

# Pastor Janneke's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD  
March 18-19, 2017



## WANTED: LABORERS IN THE HARVEST FIELD

This week, Faith is blessed to host Rev. Jaime Nava, an admissions officer from Concordia Seminary. Rev. Nava will be at Faith on Fri., March 24 from 2:00-8:00 p.m. to visit with prospective church workers (of any age!), particularly those who would like to know more about ministry as a pastor or deaconess. If you or a loved one has ever considered a future in church work, I *highly encourage* you to come and spend a few minutes with Rev. Nava!

St. Matthew writes, *"And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"* (Matt. 9:35-38) It's no different today! There are many, many souls in need of Jesus, but there are far too few laborers—Pastors, Missionaries, Deaconesses, Lutheran School Teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Directors of Family Life Ministry, Directors of Christian Outreach, Directors of Parish Music, Lay Ministers, and so on.

Our Synod's seminaries and universities are seeing less and less students in church work programs each year. Along with this, more and more churches, schools, and LCMS organizations are experiencing vacancies as the amount of church workers continues to decrease.

What can we do? First of all, Jesus calls each of us to pray! Pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out new laborers! Also, please encourage friends and family members who have a heart for God's people to consider a career in church work, or a career shift to church work! If not for such encouragement, I would not be in the ministry!

Peace in Christ,

*A laborer in the harvest field*

**Pastor's Page – Part Two!** I hope that you had a good St. Patrick's Day! We were certainly blessed with a beautiful day. The following is a portion of an Irish blessing, likely written in memory of St. Patrick about a century after his death. St. Patrick's "breastplate" functions as both a morning song of praise and invocation and also as a confession of faith in Christ:

I RISE TODAY WITH A MIGHTY POWER, CALLING ON THE TRINITY, WITH A BELIEF IN THE THREENESS, WITH A FAITH IN THE ONENESS OF THE CREATOR OF CREATION.

I RISE TODAY WITH THE POWER OF CHRIST'S BIRTH AND BAPTISM, WITH THE POWER OF HIS CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL, WITH THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION, WITH THE POWER OF HIS RETURN FOR THE FINAL JUDGMENT ...

I RISE TODAY WITH THE POWER OF GOD TO GUIDE ME, WITH THE STRENGTH OF GOD TO RAISE ME, WITH THE WISDOM OF GOD TO LEAD ME, WITH THE VISION OF GOD TO SEE FOR ME, WITH THE EARS OF GOD TO HEAR FOR ME, WITH THE WORDS OF GOD TO SPEAK FOR ME, WITH THE HAND OF GOD TO PROTECT ME, WITH THE PATH OF GOD BEFORE ME, WITH THE SHIELD OF GOD TO GUARD ME, WITH THE FRIENDSHIP OF GOD TO KEEP ME SAFE FROM THE CONTRIVING OF DEMONS, THE TEMPTATIONS OF SIN, THE INCLINATIONS OF MY NATURE, AND EVERYONE WHO WISHES ME HARM, FAR AND NEAR, ALONE AND IN THE CROWD ...

CHRIST PROTECT ME TODAY ...

CHRIST WITH ME, CHRIST BEFORE ME, CHRIST BEHIND ME, CHRIST IN ME, CHRIST BELOW ME, CHRIST ABOVE ME, CHRIST TO THE RIGHT OF ME, CHRIST TO THE LEFT OF ME, CHRIST WHERE I LIE, CHRIST WHERE I SIT, CHRIST WHERE I STAND, CHRIST IN THE HEART OF EVERYONE WHO THINKS OF ME, CHRIST IN THE MOUTH OF EVERYONE WHO SPEAKS OF ME, CHRIST IN EVERY EYE WHICH SEES ME, CHRIST IN EVERY EAR WHICH HEARS ME.

I RISE TODAY WITH A MIGHTY POWER, CALLING ON THE TRINITY, WITH A BELIEF IN THE THREENESS, WITH A FAITH IN THE ONENESS OF THE CREATOR OF CREATION.!"

