



Pastor's Page

1861. There was excitement and anxiety in the air throughout the country and among several Lutherans in Belleville, Illinois. It was the year when the Civil War broke out in the nation and when Lutherans in Belleville, Illinois decided to start a church and a school. This past March Zion celebrated its 150 year as a congregation. It was quite the celebration. They celebrated for one entire year (I was there for most of it!). Zion has for one hundred and fifty years served and ministered to the people of Belleville and its surrounding communities. Those Lutheran Christians went out on faith, trusting in the Lord that He would provide for them and the church in the midst of a Civil War. And the Lord did provide through His people.

This past Sunday the Prince of Peace congregational voters voted to continue working with the architect and to begin a Capital Campaign. We have not committed to the actual building of the addition. We have said that the architect can continue working on designing the building and that we will see what pledges there will be for the building addition. This can be a time of anxiety. Anxious because of the economy. Anxious because of personal finances. But, in the midst of anxiety we have faith in God. We look beyond our anxieties to our God who can do more than we can. We look to the God with whom nothing is impossible (Lk. 1.37).

One person may say, "This is an exciting time at Prince of Peace" while another may say or think, "I'm scared. I'm anxious." Both are legitimate responses to the decisions made on Sunday. As one of your pastors I would like to encourage us all to remain focused on why we are talking about building the addition and to invite anyone who has concerns to contact me (alivefromfaith@yahoo.com) and we can sit down for a conversation. I do not desire that anyone feel marginalized or rejected because of what is happening here at the church. The church is a place where many voices can be heard, acknowledged, and respected and they will be by me and in my office and, hopefully, by everyone else in the church.

In the midst of the exciting and/or anxious times we look towards our God in faith, casting our anxieties on him and trusting that nothing is impossible with God.

May God bless us as we continue walking in faith!

Pastor Chris