



FAITH NEWS

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2023

A LETTER FROM PASTOR

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Over the last few weeks, the Saturday emails have intentionally looked different both in content & form. It has been my goal to invite you to consider giving as integral to the life of the congregation, as well as an act of worship and support. This lengthy ongoing conversation is a different approach to giving.

In years past, members would receive a letter focused on giving and the upcoming year's budget that would contain an Intended Giving card. Church trends across the country show this approach leads to both positive and negative results. On one hand, Intended Giving cards are returned to help the council create the following year's budget. On the other hand, there is generally low attendance on "Giving Sunday" as trends show some people don't like that outward display of giving and commitment. It's a fascinating correlation.

Enclosed in this month's newsletter you will find a 2024 Intended Giving card. If you would like to be part of the Procession of Pledge Cards, you are invited to do so on Sunday Nov. 19th. If processing is "not your thing" please mail in your card, drop it in the offering plate the week before or after, or visit the church's [Vanco page for online giving](#). Links to our online giving site are also located both in the Saturday emails and on the church website. Intended Giving cards will also be located in the pews, since your intended gifts enable our council to create the budget for the upcoming year. However you choose to signify your gift, thank you for your continued generosity that sustains our ministry together.

In December the council will once again gather to draw up an intended budget for the upcoming year. Again, thank you for your generous gifts that make Faith Lutheran Church a reality. Every dollar you give will be used to support the many and various ministries of Faith. From feeding neighbors at Taco Sunday and providing a voting location in Whitehall, to gathering for worship and providing an online Bible study, our general budget is the fiscal bloodline for all the ministries we provide. Thank you for your support.

It's true that the fiscal realities for congregations the size of Faith are hard across America. It's also true that we are not an exception. As we draw closer to the 100th anniversary of Faith in 2027 lots of conversations & time has been spent at council discussing ways to further create, develop, & support the ministries of our congregation.

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One step we will take together is the development of a strategic plan. This will be built by the congregation together in planning sessions during Adult Forum. Though each strategic plan is unique to its context, there are similarities in how all are developed. First we will look to celebrate and learn from the rich history of Faith exploring our current sense of identity and the mission to which God is calling us. Then, we will explore our neighbors & neighborhood, identifying the context in which God has called us to live out our mission. Finally, we will chart a course for our future rooted in this understanding of our mission, our context, and ourselves.

We are looking to create this plan before summer, visioning the course for the years leading up to our 100th anniversary in 2027.

Your generous gifts allow us to boldly and confidently chart our course to the future that God is calling our ministry too.

Whether you give online or in person, thank you for your gifts that secure our future. Whether you walk forward on Nov. 19th or put a stamp on a letter, your action of giving is essential in giving Faith a future.

And whether you have grown up in this community, or have recently joined, thank you for ensuring that our ministries will continue to feed people, support neighbors, and share the good news of Jesus Christ so that all people will know Him.



September 2023 Treasurer's Report

Linda Mittermaier

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

Operating Fund Results	Monthly			Year-to-Date		
	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Budget 2023	Sept 2022	Sept 2023	Budget 2023
Support and Revenue	\$ 13,285	\$ 14,052	\$ 15,717	\$ 146,708	\$ 139,299	\$ 141,453
Expenses	17,242	17,888	18,193	172,059	162,376	163,704
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (3,957)	\$ (3,836)	\$ (2,476)	\$ (25,350)	\$ (23,077)	\$ (22,251)

The deficit for September was \$3,836, compared with a budgeted deficit of \$2,476. While expenses have remained within budgeted amounts in 2023, offerings have not. In fact, average monthly offerings have declined as the year has progressed. With a continuing series of monthly deficits, even greater than what was budgeted, the balance in the Operating Fund was exhausted in September. We transferred \$2,000 from the Legacy Fund to keep a small positive balance (\$413) in the Operating fund.

September offerings for other funds included \$1,000 for the Legacy (Memorial) Fund, \$520 for Cause of the Month (Lutheran World Relief), \$1,625 for the Property (Loan) Fund, and \$655 for the Then, Now, Forever Fund.



NOVEMBER CAUSE OF THE MONTH

Our November Cause of the Month is LSS Food Pantry. The food pantry, located on Champion Avenue, provides our local community with meals/food support to those who are in need and unable to access proper nutrition. Join us in supporting this great community outreach.



Busy Bees



- Thanks to Rev. Rebecca Grate and Kelley Frank for filling in last month!
- Thanks to all who helped make the LWR quilt ingathering a success!
- Thanks to all our ministries at Faith who fed our community through many successful Taco Sundays in 2023!



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

02 MARGE SIXT	17 REBECCA TETER
06 THOMAS CHAPPELLE	19 JON SHERMAN
06 PAIGE OLIVA	22 JERRY ROFF
07 KAREN BROWN	22 GRANT VON VILLE
08 KAREN SOUTHWARD	27 ANDREW KUHN
10 JARED FERGUSON	27 MARC MILLWATER

NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

05	GEORGE & DORRIE MAYER
26	ROGER & KAREN SOUTHWARD

Prayer Requests

- LeRoy Pherigo, who is recovering from a harsh fall on 10/9
- 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 attacks.
- Ken Weixel, former member, who has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.
- Jack Sullivan, great grandson of Jodie Martin-Oiler, who has a hernia and a mass that may require surgery.
- Alan Ratcliff, friend of Roger Southward, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Holidays in BLUE - Festivals and Commemorations in GREEN						
<h1>November</h1>			1 Day of All Saints 12:00PM Quilters	2 9:00AM Men's Breakfast (TeeJay's)	3	4
5 All Saints Sunday 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:40AM Zoom	6	7 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00PM Resource Board	8 12:00PM Quilters	9	10	11 Martin, Bishop Of Tours, 397 Veterans Day
12 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:40AM Zoom	13	14 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) 1:00PM Circle Bible Study	15 12:00PM Quilters	16	17	18
19 - Procession of Intended Giving Cards 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:40AM Zoom	20 7:00PM Council	21 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)	22 12:00PM Quilters	23 Clement, Bishop, 100 Thanksgiving	24	25 Isaac Watts, Hymnwriter, 1748
26 Christ the King 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:40AM Zoom	27	28 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)	29	30 St Andrew, Apostle		

INTENDED GIVING 2024

NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____



IN SUPPORT OF OUR MINISTRY, I/WE INTEND TO GIVE

OFFERING \$ _____ WEEKLY | MONTHLY | ANNUALLY

LOAN \$ _____ WEEKLY | MONTHLY | ANNUALLY

SIGNATURES _____