Faith Footprints
March 2017

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
DeLand, Florida

Continuing this month on Sundays, you will be asked to answer questions that will help your leaders to assess the congregation’s health based on key elements needed for congregational growth and vitality. The goal is to develop a strategic plan that has the potential of moving the congregation forward.

The questions asked come from the Alban Institute Publication, Discerning Your Congregation’s Future.

**Schedule for the Congregational Health Inventory**

**March 5**
Segment D… Communicating the Tradition. Q16-20
Does this place have high quality ways of passing on its teachings?

**March 12**
Segment E… Assimilation of new members. The six stages a person goes through on the way from being an outsider to being an insider. Rate your congregation’s effectiveness at each of these stages. Searching, Testing; Returning/Affiliating. Q 21-27

**March 19**
Joining, Going deeper & Being sent. Q28-36

**March 26**
What is the relationship between pastor and the parish?
Segment F… Pastor/Parish Dynamics. Q 37-43

**April 2**
Segment G & H… Congregational Vision & Leadership. Q 44-51

**Pastor Nielsen**

## What's In Your Bucket?

If you were walking back from a well carrying a bucket of water and someone jostled you, there could be spilled from that bucket only that which it contained.

As you walk along the way of life, people are constantly bumping into you. If your heart is full of ill nature, bad temper and ugly disposition, only those things will be spilled from it. On the other hand, if it is full of life, you will spill a smile or a pleasant remark. You can spill from your bucket only that which it contains.

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Some Interesting Facts About Lent

- The original period of Lent was 40 hours. It was spent in fasting to commemorate the suffering of Christ and the 40 hours he spent in the tomb.
- In the very early days of the church, Lent was time to prepare for baptism, which took place on Easter Eve.
- Early in the Third Century, the Lenten observance was extended to six days. During the reign of Charles magne, about 800AD, it was changed to 40 days, not including Sundays.
- The 40 days of Lent correspond to Christ’s 40 days in the wilderness.
- The earliest Lent can begin is February 5th. That happened last 1818. The latest Lent can begin is March 10th. That won’t occur again until the year 2038.
- The day before Ash Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday, is celebrated in many parts of the world with feasting. The French call it Mardi Gras, and the Germans call it Fasching. The feasting comes from the custom of using up all the household fats prior to the 40 days of Lenten fasting, when no fat was used.

Any one in our congregation is welcome to attend and listen in on our council meetings. The Council will be meeting on the second Monday for each month from 6-7:30pm except for the months of March and April when we will be meeting the second Sunday immediately after service. If you would like to bring the council’s attention to an issue or idea that you would like to share, let Pastor Nieslen know ahead of time so that we can put you into our agenda for the next meeting. That way you’ll have the floor for 5 minutes. Our council meetings are full of great information and a great way to stay on top of what is coming up at Faith.

Make your offering electronically!

Check the pew pocket for details!

For soup and bread at 6pm Wednesdays before our Lenten service at 6:30pm.

Heartfelt Thanks to all our volunteers!
Order Form

# of plants: ___________
X $9.00 each: $___________

Cash / Check
(please circle payment type)

Commemoration:

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Orders must be received no later than March 20.

Lilies will be available for pickup after 11:00am service on Easter Sunday.

CROP Hunger Walk Materials: To pickup CROP Hunger Walk materials please come to First Christian Church, 1401 West New York Avenue, Deland Florida, 386-734-0677 (call ahead to confirm office hours). We have walker donation envelopes, posters, bulletin inserts, and videos to help inspire your congregation or group’s participation.

WHEN & WHERE: On Sunday, March 12, registration will commence at 1:45 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 115 East Howry, DeLand. You will be requested to sign in at the registration table and each walker will receive a t-shirt on a first come, first serve basis. Announcements will start at 2:00 with the walk to follow. Walkers may choose a one or three and a half mile walk route. We recommend that you bring your own water bottle.

WHY: Because no one should be hungry, the beneficiaries of the West Volusia CROP Hunger Walk will be the Interfaith Kitchen and Church World Service hunger projects around the world.

Donation Envelopes: Walkers should turn their donation envelopes in to the lead recruiter or team leader at their church. The donation envelope with funds should be collected by the lead recruiter/team leader and turned in the day of the walk or delivered to the attention of Treasurer Sue Gainey (386-734-3581) at Stetson Baptist Church office, 1025 W. Minnesota Ave. (on the corner of Minnesota and 15A), Deland.

Show Your Support!
Wear the new official FELC tee!

Styles for Men & Women
Long & Short Sleeves
Hooded Sweatshirts

Visit the website to order yours!
It’s 2017, the year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation! Bet you didn’t know this, oh wait, yes you did. That just makes this installment (the first of a series) an even easier read!

What is the Reformation?

The reformation is a term used to describe a series of events that took place in the 16th century that rocked the Church and changed the course of world history.

Who was Martin Luther?

Martin Luther was a Roman Catholic monk, priest, and professor at the University in Wittenberg, Germany, in the early 1500s. When he began questioning the church teaching that was used to justify selling indulgences, a fierce controversy began over the church’s teaching on forgiveness, grace and faith; the content of preaching; and the church’s ministry. Luther was eventually excommunicated from the church and outlawed by civil authorities, but his witness of God’s forgiving mercy in Christ found many supporters.

What Happened on October 31st, 1517

On this date, Luther sent a letter to the Catholic archbishop of Mainz that urged renewed preaching of “the gospel and the love of Christ” instead of continued promotion of indulgences, which had “silenced” gospel preaching. He did not choose the day at random. Church representatives were actively marketing indulgences in a neighboring area, and the next day, All Saint’s Day, was a church festival associated with the church’s teaching on merits, which was used to promote the selling of indulgences. He also enclosed a copy of his “Ninety-Five Theses,” which were also likely posted on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg that same day.

*Reference www.elca500.org

Daily math lesson:

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.
I was depressed about the “transition.”

After years of struggle, dedication, and commitment, FELC was going to close. The marquee would darken and say nothing more. The website would be disabled. The final service planned and attended. Members would need new church homes.

FELC prevailed through so much history, good and bad times. Many volunteered in multiple positions throughout the years—praise team singer, Bible study leader, sound system operator, council member, nursery helper, worship planner, custodian, secretary—and yet that sense that too little had been done to keep the doors open.
It is easy to feel disheartened and discouraged. The economy tanked, tithing goals went unmet. Attracting and keeping new members became harder than ever. Numbers dwindled.

I dreaded the possible task all would be called to finish. Closing FELC. Discernment is the process of seeing God’s instruction or calling I’ve heard.

Then I saw these hopes and dreams by the doors of the Sanctuary. They had been there for a while but somehow, these post-its took on a striking meaning.

We all have it in us...the better angels of ourselves and here was proof. I imagined an ember barely glowing in the timber but it’s how fires relight.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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</table>
|        |        |         | 1 Choir Practice 5:30pm  
         |        |         | Ash Wednesday  
         |        |         | Service & Discernment  
         |        |         | 6:30pm |
| 2      | 3      | 4       | 5         | 6        | 7      | 8        |
|        |        |         | Service  
         |        |         | 9:30 am  
         |        |         | Finance Meeting  
         |        |         | 12:30pm  
         |        |         | Worship & Music  
         |        |         | 1:30pm  |
| 9      | 10     | 11      | 12        | 13       | 14     | 15       |
|        |        |         | Service  
         |        |         | 9:30 am  
         |        |         | Bring Hearty Soup!  
         |        |         | Council meeting right  
         |        |         | after service  
         |        |         | CROP Walk 1:45pm  
         |        |         | @ 1st Christian Church  
         |        |         | "Daylight Saving Time"  |
| 16     | 17     | 18      | 19        | 20       | 21     | 22       |
|        |        |         | Service  
         |        |         | 9:30 am  
         |        |         | Spring Begins  |
| 23     | 24     | 25      | 26        | 27       | 28     | 29       |
|        |        |         | Choir Practice TBA  
         |        |         | Soup & Bread 6:00pm  
         |        |         | Lenten Service &  
         |        |         | Discernment 6:30pm  |
| 30     | 31     |         |           |          |        |          |
|        |        |         | Service  
         |        |         | 9:30 am  |
|        |        |         | Mission Sharing for FL-  
         |        |         | VBS Sunday School  |
|        |        |         |           |          |        |          |
|        |        |         | Choir Practice TBA  
         |        |         | Soup & Bread 6:00pm  
         |        |         | Lenten Service &  
         |        |         | Discernment 6:30pm  |
|        |        |         |           |          |        |          |
|        |        |         | Choir Practice TBA  
         |        |         | Soup & Bread 6:00pm  
         |        |         | Lenten Service &  
         |        |         | Discernment 6:30pm  |
|        |        |         |           |          |        |          |

**February 2017**

**Happy Birthday**

- Mar 3rd: Zenan Sutton
- Mar 4th: Nancy Dascher
- Mar 8th: June Hubbard
- Mar 13th: John Herman
- Mar 14th: Corinne Martinez
- Mar 14th: Craig Parrillo
- Mar 18th: Karin Goranson
- Mar 24th: George Sherman
- Mar 26th: Hoyte Whitley
- Mar 30th: Dorothy Caldwell

**Mission Sunday**

On the third Sunday of each month, there will be a second collection for various needs of the church. The collection on this day will go toward:

- VBS Sunday School

**The Second Sunday of Every Month is Second Sunday Sharing**

Faith's Outreach Ministry will be continuing our partnership with St. Barnabas to help their

**Faith at Work Food Pantry!**

On the second Sunday of each month, everyone is asked to bring a specific non-perishable food item the pantry needs.

**Hearty Soup**

**Show Your Support!**

Wear the new official FELC tee!

- Styles for Men & Women
- Long & Short Sleeves
- Hooded Sweatshirts

Visit the website to order yours!
Save the planet and help Faith Lutheran at the same time! Recycle your paper at Faith, and help raise money for your church. Look for the large recycling bin in the church parking lot, and add your paper. Faith receives money every time the bin gets emptied, so fill ‘er up! Bring your paper, shredded or intact, as often as you wish. The bin is open for drop-offs all day, every day. You can deposit all types of paper, even if it has staples. This is a great way to raise money for Faith while saving the planet! Please deposit paper only; no plastic, tin, or other metal. Also, please do not deposit cardboard or phone books. Thank you!

Our Facilities Are Available

If you belong to or know of any group that needs a meeting space, why not suggest our facilities? It’s a WIN/WIN! It can lead to new relationships forming, as well as helping our church out a little financially. Please call the office at 386-734-2791 for more information! Thank you!

Be a Honeycomb Giver

There is an old division of givers into three types: the “flint,” the “sponge,” and the “honeycomb.” The first two givers suffer from an acute malady known as “cirrhosis of the giver.” Flint givers do not yield up anything without much hammering, and even then you get more chips and sparks than anything else. In contrast, sponge givers need to be squeezed, and sometimes squeezed hard. The more you squeeze and massage a sponge, the more you get. Honeycomb givers, in contrast, overflow with goodness and sweetness. God gives to us lavishly, and this is how we ought to give in return.

Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

-Martin Luther

After Thorwaldsen had completed his famous statue of Christ, he brought a friend to see it. Christ’s arms were outstretched, his head bowed between them. The friend said, “But I cannot see his face.”

The sculptor replied, “If you want to see the face of Christ, you must get on your knees.”
Bank Account Deduction:
- Use the convenient Electronic Funds Transfer option and have your offering automatically deducted from your checking account.
- Never forget your check or offering envelope again!
- You choose how often and how much you give.
- Add fund splits for Building, Capital, Lutheridge, etc.

On The Website
- Click the Make A Donation link at the left side of the page.
- All major credit cards accepted.
- Fund splits for Building, Capital, Lutheridge, etc.
- Give a one-time gift, or set up recurring donations.

With Your Smartphone
- Upload the free QR code scanner app at the Google Play Store.
- Scan the QR code found on donation cards, bulletins, and newsletters.
- All major credit cards accepted.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
<th>General Tithes Budgeted</th>
<th>General Tithes Received</th>
<th>General Tithes Needed</th>
<th>Designated Giving</th>
<th>CHMS Contributions</th>
<th>December Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>$11,785.00</td>
<td>$7,332.25</td>
<td>$11,785.00</td>
<td>$1,235.47</td>
<td>$3,062.00</td>
<td>$11,629.72</td>
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Give not from the top of your purse, but from the bottom of your heart.

General Tithes Budgeted $11,785.00
General Tithes Received $7,856.00
Difference -$4,452.72
Thanks for Giving! We need your regular tithe in order to maintain day-to-day operations.

Capital Fund Update
How Much Have We Raised?
Month of January All of 2017

$100.00 $100.00

Thank you for all your support! Please remember that Capital Fund donations should be in addition to your regular tithe. We still need your regular tithe in order to maintain day-to-day operations.

General & Ministry Offerings includes Regular and Loose Tithe offerings, Stewardship, and Sunday School offerings.

Capital Fund Offerings are included with Memorial and other Pass-Thru Offerings.

Thank you to these and all member who allotted their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Faith Lutheran Church:
Deborah Boyer

Simply Giving: The most convenient way to tithe!
3 Ways To Give:
Intercessory prayer is one of the Christian’s most powerful tools. By lifting up those in need, we bring them to the Lord for His healing hand, strength and comfort.

We pray for those who are chronically ill, that God would be their daily companion and strength:
Nina Eriksen, Kerry Sholtis, Lance Borows, Faith Eriksen, Wilma Brokaw

For those who are fighting cancer, that they will know they are not alone in the battle:
Ray Bebee, Roy Erickson, and Craig Parrillo

We rejoice with those who are recovering form injury, illness, or surgery:
Bob Bebee

For those who are shut in, that they will feel the Lord’s constant presence:
Anna Anderson, Millie Glover, Jackie Hays, Corinne Martinez, Virginia Fauble

We pray for those whose needs are known only to the Lord:
Marilyn Snow, Heather Carolyn Stevens, Jackie Hays, Dorothy Caldwell

We pray for the special concerns of our neighbors, our community, our nation and our world:
Our men and women in the military, Habitat for Humanity, All people in war-torn nations, Storm victims, Rain for areas that need it, For our local, state and national leaders, for those in the grip of addiction to drugs and alcohol and for their families.

Email your prayer request to prayerrequests@faithlutheranland.org or contact Faith Eriksen at 736-1799
OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
Sharing Christ’s love, our mission is to extend hospitality, serve our community, and spread the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS:
- Pastor: Rev. Nielsen
- President: Dorothy Caldwell
- Vice President: Debbie Morris
- Council Secretary: Helen Martin
- Treasurer: Dora Mallett
- Financial Secretary: Debby Boyer

Bob Bebee    Julia Beckwith    Janice Cornwell    Debbie Morris    Carol Sutton
Sue Thurmond    Adam Stoddard    Christine Medrano    Don Boyer

CHURCH OFFICE:
509 E. Pennsylvania Ave. DeLand, FL  32724
Hours: Mon. Tues. 9:00am - 5:00pm; Wed. 9:00am - 1:00pm
Phone: (386) 734-2791
Fax: (386) 943-8758
Email: mission@faithlutherandeland.org
Website: faithlutherandeland.org
facebook.com/faithlutherandeland
Children’s House Montessori School:
Administrator: Sherri Holzman
School Phone: (386) 736-3632

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS:
- Pastor: Rev. Nielsen
- President: Dorothy Caldwell
- Vice President: Debbie Morris
- Council Secretary: Helen Martin
- Treasurer: Dora Mallett

Childcare:
- 's House Montessori School:
  Administrator: Sherri Holzman
  School Phone: (386) 736-3632

CHURCH STAFF:
- Pastor: Rev. Nielsen
- Office Manager: Amy Cornwell
- Music Director: Deborah DeGaetano
- Church Sexton: Bob DeGaetano
- Organist: Tiffany Damps

Let your friends at Faith know about your business! See it listed here, and in the printed directory! Submit your business online, or get a submission form in the Communication Center in the back of the Sanctuary. Call the office for details!