

“Lord, I’m turning this one over to you.”

In early May 2021, an anonymous donor reflected on the Faith Abundance Campaign. “What I loved about the campaign was the focus on outreach by giving away half of the proceeds. It challenged us to look beyond ourselves and make a difference in our community,” they said.

The donor considered making a gift of \$100 to the campaign. The Holy Spirit had other plans. “As I was meditating, I swear I heard the Spirit tell me, “you can do way better!” The donor responded by asking God how they should give. “Lord, I’m turning this one over to you.” This donor added two zeros to their original intention of \$100 and offered \$10,000 if the congregation would match that amount. This is contagious generosity at its best!

Every gift came from a place of JOY and ABUNDANCE. We are blessed to be a blessing.

In just two months we raised nearly \$40,000! We raised enough to earn the \$10,000 match! 80 difference donors, giving from \$20 to \$2,000 made this happen. Every gift matters. Every gift came from a place of JOY and ABUNDANCE. We are blessed to be a blessing.

We will share half of our campaign proceeds (\$20,000) with ministry partners providing housing support, refugee services and essential food. Your gifts care for those who are facing challenges every day. This is how we can spread God’s love! The other half (\$20,000) will be used for needed sanctuary and kitchen upgrades around Faith.



The new freezer enters the building ready to serve.

We have already purchased a new coffee maker and table, upright freezer (our old freezer stopped working), and a soundboard for the sanctuary.

Your generosity and joy are inspiring, Faith. Thank you!

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A Matter of Being There

We're all on the same team when it comes to helping others.

Faith is led by the Spirit to share God's grace. We seek to radically share our abundance, changing lives through food, housing, justice, mission work and resource sharing initiatives.

For Faith member, Dave Fleming, sharing God's grace is simply a matter of being there and listening to people. "It's the old Boy Scout in me," Dave commented. "We're all on the same team when it comes to helping others."

Last summer, Dave learned about "Faith Feeds Our Neighbor" and decided to get involved. Faith purchased vegetable plants using an ELCA grant and invited folks to adopt the plants, nurture them in home gardens, and drop off produce at Faith weekly for transport to our local food shelf. "I had extra garden space. It was one small task and an easy way to give back to the community," said Dave.



A group from Faith Feeds Our Neighbors including Dave Fleming, left.

In January, Dave was invited by Deacon Nina to be Faith's Community Helping Hand Coordinator. After learning what was involved, Dave said, "why not?" As coordinator, Dave is responsible for checking in with Community Helping Hand with an open heart for needs that Faith may be able to help address. He then advocates for these needs as appropriate with our Faith community.

Dave is learning about what produce

items are popular with those who receive food from Community Helping Hand, and more about what role we can play as a church in addressing food insecurity. He's also dreaming of ways Faith can collaborate with other churches and civic organizations to respond to community needs.

Let's all join God's team of helpers. Together as a church focused on sharing God's grace, we make a big difference.

The Ones We Love and Care For

At Faith, we have incredible volunteer ministries of outreach, connection and support.

Faith continues to make an impact on the lives of those in our community. One of the often-unseen ways that we love and care for each other comes through pastoral care behind-the-scenes. Our ministers lead worship in care centers and senior housing, visit those who are struggling with health or circumstances, and sit with families in their grief after the death of a loved one.

At Faith, we also have incredible volunteer ministries of outreach, connection and support. Our Prayer Chain daily lifts up those in need. Our Befrienders' ministry connects one-on-one with those requesting extra support.

Our Elder & Shut-in Outreach touches many families with cards, letters, kids' artwork and phone calls from a team of committed volunteers.

Jill volunteered, but was quite nervous at first. She shared, "After my first calls, I realized how important the calls were and I found enjoyment reaching out to others. It gives oneself a feeling of inner fulfillment."

Another volunteer stressed the gift of two-way relationship in their ministry. Bill said, "You get to share people's lives, their prayers, and make those moments very special."

It may be difficult for us to measure or



Visitation Pastor Steve Melander visits Art Anderson.

see the impact of our pastoral ministries, but God's love continues to shine forth through our incredible volunteers and staff who reach out in relationship to the ones we love and care for. Your financial support and generous sharing of time make these essential ministries possible.

One Good Deed At A Time (Re) Connecting with Faith-From Florida

It feels good to do good!



Six Faith members helped local clean up efforts sponsored by Forest Lake Area Good Samaritans (FLAGS) on May 26. The group picked up 39 bags of trash from around the city. The goal is to make Forest Lake one of the cleanest cities in the US. The FLAGS are committed to paying it forward to neighbors in Forest Lake and surrounding communities by offering time and talents to each other.



A month earlier Faith members Faith members Karen Alm, Nancy Mollner, and the Daniel and Colleen Diemer Family were part of 55 Good Samaritans who collected 187 bags of trash in 2 hours on April 25.

There are more opportunities to help keep Forest Lake beautiful. To get connected with events visit www.goodsamaritansfla.com

It feels good to do good!

Returning to Faith After 30 years

Micki Hartmann was an active member of Faith in the mid-1980s volunteering with the contemporary worship team with Jennifer and Brian Tolzmann playing guitar. "When I came across chords too difficult for me, I just pretended and left it up to Brian and his 12-string guitar!"

In 1993, she met her husband Steve and moved to Florida in 2005. As the decades came and went, Faith was a wonderful memory, but nothing more. Then Steve died from cancer in 2018. In her mourning, she turned more and more to God. "We really hadn't gone to church, but after he passed, I started to look for a church home," she said.

Micki and her mother, who recently moved to Florida, began looking for a church to call home.

And then the pandemic hit.

At the time, Micki worked as a nurse anesthetist. Hospitals stopped elective procedures and since most of Micki's workload was elective, she spent time at home. During the time in quarantine, Candi Anderson, an old friend living in

"I had missed being part of the body of Christ. It made me wonder about what I was doing with my life."

Florida who also hailed from Minnesota, found Faith's live stream. "I had missed being part of the Body of Christ," Micki said. "It made me wonder about what I was doing with my life."

Watching online helps Micki develop a deeper spiritual life. She owes some of this turn to Pastor John. "I must admit that Pastor John's unique style helped a lot! Not stuffy like some of the pastors I had growing up. I felt very included in the worship service. I was even a part of the online congregational singing. That was fun!"

As pandemic wanes, Micki thinks she and her mother will start looking for a church home again. That doesn't mean she will stop watching Faith's services online though. She's recently retired from nursing which means she has more time to worship together with her friends in Minnesota.

Being able to reconnect with Faith has led her to experience Faith in-person. Micki and Candi will drive from Florida to Minnesota in late June to visit family and friends. If you're around on July 4th and you see two unfamiliar women at one of the worship services, be sure to say hello and welcome home.





Making a Joyful Noise- in person!

Another sign of change: 10 choir members met outdoors for the first in-person gathering since COVID-19. Other members attended via ZOOM. Choir director Linda Burk said there were actual tears by the people who attended. "The first time in 15 months that we heard our voices together!"



A Faithful 25 years

If you've passed through the church office in the last 25 years, chances are you were greeted by Deanna Ramberg, our amazing Office Manager. Staff gathered to celebrate her 25 years of service to Faith. Thank you, Deanna, for all you do to make Faith a welcoming and caring place. We appreciate you more than words can say!



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