5:6-14). So when

life hands you complete “madness,” think to that ultimate sacrifice of Jesus, and let that complete love move you into greater joy, greater strength, greater sacrifice, and greater appreciation for the God who loves you for all eternity, and for those you have been called to love. It’s madness!.... No wait, it’s just the amazing love of God!!!

God bless your Lenten preparation and your worship! See you in Lenten worship on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm!

With Joy in Jesus,
Pastor Joshua Baumann

Faith Lutheran Day Care News

Greetings from Faith Lutheran Daycare!

We hope everyone had wonderful holidays and got to spend time with their families. We started off this New Year with some of our school aged friends that were able to be with us through the holidays (as well as some college students as teachers!). It was a lot of work, but it was also a lot of fun!

The children have been really excited to be learning all about the New Testament and Jesus’ life. We’ve been talking a lot about loving each other this month. We’ve been talking about being

kind to everyone, loving ourselves, forgiving people for their mistakes, and trying to help others instead of casting blame on them.

As we are nearing the Easter season we are going to be learning about how much the Savior loved us. So much that He gave His life. It is hard for the children to really understand sometimes about how much of a sacrifice this was and that if He had wanted to Jesus could just have not done it at all. But at the very least they understand that Jesus is in our hearts and He is pleased when we are making righteous choices.

Faith Lutheran Daycare is currently hiring for part time AM positions. If you would like to apply at the daycare for a teaching position, or even to be a substitute, please come pick up an application from Jen in the daycare office. As always, Daycare is thankful for the generosity that our congregation bestows on us. Toys and childcare items being donated to the daycare are always appreciated.

Your friend in Christ,

Jennifer Carr



Holy Cross Landing

One book and one piece of history at a time Pastor Urbach is thinning out his office.

This gives Pastor Urbach an opportunity to again say thank you to all the families who provided the attractive shelves in Pastor's new family room addition.

THANKS AGAIN!

It also gives Pastor an opportunity to say thanks for all the crosses that hang on the walls of his office.

What does one do with all the crosses and eggs? Well, some of the eggs are a bit delicate for public display and they will end up at pastor's which is kind of a shame, they are so varied and beautiful.

The crosses—well, thanks to our Board of Trustees they will find a home on the wall on the second floor landing at the end of the All Saints' Hallway. This is the large landing on the stairway by the CFLC kitchen.

It will be called the Holy Cross Landing. Most of Pastor Urbach's cross-

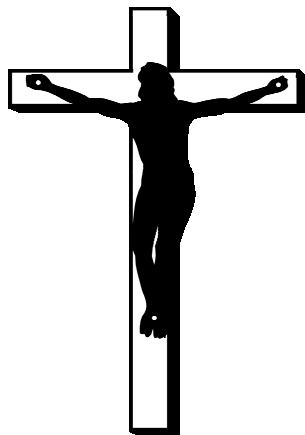
es will be arranged on the East wall.

Furthermore, as members find interesting, striking, and unusual crosses, they are encouraged to bring them to the church to add to the wall. Holy Cross Landing is especially interesting due to the fact that one of our major outside crosses is just on the other side of that wall.

That cross was a gift of Merrill & Sandy Bales and Forest & Alice Wixon.

When that cross was placed in that stone wall the partner in that masonry company personally determined to lay every stone in the cross.

So hopefully in March a thinned out Senior Pastor's office will become in part, "The Holy Cross Landing."



Good and Perfect Gifts

A Lenten Sermon Series on Isaiah 56-66

Each sermon in this series takes up a specific gift from a text in Isaiah 56-66, interprets it through the life and times of Isaiah, and then creatively applies it to Christians as they make their Lenten journey from the cross to the empty tomb. People will not only become more familiar with this oft-neglected section of Isaiah, but they will be inspired to joyfully receive God's good and perfect gifts flowing from our Savior's bitter suffering and death that are freely given because of his Easter victory.

Sunday, March 9

A loving Embrace (Isaiah 56:7-8)

Sunday, March 16

An Ever-Present Refuge (Isaiah 57:13)

Sunday, March 23

Unlimited Access (Isaiah 57:15)

Sunday, March 30

Enduring Light (Isaiah 60:1)

Sunday, April 6

Perfect Beauty (Isaiah 60:9)

Sunday, April 13

Powerful Peace (Isaiah 60:17)

Easter Sunday, April 20

Eternal Victory (Isaiah 63:1)



E A S T E R

Why Incense?

Exodus 40:5 *“Place the gold altar of incense in front of the ark of Testimony and put the curtain at the entrance to the tabernacle.”*

Psalms 141:2 *“May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.”*

Ephesians 5:2 *“and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”*

Revelation 8:3-4 *“Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel’s hand.”*

What’s the story with the incense? Perhaps you have been to a church that used incense. It creates some smoke that rises and has a sweet aroma.

The Altar of Incense is part of God’s command of what should be in the Tent of Meeting, then in the Temple and ultimately in the picture of Heaven itself.

King David, the writer of many Psalms, uses it as a visual of our prayers ascending to God Himself.

St. Paul speaks of it as a visual symbol and a very sense of smell as he likens our life as a fragrant offering.

Incense is a rich symbol instituted by Yahweh Himself as a sign of prayer, a sign of worship, a sign of devotion and dedication, and a very visible sign of our fellowship with Him.

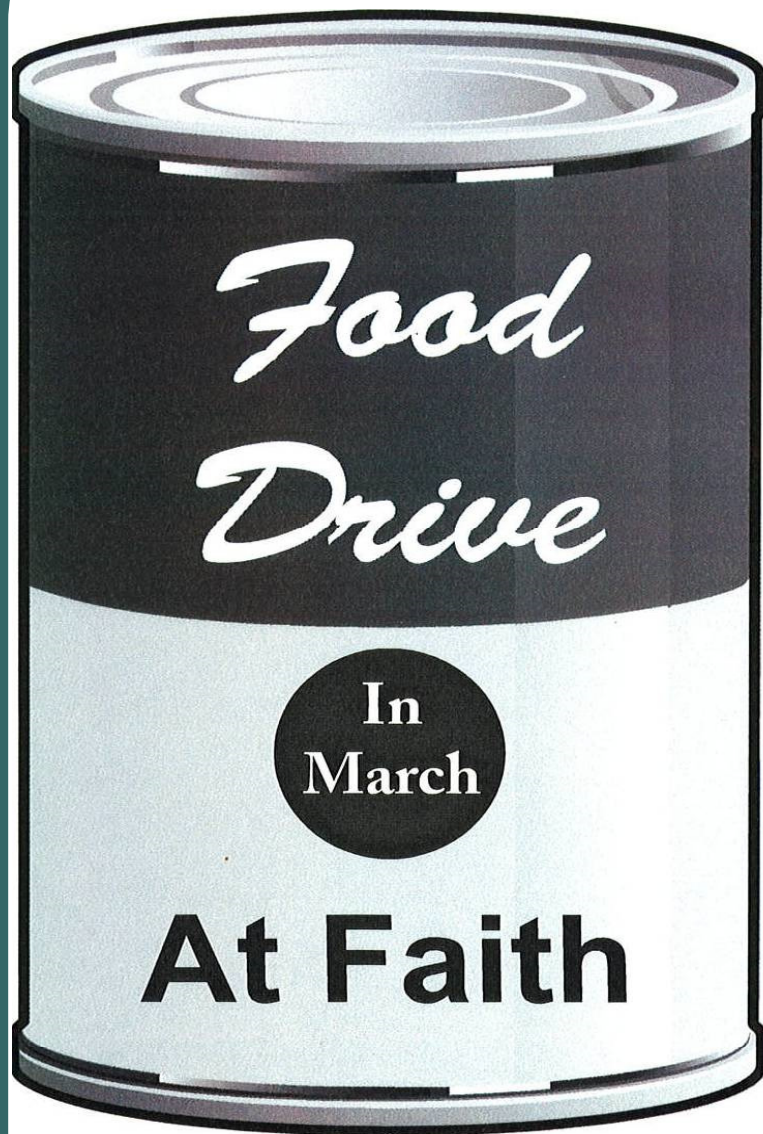
Knowing the Scriptures, would it not be enjoyable to occasionally in worship have incense that would grant to our senses of sight and smell the delight of our fellowship and communion with God Almighty.

Reflect on the Scriptures and see if this might not be something we might do on occasion, especially on a communion Sunday in which we have a very real presence Fellowship with Christ Himself.

Give it some thought.



March is Faith's Pantry Month



March is Faith's month to collect items for the Food Pantry

All types of nonperishable food, paper products, and personal hygiene items are needed by the Food Pantry, so be sure to keep an eye out for specials when you're shopping.

Most Wanted Items

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Spaghetti Sauce | • Chunky Soups |
| • Mac & Cheese | • Vegetable Oil |
| • Canned Fruit | • Boxed Cereal |
| • Jelly | • Oatmeal |
| • Peanut Butter | • Flour |
| • Tuna Helper | • Sugar |
| • Beef Stew | • Canned Chicken |
| • Evaporated Milk | • Spam |
| • Saltine Crackers | • Tuna |
| • Boxed Potatoes | • Any canned meats |

Financial Contributions

Financial donations are also very welcome. Checks may be made payable to Pierre Area Referral Service / Food Pantry, and can be dropped off in the church office.

Feinstein Challenge

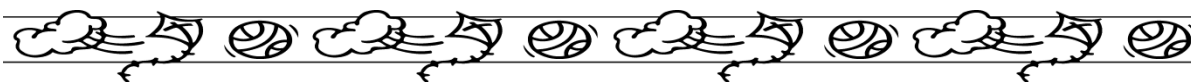
Items and cash donated during March and April will also count towards the Feinstein Challenge to Fight Hunger. If you do write a check, be sure to write "Feinstein Food Challenge" on the memo line. This will help our local Food Pantry obtain additional funding.

Thank You!

The congregation of Faith Lutheran is one of the largest supporters of the Food Pantry, and that ongoing generosity is truly appreciated!

Tables and boxes will be set up in the Narthex.

You can place your items in the appropriate boxes -or- just set your bag on the floor or on a table and we'll sort them.



Prayer Vigil

When: Ash Wednesday

Time: 12:00 Noon to 6:30 PM

Time slots: 15-minute time slots

What will we do: You will be provided with suggestions for prayers and scripture reading. In addition, you are free to pray for all of your concerns for yourself and those around you in your life journey. We have so much to speak to God about!

Do I have to leave in 15 minutes?: No. You may stay in prayer and scripture reading for as long as you desire.

Goal: To have every time slot filled with multiple families that we might have an unbroken time of prayer.

Urgency?: Yes. We are currently praying for numbers of people with serious health issues. We are also praying for spiritual restoration and renewal in our par-

Comfort Food!

In 2013 we had 14 funerals at Faith. Most of those included a meal. What comfort that hospitality brings. A tasty meal, lovingly served by our church women and a sizable place to gather with your family.

So thank you—

- Thank you to all of you that bring hot dishes, sandwiches, cake, relishes, etc.—you bring wonderful comfort to sorrowing families.
- Thank you to the ladies who serve, many are from our Circles, plus other volunteers. This act of warm-hearted kindness speaks volumes to families and their friends. Some of the ladies even take time away from work to help.

One request—

- Would you be willing to help serve funeral meals? Please call the church or speak to Pastor Urbach and let us know of your willingness to help.

Thank you—this large act of kindness brings wonderful large-hearted service to families in the midst of sadness.

Forever Young

Our annual **Ash Wednesday Chicken Feed** will be March 5 at noon right after our 11:00 Worship Service. Please join us. Chicken is provided so bring a side dish to share.

Forever Young is a group of semi-retired and retired members who usually get together the third Thursday of each month for food and fellowship.



Official Acts

Baptisms

Caison Wayne Carroll 1/5/14

Oskar James Bertsch 1/12/14

Anna Kay Butler 1/12/14

Brett Evan Hansen 2/9/14

**Annabelle Kate Gustafson
2/16/14**

Karson Tyler Ehlers 2/16/14

Weddings

Sarah Gregg & Micah McIntosh

Funerals

Margaret (Peg) Logan

Marie Schmitgen

Doris (Rothenberger) Fuchs

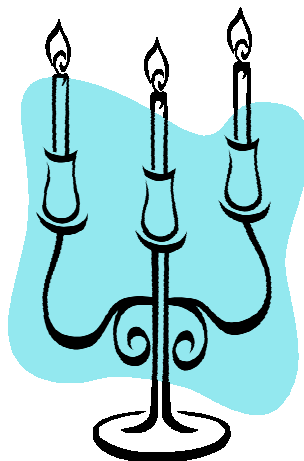
Clifford Hertel

This & That

New Baptismal Candelabra

On January 12 we dedicated a new Baptismal Candelabra. The candelabra is a gift from Bruce McIntire and his family in loving memory of wife and mother Marie McIntire. It was built for us by Bob Shoup. Our previous candelabra was built for us by

Dale Hartmann and has served us for over four decades. Thanks Dale, it will be saved and placed in the Holy Trinity room where our former, many decades ago, Lectern and Baptismal Font are kept. Thanks Bruce, Bob, and Dale.



Lenten Key Cross



The heart of God's Love is found in the Cross and Resurrection.

It is the story of the cross, the Lenten story that will take us to the Easter morning celebration of the Resurrection.

In this newsletter is a pocket/key chain reminder of the restoration and renewal that Lent brings us as we ponder God's great love for us in the Crucified and Risen Savior.

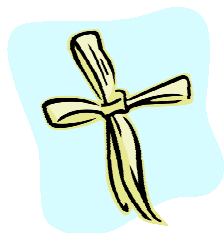
The heart cross is being sent to every family, in addition every child in our Midweek program will also receive one.

A blessed Lent to all of you, may it be a time of great renewal in our lives!



The Palms

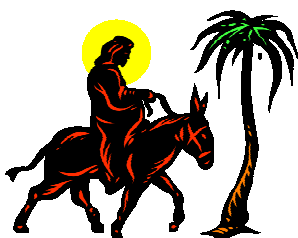
For 38 Palm Sundays Pastor Urbach's mom Berdine provided the Palms to make our Palm Sunday crosses, and it might be pointed out, scores of ladies over this period of time have made the crosses.



Berdine also provided the M&Ms for what has become Pastor Urbach's

Easter eggs & M&M Easter children's message.

We thank Ken & Cheryl Brull for a new piece of art that now graces our Living Room. As a Christmas gift/gift of memorial for Pastor Urbach's mom, they have given to Pastor Urbach a stunning piece of art showing Jesus' Triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.



Below the beautiful painting is the Palm Plant sent by the parish for Berdine's funeral. It, of course, is now minus the M&Ms.

Everyone wanted to know about the palm plant which was growing the M&Ms.

So thanks Ken & Cheryl and thanks Pastor Urbach for being willing to share the painting with us at this period of time.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Our Board of Stewardship has made a decision of how to direct our 2013 Congregational Choice Dollars from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans:

District and Synod Mission Support	\$1,000.00
Sonrise and Cable Broadcasts	\$1,000.00
Debt Retirement	\$3,000.00
Thrivent Crosses for Confirmation	\$ 200.00
Garage Project	<u>\$1,299.00</u>
Total	\$6,499.00

Thank you so much! Be sure when Thrivent asks for your designation via e-mail or postcard that you respond. At one time you stated Faith Lutheran Church or Faith Lutheran Preschool once and the gifts automatically continued to come. But now you need to continue to respond to the request for designation for Faith Lutheran to get those monies.

Thanks to you and thanks to Thrivent Choice Dollars!

Invitation to Visit the Holy Land

Dear Friends in Christ,

You are invited to come and join me (a native of Israel) on a spiritual journey to the Holy Land – Israel and Jordan, which I promise to be a journey and experience of a lifetime. On this journey you will hear the Good News, as we follow in the footsteps of the Savior, Jesus. You will see glorious sights, smell wonderful aroma and get a taste of foreign delicacies. We will be departing on October 20, 2014 for 12 days. If this trip you want to take, now is the time to take this exciting adventure of a lifetime. You will come back refreshed and rejoicing because you walked the walk of our only Savior, Jesus Christ. The Bible will come alive and the names and places will jump out at you whenever you read or hear them.

The price of \$3,990.00 is inclusive of everything: Airfare, hotels, tips, entrance fees to all the sights, taxes and three meals a day.

If you are interested, kindly contact me at 605-724-2489 (Office), 605-724-2722 (Home), or at redemarmour@unitelsd.com.

In Christ's love and in His Service,

Rev. Nabil S. Nour

Little Dresses For Africa

Faith Lutheran LWML will again be sending little girls dresses to Africa this year. We are asking for donations of ¼ inch elastic and gently used or new pillow cases. Sizes: Standard, Queen or King. Donation items may be dropped off in the church Narthex. There will be a donation box for you to put your items. On February 10th we began assembling these items into dress kits. We ask that if you enjoy sewing and would like to help sew these little dresses that you pick up your kits after church on Sunday morning starting February 16 from the Living Room table of the church. LWML will meet each Monday evening through the month of February to assemble these dress kits. If you would like to help, please join us. The completion date for these little dresses will be Sunday, April 6. For any questions please call Doreen Miller at 224-9955. Thank you for your help and donations to this project. Watch for more updates in the bulletin.



New LWML Meeting Time

The LWML meets the second Monday of each month at **7:00 p.m.**


President's Mercy Grant Fund

Enclosed in this March Newsletter is an appeal from our South Dakota District President, Pastor Dale Sattgast, for the President's Mercy Fund. As a parish we are choosing to support this appeal. Our response is a goal of \$4,000.00 which is 10% of the original goal of the appeal.

How will we accomplish this? Our Board of

Stewardship has determined that starting with our Ash Wednesday Lenten offering we will designate the first \$4,000.00 of our Lenten offerings to this appeal. After the first \$4,000.00 all Lenten offerings will go to the General Fund. How wonderful it would be if on Ash Wednesday we would come very close to meeting our goal.

Building News

	<div style="text-align: right;">Envelope Number _____</div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Debt Retirement Account \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Building Account \$ _____ Total Amount \$ _____ </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> Name _____ Date _____ </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: small; margin-top: 20px;"> Faith Ev. Lutheran Church • 714 N. Grand Ave. Pierre, SD 57501 • (605) 224-2216 </div>
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Every month (except for February Annual Report and August) when you receive a Building Fund envelope you have two choices—

The first choice is Debt Retirement. Here is the February 1 update—

Thank you, in addition to our regularly scheduled February monthly payment of \$5,395.00, congregational gifts made it possible to send two additional advanced payments. What does this mean?

- We have made 103 advance payments.
- We have saved, since our

first scheduled payment in July of 2010, \$440,330.96 in interest.

- Our \$1,000,000 loan is now reduced to \$711,525.41.

Thank you, all of these gifts to Debt Retirement are gifts that have been given over and above our regular gifts.

Debt Retirement will be ongoing as we save significant interest.

On March 1 we will do our regular payment of \$5,395.00 You will notice that that amount consists of \$2,949.13 in principal and \$2,445.87 in interest. We will probably be able to do at least one advance payment (some months with special gifts we have done two and more).

As you see that would be # 64. We sent \$2,959.27 and we save the \$2,435.73. Why? Yes, why does it show payment 64 but we have done 104 advanced payments? The answer, this is our third amortization schedule due to a reduction of the interest rate of two occasions since our first July 2010 schedule.

The second choice is the Building Fund. Since there are ongoing projects on the campus, the Board of Stewardship has clarified what the Building Fund is used for:

The Building Fund will be used for all land and building improvements and future projects on the Faith Evangelical campus.

Thank you for your continued generous gifts to Debt Retirement and our Building Fund.

"Thus far has the Lord helped us." 1 Samuel 7:12

Preschool News

March is nearly here and what a busy time this will be with so many fun activities and events happening at preschool!

Besides our monthly emphasis of the color green, the diamond shape, the number 7 and the letters STUV, we will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day, attending the annual Mardi Gras event, and beginning the Easter story. We will also have a science center where the children bring dif-

ferent items of interest to share with the class – sea shells, insects, rocks, fossils, whatever they think is neat about nature and/or science.

Parent/teacher conferences are also during March (Monday, March 17 & Tuesday, March 18th) and we have the beginning of our Lending Library where children check out books for one week at a time. Even though there are four weeks in March, they are

packed full and the time will continue to 'fly by'!

What a great year we have had at Faith Lutheran Preschool! Please note that the registration for next year is below. Your voice of recommendation is our best advertisement. Thank you for your prayers and support. God bless each one!

Jan Larson, Director
jan@faithluth.com

Faith Lutheran Preschool Pre-Registration Form

_____ will attend Faith Lutheran Preschool in the 2014-2015 school year.

Child's Name _____

Phone Number: (Home) _____ (Mom's Work) _____ (Mom's Cell) _____

Child's Birth Date _____ (Dad's Work) _____ (Dad's Cell) _____

Please check section preferred:

_____ Mon/Wed/Fri a.m. ** (9:00-11:30) _____ Tues/Thur a.m.* (9:00-11:30)

_____ Tues/Thur p.m.* (1:00-3:30)

* Must be three (3) by June 1, 2014

** Must be five (5) by December 31, 2014 or Previously attended Faith Lutheran Preschool

Parent's Names _____

Parent's Address _____

Parent's E-mail _____

Your registration fee: \$25.00 (Non-Refundable)

Monthly Tuition: 2 day - \$75.00

3 day - \$112.50

Preschool e-mail is: jan@faithluth.com

FLC YOUTH NEWS

Acolytes for March

March 2

Early: Nate Hill & Cassie Axtell
Late: Carly Niemann & Morgan Deis

March 5 Ash Wednesday

7:00 Gerrit Tronvold & Colton Graves

March 9

Early: Whitney King, LeAndra Hoefener
Late: Jaden Filler & Kimberlee Geuther

March 12 Lenten

7:00 Cade Larson & Martee Larson

March 16

Early: Brooke Miller & Samuel Ryckman
Late: Madison Siebrasse and Lucas Schochenmaier

March 19 Lenten

7:00 Wyatt Loesch & Austin Mammenga

March 23

Early: Brevin Kaiser & Haven K.A.
Late: Kaileigh Beug & Jessica Weber

March 26 Lenten

7:00 Samuel Ryckman & Nate Hill

March 30

Early: Joseph King & Cassie VanDeWiele
Late: Ethan Leif & Abby Keith



-Lent Worship - 7:00 to 7:45 on Wednesdays during the season of Lent

-Good Friday Baked Potato Meal from 5:00-6:15 pm on Friday, April 18th

-Easter Breakfast – Easter Sunday, April 20th in between the services

Mardi Gras – will be the next major LYF activity. It is Tuesday, March 4 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. We need all of our high school youth to help with the games. We need youth here before 4:55 p.m. To make this run smooth, 10-15 L.Y.F. youth are needed to help out! Set-up will be Monday, March 3rd at 6:00 p.m.

Join us on Wednesday, March 5th from 7:00-7:45 as we gather for Ash Wednesday worship. Each following Wednesday will include worship from 7:00 to 7:45 sharp, as we ponder the restoration we have been given through Christ. *Lenten Coffees* will follow each Wednesday worship service with goodies and drinks being served by our high school families as a part of a free-will offering to benefit our youth, and one evening going to support missional outreach in our church. A letter has been sent home detailing *Lenten Coffees* and the format for how that is going to work. We will also need all high school youth to have hands on deck for our Mardi Gra celebration on Tuesday, March 4th from 5:00-6:30 in the gym. Parents, please...PLEASE!!! encourage your high school aged child/ren to come and help run our game stations for the evening and hand out prizes. We will have a full gym filled with youth from the community! Also a great chance to grab a hot dog and enjoy some good fellowship.

L.Y.F. State Boys Basketball Outing and Ski Trip March 20th-22nd

— We are currently checking out the interest of doing a state basketball and ski trip outing. Cost is to be determined and would take place the weekend of the state boys basketball tournament. If interested please talk to Michael Shoup or Pastor Baumann and sign up on the back table in the Narthex.

TRIVIA NIGHT - Mark your calendars for another evening of great fun and laughs as we join together at Faith Lutheran for a **TRIVIA NIGHT on Friday, April 11th from 6:30-8:30**. This event will help raise money for youth activities. Teams consist of 8 people. The cost is \$5 per person. There will be ten rounds of questions with ten questions in each round for a total of 100 questions. Our youth will be selling concessions, refreshments, and mulligans—which are free answers your team can buy for \$1 each. So get your table of 8 people together and join us on Friday the 5th of April. Invite your co-workers and friends from school! **Friday, April 11th from 6:30 to 8:30** promises to be a great fun-filled evening together.



President's Mercy Grant Fund

The South Dakota District



The Need: From time to time, professional church workers (pastors, Lutheran teachers, DCEs, etc.) experience extraordinary

or catastrophic circumstances which require financial resources that are not covered by their salaries or Concordia Plans benefits. When such circumstances occur, workers contact the District for assistance. The District sets aside contingency funds each year in our Work Program budget. However, these have proven not to be sufficient for meeting the large needs associated with extraordinary circumstances.

Patterned after Jesus' Mercy: Looking to Jesus who showed mercy upon those who experienced extraordinary situations

in their lives (Matt 9:27f; 9:35f; 14:14; 15:21f; 15:32f; 17:14f; 20:29f; etc.), the District's Board of Directors has established the "President's Mercy Grant Fund." This fund will be administered by the District President in consultation with the District's Executive Secretary and Vice-Presidents.

Partnerships: Congregations and circuits certainly wish to assist pastors or other professional workers when an extraordinary

or catastrophic situation arises. Sometimes, however, the need exceeds what a congregation or circuit can do. The President's Mercy Fund will partner with the congregation and circuit in providing assistance. In addition, Synod has an assistance program called "Soldiers of the Cross" to assist professional church workers. Grants from that fund are made only with participation by the worker's congregation or district, or both. Working in partnership as congregation, district, and Synod, help can be given.

Initial Funding: The initial goal is \$40,000. The District has provided a \$20,000 challenge grant from "Board Designated Funds." Approximately \$525 was received from the worship service offering at the Fall District Pastors' Conference. The remainder will come through donations from congregations and individuals within The South Dakota District. According to the fund guidelines, disbursements may not be made until the fund reaches its initial goal.

Ongoing Funding: A minimum balance of \$40,000 normally will be maintained. However, because unmet financial needs can be exceedingly great when an extraordinary or catastrophic circumstance occurs, we would like to see the balance far exceed the \$40,000 minimum. When distribution of Mercy Grants brings the balance below that amount, periodic appeals will be made for donations from congregations and individuals.

Grant Conditions: Applications for Mercy Grants will be considered after the worker has sought assistance from other available resources, including the worker's congregation. Mercy Grants to individual workers will be up to a total of one-half the balance of the fund. Initially, therefore, the maximum grant would be \$20,000. If the total balance of the fund exceeds \$40,000, the maximum Mercy Grant would still be up to one-half of the balance, depending on the circumstance. All Mercy Grants will include a portion with no expectation of repayment as well as a portion which the worker is to repay (without interest). Depending on the circumstances of the situation, the portion which the worker does not have to repay will be from fifty to ninety percent of the grant.

