

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
120 Faith Drive Columbus WI 53925
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America – ELCA
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

**December
2023**

MISSION STATEMENT

Joyfully recognizing God's commitment and faithfulness to us, FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH exists to serve God through serving God's people. We eagerly work towards the realization of God's Kingdom by:

- Offering praise-filled worship to God.
- Nurturing individual spiritual growth.
- Fostering an environment of caring and acceptance.
- Reaching out to serve the needs of our community.

God's love stirs us to touch others with the same love we have received—and invites them to share our life of praise and service.

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) Columbus, Wisconsin

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

120 Faith Drive Columbus, WI 53925
920-623-3610

Email: faith@faithcolumbuswi.org

Pastor Jane's e-mail
pastorjane@faithcolumbuswi.org

Website: www.faithcolumbuswi.org

Pastor Jane Crawford
Lead Pastor

Christine Hilbrich,
Administrative Assistant
920-885-4741

Sue Frish, Assistant to Treasurer
920-484-6545

Jeanne Miller,
Assistant to Treasurer

CHURCH COUNCIL

Dan Watrud
President

Pete Kaland
V. President

Del Yerges
Secretary

Stephen Peterson
Treasurer

Jenna Peterson
Youth Rep.

Emogene Johnson

Dave Olson

Judy Sullivan

AS MEMBERS OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH WE PROMISE:

- To attend services regularly.
- To support the congregation financially.
- To live responsibly as a Christian witness.
- To become as involved as possible in the total life and work of the congregation.

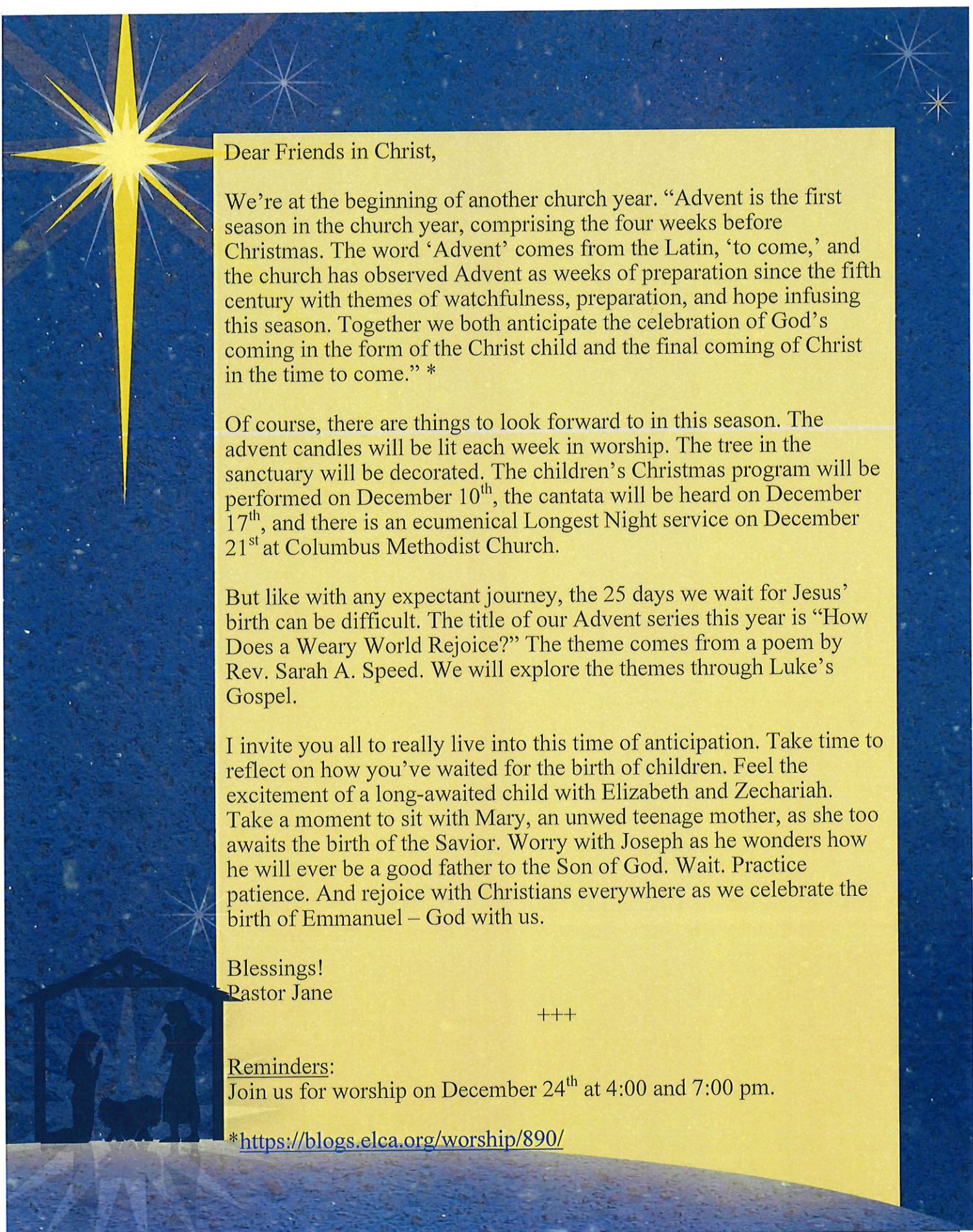
And this we promise to do by the help of God.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

We're on the web:

www.faithcolumbuswi.org



Dear Friends in Christ,

We're at the beginning of another church year. "Advent is the first season in the church year, comprising the four weeks before Christmas. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin, 'to come,' and the church has observed Advent as weeks of preparation since the fifth century with themes of watchfulness, preparation, and hope infusing this season. Together we both anticipate the celebration of God's coming in the form of the Christ child and the final coming of Christ in the time to come." *

Of course, there are things to look forward to in this season. The advent candles will be lit each week in worship. The tree in the sanctuary will be decorated. The children's Christmas program will be performed on December 10th, the cantata will be heard on December 17th, and there is an ecumenical Longest Night service on December 21st at Columbus Methodist Church.

But like with any expectant journey, the 25 days we wait for Jesus' birth can be difficult. The title of our Advent series this year is "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" The theme comes from a poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed. We will explore the themes through Luke's Gospel.

I invite you all to really live into this time of anticipation. Take time to reflect on how you've waited for the birth of children. Feel the excitement of a long-awaited child with Elizabeth and Zechariah. Take a moment to sit with Mary, an unwed teenage mother, as she too awaits the birth of the Savior. Worry with Joseph as he wonders how he will ever be a good father to the Son of God. Wait. Practice patience. And rejoice with Christians everywhere as we celebrate the birth of Emmanuel – God with us.

Blessings!
Pastor Jane

+++

Reminders:

Join us for worship on December 24th at 4:00 and 7:00 pm.

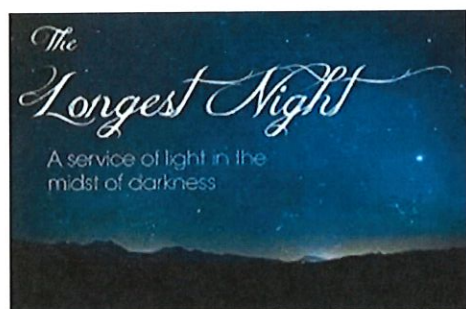
*<https://blogs.elca.org/worship/890/>



“During this season of dark and light, let us sing of the birth and life of Jesus. Let us not be afraid of the difficult path we walk, strewn with rocky doubt and disbelief, knowing that as we name possible all that previously seemed impossible, our voice grows in strength. May the message of the baby and the star and the stable guide you this Christmas, a gift

of hope. Glad tidings and joy from all of us to you.”

Pastor Jane Crawford,
Lisa Weisensel,
Christine Hilbrich



The Longest Night

Christmas can be a painful time for some. The constant refrain about the happiness of the season and getting together with family and friends reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity or unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation – all these can make us feel very alone in the midst of all the celebration. We need the space and the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need encouragement to live the days ahead of us.

With all this in mind, The Columbus United Methodist Church will be offering a special “Longest Night” service on **Thursday, December 21st at 6:30**. We’ll share our prayers, hear some hopeful scripture and sing some quiet carols that acknowledge that God’s presence is for those who mourn, and that God’s Word comes to shine light into our darkness.

Everyone, regardless of church background (or lack of it), is welcome.



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Contact Troy with questions: troy@tadych.us / 608.206.0853.



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FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, POKER RUN AND SURPLUS TOOL EXCHANGE

Men's Event at Faith 6 - 8 p.m. Thursday,
December 14, 2023

Feel free to invite a friend.

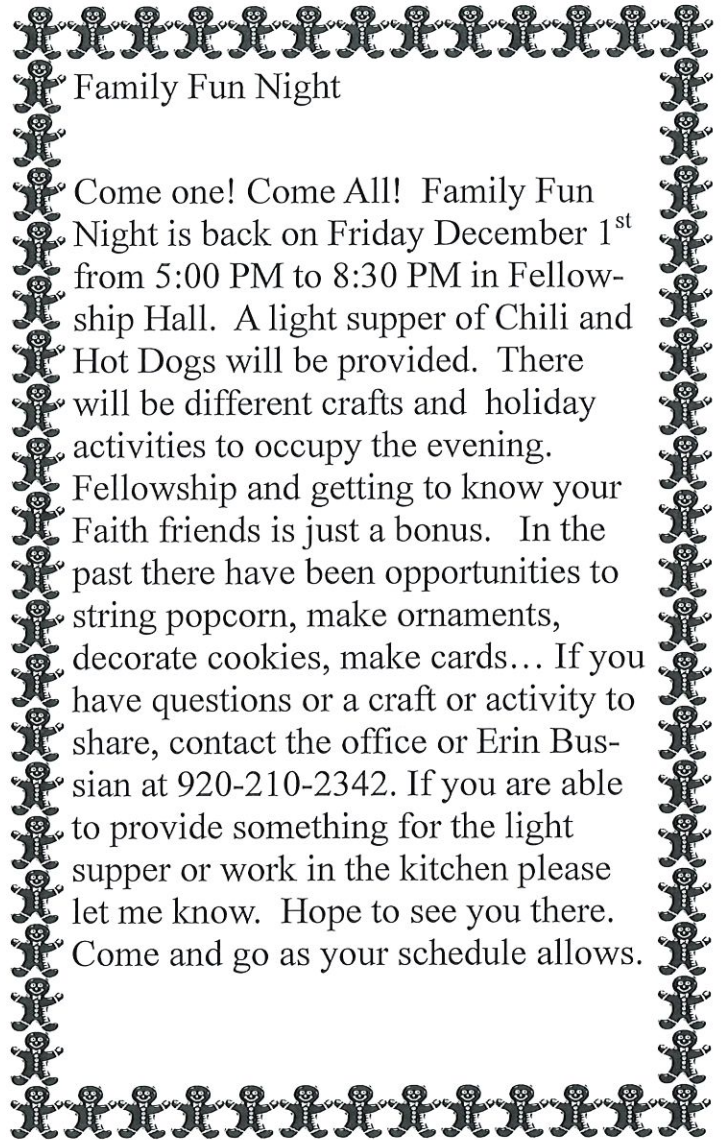
Admission: Surplus tool gift AND food pantry
donation (food item or \$1).

Surplus tool gift exchange: Find a usable
kitchen utensil or workshop tool that you
would like to give away. It should be func-
tional and valued under \$20 when new. Con-
sider tools that you have duplicates for or
don't use. Wrap it in a brown paper bag or
newspaper.

Poker run: Using Man Talk playing cards with
no wagering just shared stories and fun prizes

Reservation: Text or leave a message by 12/10
on Jim's mobile phone 920 763 3433 to con-
firm your attendance so that we can be sure to
have enough food.

Hosted by Third Thursday for Men at Faith



Family Fun Night

Come one! Come All! Family Fun
Night is back on Friday December 1st
from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM in Fellow-
ship Hall. A light supper of Chili and
Hot Dogs will be provided. There
will be different crafts and holiday
activities to occupy the evening.
Fellowship and getting to know your
Faith friends is just a bonus. In the
past there have been opportunities to
string popcorn, make ornaments,
decorate cookies, make cards... If you
have questions or a craft or activity to
share, contact the office or Erin Bus-
sian at 920-210-2342. If you are able
to provide something for the light
supper or work in the kitchen please
let me know. Hope to see you there.
Come and go as your schedule allows.

Highlights of November 2023 Council Meeting

- Evangelism Committee will continue to evaluate membership data and contact members.
- Confirmation classes did community service project, making Thanksgiving food tray decorations for Care Center.
- Property Committee Liaison reported on a fundraising idea: Assisting Columbus Conservation Club with a trapshoot.
- Much more information and discussion is necessary and fundraising forms need to be completed.



ELCA "Good Gifts"

The **spare change** container is in the Narthex, within the chicken container. The mission for your spare pennies, nickels and

dimes is the ELCA "Good Gifts" program. Starting this new year the flock is up to 260 **chickens!** Our few extra coins are turned into food and livelihood for people in need, world-wide. Thank you.



Sunday, December 10th
9:15am Children's
Christmas Program



Sunday, December 17th
9:15am Christmas Cantata



Sunday, December 24
Christmas Day
9:15am 4th Sunday Of
Advent Service

CHRISTMAS EVE
Candlelight Services/HC
4:00pm, 7:00pm
Communion at all services.

YEAR END GIVING'S

Please have your year end giving's to the church no later that Sunday, December 31.

ANNUAL REPORTS

A reminder that all committee reports for the **2023 ANNUAL REPORT** are due to Chris by Tuesday, January 2, 2024. PLEASE EMAIL YOUR

REPORT TO
faith@faithcolumbuswi.org



Giving Tree

Once again the Giving Tree is in the narthex decorated with names and gift suggestions/ ideas for clients who receive assistance from Lutheran Social Services (LSS). Please take an ornament and purchase a gift (s) (\$25 limit) for your special person. *We ask that you PLEASE SIGN YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER on the sign-up sheet that corresponds with the number on the ornament/gift tag.* We also ask that you wrap your gift(s), attach the ornament to the gift(s), and place under the tree by Sunday morning, December 17. This gives time to deliver the gifts to LSS and time for them to sort and distribute them to their clients. Any questions, call DeAnn Gaska 920 210-2658.

Women's Circles At Faith

Scroll Circle

10:00am, Wednesday, December 13

Anna Circle

9:00am, Wednesday, December 13

Naomi Circle

1:00pm Tuesday, December 12

In Fellowship Hall

third Thursday

For men only...

third Thursdays at Faith

Hosted by the Java men (Denny, Pat, & Al).
Come for food, fun, fellowship and a little
faith exploration at 6:00 p.m., Thursday,
December 14, 2023. Feel free to invite a
friend.

THE RED TENTERS' BOOKCLUB



The book club will not be meeting in
December. See you in January 2024. Merry
Christmas to all.

CALENDAR, LAM & ACOLYTES AND WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER 2023

Lector Schedule

9:15am

- 3 No Lector Needed
- 10 No Lector Needed
- 17 No Lector Needed
- 24 4:00 Al Strohschein 7:00 Kristen Hart
- 31 Ed Schellin

LAM

9:15am

- 3 Henry Elling
- 10 Pam Larson
- 17 Dennis Sampolinski
- 24 4:00 Pat Sullivan 7:00 Henry Elling
- 31 Pam Larson

ACOLYTES

9:15am

- 3 Hallie Graffin & Jocelyn LeClair
- 10 Cade Kurth & Gavin Price
- 17 Ariana Stark & Kailey Schroud
- 24 4:00 Kendra Abegglen & Stella Gille
7:00 Mason Dykstra & Dexter Agnew
- 31 Kailey Schroud & Nellie Olson

COUNTERS

- 3 Julie Sennhenn & Peter Kaland
- 10 Jami Severson & Ginny Klug
- 17 Becky Stark & Chris Ducat
- 24 Emogene Johnson & Judy Kaland
- 31 Barb Bergum & Meegan Griffin

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

- 3 Dan & Ann Schubert &
Brian & Nancy Patrick
- 10 Pam Larson & Melody Tadych
- 17 Cathy & Henry Elling & Sally Price
- 24 No Fellowship
- 31 No Fellowship

FAITH IN STITCHES

Faith in Stitches spent November working on Outreach projects and more importantly transitioning quilts for veterans in time to celebrate Veterans Day. Joe Naylor, from the VA Hospital in Middleton, came to Faith to pick up quilts. We were able to provide 46 lap robes for men and 8 for ladies. In addition, our sewers gave the veterans eight large lap quilts.

Joe informed us that the average age of veterans is about 60. The Middleton VA hospital has 120 beds; 20 long-term care beds and four hospice rooms. The clinic and hospital can serve about 45,000 veterans, 19 counties, with 25 volunteers. About 80% of the hospital patients are male vs. female. Joe, himself a veteran, also works with the Badger Honor Flight and recently sent one Korean War veteran. Today's flights typically consist of Vietnam veterans.



DECEMBER



- 1 Jill Pohlmeier, Oscar Setz, Lilylyn Loecher
Matt Ehrke Jr.
- 2 Cathy Haseman, Lilly Weigen
- 3 Luke Kahl
- 4 Anna Rupp, Ben Destree, Deanna Herrick,
Kubly Kaminski
- 5 Gavin Price
- 7 Jayce Pavloski, Kaylee Price,
Zoe Shephard, Adelaide Udler
- 10 Abby Seibt, Cora Seibt, Andy O'Brien
Jessica Cashmore
- 12 Judy Kaland, Thomas Morris
- 13 Tiffany Niehoff, Natalie Cass
- 14 Garrett Campbell
- 15 Elizabeth Morris, Rowdy Seibt,
Eric Mathwich, Wendy Watrud
- 16 Myron Crawford
- 19 Maizie Anthon
- 20 Alana Schuster
- 21 Ben Kohl
- 24 Mark Adam
- 27 Tim Mathwich
- 28 Vance Berget
- 29 Joseph Morris, Luanne Miller,
Joyce Abegglen
- 30 Debra Meister

Michael Hansen, Zachary Rohrbeck, Travis Schultz,
Gloria Spaete, Patrice Tesch

- 12/01 Jackie Price,
Tiffany Niehoff,
Logan Wescott,
Bay Peterson
Jamie Benter
- 12/02 Tyler Sampolinski
- 12/03 Leo Kuck, Derek Gensch
- 12/04 Pat Sullivan
- 12/05 Bruce Miller, Leaf Anthany
- 12/06 Bob Jansen
- 12/08 Betsy Woodward
- 12/09 John Popp, Colin Emler,
- 12/10 Mark Adam
- 12/11 Andrew Peterson
- 12/12 Brenda Hochstatter, Lydia Agnew
- 12/13 Brooks Gille
- 12/14 Cary Hochstatter
- 12/15 Roxanne Ayer, Yvonne Cass, John Salzman
Jeannie Ritchie
- 12/16 Anna Miller
- 12/17 Alex Zahn
- 12/18 Nickolas Cass, Ana Tjugum,
- 12/19 Melody Tadych
- 12/20 Toni Fox
- 12/21 Barb Bergum
- 12/22 Lisa Weisensel, Ryan Hasey
- 12/25 Michele Dauman, Jamie Price
- 12/28 Joycelyn Lienke, Jessie Miesfeld,
Aarika Tjugum
- 12/29 Cliff Destree, Karen Small
- 12/30 Yvonne Tjugum, Ben Destree
- 12/31 Nahla Kuck

DECEMBER Wedding Anniversary's

- | | | |
|-------|------------------------|----|
| 12/09 | Dennis & Karen DeNure | 46 |
| 12/19 | Glenn & Karin Westlake | 25 |
| 12/26 | Paul & Barb Bergum | 48 |
| 12/26 | Marilon & Jack Krebs | 60 |
| 12/27 | John & Retta Kurth | 54 |
| 12/29 | Todd & Bridget Morris | 29 |

Patsy Braker, Susie Krakow, Toni Peterson

Faith Lutheran Church - Financial Dashboard - 2023

Dated 11/14/2023

Prepared by Stephen Peterson,
Treasurer

	Total General Account Offerings, Donations	Borrowed from Parsonage Proceeds	Trimester Giving history		Simply Giving por- tion of total	% Simply Giving
January	\$23,373	\$4800	2019	\$67,292	\$3,851	16%
February	\$13,248		2020	\$60,135	\$3,210	24%
March	\$14,255		2021	\$59,238	\$3,386	24%
April	\$15,005	\$5,200	2022	\$73,251	\$3,310	22%
Trimester 1	\$65,881	\$10,000	Trend	\$64,979	\$13,757	21%
May	\$19,694				\$3,553	18%
June	\$13,925		2019	\$62,122	\$3,425	25%
July	\$17,080		2020	\$52,143	\$3,380	20%
August	\$15,889		2021	\$55,134	\$3,493	22%
Trimester 2	\$66,588	\$0	2022	\$56,997	\$13,851	21%
			Trend	\$59,599	\$3,502	22%
September	\$16,159				\$3,655	23%
October	\$15,957		2019	\$88,329		
November			2020	\$66,651		
December			2021	\$68,855		
Trimester 3	\$32,116	\$0	2022	\$77,457	\$7,157	22%
YTD total	\$164,586	\$10,000	Trend	\$75,323	\$34,766	21%
				\$196,901		

General Account Expenditures by Categories in Treasurer's Re-
port

	Mission	Pastoral Support	Staff Support	Operations	Total
Jan	\$2,117	\$9,461	\$4,502	\$5,011	\$21,091
Feb	\$1,825	\$11,140	\$4,452	\$4,908	\$22,325
Mar	\$2,117	\$10,455	\$4,929	\$3,912	\$21,413
Apr	\$2,117	\$10,442	\$4,611	\$5,756	\$22,926
May	\$2,117	\$10,399	\$5,088	\$2,825	\$20,430
June	\$2,117	\$9,933	\$4,770	\$4,832	\$21,652
July	\$2,117	\$9,057	\$4,770	\$3,040	\$18,984
Aug	\$1,683	\$9,429	\$4,473	\$2,433	\$18,019
Sep	\$1,533	\$9,062	\$4,537	\$2,481	\$17,614
Oct	\$75	\$9,062	\$4,929	\$2,990	\$17,056
Nov					
Dec					
TOTALS	\$17,818	\$98,441	\$47,062	\$38,187	\$201,509

Operations combines Worship Programs + Education + Administration + Operations + Misc

Fund balances Prior Month Current Month

F&M Bank General Checking	\$ (2,393.00)	\$ 293.79
F&M Bank Line of Credit	\$ (8,500.00)	\$ (12,200.00)
F&M Bank FP Checking	\$ 4,849.90	\$ 4,849.90
ELCA Demand Act FP Checking	\$ 27,397.28	\$ 27,438.59
F&M Bank PP Checking	\$ 793.66	\$ 793.66
ELCA Fund A PP Fund A	\$ 26,274.52	\$ 26,274.52
Edward Jones PP 9 Month CD	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Edward Jones PP Money Market	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,521.84
MIF ELCA PP 3 Year CD	\$ 41,728.01	\$ 41,728.01
Total	\$110,150	\$109,541

Annual General Account Revenue minus Expenses to Date	-\$36,923
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Simply Giving \$ Participation 21% of total revenue to date

Accounting system treasurer reports are posted on the Kiosk in the Narthex.