



# Faith *In Action*

NEWSLETTER

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Covenant Lutheran Church | 1525 N. Van Buren St. | Stoughton WI 53589 | Telephone: 608.873.7294 | covluth.org

## Hospitality to All

### Recap: A Totally Positive Week

Yesterday Ann and I flew to Arizona for two weeks to visit my sister. In the spirit of our totally positive week we tried to identify examples of totally positive experiences which we could submit to the FAITH in ACTION PROMOTION TEAM to be entered into a drawing for a prize. Our entries included:

- Ann, in an antique store yesterday, was totally positive she could buy anything she wanted. Dave said, "Positively, not!" and smiled.
- These totally positive wrist bands are wonderful, but I've had to snap mine so much I have a blister.
- As we got ready to go to the airport, Ann was totally positive the departure time was 2:00, and I was totally positive it departed at 4. We left for the airport at 2:00, missed our flight which departed at 2, but there was no argument. Neither of us was speaking!

I'm a little disappointed my examples were rejected and never reached the judges! ☺

If you aren't Totally Positive after this past week-end, it is not the fault of the PROMOTION TEAM. Now we focus

on "Hospitality to All" which relates to the launch of our Personal Visits. Again it is important for all of you to know that our intent in our FAITH in ACTION program is to create new friendships and help our members feel a real part of Covenant. These visits are to explain the Vision Goals that are going to be pursued this year, they are to solicit your suggestions as to how we can make Covenant a better place to meet your needs and they are to offer you the opportunity to send prayer requests or praise comments for our Prayer Vigil coming on March 26. Those of us who have been working hard to make FAITH in ACTION a good experience for everyone have been experiencing an amazing sense of enjoyment, enthusiasm, and energy. Believe it or not, it has been fun! We want all of you to feel some of that. If you are not a part of our committees, or if you want to be involved in any way, we want to hear from you. As you learn about the goals that have been developed, you might find one that would be interesting to you. If so, let us know so we can help you be involved.

Thank you, *David and Ann Nelson*

## Events

March 12/13: Hospitality to All

**\*FOOD PANTRY DRIVE\***

The Social Justice Team together with Faith In Action would like to challenge each member to bring non-perishable food items to church next week. Donations can be placed in the shopping cart in the narthex.

March 19/20: The Greatest is Love

March 26: Prayer Vigil

April 2: Gala Dessert Feast

April 9/10: Commitment Weekend

April 16/17: Faith in Action Weekend

## MISSION

To provide a clear vision for the Covenant Lutheran family to help it be purposeful and motivated in our ministries.



God's Work. Our Hands.

# Prayer Vigil: March 26/27

James 2:18b

Join the Covenant Family to fill our church with prayer! Twelve hours of continuous prayers are being planned for the weekend of March 26/27. Consider signing up for an hour during the Faith in Action Prayer Vigil. Leave the hectic outside world for an hour and join the calm and quiet of prayerful, individual conversation with our Heavenly Father, in the embrace of fellow Covenant family members. Meet at church for your hour. Prayer guides will be available to direct you through your prayer hour. Look for more details in next week's news *Faith In Action* newsletter!

Show me your faith  
apart from your works,  
and I by my works will  
show you my faith.

Prayer is our conversation with our Heavenly Father and He desires to hear from you. Join this unique opportunity to pray for the mission He has entrusted us with and for Stoughton and our faith community. ✈

## Gala Dessert Feast: Saturday, April 2

### Sign-up Sheet Now Posted!

To have the best ever dessert feast, we need your help. The dessert sign-up sheet is at our Information Booth in the Narthex. If you know what you want to bring, please list it on the sign-up sheet next to your name to help us plan to have a wonderful variety of treats.

RSVP forms for the Dessert Feast are now available at all services, the information booth and in some of our mailings. You can drop them into the offering plate or leave at the information booth. We also want to publish our first *Best Desserts of Covenant* recipe booklet. Please bring your recipes to the Dessert Feast or include them with your RSVP form. We have Pink Velvet Cupcakes and homemade chocolate candies already on the list. ✈

## Community Events Team

Marion Rambo and Ann Nelson have been working on a Syttende Mai project called Covenant Coffee and Treats which will mean serving egg coffee and Norwegian treats. The location will be what was the old Citizens' Bank on Main Street and the event will be shared with the Norwegian-American Genealogy Center and Naeseth Library in Madison which should be a very good fit.

We are seeking someone to step forward and supervise the construction of a Covenant float for Syttende Mai as well. ✈

## Connections

Being at the front end of Faith in Action affords a very reassuring perspective. We see the "snowball" effect has taken over, and it's just plain fun to take a deep breath and watch it happen.

Nary a Connection Team caller is just sitting back eating bon bons right now. They weigh in periodically with questions and suggestions and stories to warm your heart and kindle the flame. That is exactly what they do.

Callers are customizing the suggested phone script to give their message heart. It strikes me as the very way to break down the walls when you are talking to people you may not even know.

The big push for the Connection Team is up front. Would we stop here? Certainly not! We thank everybody who has helped us do our part. *Let the snowball roll...*

I have a friend whose congregation is also starting this emphasis (FIA). She said that she has never in her 40+ years of adult life seen anything that is so systematic, so well staged and that SO honors each person and which also recognizes the GIFTS of each person, their capabilities and their limitations. Already dozens of people at Covenant have stepped up "to the plate"...to listen to the needs, wishes of members of Covenant and to envision what could be done together at Covenant, in our community in partnership with others, and in the world, for the well-being of all. As ideas have been generated, we want to share those with you. *It is an exciting time!*  
*Penny and Greg Vodak*