

Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

July 18 & 19, 2015

“Thank You!”

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”
(Philippians 1:2-6)

This week felt like the right time for a good dose of “Thank You.” The following list is by no means complete. However, I’d still like to thank the Lord for many “unsung” servants.

Thank you to seminary student and Faith member, **Joel Heckmann**, for sharing God’s Word with us, and thank you, Faith Lutheran, for allowing Joel to get a little more “practice” before his Vicarage in the Montana District—not that he needs the practice! ☺ Thank you!

Thank you to **Pastors Dick Luttmann and Pete Sestak** for assisting the congregation during this time of transition on the pastoral team. Both of these retired pastors have been making homebound and nursing home visits, teaching and preaching, and assisting in other ways. Thank you!

Thank you to our **Board of Elders and Church Council** and especially our new Head Elder, **Adam Weeman**, for implementing the self-study survey beginning this weekend. And thank you in advance to all our confirmed members who will be taking the time to fill out this important survey. Thank you as well to LCMS South Dakota District **President Sailer** for his assistance in this process. Thank you!

Thank you to **Sara Klawonn and her family** for coordinating the 5th annual “Sonshine Days.” This year, approximately sixty immigrant children (including some new Nepalese children) participated. Many of you also served as cooks or leaders or helpers in some capacity. Thank you!

Thank you to **Krista Erickson** for coordinating the visit of our young friends from Hong Kong a few weeks ago, and *thank you* to those of you who graciously opened up your hearts and homes to these youth as host families. Thank you!

Thank you for your **tornado relief donations** in support of our brothers and sisters in Christ from Zion Lutheran Church in Delmont, SD. Your donations totaled over \$2000! Thank you!

Thank you in advance for your help with our upcoming **Vacation Bible School** beginning next Sun, July 26. Much of the effort that makes VBS possible is put in beforehand. *Thank you* to our Board of Parish Education and other volunteers, cooks, and helpers who will be a blessing to the children participating in VBS. Thank you!

Thank you to our church office secretary, **Lan Kuhlmann**, for serving our congregation in such a variety of ways through her daily efforts around the office. Lan has now been working at Faith for over a year. And *thank you* our retired church office secretary, **Darlene Friesen**, for her willingness to fill in on occasion or assist with special projects. Thank you!

Thank you to our Music Coordinator, **Mavis Smith**; organists, **Jo Skunberg and Cheryl Hirsch**; and pianists, **Lesa Harr and Melody Vanderpan**. We are truly blessed to have five organists and pianists to lead us in praise and thanksgiving in our worship services. These musicians put a lot of work into practicing hymns and choosing preludes and more. They even put up with the hymn selections from yours truly! Thank you!

Thank you to those of you who have been helping spruce up the exterior of Faith’s property recently—pulling weeds, trimming bushes, etc. I thank **Donna Harr, Joel Neubauer**, and any others who have been quietly helping in this way. Thank you!

Thank you to the members of Faith’s Decorating Committee (especially **Jessica List, Heidi Janneke, Leone Christensen, Brenda Paulson, and Phyllis Wise**) who have been working to spruce up the interior of our facility by framing and hanging church artwork, purchasing new furnishings and more. Thank you!

Thank you to the members of Faith who responded to God’s call by saying, “Here I am. Send me!” for our 2015 medical mission trip through MOST

Ministries. *Thank you* to **Dr. Patty Peters**, for the many years she has led these trips, and to **Jeff Clausen** (a lay member of Our Redeemer) for serving as the team leader trained by MOST Ministries. *Thank you* to current Faith members, **Jennifer Noble and Todd & Marnie Basche**, and former Faith member, **Kristi Parris** (now living in WA), for serving as team members. Thank you!

Thank you to the entire congregation for rallying around our medical mission team through donations of hygiene kit supplies, blankets, yarn dolls, and more. Thank you for supporting our team at Pizza Ranch, Dairy Queen, Landscape Gardens, and more this past year. Thank you!

Thank you to our church custodians, **Loren and Brenda Paulson**, for the many hours they devote each week to keeping our facilities clean. It's *not* an easy job to clean such a large building but the Paulsons make it *look* easy! Thank you!

Thank you to our Saturday evening SCRIP volunteer, **Marge Holm**, and our Sunday morning SCRIP volunteer, **Delia Bult**, and to **Bruce Herther** for assisting with the SCRIP program as well. Thank you to the members of Faith for patronizing the SCRIP program and supporting SFLS in this way. Thank you!

Thank you to those of you who donated or purchased books or other items this week at the annual **Lutheran High School Book & Media Sale**. I really enjoy browsing through all those books, CDs, etc. each year, and it wouldn't be possible without your donations. *Thank you* as well for supporting LHSSF in other ways, such as through attending the 2nd annual **German Sausage Dinner** this Sunday, July 19 at Memorial Lutheran. Your support of our Lutheran High School is invaluable, especially in these early years of our school's history. Thank you!

Thank you those who lead our youth, especially **Joan Goddard, Josh & Abbi Eide, and Reid & Lisa Ehrisman**. Thank you to **JoAnn Hirsch** for coordinating youth fundraisers and to **Pam Ricke** for doing the bookkeeping. Thank you!

Thank you to those who attended our first **Technology Team** meeting last month. This new committee was formed by the Church Council to oversee needed technological improvements in our ministry and facilities. The Technology Team will have its second meeting this Thurs, July 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Please come and add your expertise or ideas to the team! Thank you!

Thank you to our Head Trustee, **John Hirsch**, who, along with his wife **Cheryl**, recently hung the new bulletin boards in the east hallway, which coordinate with our new paint colors and décor. This is one of the many ways that John serves "behind the scenes." Thank you!

Thank you to another member of our Board of Trustees, **Rod Genzlinger**, for building a new cabinet near the pastors' offices to coordinate with the Welcome Center, which Rod also designed and built. These countertops and cabinets have provided valuable space for a wide variety of things this past year! Thank you!

Thank you to a special woodworker and candle-maintainer in our congregation: **Wally Wenzel**. Wally has helped repair or make so many items for Faith through the years. Each week, Wally refills our candles with oil so that they are ready for worship. (And by the way, Wally is ready to "retire" from this particular way of serving. Please let the church office know if you might be interesting in taking over Wally's "candle duties.") Thank you!

Thank you to our two LWML groups, the **Goodwill Aid & Ladies Auxiliary**, for truly "serving the Lord with gladness" and for supporting our Lord's mission near and far. Thank you!

Thank you to our Saturday evening group, **Faith Adult Christians (FACS)**, for their commitment to Bible Study, fellowship, and assisting our congregation through such things as donating new tables for the CLC. Thank you!

Thank you to **Lois Hartman** for maintaining the children's activity bags and keeping them stocked with good things. (P.S. – Look for new children's Bibles coming soon!) Thank you!

Thank you to **JoAnn Hirsch** and all those who have taught and helped with **Summer Sunday School** this year! Thank you!

Thank you to **Kim and Tabitha Heckmann** for organizing our church library materials and also to **Annette Jarratt, Chris Hartman, and Kathy Gross** for continuing these efforts this past week. (Please watch for more information soon about our many new library resources.) Thank you!

Thank you for your forgiveness if I have forgotten to recognize you in this page. *Thank you* to my wife **Heidi**, and our children, **Kiernan, Rowan, Henry, and our baby girl** (due Oct 22) without whose love and support I would not be able to fulfill my calling as your pastor; and finally, **thank YOU, Lord Jesus, for all Your Servants!**