



# ***Pathways of Faith***

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Faith Lutheran Church

December 2022

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## ***The Pastor's Space***

Grace, Peace and Love,

We are in the midst of holiday. In many respects the annual holiday routine for believers is just as sacred today as it was when first practiced. Oh, the commercialism that's centered around the holiday is still there. The bright Christmas lights are all around as usual. The ancient ambience of holiday times is seen through the lens of a modern 21st century world.

The Christian Church has stepped into the season called Advent. It is a fresh new start as we tell and recall the scriptural account of salvation and grace come through Jesus, told by many believers. For the church generally, and our church specifically, it is our calling to build a faith community strong enough for the challenges that are coming. Ours is to make the story of Jesus clear enough to pique the interest of the person searching for their connective way back to God.

This holiday, although the same in many respects, involves change that's different from before. Our churches once bustled with enthusiastic Christmas activity although the celebration has changed in light of the virus and other social and political events. The celebration might have changed, but not the devout meaning and spirit that the faithful hold so tightly to. That spirit still exists.

It is my prayerful hope that Advent 2022 will call every member of this congregation to look internally at self and church

for spiritual insight for the ministry we have been called to serve. Advent means the coming of a new beginning. It is my prayer that Advent brings a new and renewed appreciation of the church, the truth it represents and the things of God. Understanding that our one obligation as a servant of Jesus in the world is to show the way that Jesus was sent to deliver.

As we look to apply the meaning of Christmas in a new calendar year, may we be determined to complete the work already begun when Jesus commissioned his believing church for his work to come.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

## ***Fellowship Report***

We are officially in the Advent season where we anticipate the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Such a beautiful time of year.

Our annual Thanksgiving dinner was super. We appreciate all the delicious food everyone brought and thank our turkey preparers – Carolyn Hixon, Bob and Cathy Neuhardt and Steve and Dorothy Wise – job well done one and all.

Be sure to keep your calendars updated with all the upcoming events that are mentioned in this newsletter during December. Sign up for our Christmas Breakfast for sure on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

How special was the Celebration marking our Church's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! We were fortunate to have four charter members; namely Wendy Eames, Rachel Ramsey, and Bob and Jean Roth with us to celebrate and share some history and remembrances. The color that signifies a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (ruby or red) was all around Fellowship Hall. There was lots of good food to be enjoyed as well as a yummy carrot cake. A great day to celebrate as we "grow on."

With God's Blessings,  
Lynne Meinhold & Cathy Neuhardt

## ***A Message from the President***

**BASKET BRIGADE** - Faith Lutheran in Action. Members came together along with Boy Scout Troop 404 to fill 70 boxes of donated food to distribute to local families in need. Faith Lutheran Church joined the Volusia County Basket Brigade to help make Thanksgiving a little more thankful this year for those in our community. Thank you for being such a faithful congregation.

**PRISONER ANGEL TREE PROJECT**- Each year Faith Lutheran participates in the Angel Tree Project. Our Angel Tree is up! Members of Faith Lutheran Church pick an angel off the tree, purchase items from children's wish lists, wrap them up and bring them back to church and these gifts are tagged as gifts from their parents who are incarcerated. God's work our hands!

**ADVENT** – Advent is upon us and thank you to the Fellowship Team and to Pastor Keeley for providing fellowship and worship. Have you thought about it? Have you prayed about it? Are you willing to be a member of Church Council for 2023. It's not too late! Please let me or any other member of Council know if you are willing to help lead Faith Lutheran in 2023. Thank you for allowing me to serve as Council President for 2022.

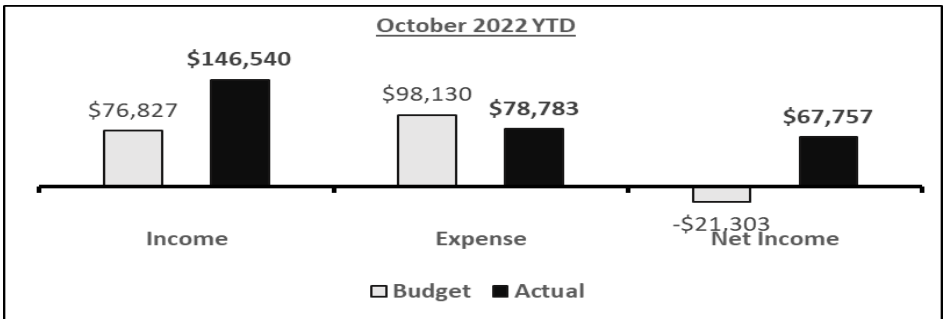
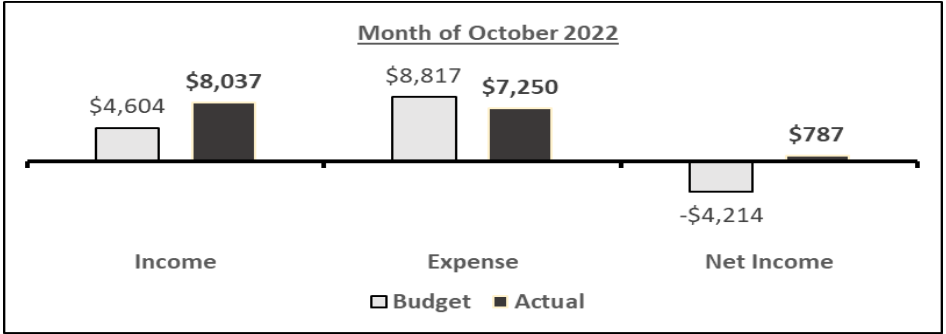
Merry Christmas,

Laura Olson

386-846-1976

## **Treasurer's Report**

Graph for December Pathways



As of the end of October, actual net income of \$67,757 was significantly better than budget. The three main driving factors are:

- Lower staff salaries - \$18,038
- Recovery of stolen funds - \$53,636
- Higher than expected weekly offerings - \$12,330

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Karen Otis, Treasurer

561-251-3594

klotis24@gmail.com

## ***Property Report***

Hello from Property

The end of 2022 is upon us as we begin to celebrate the season of Advent. Your church property continues to look very good. Our Property Group and volunteers continue to find ways to enhance the beauty of our church, fellowship hall and grounds which are in our care. We are currently decorating the church and fellowship hall for Christmas. I guess you could say we are all good stewards of what we have been given. Thank you all for your support in making our campus extra special.

We are currently awaiting the installation of our new air conditioning system by GATER Air and Heat in our fellowship hall. One half of our system is being replaced as it stopped working several months ago and our fellowship hall basically requires two large systems to keep it cool. We are currently cleaning our church steeple on the exterior. At some point in 2023 we will be inspecting and cleaning the ceiling inside of our church to remove soiled areas and cobwebs. A new water spigot has been installed outside of our fellowship hall and a lock placed on it to prevent use by non-members. The main water supply valve to the church and fellowship hall has been freed up in the event of an emergency. Over time the valve had seized up.

Our deep thanks to all who serve to keep our campus looking spectacular. We would like to wish you all a very blessed Advent Season and Merry Christmas.

In Our Lord's Service,  
Bob Neuhardt

## ***Council Meeting***

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, December 12th at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

## ***Bridge of Hope***

The next Bridge of Hope opportunity to feed the homeless will be Monday, December 26th at 10:30 AM.

Location: Hope Place  
1340 Wright Street  
Daytona Beach, FL 32117

Please contact Kathy Mikulski with any questions.

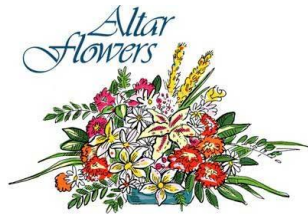
(410) 507-2826

## ***Thanksgiving Basket Brigade***

The 2022 Volusia County Basket Brigade to feed our less fortunate Volusia County residents was once again a wonderful success. Faith Lutheran Church members, friends of Faith, Boy Scout Troop 404 and Thrivent combined to help us send out 70 cartons this year. Volusia County overall delivered 4,000 cartons to needy families. This is what team work is all about. While you sat down this Thanksgiving with family and friends to enjoy a wonderful meal; 4,000 needy families who may not have had that chance otherwise had the opportunity to do the same, thanks to all of you. A special THANK YOU to all of the Faith members who assisted in packing the cartons prior to having them delivered. We would like to thank two very special ladies, Cathy Neuhardt and Lynne Meinhold, for their extra hard work in coordinating and purchasing all of the food items. See you all next year!

Yours in Christ's Service,

Bob Neuhardt



***Altar Flowers***

- 04 Jim & Marge Sykes – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 11 Gisela Schafer – In Memory of Mother
- 18 Charlie & Julie Hoyle – Anniversary
- 25 Judy & Bob Culgin – In Memory of Son, Alan

***Bulletins***

- 04 Lynne Meinhold – In Loving Memory of Bob – Honor Our Anniversary
- 11 Laura Olson – To the Glory of God
- 18 Wendy & Rich Eames – To the Glory of God
- 25 Laura Olson – In Celebration of the Birth of Our Savior

***Eternal Candle***

Given by Laura Olson





December 01 Ken Huntley

December 14 Margaret Cullen

December 20 Cathy Neuhardt

December 30 Laura Olson



December 01 Jim & Marge Sykes  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

December 18 Charlie & Julie Hoyle