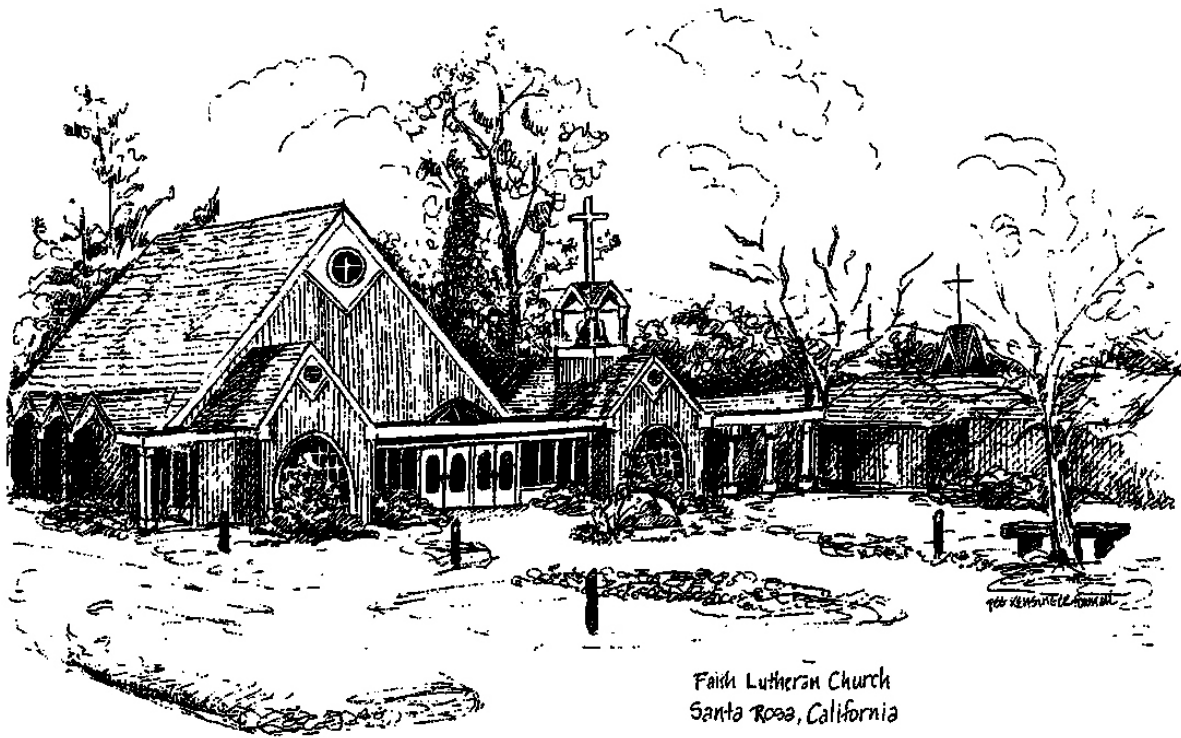


OUR CONGREGATION'S ANNUAL REPORT

2008



Faith Lutheran Church
Santa Rosa, California

Faith Lutheran Church

Prepared for the 49th Annual Meeting of

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Santa Rosa, California**

Sunday, January 28, 2009

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**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES - 1ST HALF
DECEMBER 14, 2008 - 11:30 AM**

The meeting was opened by Mary Lou Christian at 11:30 AM.
Opening prayer by Tim Carnahan.

Voting for church council. Tracey and David were nominated and elected.
Tim made a motion to elect David Bessonon and Tracey Caldera by acclamation to replace Jeanine and Janet. Seconded and approved

Steve Norton made a presentation on the budget. Steve gave thanks to David Lorenzen for his years of good work as Treasurer. Steve then said we have a good chance of making projected budget. There was an unbudgeted expense for a Hands On Faith consultant. This was \$14000 + Miscellaneous expenses. Salaries were raised by 3%.

PG&E bills have been going up, we need to conserve.

Connie will be the new treasurer.

Steve made a motion to approve the budget. Seconded and approved.

HOF building status was then presented by Steve Norton. The Congregation will vote on the full project at the second half meeting in January.

HOF account has started spending some money. Commitments: The architect has been paid \$10,000. He has expended 37 hours at \$80/hr up to now. Survey of pre-school site by Carlyle-Macy has cost \$1462.50. Conventional construction has been recommended as the best value. Estimated at \$660,000. \$1600 is available as matching funds.

Rita McGowan presented an option of setting up an endowment fund through the Community Foundation. The purpose is to set aside funds for future needs. Interest can be drawn out to be used for worthy causes but not for the operating budget. The first step is to raise \$10,000 and then to set up an account with an approved foundation.

Mary Lou Christian asked for somebody to sign us up for Lucky's Market scrip program. Sue Pedigo volunteered.

Motion to close meeting by Tim at 12:27 PM. Seconded and approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT

In you and you alone, dear Lord, there is wisdom and peace. Each day living in the knowledge and love of your Word, we are fed and given drink, empowered and given rest. All that we have and all that we are is laid at your feet because it is all yours. Let us go along your way in the confidence of your promises, in the joy of your presence and in the power of your Word, Amen.

This past year has been one of decisions and debates; plans, dreams and aspirations. We called the Enrichment Group to help us to raise the funds to pursue the vision of a transformed campus and dedicated ourselves to pledges totaling over \$350k in order to regain some of the past while casting a vision into our church's and our community's future. It has been over two years since the kernel of the idea was brought up in church council, and even more years since the idea was first brought up even earlier and much has been learned in all that time.

Mostly we learned that this is a tremendous undertaking, a commitment of time and talent and will and sweat that will in some ways define what we believe and where our faith leads us for some time. We approach the next phase of the decision with trepidation because this is not the world we were expecting to be living in at this time. May God bless us with wisdom to chart a good course, faith to make the bold decision and courage to live as His disciples.

We saw the baptism of several young children including someone who first came to our church because her friend was already a member, already had a love for this place and spoke of that love to those around her. We grew the body of Christ by one loving soul simply by speaking out what we know to be true about God and about God's promises.

That is truly the wonder that has taken hold around here, the wonder of a community that cares for one another and loves one another and shares *that* good news as well as the Good News of Christ's ministry and salvation. When we react to a new person in the pew with the sincere desire to meet and to know them in the name of Christ because that name defines and empowers us, then the church is truly on the move, truly moving ahead into the Kingdom of God and truly a force that can transform our world.

But it was not only hellos that consumed our time, there were also goodbyes. After a long and fruitful life, Lily Greer claimed the promise of her baptism and left a hole in

our church and in our hearts. If she taught us nothing else, it was that so long as there is still joy, then there is still life. More recently we were surprised at Sid Erickson's passing. With a full church and heavy hearts, we bid him a fond farewell, marveling at the power of his gentle witness.

We experienced a completely unique occurrence, a summer in which the worship attendance not only did not shrink as people went about on their vacations and other family obligations, but actually grew as people came in to visit us for the first time, came back to see us after a long absence or merely made the habit of weekly attendance more a part of their lives. It was inspiring to me to see the beauty of the summer day from the altar, looking out over the sea of faces come to hear the Word.

We have been blessed again with new faces on the church council and new faces in our new member class. The times have become more frightening but we have no need to fear because we know that our ending is secure, our fate is fixed and it is glorious in the promises of Christ. In the power of that faith, may we walk forever until Jesus comes.

Pastor Carnahan

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings faithful friends,

Thank you all who have served over the years in capacities large and small, major and minor, indoors and out, in the forefront or behind the scenes. Your contribution is not always noted so please know that we do appreciate each and every effort you make for our church and community. If just getting to church on Sunday morning is all that your strength allows we love you for being here to worship with us.

It is especially rewarding to look to the future and envision that new learning center that you are making a reality. It will enrich the lives of many as we strive to offer a Christian education to members and non-members alike.

Think positive and pray that Faith Lutheran Church will be a focal part of your life in 2009. Search no farther for solace, celebration, and a pastor who lives his calling so well. It's HERE for you.

Faithfully,
Mary Lou Christian

P.S. To see the year in review read the committee reports and be amazed at all we've accomplished.

**ACCOUNT BALANCES
AS OF 12/31/2008**

**PERFORMANCE AGAINST 2008 BUDGET
AS OF 12/31/2008**

APPROVED 2009 BUDGET

| Category Descriptions | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1.0 - General Income Account | |
| 1.1 - Offering Envelope Donations | \$156,000.00 |
| 1.2 - Rental Income | |
| 1.20 How it works AA Sun PM | \$1,500.00 |
| 1.201 Primary Purpose AA Thur Eve | \$1,250.00 |
| 1.202 Men in Transition Wed AM | \$480.00 |
| 1.204 Diamond Meditation 2nd Mon Eve | \$360.00 |
| 1.206 Friday Night Traditions | \$1,500.00 |
| 1.22 So Co Gen Services 1st Mon Eve | \$420.00 |
| 1.23 Came to Believe Sun Aft | \$1,500.00 |
| 1.24 Yulupa Lodge AA Tuesday Eve | \$1,500.00 |
| 1.25 Women"s Al-Anon Mon | \$1,500.00 |
| 1.27 North Bay Excursions 4 AMs per week | \$3,600.00 |
| 1.28 Pre-School (Utilities Reimbursement) | \$6,000.00 |
| 1.29 Summerfield Village Home Owners Association | \$30.00 |
| 1.50 Other Rental Income | \$0.00 |
| Groups discontinued during 2008 | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL 1.2 - Rental Income | \$19,640.00 |
| 1.3 - Other General Income | |
| 1.30 Loose Plate Offerings | \$3,900.00 |
| 1.39 Other General Income | \$480.00 |
| TOTAL 1.3 - Other General Income | \$4,380.00 |
| 1.4 - Interest Earned | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL 1.0 - General Income Account | \$180,020.00 |
| | |
| 2.0 - Christian Education | |
| 2.1 - Sunday School | -\$400.00 |
| 2.2 - Jr./Sr. High Education | -\$240.00 |
| 2.3 - Vacation Bible School | -\$120.00 |
| 2.4 - Adult Studies | -\$60.00 |
| 2.9 - Chris Educ Ctte Misc | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL 2.0 - Christian Education | -\$820.00 |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 3.0 - Buildings and Grounds | |
| 3.1 - Maintenance | -\$2,400.00 |
| 3.2 - Cleaning Services | -\$900.00 |
| 3.3 - Landscaping | -\$2,100.00 |
| 3.8 - Transfer to Major Maintenance Fund | -\$1,000.00 |
| TOTAL 3.0 - Buildings and Grounds | -\$6,400.00 |
| 4.0 - General & Administration | |
| 4.01 - Bank Charge | \$0.00 |
| 4.11 - Office | -\$1,600.00 |
| 4.12 - Postage | -\$600.00 |
| 4.13 - Paper | -\$480.00 |
| 4.14 - Janitorial Supplies | -\$800.00 |
| TOTAL 4.1 - Consumable Supplies | -\$3,480.00 |
| 4.2 - Office Equipment | |
| 4.21 - Copier-Printer-Etc. | -\$2,400.00 |
| 4.22 - Computer | -\$480.00 |
| TOTAL 4.2 - Office Equipment | -\$2,880.00 |
| 4.3 - Utilities | |
| 4.31 - Telephone | -\$1,500.00 |
| 4.32 - P G & E | -\$9,400.00 |
| 4.33 - Water & Sewer | -\$3,400.00 |
| 4.34 - Dumpster | -\$2,400.00 |
| 4.35 - Internet | -\$460.00 |
| TOTAL 4.3 - Utilities | -\$17,160.00 |
| 4.4 - Staff Expenses | |
| 4.41 - Pastor Education | -\$750.00 |
| 4.42 - Staff Education | -\$100.00 |
| 4.43 - Conf. & Conven. | -\$1,600.00 |
| 4.44 - Pastor Professional Expenses | -\$700.00 |
| TOTAL 4.4 - Staff Expenses | -\$3,150.00 |
| 4.5 - Taxes & Insurance | |
| 4.51 - Taxes | -\$1,200.00 |
| 4.52 - Insurance | -\$5,400.00 |
| TOTAL 4.5 - Taxes & Insurance | -\$6,600.00 |
| TOTAL 4.0 - General & Administration | -\$33,270.00 |

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| 5.0 - Sharing Faith | |
| 5.1 - Coffee | -\$200.00 |
| 5.2 - Outreach, Advertising, etc. | -\$1,000.00 |
| 5.3 - Brochures & Printing | \$0.00 |
| 5.4 - New Membership | \$0.00 |
| 5.8 - Social Events | -\$200.00 |
| TOTAL 5.0 - Sharing Faith | -\$1,400.00 |
| 6.0 - Stewardship | |
| 6.1 - Offering Envelopes | -\$300.00 |
| 6.2 - Pledging Materials | \$0.00 |
| 6.3 - Stewardship Drive | -\$100.00 |
| TOTAL 6.0 - Stewardship | -\$400.00 |
| 7.0 - Worship Experience | |
| 7.1 - Music Materials & Licenses | |
| 7.11 - Choir Music | -\$400.00 |
| 7.13 - Worship Music | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL 7.1 - Music Materials & Licenses | -\$400.00 |
| 7.2 - Service Support | |
| 7.21 - Bulletins & Celebrates | \$0.00 |
| 7.22 - Piano Maintenance | -\$180.00 |
| 7.23 - Pulpit Supply (substitute clergy) | \$200.00 |
| 7.26 - Organ Maintenance | -\$1,000.00 |
| 7.27 - Music contractors | -\$150.00 |
| TOTAL 7.2 - Service Support | -\$1,130.00 |
| 7.3 - Altar Guild | |
| 7.31 - Communion Supplies | -\$150.00 |
| 7.32 - Candles | -\$300.00 |
| 7.34 - Christmas Supplies | -\$120.00 |
| 7.35 - Easter Supplies | -\$60.00 |
| 7.36 - Baptism Supplies | -\$100.00 |
| 7.37 - Flowers | -\$100.00 |
| TOTAL 7.3 - Altar Guild | -\$830.00 |
| 7.9 - Worship Experience Ctte Misc | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL 7.0 - Worship Experience | -\$2,360.00 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 8.0 - Salaries and Benefits | |
| 8.1 - Pastor's | |
| 8.11 - Pastor's Salary | -\$31,200.00 |
| 8.12 - Pastor's Housing | -\$21,000.00 |
| 8.13 - Pastor's Automobile Expenses | -\$750.00 |
| 8.16 - Pension and Benefits | -\$21,000.00 |
| 8.18 - Transfer To Sabbatical fund | -\$1,000.00 |
| 8.19 - Housing Equity Allowance (new) | -\$1,600.00 |
| TOTAL 8.1 - Pastor's | -\$76,550.00 |
| 8.2 - Parish Administrator | -\$21,700.00 |
| 8.3 - Choir Director | -\$6,075.00 |
| 8.5 - Accompanist | -\$7,730.00 |
| 8.6 - Nursery Attendant | -\$1,000.00 |
| 8.7 - Worker's Compensation | -\$900.00 |
| 8.81-Payroll Taxes | -\$3,600.00 |
| 8.99-Payroll Service Fees | -\$720.00 |
| TOTAL 8.0 - Salaries and Benefits | -\$118,275.00 |
| 9.0 - Other Expenses | |
| 9.3 - Transfer To Benevolence | -\$15,600.00 |
| 9.4 - Mortgage Loan Interest | -\$2,000.00 |
| 9.5 - Mortgage Loan Principal | -\$6,628.00 |
| 9.8 - Council Discretionary Fund | -\$500.00 |
| TOTAL 9.0 - Other Expenses | -\$24,728.00 |
| 10.0 Youth | |
| 10.2 Monthly Activities | -\$1,200.00 |
| TOTAL 10.0 Youth | -\$1,200.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | -\$188,853.00 |
| OVERALL TOTALS | -\$8,833.00 |

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Individual annual reviews were done with Pastor Carnahan, Mary Lantz, Janice Hall, Mary Ellen Birkland, and Bryanna Lantz. A cost of living increase in salary was recommended.

Our appreciation of the increasing spiritual guidance Pastor Carnahan is giving us was expressed. Mary Lantz continues to contribute to the office expertise. Janice and Mary Ellen have given us a wide array of musical enjoyment and the choir has grown in size. Thanks to Bryanna Lantz for caring for our little ones.

Respectfully submitted: Ward Casper, Helen O'Donnell, Laurie Wennes,
and Jeanine Dahlquist

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE COMMITTEE

So, with a new year and a new person on this committee, I found some things that got done and some things that did not get done. By the end of the year, we got a maybe new treasurer. By now we should know if Connie will stay on or not. She is a find of Lauren's and not mine so I get no credit for this.

I did talk to the church about recommitting their offer for the New Year. I did not get a committee together for stewardship.

John D. Morris (Council Liaison).

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

First, thank you to all the church members who volunteered while I was unable to help this last year. The first time I was able to get up for any length of time was for spring cleaning and that was for a little supervision.

The red cottage was the focus of most of the time and energy on building and grounds this last year. First, and much to our dismay still, is the skunk. Several crews worked to dig a ditch around the perimeter of the building and wire screen was installed. The skunk was detoured, but not stopped. With some additional assistance, Pastor Tim trapped the skunk and relocated it. Unfortunately, another skunk has now found a way under the cottage. This may always be a work in progress.

A surprise visit from the health inspector for the Preschool found problems in the red cottage with other vermin that needed to be addressed. Steve, Chuck, John, Pastor Tim, myself and several other people helped clean up the storage area. Sid Erickson saved the day by installing drywall in two hours, which would have taken the rest of us 5 hours to install.

Norm Neilson replaced the transformer on the security light for the back parking lot.

Thanks again to everyone who helped pull us through this year when I was not able to do much.

Patrick Fleming

MOVING AHEAD / GETTING READY TO BUILD SOMETHING COMMITTEE

This year has passed quickly as we have been moving forward with the plans and commitments made last year.

First among our accomplishments has been the successful conduct of a capital fund raising campaign. We employed Marc Rieke of the Enrichment Group to direct and encourage us along the way. The result was a well organized approach that provided both education and inspiration for the Congregation. John Morris is Chairman and leader of this ongoing effort that found it's identity in the phrase, "Hands on Faith". There were many hands on and hands in this work. Directors for the campaign work areas are: Laurie Wennes, Chuck Hammond, Pastor Carnahan, Lauren Morris, Faith Parson, Marlyse Stocklin, Ardis Smith, Rita McGowan, Hannah Ahders, Debbie Anderson, Donna Besser and Steve Norton. At the conclusion of the six month basic campaign we had a total of \$363,000 pledged to be given over the three year period, July 2008 to July 2011. This is a wonderful result and it has given us the courage and financial resources needed to press forward with the Learning Center planning process.

Next on our to-do list was to evaluate our preschool program and project the needs of our service community forward for at least five years. Primarily we wanted to find out if our program will continue to meet the needs of young families and do so with a financial structure that can be sustained. This effort proved to be difficult and never gained the interest and traction among Preschool Staff, Board and Council members that it needed. Nevertheless we were successful in looking out into the community at a number of similar programs and we accumulated substantial demographic data. This was enough to provide a solid start for a similar effort in the future and to show that we can safely retire some concerns about the future. For example:

- "there just aren't as many young families around as there used to be" - - wrong, data shows that the population in our five zip code core service area has grown 12.1% in the last 8 years.
 - "we are in a bad location - young families can't get here" - - wrong, data shows that our school has drawn families from Bennett Valley, Rincon Valley and even Rose-land in very consistent numbers over the last ten years.
- "our program is just too expensive" - - wrong, data shows that we are within the costs of similar programs including some with corporate, for profit structures.

The final area in which we have been working this year is doing the further planning needed to decide the details of a new Early Childhood Learning Center building. How big, where will we put it, what will it look like on the outside, what is the best space layout for the inside and of course, how much will it cost? We have made a lot of progress. With the help of an architect, John Jones, we have answered all the major questions with enough detail to keep us moving and we are having discussions with two local contractors and two vendors of manufactured structures. Most of the detail necessary to make application for a use permit from the City of Santa Rosa is also now available. There are three drawings included with this report that show all the major aspects of the project as it has evolved and as currently recommended by the working committee. Before the end of this month, we will ask the Congregation to approve starting the construction process: Step 1. will be to obtain the necessary permits, Step 2. will be to complete necessary construction documents, Step 3. will be to arrange any necessary financing and Step 4. will be to select a general contractor to complete the work.

S. Norton
Moving Ahead Coordinator

FAITH LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL AND CHILDCARE CENTER - 2007

Preschool Board Annual Report for 2008
Submitted by John Hall

Financial:

We had a profitable year in first half of 2008. However, the new school year August-Dec'08 has been severely in the red. Maria has already cut hours and will let one staff aide go as of January 1st '09. It is going to be touch and go in '09 financially to keep balanced. Difficult decisions may be needed soon.

We have started an enrollment drive - incentives offered for referrals by families and teachers, new fliers made up to hand out (stack is in Narthex), Steve Norton plans to visit local business with working parents.

Monday discounts implemented to boost Monday enrollment. If Monday is holiday, bring child for free another day of that week instead. Monthly tuition remains the same though.

Fund raising: Cookie Dough sale was done in fall; also in fall fliers were sent out by Kaesa promoting a "virtual" fundraiser (the bakeless bake sale). In spring 2009, April 3/09, the Tim Caine pasta dinner and auction will be held.

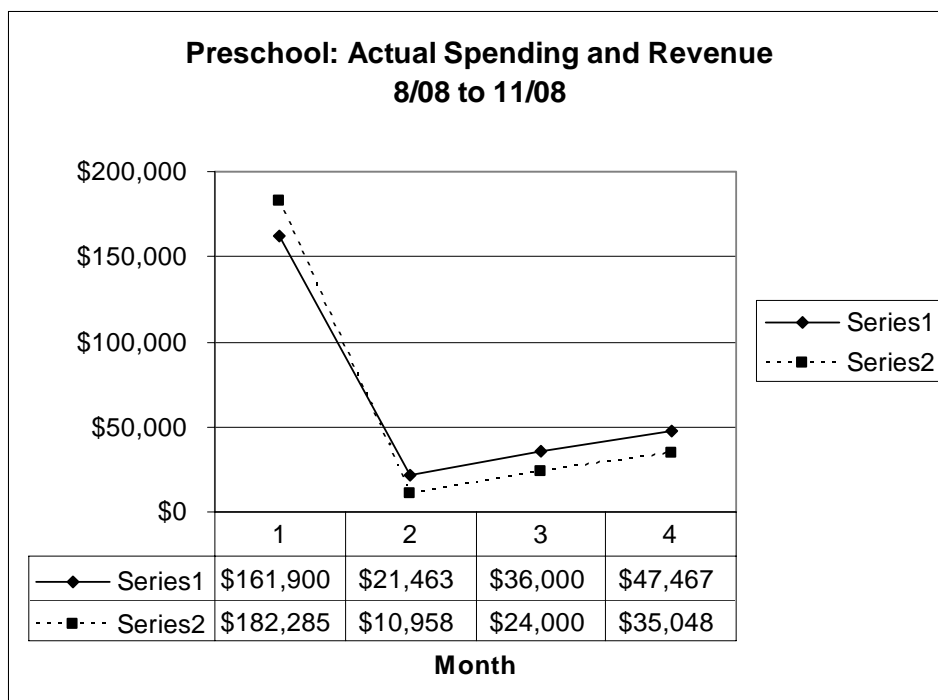


Chart shows how at the end of fiscal '08 revenue (dashed line) exceeded spending (solid line); but that from the first month on of fiscal '09, revenue is running below spending.

Personnel:

In February '08 Ken Lantz had to step down as president of the Preschool Board and I agreed to take over till August '08. I then extended to December '08, and then again till either next December '09 or until I find a full time job.

New congregation members joined the preschool board in June '08: Sue Pedigo, Blythe Babb, and Alice Curtis

New parents joined board in fall: Kaesa Enemark, Sara Bunce

Fresh copies of the Preschool Bylaws and Parent Handbook are now done. We still need an employee handbook. We discovered that the Director's evaluation is part of the duties of the Preschool Board and the Personnel Committee. There seems to be no record of prior director Jill or Maria having been given one. Issue is now actively being worked on and Maria's review expected by January '08.

Facilities:

Red Cottage got a lot of attention this year.

Before Sid Erickson passed away, in order to satisfy Licensing regarding rodent prevention, he was able to sheet rock the storage room that is behind the kitchen

A trench was dug and laid with wire mesh around the entire foundation to prevent the return of the burrowing skunk. Mission accomplished November '08. Many parents and congregation members to thank including Steve Norton, Chuck Hammond, Pat Fleming, Larry Babb, Tim Carnahan, John Hall

Front porch was painted fresh white again. Thanks mom Kaesa Enemark, Steve Norton and Blythe Babb.

A leaky pipe supplying city water was discovered during trenching operation that resulted in new PVC plumbing under the kitchen and out to the playground faucet. Thanks Larry, Chuck Hammond, Louis Stolpp.

Playground saw some nice changes:

Fifty bags, 50lb each, of some very nice new sand was added to the sand box It was picked up and delivered by Ken Lantz.

The roof of the playhouse was overlaid with new all weather sheeting by Tim. A new storage shed for keeping outdoor toys was put up by director Maria's

husband.

The water faucet was replaced with the type Licensing preferred. Thanks to Louis Stolpp.

Hummon Hall door locks were repaired in Nov.

Floors have been sealed and waxed by Tim; one end during summer, other end during Christmas break. East side is being done again week of 12/29.

New Learning Center: Steve has formed a building committee that meets every Tuesday at 9am, consisting of Steve Norton, Mary Lou Christian, John Hall, Helen O'Donnell, Chuck Hammond, Laura Tighe, and Rose Knight. Ruth Bell will attend at times as an interested party. Committee decided to "do it right the first time" and is rallying for a conventional wood building rather than modular. However this means doubling Hands on Faith commitment either in time (from 3 to 6 years) or amount pledged - now need about \$700k.

The location (south east corner), basic design layout (L-shape with 3 classrooms with movable dividers) and size (3000 sq ft for up to 50 kids) have been settled on. Final congregational voting on the go ahead will be in January at the Congregational meeting - 2nd half.

SHARING FAITH COMMITTEE

As in past years, we have a very strong and active committee. On the committee are some wonderful people, **Debbie Anderson, Tracy Caldera, Bryanna Lantz, Mary Seefeldt, &** then there is me, **Janet Hammond**. Together we have fun and would like to invite & encourage others to join us. We meet the second Sunday of each month, but that sometimes changes.

We planned a number of things in 2008. Among them, in February we held the annual **Winter-WineFest**. In May we manned a booth at the **Human Race**, had runners in the **Human Race** and also people at our church passing out water for the hundreds of runners who came by.

In October we had another very successful **Oktoberfest**. Again, **Lou Stolpp** planed and manned the Beergarten and **Chuck Hammond** cooked the sausages. This year everyone was asked to bring something too. We had so much really great food! **Thank you, everyone!**

During Advent we sponsored our yearly **Name Exchange** for the congregation. We encouraged everyone to take a name or names and do something to remember the person or people they had.

We also have **Faith Lutheran Christmas Ornaments** and **Hand-on-Faith T-Shirts** available.

We are looking for other ways to "Share the Faith" here and in the community. If you have any ideas, please let someone know. Thank You.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Hammond for the
Sharing Faith Committee

SOCIAL MINISTRY

Elisha's Pantry was again the main Social Ministry focus this year. Several volunteers from our congregation, including our youth, put in many hours each month at the pantry giving away food. With the downturn in the economy and increase in the unemployment rate, Elisha's Pantry saw a significant rise in our community's need for food. In addition, every third month in 2008 was designated to Elisha's Pantry for our Sunday Social Ministry offering.

Several other not-for-profit organizations were selected at the beginning of 2008 to be our Social Ministry offering beneficiaries. Those include the Human Race, Christmas in July recipients, McDonald Ranch and Senior Advocacy Services. The fifth Sunday of each month continues to be set aside for our church's Deacon's Fund.

Throughout the year, special appeals were made to the congregation for very worthy causes, many of which have personally touched our members.

We heard from the daughters of Dave and Judy Lorenzen who participated in a walk/run to help raise funds for the Lustgarten Foundation, an organization dedicated to pancreatic cancer research.

Rachael Anderson, who was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes in November of 2007 raised money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She formed her own team, "Rachael's Radical Walkers" and participated in the 2008 *Walk to Cure Diabetes* held at Crissy Field in San Francisco. Rachael invited the congregation to join her team and a special Social Ministry offering was taken to support Rachael's cause.

Tracy Caldera invited her friend Janice March and Prof. Lorna Catford from Sonoma State University speak at church on its Collaborative Autism Treatment Supports (CATS) program. Janice is the mother of a teenage son who has autism.

Victim Services Program Therapy Dog volunteer Joan Muzzin arranged for Nancy and Nadine, along with their wonderful, victim therapy dog to join us last fall. Their visit was a particularly fun treat for the children who showered much attention on beautiful Golden Retriever throughout the church service and during children's church. Sadly our support for that important program was "too little, too late." The Victim Services Program through the Santa Rosa Police Department became an

unfortunate victim itself of budget cuts and the downturn in our economy and had to close its doors. Our prayers are with them that they will once again be able to provide support to those who so desperately need it.

Most of our social ministry offerings were eligible for Thrivent matching fund.

We hope to do more for our not-for-profit community in terms of time, money, and prayers in the year to come as we know the need will be even greater.

Respectfully,

Lauren Morris,
Social Ministry Liaison

YOUTH PROGRAM 2008

Youth group is open to children ages 5-18 and we average 8 -12 attendees per event. We always have a good time and enjoy the fun & fellowship of being together.

Activities for January through December included: miniature golf at Scandia an afternoon at Spring Lake swimming & boating, a refurbishment of the youth room - cleaning, painting & decorating, Camp Big Oak-an evening of games, stories-songs-s'mores & sleeping under the stars. volunteering at Elisha's Pantry, movie night and a Christmas party.

In April Pastor Tim, I and five of our youth group (Lilli Anderson, Kendall & Thomas Andersen, Alex Caldera & friend Gabe) went to Mount Cross for a weekend retreat. A wonderful time in a beautiful setting and great fellowship with other youth from throughout the Bay Area.

Plans are in the works for more adventures in 2009, all youth are encouraged to attend and bring a friend.

Helen O'Donnell
Council Youth Liaison

ALTAR GUILD

The ministry of the Altar Guild dates to the earliest Christian times. The Faith Lutheran Altar Guild continues this ministry of preparing the worship space for the gathering of God's family. To accomplish these goals, we arrange, set-up, clean, fix, purchase, make, met, plant, water, polish, clean up and decorate. We do all these things the congregation in perceiving the presence of God in word and sacrament.

We have been honored to prepare the Sanctuary for 52 Sunday services, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve and special preparations for Easter and Christmas.

This fascinating, diverse, congenial, service-oriented community of Altar Guild members accomplishes all of this and more. We welcome all who are interesting in joining us in these activities.

Sadly, we said goodbye to Karen Peterson this year. And we are fortunate that Lucia Stolpp quickly stepped in and took over on the forth Sundays.

Many thanks to all who have donated money for the purchase of flowers. The beautiful flowers greatly enhance our worship service.

Faithfully in Christ,

Blythe Babb, Linda Coffman, Rose Knight, Judy Lindberg, Blanche Mansoor, Janis Motley, Sue Pedigo, Lucia Stolpp, and Tricia Zech

BOOK CLUB

We are sorely missing our leader Lily Greer who died on August 28th. We met on the third Wednesday of each month and we were at her house on the 20th of August when she was presiding. The list of books for the past year are:

- ◆ "The Expected One" - Kathleen McGowan
- ◆ "A Thousand Splendid Suns" - Khaled Hosseini
- ◆ "The Memory Keeper's Daughter" - Kim Edwards
- ◆ "Three cups of Tea" - Greg Martenson and David Oliver Relin
 - ◆ "Sufficient Grace" - Darnell Arnoult
- ◆ "Bold Spirit-Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America"
- Linda Lawrence Hunt
- ◆ "The Friday Night Knitting Club" - Kate Jacobs

At the present time, we have not been meeting as we are looking for another time and day that would allow for new members to attend. After reading the article the Sunday, January 4th Press Democrat on Book Clubs, I can assure any prospective new members, our group is a very congenial Book Club.

Donna Besser

CHOIR REPORT

The choir at Faith Lutheran Church is a dedicated and hard-working choir which has blended not only musically but is also truly a caring choral community. As a member of this organization, we generate support for one another and it is a pleasure to work with a fine group of individuals.

Musically we continue to provide weekly anthems of a varied nature to help support the biblical readings of the day. It is fun to try out new music and re-visit songs we have grown fond of over the years. This is the same feeling we have about new members to our organization. We really have appreciated our newest members and our long-time cornerstones of our choir and our visitors as well. We all remember the delightful music that was brought to us by the male quartet (and accompanist) "4/4 (Four for) His Glory" and were saddened to hear about the passing of their bass and our friend, Jim Reif. The choir purchased an anthem called "Sing Me to Heaven" and sent it to the choir of the Presbyterian Church of the Roses in his memory. Jim was a long-time member of their choir and also served as choral singer and soloist for so many musical events.

Debbie Carnahan has continued to bless our congregation with beautiful flute accompaniments and solos. Congregation members have expressed their appreciation for the extra instrumental parts added to choir anthems and service music. Thank you Terry Larson for adding solid and soulful bass guitar parts. The choir ended and started the choir year with the help of Richard Vegsund (accompanist for 4/4 his glory) playing a four-handed piano accompaniment with Maryellen Birkland on "You Gotta Sing When the Spirit Says Sing" which also featured several children in our congregation. We continue to look for opportunities to bring these sweet, young and joyful voices into our service. Thank you Maryellen for your varied, interesting and always delightful service music and for blending the use of our piano and pipe organ into our worship services. A blended service is always a challenge and the music staff appreciates our congregations willingness to try new things and also for remembering and keeping alive some of our great historic musical traditions. Your continuous support and participation is awesome...

In August we were pleased to sing for Lily Greer's 104th birthday celebration. As a choir, we appreciate all of her musical contributions to Faith Lutheran Church in her many years of service including being one of our cherished choir directors. It was an honor to sing for her Celebration of Life service after she passed away in September. Thank you Lily for your continuous support of our musical community.

We raise our organ chimes to your memory each time they are heard and we will miss the times when we set out to lift your spirit as we made our caroling rounds on "Rosie" the trolley only to experience how much you lifted ours...

The church was host to the Santa Rosa Chamber Singers Fall Concert. Faith Lutheran Church was a new concert location for them and it was a delightful concert that filled our sanctuary with glorious sounds. The concert was well-attended by members of Faith and our efforts to make this choir feel appreciated and welcomed was warmly received.

On behalf of the choir of Faith Lutheran Church, we thank you for another great year. Music is a special way to connect our innermost self with our outer world. Music is something we can all share in and support. In times of trouble, people have been known to sing and in times of joy, people have been known to sing. So how can we keep from singing?

Janice Hall & Maryellen Birkland

PRE-K THROUGH SIXTH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Teaching Sunday School this year has been both a blessing and a challenge. The children range in age from 3 to pre-teen and the number of attendees on any given Sunday can be 2 - 10. It is difficult to plan a program around this set of circumstances. Mary Lantz and I decided this year to try to coordinate the Sunday School lessons with the lessons of the church calendar year so the children would hear the same Bible stories/verses in Sunday School, worship service and Children's Church. Sometimes it works, sometimes not.

We did not have enough children attending on a regular basis to put on a Christmas program so the children sang two songs during the worship service. They accompanied themselves playing tone chimes, bells and guitar. Thank you Garrett Caldera.

Our hope is that the children in our family at Faith Lutheran trust in God's unconditional love for them and learn to "love their neighbors as themselves"

God's blessings on each child.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Wennes and Mary Lantz

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, Concepcion (Maria) Murillo has committed four years to the job of
Preschool Director and,

Whereas, she has committed many more years in the service of children and child
development,

Be it resolved that we, the members of Faith Lutheran Church, commend her, thank
her, and wish her good health and success in all her future endeavors.

Whereas, we the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church have committed ourselves to
the Hands On Faith campaign and have diligently labored and consulted and
discussed for the past year.

Be it resolved that we pledge to give no less dedication to the effort to some, to
determine our path prayerfully, to construct our vision diligently, and to work
together to God's glory in all that we say and do.

Whereas, Jeanine Dahlquist, Janet Hammond, and Hannah Ahders have completed
their service as Council Members and,

Whereas, the following will constitute our 2009 Council Members:

Blythe Babb, David Bessonon, Tracy Caldera, Pastor Carnahan, Mary Lou
Christian, Pat Fleming, John Hall, John Morris, Lauren Morris, Steve Norton,
Helen O'Donnell, Sue Pedigo, and Laura Tighe,

Be it resolved that we thank both the former and current council members and
support them in prayer, word and deed.

Whereas, Pastor Carnahan has been our pastor for over three years,

Be it resolved that we give thanks in daily prayer for the ministry, knowledge, and
enthusiasm that Pastor imparts to us while spreading the word of the Lord.

Whereas, we are a family of professing Christians inspired by God's grace and love,
and we are committed to joyful worship, spiritual growth, caring relationships
and community outreach,

Be it resolved that we practice what we preach! Amen.