

# FAITH NEWS

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2024

## A LETTER FROM PASTOR

Happy New Year!

It is a blessing to enter into another year of ministry with you here at Faith Lutheran Church, and this year will be a big one. 2024 may not be as big as 2027, when we celebrate our 100th anniversary, but it will be just as exciting as we begin to prepare for our first centennial. What the first half of 2024 has in store for us is a time of strategic planning as we set the course for 2027 and beyond.

A lot of our work will be rooted in the Southern Ohio Synod's "Collaborative" process. I've had the privilege of working with our synod's Collaborative Team over the past few years and believe that this combination of prayer, reflection, theological awareness, organization celebration, asset mapping, value identification, and visioning will be of great benefit.

I realize that I just listed off 7 different parts of this process. Whereas that might seem overwhelming, strategic planning takes time, commitment, patience, and trust in God, ourselves, and this community. Seven is also a wonderfully biblical number.

The plan is for our strategic planning sessions to follow worship in the sanctuary beginning in February. My desire & hope is that as many people as possible will stay and help us envision the future of Faith. *It's imperative to note that, yes, coffee and snacks are welcomed in the sanctuary!* There will also be online ways to contribute, as well as a few Zoom sessions as a secondary presentation of quintessential information.

I hope you will join us for the **Congregational Meeting on January 28th after worship** in the sanctuary where I will present a detailed roll out for the strategic planning sessions.

To support our time of planning & visioning, at the January 28th Congregational Meeting a **6 month budget** will be presented to the congregation.

This is an intentional and active choice of the Leadership Council. Our goal is to readjust our budget after this concentrated time of prayer, reflection, theological awareness, organization celebration, asset mapping, value identification, and visioning for the future of Faith.

There is no precedent for this in our synod, though I have been in conversation with our synod support team who think this method of reimagining budgeting & strategic planning could be a positive style of adaptive visioning used by congregations across the Southern Ohio Synod.

In my heart of hearts there are two truths that guide my decisions in life;

Follow God.

Bet on yourself following God.

I know that God is leading the people of Faith to be an outpost of the kingdom of heaven here in Whitehall. God has been doing that since our church was a Bible study on Maplewood Avenue almost a century ago.

Since my arrival in 2019 I have seen time and time again our congregation rise to different challenges, adapt to new ministries, and welcome all kinds of people into this space.

I look forward to the coming months of prayerful reflection, self study, community exploration, and visioning as we move toward 2027 and beyond.

Pastor Hill

## Causes of the Month - our ministry in the community

Thank you for your continued support of our various community outreaches in 2023! Here is a list of all that we supported last year. If you have ideas of organizations or programs to support for 2024, please let Nate know in the office at [faithoffice@faithwhitehall.com!](mailto:faithoffice@faithwhitehall.com)

January - Another Child Foundation - \$450  
 February - Faith Mission Shoe/Sock Drive - \$1,665  
 March - Community Development for All People - \$410  
 April - Taco Sunday - \$734.53  
 May - B.R.E.A.D. - \$450  
 June - Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services - \$495

July - Faith Veterans Fund - \$875  
 August - Center of Hope - \$400  
 September - Lutheran World Relief - \$540  
 October - LSS Choices - \$1,300  
 November - LSS Food Pantry - \$605  
 December - Faith Mission Shoe/Sock Drive - \$1,115



## AN IRREGULAR CHRISTMAS

**JANUARY 7TH, 4:00PM**

**GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 35 E STANTON AVE. COLUMBUS, OH 43214**

Join Nate for the 3rd annual “Irregular Christmas” Concert! This concert will include the first live performance of the Major 7 Singers, Nate’s Professional Choir. The concert is free and open to the public. A free will offering will be collected to support the Gethsemane food pantry.

### November 2023 Treasurer’s Report

Linda Mittermaier

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

Operating Fund Results	Monthly			Year-to-Date		
	Nov 2022	Nov 2023	Budget 2023	Nov 2022	Nov 2023	Budget 2023
Support and Revenue	\$ 14,010	\$ 18,100	\$ 15,717	\$ 175,889	\$ 171,037	\$ 172,887
Expenses	17,577	17,916	18,193	207,908	198,780	200,123
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (3,567)	\$ 184	\$ (2,476)	\$ (32,019)	\$ (27,743)	\$ (27,236)

Following many months of deficits, we experienced a small surplus for the month of November. Offerings exceeded budgeted offerings by about \$2,000, and actual expenses were slightly less than budgeted. The balance in the Operating Fund at the end of November is \$747.

November offerings for other funds included \$605 for Cause of the Month (LSS Food Pantry), \$625 for the Property (Loan) Fund, and \$715 for the Then, Now, Forever Fund. In addition, a member made a special offering of \$10,000, indicating it could be used wherever it was most needed. The offering has been added to the Legacy Fund, which means it is available for use for any purpose.

Financial results for December have not been finalized, but preliminary figures show we will end the year on a strong note, as we expect a surplus for the month of roughly \$3,500. Further details regarding the financial results for 2023 will be available prior to our annual meeting later this month.





## CAUSE OF THE MONTH

Our January Cause of the Month is Carter Kindness. The non-profit, started by the Kefauver family, shows gestures of kindness in the form of food, gift cards, and notes of encouragement to frontline workers, service industry workers, and those in need here in Whitehall.



## **Busy Bees**

- Thanks to everyone who made our hive look festive during December!
- Thanks to our Sunday School teachers and students for performing in our annual Christmas Pageant! 
- Thanks to the Hertzog's for picking up our poinsettias in December! 
- Thanks to all who supported all the ministries of Faith in 2023!

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

04 RACHEL KUHN	22 JEFF CIRELLI
11 GRETCHEN RISCH	22 BRADEY OLSON
14 XAVEA ABNER	23 SUSAN SMITH
16 KEVIN SKINNER	31 ANDREW ALLEN

## JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

10 JON & ALICE SHERMAN
16 JOE & MARTY HAAS

## Prayer Requests

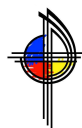
- Doug Connor, grandson of Jane Ahrens.
- Family of Mike Finneran, who are dealing with the aftermath of a suicide in the family.
- Family of Dean & Teresa Chappelle, who recently lost their infant grand-niece.
- Gary Martin, Jodie Martin-Oiler's brother, who is recovering from multiple complications from a knee replacement.
- Jaydin Warschauer, Jodie Martin-Oiler's granddaughter, who is struggling with panic attacks.
- 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
<b>Holidays in BLUE - Festivals and Commemorations in GREEN</b>						
	<b>1</b> Office closed  <b>New Years Day</b>  <b>Name of Jesus</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>3</b> 12:00PM Quilters	<b>4</b> 9:00AM Men's Breakfast (TeeJay's) 7:00PM Resource Board  <b>Kaj Munk, Martyr, 1944</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>EPIPHANY</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:40AM Zoom <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b>	<b>8</b> 7:00PM Praise Board	<b>9</b> 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom) 1:00PM Circle Bible Study (Church Lounge) 7:00PM Outreach Board	<b>10</b> 12:00PM Quilters	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:40AM Zoom	<b>15</b> 7:00PM Council  <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>17</b> 12:00PM Quilters	<b>18</b>  <b>Confession of St. Peter</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:35AM Sunday School 10:35AM Adult Forum 11:40AM Zoom	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>24</b> 12:00PM Quilters	<b>25</b>  <b>Conversion of St. Paul</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30AM Sanctuary 10:30AM <b>Congregational Meeting</b> 11:40AM Zoom	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)	<b>31</b> 12:00PM Quilters	<h1 style="color: purple;">January</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](mailto:faithoffice@faithwhitehall.com)



Support Faith Online Here



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**Office Hours:**  
Monday through Thursday 7:00AM - 4:00PM