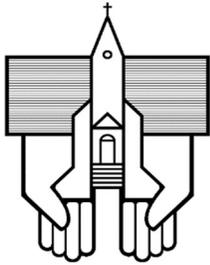


FEBRUARY  
2022



Reach Out

Newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church

## Awakening



*"...everything exposed by the light becomes visible,  
For everything that becomes visible is light,  
therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
And Christ will shine on you."  
(Ephesians 5:13-14)*

We stand on the verge of awakening. I know it is only February. Yet, all it will take is a few warm days, and crocus blooms may begin courageously lifting their heads from beneath their blankets of frost. I am always a little worried for the crocus, that an oasis of warmth will fool them, and they will emerge only to be crushed by the cold. Still, I look so forward to the day when the yard is filled with purple, closely followed by the vibrant yellow and reds of daffodils and tulips.

As Lent rushes nearer—with Ash Wednesday merely a month away—we are invited to a kind of awakening as well. In the Invitation to Lent we will hear as the season begins, I discern for us a call, "Sleeper, awake!" Wake up to hear afresh God's word of challenge and comfort. Wake up to all that is around us, to seek God's promise not just once the cold weather passes, but even now when snow and ice (and yes, COVID) make most plans tentative. Do not be afraid to enter into Lent and to renew your practices of faith. Do not be afraid to open your eyes and tune your ears to what is happening in the world. Where God leads us, God will not leave us—even if that means taking two steps forward, only to need to take one step back. Even if that means awakening to painful realizations about how far there is still to go, in our communities as well as within our own hearts. Even on those days when the kin-dom of God's mercy, justice and forgiveness seems as far away as ever. The promise is NOT that there will never again be darkness (at least on this side of eternal life), but that even when there is, "Christ will shine upon you."

Yes, I do worry about the crocus waking up too early. But I do not worry for us. Rising from the dead is what we are here for, and the days are getting longer, my friends. The light is growing.

In Christ,  
Pastor Jill



**Good News!** The Re-entry committee continues to review the data available on COVID in our area. Based on our discussions, we are pleased to announce that starting February 1, worship services and meetings will be back in the building. We will continue to wear masks, have our pews marked off as before and Coffee in the Corner is still paused. Our next meeting is February 14th.

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**Blanket+ Sunday** – On February 6 we begin our annual appeal for Church World Service relief programs. We call it Blanket+ Sunday, since blankets are a key element. Many other things, such as safe water, food, and shelter are provided as well in countries around the world, including the United States. Please consider funding the equivalent of one or more blankets at \$5 each. Make any checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church and place in an envelope labeled Blanket Sunday. We will consolidate the contributions and send one check to Church World Service. Thank you.



We want to make sure that Faith folks who are home-bound or otherwise unable to attend worship are included in the meal. We ask you to inform the church office of your desire to have Communion brought to you, as well as the number of people in your household who would like to receive. We will strive to bring Holy Communion to you as frequently as we can, ideally not less than once per month. Please reach out to Pastor Jill ([pastorcollict@verizon.net](mailto:pastorcollict@verizon.net)) with any questions or concerns about this or any other pastoral matter. Also, if you know of someone who might need home communion or other outreach, let Pastor Jill know.

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If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, please see the Flower Chart posted in the narthex or you can contact the church office to reserve a date. The cost is \$20 per arrangement and you may place your payment in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. If you pay by check, please write "altar flowers" on the memo line. If paying with cash, please write your name and "altar flowers" on the outside of your envelope.





## *Worship & Music*

The Sundays after Epiphany give us time to unpack the full meaning of the gift we received at Christmas. What begins in mystery starts to be revealed in signs and wonders until the light reaches every human being. I want to thank everyone who assisted in worship, shared their musical gifts, and prepared the worship space for Advent and Christmas Eve. It was a joy to worship with you, especially as we grieved what was lost last year.

Let's remember the glowing of the Advent candles and our united prayers for God's illumination in our world. The light did not overwhelm or crush the darkness, but it revealed what we could not see before. The Epiphany season ends with Christ shining brightly on the mountaintop – a light revealed to the nations and the glory of his people.

*Lord, the light of your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining;  
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.  
Shine on me, shine on me.*

ELW 671 Shine, Jesus, Shine; Words & Music: Graham Kendrick 1987

### **Congregational Song**

We're continuing our shortened worship service as a safety measure and to allow time before Sunday School begins at 10:30. As a singing congregation, it's challenging to choose which music can stay. I personally miss singing during Communion, a practice that Luther added to deepen our faith and teach doctrine. Our current liturgy still meets the central things of worship that have been practiced since the early church of Justin Martyr - *reading scripture, preaching, and prayers of the people*. The Service of Word & Sacrament (2006) suggests a Gathering hymn, Kyrie or Cantic of Praise to begin worship, hymns or liturgical songs before the eucharist, and ending with a post-communion canticle or Sending hymn.

Singing the Gospel Acclamation and the Hymn of the Day is a historically Lutheran practice. The Hymn of the Day is intimately related to the texts and themes of the day, as well as the church year. During the season of Epiphany, the hymns center around Christ's manifestation, baptism, and glory. Hopefully these hymns in February help you connect more deeply to the Word made flesh who lives and reigns among us.

ELW 817 You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore  
ELW 725 When the Poor Ones  
ELW 603 God, When Human Bonds Are Broken  
ELW 671 Shine, Jesus, Shine

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## Hospital Stays/Prayer List Updates

Please notify the church office with any additions, deletions or changes to our prayer concerns or when you or someone you love is hospitalized (also when you or your loved one is released from the hospital).

## Need or want to talk with the Pastor?

Please call the church office at (908) 369-3201 or you may email Pastor Jill at [pastorcollict@verizon.net](mailto:pastorcollict@verizon.net).



*Please keep in your prayers...*

- |                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| + Martin Boer    | + Lorraine Capobianco |
| + Betty Hannum   | + Rudy Harding        |
| + Tara Joswick   | + Christine Kennette  |
| + Simon Mizrachy | + Jonathan Stein      |
| + Andrew Wishnow | + Pastor Zimmermann   |

*Our sympathies and prayers are offered for the family and friends of:*



- Richard Marton (requested by Aubrey Kandell)  
The Rev. Jennifer Sweitzer (friend of Pastor Jill)  
Bill Clipper (Jean Lapotasky's cousin)  
Gerhard Ganz (David Haase's uncle)  
Joseph Brenan (requested by Colleen Sporn)  
Irene Shelcusky (requested by Charles German)  
Tony Markota (Vanessa Markota's father)  
Curtis J. Moreland (requested by Monica Adelman)  
Gary Ward (requested by Brenda Overcash)  
Joseph Alexander (requested by Colleen Sporn)



2/2 Christine Kennette Laura Naumovski	2/12 Raymond Del Rio Aubrey Kandell Karrie Obert-Thorn	2/21 Kristian Farreny Bill Strachan Zachary Volpe
2/6 Katie Cowan	2/15 Kevin Haynie	2/22 Christian Nielsen
2/8 Hudson Pfau	2/16 Dan Trabilis	2/23 Molly Cowan
2/10 Cheryl McCollum	2/17 Joseph Adelman Sophia Wendrzycki	2/24 Stacy Westhusin
2/11 Sarah Frank Chris Ponsini	2/19 Sophia Naumovski	2/26 R.J. Del Rio Jacob Greco
	2/20 Robin Fanizzi Kaya Kennette	2/27 C.J. Massa Sarah Ponsini



**Faith Lutheran Church  
Operating Fund  
Statement of Revenues and Expenses  
For the seven months ending December 31, 2021**

	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Envelopes	\$239,049	\$138,871	\$155,353
Other	<u>37,145</u>	<u>7,014</u>	<u>9,351</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>276,194</b>	<b>145,885</b>	<b>164,704</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Total Mutual Ministry	209,898	126,615	121,001
Total Worship & Music	4,460	2,739	2,684
Total Property Maintenance	54,827	33,223	26,821
Total Christian Education	3,050	2,275	1,734
Total Youth	1,200	612	291
Total Evangelism	1,985	609	70
Total Social Ministry	25,410	14,822	14,767
Total Finance	41,989	24,714	24,619
Total Stewardship	200	--	--
Capital Improvement Fund	5,000	--	--
Equipment Fund	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
Total Expenses	348,019	205,610	191,989
Special Benevolence/Social Ministry-Other	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>3,868</u>
<b>Total Expenses after Special Benevolence</b>	<b>348,019</b>	<b>205,610</b>	<b>195,857</b>
<b>Income (Loss) Before Budget Gap</b>	<b>(71,825)</b>	<b>(59,725)</b>	<b>(27,260)</b>
<b>Budget Gap</b>	<b>71,825</b>	<b>59,725</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>Income (Loss)</b>	<b>\$ <u>0</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	<b><u>(27,260)</u></b>

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## FEBRUARY 2022

We love because he first loved us.

1 John 4:19

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:15 Youth Committee Meeting  Groundhog Day	<b>3</b> 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 60126 Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00 Silver Foxes 10:00 SHIP	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 Worship 10:30 Adult Forum/ Confirmation Class/ Sunday School	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:15 Property Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> 7:15 Christian Ed Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> 4:30 Girl Scout Troop 60529 Meeting	<b>11</b> 5:15 Girl Scout Troop 63317 Meeting	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 Worship 10:30 Adult Forum/ Confirmation Class/ Sunday School	<b>14</b> 7:15 Re-Entry Committee Meeting  Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> 7:15 Congregation Council Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:00 Girl Scout Troop 60126 Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 Worship 10:30 Adult Forum/ Confirmation Class/ Sunday School	<b>21</b> Church Office Closed  Presidents Day	<b>22</b> Articles for March Reach Out due	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:30 Girl Scout Troop 60529 Meeting	<b>25</b> 5:15 Girl Scout Troop 63317 Meeting	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 Worship 10:30 Adult Forum/ Confirmation Class/ Sunday School	<b>28</b>	<p><b>All worship services will be lived-streamed on Faith's Facebook page</b></p> <p>Green = Held via Faith's Zoom account</p> <p>Purple = Other Zoom</p>				