

# FAITH NEWS

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2024

## A LETTER FROM PASTOR

I know this might sound early, but.... are you ready for Easter?

Typically I would not present such a question in the March issue of a church newsletter. As I learned from my teachers, and my teacher's teachers, the journey of Lent is to be experienced and appreciated, so to run ahead to Easter is to rob Lent of its due.

This year however, Easter comes early- March 31st, in fact.

Easter occurs on the Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox, which welcomes spring in the northern hemisphere. The range of dates for Easter falls between March 22nd to April 25th. With only 10 of the 31 potential dates of Easter being in March, April is more often the home of the festival.

This got me wondering, when was the last time Easter was in March?

It was eight years ago on March 27, 2016. It was my final Easter at my first call parish in Connecticut. Pastor Moehring was at Faith leading this community.

What was your life like then? What do you remember?

The last time Easter fell on March 31st was three years before that in 2013.

What was your life like there? What do you remember?

As we reminisce, we are provided an interesting phenomena to selectively revisit. When doing so, people often first consider the best memories of the era, the "good times", and then the monumental experiences such as the death of a loved one, loss of a job, etc. Those memories tend to be cradled in the memories of the others who that time was shared with; the people who offered friendship, love, and support throughout difficult and trying times. The smallest details are often the hardest to draw to mind. The specific daily occurrences and the nuances of each moment, albeit the hardest to recount, all happened and helped shape who we are today. In truth there are probably more minute details from 2013 that we can't remember, than large events we can. And yet, every one of those details, every decision made, every breath taken has been part of the journey which brought us to this moment, to today.

It's easy to turn our attention to Easter this year, March 31, 2024, overlooking Lent to begin the considerations of all the festivities, guests, and the pomp & circumstance of The Resurrection of Our Lord.

Though here's an interesting tidbit; the next time Easter will fall on March 31st will be 2086.

Grayson Annable, who was baptized at Faith just last year at 5 months old, will be 63. On that day, many of us might not have the opportunity to reminisce on the last Easter on March 31st.

Let's take the time to intentionally remember, with great joy and detail this month of March, this journey of Lent, and this season together.

Easter will come and bring with it the familiar exclamation that "He is risen!" as we meet those first witnesses at the empty tomb. We will again celebrate the defeat of death in our congregations, until the time comes in which we will stand among those cloth in white.

I hope and pray that you enjoy *this* moment, this month, & this season. I hope these days are filled with intentionality as we journey with the wild beasts & the angels across these 40 days.

Maybe the question should be, "are you getting ready for Easter, and savoring every moment?"

*Pastor Hill*





## Living Lutheran

Living Lutheran (formerly “The Lutheran”) magazine is now exclusively an online publication. You can sign up for the e-magazine by clicking the link below!

[Living Lutheran E-Subscription](#)



### Busy Bees

- Thanks to our guest speakers as they talk with us through Lent about bodies of water in the bible on Wednesday evenings! 
- Thanks to all who are participating in our strategic planning sessions after worship! 
- Thanks to Jane Ahrens, Larry & Sue Hertzog, Herb Scholes, Marie Long, Jim Hite and Christa & Adelyn Wascher (Jodie's daughter & granddaughter), for helping with the Veterans' Super Bowl Party. Jodie and Carol made food, and Shade on the Canal & Carter Kindness donated food. Our veterans enjoyed the food, fellowship, and watching the game on their new TV.

## Wednesdays in Lent

Join us Wednesdays in Lent at 7:00PM for evening vespers as we study Bodies of Water in the Bible. Each week, we will be joined by a guest from Trinity Lutheran Seminary to lead worship!



- 2/21 - Rev. Sem. Albie Nicol (Sea of Galilee)
- 2/28 - Rev. Sem. Seven O'Ridoran (Kishon River)
- 3/6 - Rev. Sem. Nicole Kiefer (Jordan River)
- 3/13 - Joel Wildermuth, M.Div (Gihon River)
- 3/20 - Rev. Sem. Tim Jordan Ph.D. (Zarqa/Jabbok River)

## CAUSE OF THE MONTH



Did you know that Whitehall has one of the largest Ethiopian populations in the country?

Ethiopian Tewahedo Social Services, or ETSS, offers educational, training, and developmental services for our Ethiopian brothers and sisters in the community in order to improve and facilitate more effective and comfortable integration into our community. They advocate for support and inclusion of refugees and immigrants in our society in ways that help them become self-resilient contributors to society.

### January 2024 Treasurer's Report

Linda Mittermaier

Operating Fund Results	Monthly		
	Jan 2023	Jan 2024	Budget 2024
Support and Revenue	\$ 12,930	\$ 17,472	\$ 16,146
Expenses	17,658	18,322	18,742
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (4,728)	\$ (850)	\$ (2,596)

Although we had a deficit of \$850 in January, it was less than the budgeted deficit by \$1,746, and substantially better than the deficit of \$4,728 that we experienced last January. The January 31 balance in the Operating Fund was \$3,566

January offerings for other funds included \$502 for Cause of the Month (Carter Kindness), \$611 for the Property (Loan) Fund, and \$1,600 for the Then, Now, Forever Fund.

### BIRTHDAYS

4 JUDI BRENNING      22 TERESA CHAPPELLE  
 15 NOAH MAYER      27 JESSIE ANNABLE  
 16 MARILYN DOUPNIK    29 BRENT MAYER  
 17 DAVE GARVIN

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

17 ALAN & LINDA MITTERMAIER  
 25 ROBERT & PHYLLIS NESTER

### Prayer Requests

- Sadie Ford, for healing from a blood clot.
- Sherri Williams, cousin of Roger Southward, who has stage 4 cancer and is entering hospice care.
- Aaron Acuna, friend of Sue Parr, who tore his Achilles Tendon.
- Bonny Timko, for medical complications.
- Dave Barrett, as he recovers from a successful heart operation January 8th.
- Alan Ratcliff, friend of Roger Southward, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.
- LeRoy Pherigo, who is recovering from a fall.

Gathered here is a sampling of the blue & yellow sheets generated from our current strategic plan. These sheets are an opportunity for members to share fond memories from their life at Faith, as well as dreams for the future of our congregation.

*(collected as of 2/25/24)*

Have you added your memories & dreams to the cross in the sanctuary?

### **DREAMS & DESIRES (Yellow Cards)**

- Love care and help for the less fortunate. J.M.O.
- My purpose within God's mission is... to be an example of God's love to my family, friends, and everyone I meet in my life.
- My purpose within God's mission is... to be a good steward of my blessings\*, and love my neighbor as myself (\*including the earth/all creation)
- My purpose within God's mission is... to help do His good work and love each other, setting a good example.
- My purpose within God's mission is... to be the neighborhood grandmother and nurture everyone
- Leadership, uplift others and listening.
- Bring love & peace to anyone I can.
- Build a community garden
- To show God's love is for everyone.
- My purpose within God's mission is... to be a loving example of His love.
- My purpose within God's mission is... to use the skills God has given me to help others solve their problems.
- My purpose within God's mission is...listening to hear what our local community needs are.
- Share the good news of Jesus Christ & comfort it brings.
- I will continue to share my faith by word and example.
- Be more aware and look/seek opportunities to invite acquaintances & everyone I meet to come to church & share spiritual exchanges; establish religious relationships with more people about my relationship with God.
- Dream - to complete the brick memorial garden, an updated directory, enough youth members to actually hold bible school again, bring back mission moments (not everyone has computers), use of big screen to show the church in action: men's breakfast, quilters, taco sundays, sunday school, veteran activities, bell & vocal choir, etc. - J.M.O.
- Special music with extra instruments at Christmas and Easter (Margaret Hall)
- Outdoor Service, Community Dinners, Sunday Services (Readings, Acolyte, Assisting)
- (Oliva Family) Affirmation of Madi 2024, Fortnite tournament on the big screen, return of outdoor services, community yard sale, children in services (acolytes, readers, etc)
- Ice Cream Social
- Attract more youth
- A Whitehall Christian consortium ministry for East Columbus people in times of sorrow and poor health.

## MEMORIES (Blue Cards)

- Luther League meetings, retreats, national gatherings. Musical offerings: cantatas, ensembles during worship, etc.
- My wedding day (May 31, 2003), baptism of Paige (2009), baptism of Madi (2010), affirmation of Baptism for Paige (Oct 2023), growing up in the church, pastor Risch, Advent Fair
- Growing up in the Church, my confirmation, my wedding, my children's baptisms, my children's 1st communion, my children growing up in the church, myself as an acolyte
- Luther League
- Being married in the church in 1965, boys being baptized in this same place, sanctuary and overflow being filled every Sunday.
- My confirmation/Sunday school class
- A home visit from Pastor Risch after attending one Sunday. He was the only pastor who bothered or took the time to make me feel welcome. This made me want to join the family of Faith with my family.
- In the 70s - high school retreats w/ 60+ participants
- Shirley Kicker paid a call on me at home a week or two after I started coming here. Church members paid calls.
- Hearing Susan's beautiful voice for the first time, getting married to Susan in the sanctuary. What an overwhelming blessing.
- Pastor Risch made a home visit to establish rapport when I joined Faith for the first time in 1989 (Margaret Hall)
- Paul & I came to Faith Church in the fall of 1959. Dave Risch was pastor, and Don Bensch called on me to invite us. We/I have been a member since then. Earliest faith memory is of nursery Sunday School teacher Ida Rouchman.
- Joined in 1960 when I was baptized. Dave Risch was pastor: maybe CT Langholz was on staff too - visitation pastor? I remember having 3 services on a Sunday. In early-mid 1970s I was one of the first female acolytes.
- Getting the carnation from an usher after church on Sunday, Luther league, opportunities to sing, memorizing Luther's small catechism, a place where my kids could leave my sight and I was comfortable with that. Someone had an eye on them. Another "family" for me and my parents, sister, husband, and children. Provide special music and Christmas and in the summer. Reciting my father's sermon on Christmas Eve.
- November 26, 1961 joined Faith. Dave Risch baptized me. Confirmed May 15, 1976 by Dave Risch. Married November 26, 1994, Jim Schaaf and Peter Ray married me.
- My family and I started attending Faith in 1978. Pastor Risch was the senior pastor at that time. I was confirmed in May 1980.
- Joined at birth 7/28/65. Pastor Risch
- 1974, Pastor Risch
- Joined in 1994 when Pastor Risch was Pastor
- I joined in 1998? Pastors were Mark Nodo & Eric Moehring
- 1976, Pastor Dave Risch
- Attending VBS as a child, becoming a member, 3 weddings (mine, & my 2 daughters), 3 funerals (my husbands, my in-laws), baptisms of children and grandchildren, confirmations, making dear lifelong friends and losing them.
- Attending Sunday School at East Main Street School, Reverent Wagner, Pastor Langholtz, housing the homeless, years of trimming trees, bushes, and weeding, teaching bible school, when the overflow was needed, the Christmas Eve service done at last minute by Pastor Risch and Karen Southward, of course the pastor that truly had the greatest impact in my christian life. Pastor Risch and Alberta Pottorff.
- Being a member since birth, I have learned all I know from pastors, Sunday School teachers, confirmation teachers, my parents, members, mentors, and friends in this congregation.
- I want to share my faith because I cannot imagine the emptiness a person must have that does not know God or have a church family.
- It comforts me in times of loss and enhances appreciation in times of awareness of abundant blessings. I want to share my faith with others because of the comfort it brings to people in times of sorrow and poor health.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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Holidays in BLUE - Festivals and Commemorations in GREEN

# March

1  
George Herbert, Priest, 1633

2

3  
9:30AM Sanctuary  
10:35AM Sunday School  
10:35AM Strategic Planning  
11:40AM Zoom

4

5  
10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)  
1:00PM Circle Bible Study (Church Lounge)  
7:00PM Resource Board

6  
12:00PM Quilters  
**7:00PM Lenten Midweek (Jordan River)**  
7:30PM Choir

7  
9:00AM Men's Breakfast (TeeJay's)  
**Perpetua, Martyr, 202**

8

9

10  
9:30AM Sanctuary  
10:35AM Sunday School  
10:35AM Strategic Planning  
11:40AM Zoom  
**Daylight Savings**

11  
7:00PM Praise Board

12  
10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)  
1:00PM Circle Bible Study  
7:00PM Outreach Board

13  
12:00PM Quilters  
**7:00PM Lenten Midweek (Gihon Rover)**  
7:30PM Choir

14

15

16

17  
9:30AM Sanctuary  
10:35AM Sunday School  
10:35AM Strategic Planning  
11:40AM Zoom

18  
7:00PM Council

19  
10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)  
**Joseph, Guardian of Our Lord**

20  
12:00PM Quilters  
**7:00PM Lenten Midweek (Zarquah/Jabbok)**  
7:30PM Choir

21

22


23


24 **Palm Sunday**  
9:30AM Sanctuary  
10:35AM Sunday School  
10:35AM Strategic Planning  
11:40AM Zoom

25  
**The Annunciation of Our Lord**


26  
10:00AM Bible Study (Zoom)

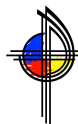
27  
12:00PM Quilters

28  
7:00PM **Maundy Thursday**  


29  
7:00PM **Good Friday**  


30

31 **Resurrection of Our Lord**  
9:30AM Sanctuary  
11:40AM Zoom  




**Faith Lutheran Church**

faithwhitehall.com

**Pastor:** Rev. Daniel W. Hille, pastor@faithwhitehall.com

**Council President:** Teri Allen, terikall@aol.com

**Choir Director:** Teresa Chappelle, chappelles5053@yahoo.com

**Organist:** Kathy Pautsch, rich155@aol.com

**Office Admin:** Nate Terry, faithoffice@faithwhitehall.com

Support Faith Online Here



**Office Hours:**

Monday 7:00AM - 4:00PM

Tuesday 7:00AM - 4:00PM

Wednesday 7:00AM - 1:00PM