

## Pastor's Letter for December Newsletter

December marks the beginning of the church calendar with the season of Advent as we wait and hope for the Promised One. We have just celebrated our Imagine Capital Stewardship Campaign and the tremendous commitment that we as a congregation have made! This gives us something additional to hope for as we expect and plan to build a new social hall and activity center in the months ahead!

The Imagine campaign has been a journey of renewal for us. Not just a fund-raiser, but also a spiritual temperature raiser! We engaged in prayer and fasting. We participated in a 24-hour day of prayer that many report has been a gift to them - the gift of an hour to be in prayer without interruption and without excuse. We have engaged in fellowship as we began to share the God-sized vision that we are being called into with this building project. We have been brought together around a common purpose and goal, one that has brought healing to some relationships and fostered new relationships within the body of Christ at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church.

What a counter-cultural witness it is to be able to say that we have committed the money to build a building in this economy. What a witness it is that we are doing Christ's kingdom work, and doom and gloom are not going to hold that back! What a witness it is to the Lordship of Christ – an acknowledgement that all we are and all we have is his.

With the new church year we enter the year of Luke. Luke's gospel is all about the "journey" motif. We have embarked on an exciting journey. Thanks be to God that Jesus leads the way as we follow in faith.

Peace,  
Pastor Chris