



January

The Joyful Noise

2017

“Seek First the Kingdom of God”

So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’
or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

For the pagans run after all these things,
and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.
But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:31-33

“Ask and it will be given to you;
seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives;
the one who seeks finds;
and to the one who knocks,
the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7, 8



As each January rolls around and the calendar flips from one year to the next, attentions are drawn to reflection of the past and looking ahead to the New Year. Many make resolutions to be different in the coming year. Top of many of the resolution lists are exercise and new diets to change the physical health and appearance of the individual. This coming year, I invite you to put your spiritual health at the top of your list with: *“Seek First the Kingdom of God”*.

Being a Disciple of Jesus carefully reflecting on how your faith is growing, developing, and maturing is essential. Just like keeping track with a GPS whether you are on your way to your destination, a Gospel Priority Search of the heart and life are essential. Are you growing in trust? Are you developing deeper faith? Are you maturing in the fruits of the Spirit as evidenced in daily life?

Part of the evangelical challenge of this day and age is that Christians for the most part are no different than the rest of the culture. The clear distinctiveness of the Christian Ethos lived out in priorities, passions, and pursuits is not as evident as Christian discipleship lived out intends these to be. As a result, the invitation, the attractiveness, and the desire to have what a Christian has does not supercede the desire for what the culture can offer.

*There is a way that appears to be right,
but in the end it leads to death.*

Proverbs 14:12

There is only one Gospel that brings life. Jesus Christ died for our sins. Redeemed by Grace not to live a life like others, but to live a life that each new day becomes more and more like Christ. Becoming that new creation. Living that new life in Christ. Growing into it each day. In other words growing into a mature faith.

Jesus answered,

*"It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

Matthew 4:4

The food for maturing faith is the Word of God. So I invite you to hunger and thirst after the Lord your God.

*You, God, are my God,
earnestly I seek You;
I thirst for You,
my whole being longs for You,
in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.*

Psalm 63:1

So for the coming months, and for the rest of your life, I invite and encourage you to put the priority of *Seeking God* above all other priorities. In all aspects of your daily life, from waking to going to sleep, let the constant refrain reverberating in your heart be "*Seek first the Kingdom of God*" - and the promise of God will be yours too: "and all these things will be given to you as well." First and foremost the salvation of your soul and your inheritance kept safe in heaven for you.

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

Matthew 6:21

Peace,
Pastor Jeff

Prayer Moment

O Lord, reassure me with Your quickening Spirit;
without You I can do nothing.

Mortify in me all ambition, vanity, vainglory,
worldliness, pride, selfishness,
and resistance from God,
and fill me with love, peace
and all the fruits of the Spirit.



O Lord, I know not what I am,
but to You I flee for refuge.

I would surrender myself to You,
trusting Your precious promises
and against hope believing in hope.

- William Wilberforce, 1759-1833

Walking in the Word – Tuesday Night Bible Study
January 17th, 24th, & 31st at 7 P.M.



Walking in the Word

We are studying the fascinating book of JOB. This is a great time to join us. We learn together, we laugh together and we grow in love for one another too. Come and Study the Bible with your brothers and sisters in Christ on Tuesdays at 7 pm. We conclude by 8:15 P.M.

Children's Sunday School

Moms, dads, grandmas and grandpas, great-grandma and great-grandpas, these intentional times of discipling will nurture the FAITH of those entrusted to your care. Make a Sunday morning faith commitment for you and your family! Attend Sunday School and Worship together.

*Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not turn from it.*
Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)

Discipleship



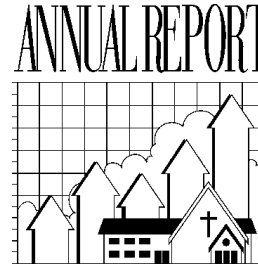
Learn what Jesus taught - Study the Scriptures of Old and New Testament.
Do what Jesus taught - Live what you have learned from the Scriptures
Spread what Jesus taught - Go and make disciples of All Nations.

January 22, 2017 Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship

Following worship, we will gather to celebrate the many blessings the Lord showered upon Faith in Christ all through 2016. We will also look ahead with dependence upon the Lord to bless and transform and grow His ministry impact through us, Faith in Christ, in 2017. The agenda for the annual meeting will include elections for council.

More information will be coming soon in Sunday bulletins

January 29, 2017 Install council members during Worship.



ANNUAL REPORT

All information for the annual report needs to be submitted to the church office by **Sunday, January 11 2017!** You may email your report in a text file. Email to: ficlc@sbcglobal.net

Thank you from the Lee Family

To our family of Faith in Christ:

Thank you very much for the many kind and gracious Christmas gifts. You are a blessing to us and we cherish you..



Love, Heather, Marissa, Aria, and Jeff

BELIEVE

LIVING THE STORY OF THE BIBLE
TO BECOME LIKE JESUS



TNT in January

January 5th
A TNT NEW YEAR

January 12th
Chapter 26
Patience

January 19
No TNT

January 20, 21
TNT Overnight
A Blast from the Past

January 26th
Chapter 27
Kindness/Goodness



ALTAR FLOWER CHART

The 2017 Altar Flower Chart is now available. It is hanging on the wall in the south hallway just outside of the Fellowship Hall.

The cost of each flower vase is \$18.00.

THANK YOU.....THANK YOU.....THANK YOU
IHN MULBERRY TERRACE...

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this outreach ministry. We were able to fill the required number of baskets for families and single individuals. We also gave presents to the children too! Well over 500 items of food were collected to help make a Merry Christmas for another! Thank you for sharing the love of Christ this Christmas.



AND

Thanks so much to everyone who joined us for Christmas Caroling to our homebound.



"HERE WE COME H-CAROLING!"

AND

Thank you to all who helped prepare the church for the Christmas season. All of the decorations and Christmas trees looked wonderful!

Loyal Followers of Christ - (LFC)

Will not meet in January. The next meeting will be on February 3rd, 12 Noon, at Tea Berries Restaurant, weather permitting. Newcomers are always welcome.



Women
in
Service

More MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN 2017



There are many opportunities at FIC to share the abilities God has given you and bring a blessing to others. Join in the Joy and Fun of serving your church alongside your church family. Some of those areas are:

Assisting with Sunday Services.....as Lectors, Communion Assistants, sing in the Chancel Choir, Praise Team, special music, computer projectionist, Etc.

Fellowship Hosts/Hostesses.....we are in need of hosts to simply put on a pot of coffee for our Fellowship time each week. Ask a friend to join with you and it doubles the fun.

Altar Flower Sponsors..... sponsor a vase or two of altar flowers for each Sunday.

Coming soon....share a savory soup or delectable dessert during our Lenten Soup Suppers.

FAITH IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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e-mail address - ficpr@sbcglobal.net (Pastor)

Website: www.ficlc.net

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ministers of the Church	Everyone!
Pastor	Pastor Jeff Lee
Council President	Beth Brown
Music Director	Beth Helwagen
Admin. Assistant	Connie Sanders
Technical Director	Tony Rogers
Confirmation Ministry	Dave & Holly Hare
Teen Servants	Teen Servant Leaders
Scout Master, Troop #311	Scott Day
Cub Pack Master, Pack #311	Jeremy Johnson
Venture Crew Master, #311	Jim Preston



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