



FAITH NEWS

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2023

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

At the Leadership Council meeting in November, as we do each year, we turned our attention to the upcoming budget. One of the unique tasks of 2024 is considering how to organize a budget while knowing that we are about to embark on a season of strategic planning.

As I mentioned last month, we are looking to create a strategic plan for our congregation in the first half of 2024. In this time of planning the question is, "Where is God calling Faith?" Listening and discerning that answer we then get to prayerfully set our course toward our 100th anniversary in 2027. However, a limitation of a traditional 12 month budget is that they lock congregations into that financial reality for the year.

An idea has been proposed to create a six month budget from Jan-June 2024, with a second budget presentation & vote happening in June. This split budget approach allows us the opportunity to focus on both the financial & missional health of Faith throughout the year.

A six month budget approach will allow us both the security to plan for the first half of the year, and also the flexibility to adapt our budget to the goals that arise from the strategic planning meetings. If some ministries are viewed as non functioning it would make sense to remove them from the budget. Likewise as new ideas for ministry and programming come out of these sessions that excite the congregation, we could "strike while the iron is hot" and add them into the budget. Balancing the financial & missional health of Faith is key.

Our strategic plan will stretch over the first half of the year and can best be understood in three phases.

Phase 1

Celebrate & explore our sense of identity and the mission to which God has called us.

Phase 2

Explore our neighbors & neighborhood, identifying the context God has called us to.

Phase 3

Chart a course for our future rooted in this understanding of ourselves, our context, and mission, moving into God's future for Faith!

These strategic planning sessions will happen in the sanctuary in lieu of Adult Forum in 2024, coffee & donuts are welcome!

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Our hope is that those at worship on Sunday morning will stay and be part of planning our future together.

In addition to these Sunday morning sessions, there will be other opportunities to interact as we seek the input of members in-person & online, as well as community partners & neighbors.

I invite you to stay tuned for the many and various ways we will be asking for your vision of Faith Lutheran Church, and where God is leading us.

I know that to some this may feel like a lot, especially with the holidays around the corner. There will be more information regarding events, sessions, and other opportunities in the New Year.

Advent is a season of preparation. As we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Christ child, and the eventual arrival of the Magi with their gifts, I am thankful for the gifts you bring, your time, yourselves, and your possessions, as we prepare to discover where God is calling us in the next 100 years.



Christmas Tree Decorating **December 16th, 10:00AM**

Join us for this all church event as we decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary! Donuts, coffee, and hot chocolate will be provided, and we will have music by our DJ Larry Allen!

October 2023 Treasurer's Report

Linda Mittermaier

The chart below shows the results for October in the Operating Fund.

Operating Fund Results	Monthly			Year-to-Date		
	Oct 2022	Oct 2023	Budget 2023	Oct 2022	Oct 2023	Budget 2023
Support and Revenue	\$ 15,171	\$ 13,638	\$ 15,717	\$ 161,879	\$ 152,937	\$ 157,170
Expenses	18,044	18,423	18,193	190,014	180,814	181,864
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (2,873)	\$ (4,784)	\$ (2,476)	\$ (28,135)	\$ (27,876)	\$ (24,694)

Despite being a 5-Sunday month, we experienced a large deficit in October: \$4,784, compared with a budgeted deficit of \$2,476. While expenses this year are in line with the budget and about \$10,000 lower than in 2022, offerings are lagging behind both the budget and the 2022 levels.

The year-to-date operating deficit is \$27,876, which is \$3,182 greater than budgeted. Because the September balance in the Operating Fund could not cover the October deficit, we transferred \$5,000 from the Young Fund to keep a small positive balance (about \$565) in the Operating Fund.

October offerings for other funds included \$1,300 for Cause of the Month (LSS Choices), \$850 for the Property (Loan) Fund, and \$280 for the Then, Now, Forever Fund.

If you would like more details regarding our financial position, including resources in our non-operating funds, please check the bulletin board to see a full set of financial statements.



Alan Mittermaier bringing in donations to LSS Faith Mission this spring.

CAUSE OF THE MONTH

Our December Cause of the Month is Faith Mission socks & shoes. In partnership with Meijer stores, we aim to purchase at least 100 pairs of socks & shoes for our neighbors in need this holiday season. We thank Alan Mittermaier for leading this great ministry. Please contact Alan (614-236-8345 or alan@healthmetrixresearch.com) with questions or to get involved!



Busy Bees

- Thanks to Rev. Seminarian Albie Nicol for leading us in worship last month!
- Thanks to our outreach board and all who helped make the veterans Christmas Party a reality!



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

04 SUSAN CASE	23 HUDSON KUHN
06 BECKIE LANTTO	23 HERB SCHOLES
09 JUDY PHERIGO	26 CAROL BARBER
15 JOE HAAS	27 EMMA SOUTHWARD
17 CHARLENE COY	29 ANGELA OLIVA
21 MARY MARTIN-THOMAS	

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

09 CHUCK & MARY MARTIN-THOMAS
19 DEAN & TERESA CHAPPELLE
30 BILL & JUDY BRENNING

Prayer Requests

- Family of Mike Finneran, who are dealing with the aftermath of a suicide in the family.
- Family of Dean & Teresa Chappelle, who recently lost their infant grand-niece.
- Gary Martin, Jodie Martin-Oiler's brother, who is recovering from multiple complications from a knee replacement.
- Jaydin Warschauer, Jodie Martin-Oiler's granddaughter, who is struggling with panic
- Alan Ratcliff, friend of Roger Southward, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.
- The Wilber-Flint Havens Family, friends of Pastor Hille, whose child Raleigh is at Nationwide Childrens Hospital.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Holidays in BLUE - Festivals and Commemorations in GREEN					1	2
3 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:35AM Spiritual Growth 11:40AM Zoom	4 7:00PM Praise Board	5 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00PM Resource Board	6 10:00AM Advent Morning Prayer 12:00PM Quilters 7:00PM Christmas Eve Super Choir	7 9:00AM Men's Breakfast (TeeJay's) Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397	8	9 1:00PM Veteran's Christmas Party (Livingston Commons)
10 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:40AM Zoom	11 Lars Olsen Skrefsrud, Missionary, 1910	12 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) 1:00PM Circle Bible Study	13 10:00AM Advent Morning Prayer 12:00PM Quilters 7:00PM Christmas Eve Super Choir	14 John of the Cross, Renewer, 1591	15	16 10:00AM Christmas Tree Decorating!
17 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:40AM Zoom	18 7:00PM Council	19 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)	20 10:00AM Advent Morning Prayer 11:30AM Circle Bible Study (@ MCL Café) 7:00PM Christmas Eve Super Choir	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:30AM Christmas Pageant (Sanctuary) 11:40AM Zoom 7:00PM - Christmas Eve (Sanctuary) 11:00PM - Christmas Eve (Zoom)	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) St. Stephen, Martyr	27 12:00PM Quilters 7:00PM Christmas Eve Super Choir St. John, Apostle, Evangelist	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:40AM Zoom	1/1/24 Church Office Closed		<h1>December</h1>			

Would you like your ministry included on the church calendar in the Faith Newsletter? Please contact the office at (614) 237-4241 (or) faithoffice@faithwhitehall.com



Faith Lutheran Church

faithwhitehall.com

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Support Faith Online Here

Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 7:00AM - 4:00PM

