

## To Our Family of Faith

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “...to give you a future and a hope.”*

– Jeremiah 29.11

God’s promise through Jeremiah was given new perspective as I attended our Bishop’s Conference on Ministry in October. The theme was Adaptive Leadership, a relevant subject given our recent experience with COVID in 2020 and 2021 and then the aftermath of hurricane Ian in 2022. Looking back over the COVID years we adapted rather well to the pandemic restrictions and limitations. We found ways to worship on-line, modified communion, even gathered for worship outside. Adapting to circumstances we had no control over, **we continue doing God’s work.**

I remember returning from two months of Sabbatical in September 2022 energized and preparing to resume a normal fall schedule of activities. Tropical storm Ian developed and made landfall here as a slow-moving Category 4(or 5) hurricane. The extent of damage and devastation from Venice to Ft. Myers was unimaginable. With recovery efforts ongoing, **we continue doing God’s work.** Members and our community still struggle; people are hurting. Yet, together **we do God’s work.**

God is with us. God has a plan for us. God knows our future. Because God is faithful, we have hope. The presentations on Adaptive Leadership were based on the experience of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804-6. Not knowing where they were going, except west; not knowing what lay ahead, they pushed forward. The expedition used the resources at hand, improvised, took chances, and persevered toward their goal of reaching the West Coast and mapping a Northwest Passage. Lewis and Clark would never have succeeded had they not adapted to challenges every step of the way.

To adapt to change and challenge, we look at the resources we have. As a congregation and community, we look to our family of Faith, our members, seasonal participants in our life together, those who worship with us and partners in our community. We witness people with skill, resources and opportunity to **work together doing God’s work.** Because of your generosity and faithful use of your talent, treasure and time, we continue to support St Francis Food Pantry, Kid’s Needs, the Camper ministry, our Caring and Eucharistic ministries, Stephen Ministry and Love and Serve with over \$3,000 given to support these ministries this year.

In February and March, we resumed our Friendship table dinners. This was a time for food and fellowship, with old friends and new, in our congregation family. Holy Grounds, an evening of fellowship, music, entertainment, food and fun continued with several scheduled events. This fall our Congregation Picnic returned, and we invited our brothers

and sisters in Christ from Grace Community Church to join us. This fall, Grace Community Church found themselves without a place to worship after their space at Keller-Williams could not be repaired. We opened our worship space to them so they will meet here on Sunday mornings at 11:30 through the end of the year. Adapting and changing, using the resources God has given us, **we continue to do God's work.**

Blessed by God, living in God's faithfulness, knowing that we are moving forward into God's future, we seek your partnership and support **doing God's work.** The refrains are familiar. Everyone has something to offer. We praise God from whom all blessings flow. Will you commit, as you are able, to support God's work with your time, participating in activities, your skill, your gifts used for others, and a portion of your financial resources, to support God's mission?

Please use the Faithful Stewards intent response below on or before November 26, 2023 by returning your response to the church office or the little white church in the narthex. **Help us do God's work** as we plan for 2024.

Looking to our future with hope,

Your Stewardship Committee, Congregation Council and Finance Committee

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Faith Lutheran Church, Rotonda West

**FAITHFUL STEWARDS 2024**



*Giving Intent – Grateful Response*

I/we offer this intent to support God's work through the 2024 General Fund.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Address \_\_\_\_\_

I/we will support Faith for the year 2024 with an intent of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Week/Month/Year

Please circle your giving frequency

\_\_\_ At this time I/we can't commit to a specific amount but will support God's work by keeping the congregation in prayer.

\_\_\_ I/we would like more information about the endowment fund.

*1 Peter 4.10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*