

# Pastor Kory's Page

Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD

March 19 & 20, 2016

## Faith and Whittier community blessed by *Stand With Your Community* grant award

By Scott Peters

To say that Faith's Evangelism Committee is excited is an understatement! "We are thrilled and humbled to have received our full grant request to serve the Whittier neighborhood that surrounds us," says Elaine Sestak, Faith's Evangelism Chair.

Out of 512 grant applications, totaling \$8,300,000 in grant requests, Faith was awarded \$17,808, as one of 51 awards for the \$1M in grant dollars provided by three funding partners: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, and Thrivent Financial Foundation. The *Lutheran Reporter* article on these grant awards is posted on the bulletin board outside the office, by the east door.

Faith's application, entitled *Matthew 28:19—The Whittier Neighborhood Project, Acts 1:8*, is designed to meet the most critical needs of the Whittier community, where Faith is at its center. Those needs are:

1. Monthly meal/food support at noon at the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House for 80-120 homeless guests;
2. Medical care, with wellness education, for the guests of the BDHH and Whittier community, on a weekly basis;
3. Landscaping services and materials for an Affordable Housing Solutions project just north of Faith's facility, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street
4. Coupling all three supportive services with Bible study and Lutheran resources.

One of the SWYC grant considerations was how we would form partnerships--the whole Faith lay community with other community organizations and groups. To meet Whittier's critical needs and effect sustainable neighborhood improvement, Faith's multi-point project will partner

- with the BDHH homeless shelter for feeding its guests and caring for community health and medical needs,
- with the Sioux Falls medical community for health care and wellness support,
- with Blessings International for medical supplies, medication, and equipment,
- with Concordia Publishing House for Bible study and scriptural resources, and
- with Affordable Housing Solutions for the development, construction and management of

four affordable housing units across from the church.

The Evangelism Committee has already completed a "test run" of noon meal preparation, with 8 Faith members serving 83 people at the BDHH in December. It went very well, and it was very well received. Thrivent supplied the fund for that meal.

**Our first "noon" meal preparation and serving with the SWYC grant money will start with food preparation on Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 p.m. at the BDHH kitchen, and serving BDHH guests starting at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, with Faith servers arriving at 11:15 a.m. Elaine would welcome all of you who are able to help. Please contact her at 507-259-6220 or Kathy Gross at 605-334-6772.**

Meanwhile, Dr. Patty Peters and Dr. Karen Heiling are working on ordering the medication, equipment, and supplies for a clinic, and they will be contacting all Faith members and community partners to discuss service at the homeless shelter. We already have contact with Affordable Housing Solutions on the four unit affordable housing project across the street, and will update the congregation on its progress.

We thank God for this SWYC grant money, and we look forward to serving God and the Whittier community together, as part of Faith's mission to **Know Christ, to Grow in Him, and to Show Him to the World.**

The Evangelism Committee will make a summary of Faith's full 10-page grant application available soon.

**"KNOW – GROW – SHOW"** Blessed in our Journey of Faith, the MISSION of Faith Lutheran Church is to KNOW Christ, GROW in Him, and SHOW Him to the World.

**"LOVE – NURTURE – SEND"** Our VISION is to Create a Loving, Nurturing, and Sending Environment where Everyone can Know Christ, Grow in Him, and Show Him, through the Church, to the World.

*I thank Scott and the members of our Evangelism Committee for the hard work that they put into the grant application process and encourage the members of Faith to get involved as we work together to implement the Whittier Neighborhood Project! Please check out some additional news on the backside of this page.*

– Pastor Kory

## A Word of Thanks and an Announcement from SFLS

“SFLS is a wonderful school that cultivates a relationship with our Lord and strives for high academic standards.”

~SFLS Parent, 2016

Dear Faith Lutheran Congregation,

Thank you so much for celebrating our Lutheran schools on Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup>—what a great day of worshipping God together!!

We recently conducted a parent survey and received an abundance of positive comments like the one above. We certainly couldn't accomplish those things without God's help and yours, and are very grateful for the many ways in which the Faith congregation continually serves and supports our school ministry.

Thank you as well to all who were able to attend the Feasibility Forum regarding a future SFLS capital campaign. As promised, the Feasibility Survey is now live on our website. Input from each and every one of you, regardless of whether or not you attended the forum, would be very helpful to our future planning. Please consider taking the survey, which takes about 5 minutes to complete. Your opinions are both needed and appreciated. The survey can be accessed as follows:

1. Go to the SFLS website at [www.siouxfallslutheran.com](http://www.siouxfallslutheran.com)
2. Click the “Feasibility Survey” tab (upper left hand corner)
3. Click the “Click Here to take the Feasibility Survey” link (towards the top of the page in the dark blue banner)

It is both a blessing and an honor to serve God's children alongside you here at SFLS!

In Christ's Service,

Tia Esser,  
Administrator  
Sioux Falls Lutheran School

### Call Meeting - April 3 at 11:45 a.m.

This past Tuesday, March 15, our Church Council voted to hold a special voter's meeting for the purpose of calling a Senior Pastor. The Call Committee has been meeting for several months. The original call list consisted of twelve pastors. Through interviews and gathering additional information, the Call Committee has narrowed this list down to five pastors.

The decision to call a pastor is the *congregation's* decision. The Call Committee has done a great deal of work to assist the congregation in making this decision, but the ultimate decision rests with the voting members of Faith. Therefore, it is critically important that you attend the Call Meeting on April 3. Your ideas, insights, and questions are needed in order to make the best possible decision for the future of Faith Lutheran Church.

Above all, please remember our call process in your prayers, asking that the Lord's will would be accomplished through our decision on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Once one of the pastors receives the call, please also pray for him, his family, and his current congregation.

### LCMS Missionary Speaking at Faith

Rev. Adam DeGroot serves the Lord and His Church in Philadelphia, PA. He is the *only* LCMS pastor serving in the city of Philadelphia and one of just a handful of LCMS national or domestic missionaries serving in the United States. Rev. DeGroot is a native of South Dakota and is currently building a network of support for his mission work in the city.

Rev. DeGroot will preach in all of our services on April 2-3 and also lead a special mission presentation during the Sunday Bible study hour. A door offering will be gathered in support of his mission work. (Checks can be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “DeGroot Mission” on the memo line.) Please plan to worship with us on April 2 or 3!

### The Seven Last Words of our Lord

This Friday, March 25 as we observe Good Friday, we will have a 6:30 p.m. Tenebrae service, or “service of darkness.” The service will be arranged around Jesus' seven last words, spoken from the cross. The following article was written by Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary, as his 2015 “Meyer Minute” devotion for Good Friday:

*Jesus' seven words from the cross... “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). But how often do we taste bitterness because we don't forgive those who have wronged us?*

*“Today you will be with Me in paradise,” Jesus said to the thief who confessed his sin (Luke 23:43). But do we expect heaven without personal repentance?*

*“Woman, behold your son,” He said to Mary. “Behold, your mother,” He said to John (John 19:26-27). But do we let personal busy-ness stop our love for family?*

*“My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mark 15:43). God abandoned Jesus for a short time so that the full judgment against our sin would be felt. But do we trivialize sin?*

*“I thirst” (John 19:28). He said this to fulfill the Scripture, fulfilling all righteousness, but do we make Bible reading optional?*

*“It is finished” (John 19:30). No qualification. Yes, we're sinners, but the price of your sins was paid in full. In full. You can't work your way into heaven; you can only believe the One who opened the way through forgiveness.*

*“Father, into your hands I commit My spirit!” (Luke 23:46). Do you?*

*“May Your life and death supply Grace to live and grace to die, Grace to reach the home on high: Hear us, holy Jesus.” Amen. (LSB 447:21)*