

## **NEWS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

*By: James Synatzske, Congregation President*

*April 18, 2017*

Your Church Council has had three busy and active meetings since I last reported to you in January.

In early March, each of you should have received a letter detailing our current and recent financial situation. In that letter, I shared some storied history of Faith Lutheran Church dating back to the early 1980s that amplified how resilient and Christ-driven our congregation has been and continues to be. That letter and my oral presentations on Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup> were the result of your Council voting in February to make you more aware of the seriousness of our finances through both written and oral communication. At last night's meeting, it was decided that the congregation will get a complete update in June. I am pleased to share with you now that, while we have plenty of room to grow in our stewardship, offerings in March and thus far in April definitely show signs that our congregation is responding to His will by returning to Him more of His blessings that are so evident in our personal lives, and in the wonderful and multiple ministries here at FLC.

We learned too, last night, that our fellow members are not only showing signs of taking ownership of our financial situation through enhanced stewardship, but are also stepping up in a most astounding way to fill upcoming vacancies on our Boards and Council offices. Your nominating committee reported that they almost have a full slate of candidates—and I only activated that committee 3 weeks ago—WOW!! All the Glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!! In the next couple of weeks, you will be presented with the full slate of candidates, so you can begin to prayerfully contemplate the make-up of our future church governance in anticipation of our Voters Meeting in late May.

At the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, your Council voted unanimously to endorse the Church Workday that was set for March 18. The word got out and so many of you responded—we had an awesome turnout of 25 to 30 folks of all ages that helped get His property in shape for upcoming events such as Faith School's 5K-Run and related events, and our Lent and Holy Week celebrations—still more evidence of some seriously powerful stewardship in our congregation.

In March, your Council voted to allow the creation of a Faith Lutheran vegetable garden. At last night's meeting, it was reported that the garden, which will serve as an educational tool for our Faith School students, was getting underway—keep your eyes open for some different scenery around the Faith Family Center and yet more smiles on the faces of those wonderful kids. ☺

The Board of Stewardship continues their devoted work and reported last night that the survey or questionnaire many of you completed at our worship services over the past couple of weeks resulted in some very positive feedback about the possibility of our moving toward having THE OPTION to submit our offerings electronically. About 98% of those who completed the survey said that they believe that our offerings are a direct result of how many people are in attendance on any given Sunday—this speaks volumes about how it might be advantageous for many of our members who travel or are otherwise unable to attend worship services can still make their regular offering and thereby help stabilize our budgeted income stream. The Board of Stewardship will bring a final detailed recommendation to the Council at our May meeting, and you will have an opportunity to vote on that recommendation at our May Voter's Assembly.

I can't begin to tell you just how hard your Faith Lutheran staff is working and how willing they are to take on even more responsibilities. We all witnessed their awesome diligence these past several VERY busy weeks leading up to Easter Sunday. You have heard about their putting together a Church Calendar Planning session later this year. Last night, they jumped onboard to study the current rental rates that we charge for use of His FLC facilities by both members and non-members,

and whether or not those rates are adequate to cover our cost of utilities, maintenance, etc. Then, as if they did not already have plenty on their plate, they volunteered to begin studying our options for Faith Fest and the 500 Year Reformation Celebration coming up this fall. Our congregation is truly blessed to have such devoted personnel at ALL levels and in ALL of His wonderful Faith Lutheran ministries. ***THANKS BE TO GOD!!!***