

17 January 2016

Dear Faith Church Family,

Many of you have heard me use the expression, "Teamwork makes the dream work!" What I love about this expression is that it emphasizes the importance of coming together to achieve a common goal.

Here at Faith Church, the same idea is true – only we're more than a team, we're a family. We're a family that plays, prays, worships, eats, laughs, cries, grows, and works together. God has specifically brought each of us here to be a part of the Faith Church family.

And it's when we come together as brothers and sisters in Christ, and we invite the power of the Holy Spirit to work among us, that we make the "dream" work. This dream is actually given to us by God - it's His plan for us.

As we move into 2016, let us now, more than ever, keep focused on God's plan for us – to be a Church family that glorifies Him in worship and reaches out to others in the name of Jesus to build God's Kingdom.

Let us each bring our unique gift for use in God's Kingdom. Let us build each other up in love. Let us encourage one another. Let us be servants to one another. Let us be accountable to one another. Let us be family to one another *in here* so that we can reach the world *out there*.

One of the beautiful things about God's family is that there's always room for more. This year, start asking God who needs to an invitation into our church family. Ask Him to show you those who just need to hear three little words – "Come and see."

Sincerely, your sister in Christ,

Lauren Allegrezza

18 January 2015

Dear Members of Faith,

Serving as your President over this past year has been such a privilege. I'm so thankful for this opportunity to serve God and work with you.

Looking back at the past year, two feelings emerge – thankfulness and hope.

Thankfulness because of everything that all of you do for God, this church, and each other. It's been incredible to witness how generous this congregation is with their time, money, and energy.

And hopeful because of the visible ways that God is continuing to move here at Faith. God doesn't always work in extravagant ways. Remember how when God spoke to Elijah that he didn't come in the great wind, or the earthquake, or the fire, but rather, He spoke as a whisper in the sheer silence. God is certainly still whispering and moving here in this building and in our hearts.

Some of the most encouraging trends about Faith this past year have been receiving new members from diverse backgrounds, the variety and creativity in our music and style of services, our tangible progress towards Vertical Worship, and the out pouring of our generosity through social ministry projects.

In Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus, he beautifully explains to them that ***"in [Jesus] the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in [Jesus] you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God."***

When we set Jesus as our cornerstone, God says that He will build us to be where His Spirit dwells – how amazing is that! As we focus everything we do on glorifying Jesus, God will continue to work with us according to His plan, and that is all we desire – to be the church that God wants us to be.

During this 50th Anniversary year, we're in a unique position to look both back and forward. Let's reflect back on God's faithfulness on our journey to where we are now while also looking forward to a future of God's manifest presence here with us at Faith Lutheran Church.

Sincerely, your sister in Christ,

Lauren Allegrezza