



Faith Lutheran Church (LC-MS)
PO Box 428 – 8582 Rogue River Highway
Rogue River, Oregon 97537
(541) 582-0457

12 May Anno Domini 2023

Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits to me?
I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all His people (Psalm 116:12-14)*

Faith Lutheran Church is a unique congregation. We are made up of faithful Christians who confess the truth together and put the Word of God into practice. We are blessed by our Lord to be in the Divine Service together, to work together and to meet the challenges God has set before us. And, by the grace of God, we do. And, by the Holy Spirit working through His Word, we will continue to do so.

We have such a challenge set before us. Last January, we voted to call a man to be pastor here at Faith. Many prayers ascended that, if it be the will of God, we be assigned a man from our seminary. Christ Jesus answered our prayers and has given us a man to be pastor here at Faith. His name is Jonah Laws and he and his family are making preparations to travel here from Fort Wayne, Indiana. We need to make some preparations for their arrival.

As communicant members of this congregation, consider four promises each one of us has made. The promise to remain faithful unto death and be given the Crown of Life. The promise to come to church and be in the presence of the Holy Trinity. The promise to partake of the means of grace, especially the Lord's Supper. The promise to support the congregation with our time and our offerings.

This letter is in the form of a four-fold invitation based on communicant members promises that each of us has made. First, is invitation to be in church. You need the Church and the congregation needs you. Please come to church.

Second, is the invitation to the Lord's Supper. Together the faithful commune as brothers and sisters in Christ. When at Church and at the communion rail we are able to *rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15)*. Please come to Communion.

Third is the invitation to provide offerings. Our weekly offerings have fallen off dramatically. Now, with a new pastor coming, we're being faced with a new challenge. Presently we're about \$500 per week short of what is needed to support and keep a pastor. Here's a breakdown of the numbers:

Based on the 2024 budget, offering per week need to about:	\$2,200
Per week the Beneficiary Fund will provide:	\$ 500
Amount needed per week received in general fund offerings:	\$1,700
Our offerings per week for general fund now average about:	\$1,200
Amount per week short of what is needed:	\$ 500

Will you help with this? If yes, please do so according to what the Scriptures recommend; namely, an offering every week, cheerfully given and based on whatever you decide is correct for you and whatever is God-pleasing.

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper (1 Corinthians 16:2).

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).

The fourth invitation is to abide by the words of the risen, ascended and reigning Christ Jesus when He said:

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the Crown of Life (Revelation 2:10).

- We have the Holy Trinity to abide with us.
- We have Jesus - His Person and His Work to assure us of His love.
- We have forgiveness, eternal life and salvation brought to us.
- We have the Divine Service to deliver that to us
- We have the means of grace to give us peace.
- We have a church building and Jesus to shelter us.
- We have a faithful congregation to remain steadfast.
- We have each other to encourage and comfort.
- We have a pastor coming to shepherd us with Law and Gospel.

Can you help? Will you help?

*O LORD, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant, the son of Your maidservant;
You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving,
And will call upon the Name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD
Now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the LORD's House.*

(Psalm 116:16-19a)

Dave Ehrhardt
President of the Congregation

Rev. Michael L. McCoy
Emeritus Pastor