

Faith and Grace Parish is an exciting new ministry opportunity which combines the congregations of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Golden, Salem Lutheran Church of Mendon and Zion Lutheran Church of Liberty into one three point parish. The purpose is to maintain God's presence in each of the communities we serve. This geographical parish will enable cooperating congregations and pastor(s) to share strengths and benefits through shared ministry opportunities, resources, programming and cost/purchase savings.

The three churches are located in Adams County and are in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod, within the Northwest Conference. Each congregation is rurally located within the corporate limits of each respective village, with agriculture being the primary economic focus. The area, however, is fortunate to be located near two medium sized cities. Quincy is the closest major retail outlet and hosts two colleges, Quincy University as well as John Wood Community College. Macomb is the other major community and it is host to Western Illinois University. Most major retailers can be found in either community and the parish is located within a few miles of the Mississippi River. There are two Illinois state parks within a short driving distance, Siloam Springs State Park and Weinberg King State Park. Hannibal, Missouri is just across the state line, easily within one hours driving time and Springfield, Illinois or St. Louis, Missouri are within a couple of hours driving time. The area is served with jet service out of Quincy Regional Airport, Chicago/Kansas City Expressway is close by and the area also has Amtrak rail service. Many golf courses are located within minutes of each community and YMCA's are located within 20 minutes of all three towns. Quincy is renowned for its architecture and performing arts. Hunting, fishing, boating, hiking and nature watching are leisure activities that are found close by. Blessing Hospital located in Quincy, is the nearest hospital with numerous clinics and rapid care centers in the area. There are many major employers in the area including manufacturing, ag related industries, DOT Foods and a state prison are both located in Mt. Sterling, IL. High speed internet connection is provided to the area by Adams Fiber which is a subsidiary of Adams Telephone Co-op located in Golden, IL. Each community has an active Lions club.

Some of the challenges faced by the three point parish are:

1. Each community is served by a different school district, Liberty Community Unit School District #2 for Liberty, Camp Point Central Unit School District #3 for Golden, and Unity Unit School District #4 for Mendon,
2. Mileage from Golden to Liberty is about 22 miles, from Golden to Mendon 22 miles, and from Liberty to Mendon is 26 miles.
3. How do you service three congregations each Sunday? (We anticipate a Synodically Authorized Minister will assist the ordained minister in carrying out the duties of Pastor.)

The current status of the Faith and Grace Parish is as follows;

1. We have a signed written agreement between the three congregations which lays most of framework for the creation of Faith and Grace Parish. Through the process, we all learned how to work together to strive for a greater vision.

2. According to the 2017 ELCA Yearbook:

Church	Baptized Membership	Worship Attendance
Immanuel, Golden	162	49
Zion, Liberty	143	20
Salem, Mendon	<u>137</u>	<u>32</u>
Totals:	442	101

3. We feel the framework created will lend itself well to the development of leadership within the membership of the parish.
4. The website: <http://www.faithandgraceparish.org> has been developed and is functional.
5. By pooling gifts, talents, and finances, it makes it more feasible for some ministries to get off the ground. By itself, one congregation may not be able to undertake a particular ministry, but three congregations working together make it much easier for that to happen. A geographical parish has a larger membership base, more people available to share their gifts, and a healthier financial base to support its' ministry than three separate congregations.

Each congregation has been involved in various ministries. We offer the following to help you to get a "feel" of where the churches are at this point and to assist you in thinking through what possibilities could be developed and implemented through the parish concept.

**Immanuel, Golden current ministries:**

- **Youth and Family Ministry** *This is a joint venture with another ELCA congregation also located in Golden (Trinity Lutheran). The primary focus is youth through high school and intergenerational activities. We have a compensated Youth and Family Ministry Director in place.*
- **Gospel is Golden** *Primarily this is an Immanuel generated ministry which has brought several nationally known and highly rated Southern Gospel performers in concert at the historic Golden Windmill. This ministry certainly reaches across denominational lines and is now in its 8th year.*
- **Grace Giveaway** *Much of the earnings of endowments of Immanuel Lutheran Church is given away annually in support of various local, regional, national and international ministries*
- **Kids Club** *A joint venture with Trinity during the school year for an after school program for youth K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. A combination of paid staff, high school volunteers and adult volunteers interact with area youth, many of who have no church affiliation, to bring the Good News of Christ through activities, games, and fellowship. Immanuel volunteers provide the majority of staffing.*
- **Golden Good Shepherd Nursing Home** *This is a local 48 bed skilled care nursing home which was built as a community project through cooperation with all the local churches. This nursing home has been a major benefactor of Immanuel Lutheran Church.*
- **LYO and Sunday School** *Our LYO and youth Sunday School program is conducted jointly with Trinity Lutheran Church, Golden,*

- **Community for Christ Assistance Center** *This is a cooperative effort that provides a food pantry, financial assistance and a community thrift store to benefit the area. This effort is supported by 23 churches from many surrounding communities and truly is a shining example of the cooperative spirit of the area.*
- **Operation Christmas Child** *The regional volunteer for Operation Christmas Child is an active Immanuel member who has had great success in generating participation throughout the region in this ministry.*
- **Heifer International** *This year's noisy offering yielded in excess of \$1100.00 to support Heifer International and is supported through our youth and family ministry.*
- **Disaster Relief** *Both through Lutheran Disaster Relief and through individual charities, Immanuel has generated thousands of dollars over the years to help those in need.*
- **Scholarship Fund** *Immanuel helps provide funding for seminary students, which does not have to be paid back upon the successful completion of seminary. The fund can also supply low interest loans to members pursuing higher education. Immanuel has produced several ministers, one S.A.M. and currently has one member in seminary.*
- **Lutheran World Relief** *Annually the congregation makes quilts, collects items for, assembles health kits and provides financial support for LWR.*
- **C.R.O.S.S** *Is a loosely formed organization and stands for Churches Regionally Organized for Support and Service. It provides a common means of communication and support through much of our conference.*

#### **Zion, Lutheran Church, Liberty, IL.**

- **Liberty Food Pantry** *Zion has for years supported the Liberty Food Pantry. Members of Zion serve as directors in this community ministry.*
- **Ursa Retreat House** *This is a retreat facility that is funded through various churches throughout a rather large geographically area. This facility has many nice facilities available for church group use.*
- **Operation Christmas Child** *Zion has actively participated in this charity.*
- **Girl Scouts** *The senior troop at Liberty utilizes the church building and their leader is an active Zion member.*

#### **Salem Lutheran Church, Mendon**

- **Pact Head Start** *The congregation provides low cost space within its church basement for the local Pact Head Start program.*
- **Unity School District** *When numbers exceeded the districts capacity, Salem has offered additional classroom space in its church basement.*
- **Ursa Retreat House** *In addition to annual membership dues, Salem has a once a month offering in support of the ongoing ministry at the retreat house. Salem has also provided financial support for the capital campaign. This is a retreat facility that is funded through various churches throughout a large geographical area and has many nice facilities available for church group use.*
- **Operation Christmas Child** *Salem has actively participated in this charity.*
- **World Hunger** *Salem has monthly second offerings in support of the World Hunger campaign through the ELCA.*

- **Local Unmet Needs** *Salem is a congregation with a big heart. In the fall of 2018 the congregation through its own effort, bought a handicapped equipped van for a family who was in need. The recipient was not a member of the congregation or of the community but when the need became known, God's people responded.*
- **Lutheran World Relief** *Annually the congregation collects items for and assembles health kits and also provides financial support for LWR.*
- **C.R.O.S.S** *Is a loosely formed organization. Churches Regionally Organized for Support and Service is what the acronym stands for. It provides a common means of communication and support though much of our conference.*

We believe that you will find a flexible, enthusiastic pool of people eager to support and work with you in your ministry. We look forward to answering any questions you may have and look forward to hearing from all interested candidates. Faith and Grace Parish is committed to meeting all Synod compensation guidelines for our clergy. More detailed information may be available from the Ministry Site Profile for each individual congregation. If you would like to view our signed parish agreement, it is posted on our website.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Faith and Grace Parish and we wish you the best for your ministry in the future, whether it is with Faith and Grace Parish or somewhere else where God is calling you to. Peace and Blessing be with you!