



Pathways of Faith

Faith Lutheran Church

February 2024

The Pastor's Space

Grace, Peace and Love:

On Monday, February 12th, our faithful journey through the liturgical season of Epiphany will place us at the beginning of the new Liturgical Season of Lent. ASH WEDNESDAY begins a 40-day journey of reflection that takes us through the agonizing effect of Jesus' time with us in the flesh. Lent provides security for the faithful as it prepares us for the times ahead.

In the season of Epiphany, the lessons emphasize the many changing ways, over time, to see and feel Jesus' presence in a selfishly contrary world. It is a time to appreciate God's providential care in the many ways he comes into the experiences of life and living. It simply asks the faithful, from this time last year: "what new has entered your life that enables you to see God in different ways?"

Have you seen Jesus in the many facets of his presence with us from this time last year? Has the Spirit of God enabled you to see HIM in the many and various ways that Jesus described HIM to us. By acknowledging the spiritual growth of Epiphany, the faithful are led into the Liturgical Season of Lent, the season that grows our knowledge of God's redemptive plan for humanity's glorified return to HIM.

The Liturgical Season of Lent provides humanity with a thorough, yet painfully-sad description of the agony executed upon Jesus, God's Son, come to acknowledge salvation's grace. The theological point for humanity is that God wants to save those that want to be saved. It is for humanity to repent, feel, accept, acknowledge and believe the lengths that God has taken to redeem the faithful for an endless eternal existence. The season's description emphasizes the pain that Father and Son had to endure for our salvation freedom.

Let us thank God for HIS encouraging blessing to continue the ministry given us here at Faith Lutheran Church to serve. Remember, Lent prepares us for the celebration of the mystery of redemption; Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter's celebration of cross and redemption.



Message from the President

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Council President for the upcoming year. I look forward to the amazing things we will do this year. Lots of new members and lots of new ideas. Thank you, Pastor Keeley & Crystal, for all of your support and leadership.

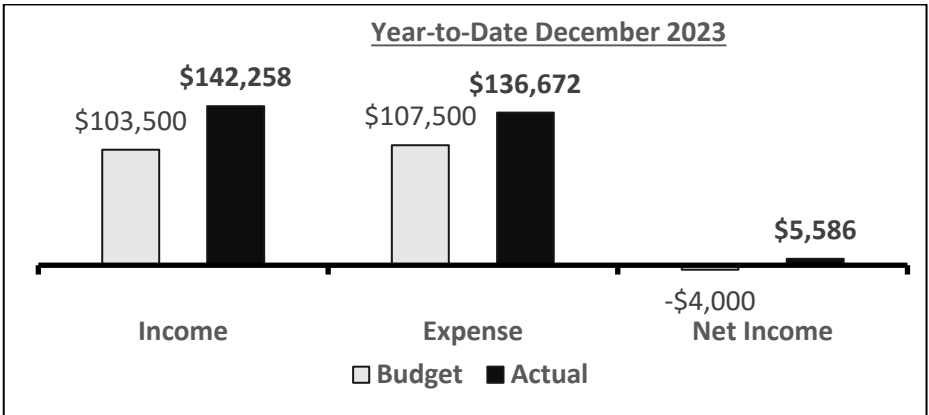
Due to unforeseen personal circumstances, Tim Webster is unable to fulfill the role of property leader at this time. I am reaching out to see if anyone is willing to accept this position, please. There is a whole team of support, and many hands make light work. We just need someone to be the single point of contact for our property. Please let me know if you are available and willing to serve.

I am encouraged that 2024 will be another year of growth and expansion of Faith Lutheran's presence in our community. There are many opportunities to serve, so please reach out if there is something you would like to try. Also, if you have any new ministry ideas for evangelism, education, stewardship or anything else you can think of, please feel free to attend one of our Council Meetings so you can see how we get things done here at Faith.

In the Lord's Service,

Laura Olson

Treasurer's Report



The original budget was for a loss of \$4,000 for the year; however, due to the recovery of stolen funds and higher than anticipated weekly offerings, we were able to end the year with net income of \$5,586, despite the large expenses we incurred.

- Higher than expected weekly offering - \$22,192
- Recovery of stolen funds - \$6,200
- Interest income - \$3,115

◆ On the negative side

- Higher than budgeted insurance expense - \$8,370
- Fellowship Hall roof - \$15,548
- Flood cleanup expenses - \$5,483

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Karen Otis, Treasurer

561-251-3594

klotis24@gmail.com

Vice President's Report

It's the start of a new year and exciting things are happening here at Faith. Don't forget to sign up for the soup and chili lunch. Even if you are unable to cook, come enjoy the fantastic soups and chilis.

Please consider signing up for Bridge of Hope. It is only one day a month and very easy. It's also a great way to meet some of your fellow members of Faith.

Try something new and different in the new year and sign up to usher, greet, read the lessons or be a communion assistant. It's easy and Lynne Meinhold would be happy to help teach you.

Remember, it takes all of us, each doing a little, to make a big difference!

Yours in Christ,
Wendy Eames
Vice President

Social Ministry

As we begin 2024 – let us look at what can Faith Lutheran Church do in our community?

We are open to new suggestions, something near and dear to your heart, please let us know!

In January, we delivered 100 Mylar blankets to the Salvation Army to help the Homeless in the cold temperatures.

- Ongoing throughout the year, collect and donate non-perishable food items to Salvation Army for their Food Pantry.
- We have a group 'Planning mats' for the homeless.

- Purchase backpacks for foster children. Collect and donate school supplies.

Here are some ideas to ponder for the rest of 2024.

- We can start a drive to donate gently used coats (to include Rain Poncho/Rain Hats) and blankets for those less fortunate.
- Make Blessing Bags for the homeless to include socks, travel size toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.
- Blessing Bags for Violence Shelters. (Will provide list of items needed)
- Blessing bag for the local Police. (To hand it out to people in need.)
- Add Note in the Blessing Bag: **You Matter. You are not forgotten. Hope this Blessing Bag brightens your Day!** (open to verbiage suggestions)
- Add 'Contact phone numbers' for additional assistance in the Blessing bags. (Will check with Salvation Army for assistance with this list.)
- Lenten meal, note flyer in church bulletin for items needed. – (Meal for Four)
- Last year Cathy Neuhardt had a list of food to buy at Aldi's for approximately \$25.00 to feed a family of four for a week.
- Collect and give to a Shelter or Salvation Army during Holy Week.
- Provide a Meal (Probably Pizza) for the Boy Scouts meeting in May. The Boy Scouts assist in so many tasks at Faith Lutheran.
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- Contact a Rehabilitation Center/Nursing home, offer to buy Ice Cream sandwiches to share with the residents and staff. (Summer event)
- Contact a 'Group' home, offer to buy Pizza for dinner.
- God's Work Our Hands – **Need a new Project for 2024** – Open to suggestions.
- Do we want to build the 'Birthday Cake' kits again this year?

In Faith,
Julie Hoyle

Fellowship Report

Oh my goodness, we are into February already. Since there was no newsletter in January, let us say that December was a super month for Fellowship. Our acknowledgement of our newest members was special and followed by a super Christmas Brunch and raffles. Cathy Neuhardt won one of the raffles plus the Candy Guessing Jar - lucky lady. Dorothy Wise won the second raffle. There was great food and fellowship shared by all.

In January we "kicked off" a month-long collection of chili and soup with Stewardship. Our Feed Hunger efforts will be passed on to the Salvation Army. On the 11th of February we will partake in eating both chili and soups prepared by members.

A new feature of the committee this year will be Monthly Birthday Celebrations. Check out the separate article on this.

Please bring us any new ideas or suggestions that you might like to share as we continue to make our time of fellowship special.

Blessings for all in 2024.
Lynne Meinhold and Cathy Neuhardt

Monthly Birthday Celebrations

We will be doing something new this year. We actually started with January's 3 birthday people. We will officially have a group birthday recognition on the third Sunday of most months. You can check the monthly calendar posted in Fellowship Hall that shows the year in review and when Birthday Sunday is. Hope you like this idea!

Lynne Meinhold & Cathy Neuhardt

Council Meeting

The next council meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 12th at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Plarning

Our plarning group makes beautiful mats for the homeless. Pastor Keeley will be blessing the mats for the homeless on Sunday, February 4th. The plarners will meet on Thursday, February 22nd, from 1:00 to 3:00. We welcome anyone who wants to join us.

Game Night

Join your fellow church members for a fun evening out. Our next game night is scheduled for February 23rd at 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy some pizza, play some games and share good company!



Bridge of Hope

The next Bridge of Hope opportunity to feed the homeless will be Monday, February 26th at 8:30 AM.

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

Please contact Kathy Mikulski with any questions.
(410)507-2826

Member at Large

Welcome 2024! Thank you for the opportunity to serve our congregation as a member of Faith Lutheran Church Council. I look forward to serving and working along side those who have served and guided our church for the past year, or is it years, and those of you who are reading this article. I have a couple of announcements and a request for you to consider.

Announcement #1

I have been asked to coordinate the creation of **CHRISMONS** for our Christmas tree for Christmas 2024. I have received guidance and support from Bat Masterson, and I would appreciate your consideration to join me beginning in April for an informational session on **“What Am I Supposed to Do and How Do I Do It?”**

More information will be shared in the March Pathways newsletter. It is my goal to have 12 Crismon teams of two to three people. Each team will hopefully make 4-6 CHRISMONS per team! Our work will officially begin in June with a practice session in May. Talk with your Faith family and ask them to join you.

Please consider joining me for this special way to serve our church.

Announcement #2

UNITY MENS FELLOWSHIP 2024

March 9, 2024, 8:30 a.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

- Welcome and Opening Comments
- Unity Breakfast
- Devotion led by Pastor Keeley entitled “Seasons”
- “Laughter with Luther, Martin that is!”
- Closing prayer and departure

I look forward to serving Faith Lutheran Church and working with you now and in the future. Peace....John Meehl



Altar Flowers

- 04 Bat & Ceil Masterson – In celebration of Bat, Ceil and Lauren’s birthdays
- 11 Laura Olson – In celebration of mother Joan’s birthday
- 18 Lent – No flowers
- 25 Lent – No flowers

Bulletins

- 04 ----
- 11 ----
- 18 ----
- 25 ----

Candles

Bob & Cathy Neuhardt – To the Glory of God



February 02	Lois Shea
February 04	Tad Wicklander
February 12	Jerry Mikulski
February 13	Bat Masterson
February 16	Ceil Masterson
February 23	Judy Culgin
February 23	Joan Olson



February 16	Bob & Cathy Neuhardt
February 21	Rich & Wendy Eames
February 24	Bert & Brigitte Emick