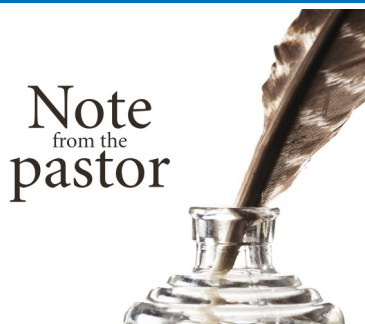


Faith Lutheran Church

The Messenger

January, 2024



Merry Christmas!

My first Christmas at Faith Lutheran has been blessed with countless acts of kindness. From invitations to events, to cards coming in the mail, to beautifully wrapped gifts showing up in my office (often for Bea), my family has felt exceedingly loved this last month. I want to also thank the whole congregation for the generous gifts given to the church staff this year.

I am also grateful for your understanding and your prayers. Through some quirks of scheduling, Bea and I ended up with back-to-back procedures in the middle of December (good for insurance purposes, with the deductibles having been met, but *really* bad for a pastor's schedule...). Mine went as smoothly as expected. Bea's, alas, did not, leading to a second surgery right before Christmas. Throughout all of it, I appreciated the support of the church staff, Council President Bob Henry, members of my support committee, and countless others who checked in to make sure we were all right.

In the joyful and the terrifying, this was a December that will be remembered. But much of what we remember will be your all's kindness.

Drop-In Hours:

This fall, in response to requests from a handful of congregants, I tried an experiment with "office hours" to see if they would be helpful to ministry. The results were mixed: initially people showed up during those times (especially the people who felt strongly that dedicated office hours are needed), before gradually they were used less and less. In talking to folks, one thing that I realized is that many people were confused about what "office hours" were meant to accomplish (note: they are not the only times I was in the office!).

This winter, I want to try a different experiment, namely "drop-in hours." These are times when I will be available for any parishioner who wants to talk about anything. It is part of a larger set of experiments in being creatively engaged in ministry (e.g. setting up a prayer station outside of the church in good weather, offering times for individual confession in Lent, etc.) that are on my agenda to try in 2024.

Often these drop-in hours will be in the office, but sometimes they will be elsewhere (like a coffee shop). I will publish information in advance. The purpose is to create times that do not have to be scheduled when someone can come for conversation or prayer. Outside these times, I am happy to schedule

meetings or visits, but sometimes it might be good to know that you can just “drop in.” One thing that I want to emphasize, however, is that generally, you can always drop by when I am at the office or email/call me. Don’t worry about “distracting me from other work.” As a wise mentor once put it, real ministry is in the “distractions.” Paperwork has its place, but the care of souls calls for gracious flexibility.

Drop-in Hours for January:

January 9th and 11th from 2 pm to 5 pm at the church

January 23rd and 25th from 11 am to 1 pm at Starbucks at Ashland and High

Getting back to Acts:

I attended one of the Tuesday Bible studies on zoom a few weeks ago and was left pondering a story that we covered. The Bible study is working their way through the book of Acts, partly in response to my request that we focus on this book of the Bible in our common life over a 12-month period. The story in question is found in Acts 16. In the story, Paul and Silas are in Philippi and run into trouble with the local magistrates. Imprisoned, they spend the night singing and praying (and presumably using the time to evangelize others who are jailed with them). Suddenly an earthquake erupts, which shakes the foundations of the prison. It also breaks open all the doors...

Now this is what I have been replaying in my mind: if I were in that situation, how would I interpret the earthquake? Paul had been unjustly accused, mistreated, beaten, and jailed. In one sense, the earthquake could be seen as a sign of God’s providence: setting the captive free. But Paul instead discerns that God has different intentions in the earthquake. Rather than liberating him from prison, the earthquake provides a power opportunity to witness to his faith in Jesus Christ. For when the jailer arrives, whose responsibility it was to keep the captives, well, captive, the jailer assumes that everyone has fled. His career is over. And he is overwhelmed with thoughts of suicide.

But Paul calls out, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here” (16:28). Somehow Paul and Silas had discerned not only that God wanted them to remain in the prison but had also convinced (either directly or through their example) the other prisoners not to make a run for it. The jailer’s life is not over! Instead, he receives a new life as a disciple of Jesus, and compelled by Paul’s testimony, he and his entire household are baptized. The earthquake had literally broken the prison open, but God uses this not as a temporary fix for Paul’s imprisonment, but as a chance to transform the life of the jailer and his family.

There is much to ponder in this story, my friends. About how we can expect trials and tribulations in our lives. About how sometimes life is not fair and how we may at times be mistreated. And then the evergreen wisdom that faced with great adversity, Christians respond by singing, praying, and testifying to God’s grace! But more than that, this story has something to say about putting the needs of our neighbors, even our neighbors who persecute us, above our own immediate concerns. Leaving the prison would have been easy and no one would have blamed Paul or Silas for taking advantage of what surely appeared as a “God-given” opportunity. But in staying, the earthquake leads not to the death of one person (the jailer) but to new life for many.

Sometimes the obvious solution is not the right one. We can convince ourselves that “when God closes a door, he opens a window” and forget to ask whether God might really want us to stay in the room!

In Christ,

Pastor Dana



Looking back over the past year, I am grateful for:

- Pastor Dana for his unwavering support of the music program;
- members of the Parish Choir for their dedication, persistence, and sense of humor;
- members of Grace Notes and Morning Bells for graciously helping me learn more about handbells;
- Debbie Anderson, Justin Felix, Kim Heersche, Luise Wendroth, Paige Barricklow and Olivia Reney for offering outstanding instrumental music;
- all the cantors for the amount of time they spend studying and rehearsing the psalms and communion music;
- the people of Faith for encouraging, supporting, and loving us.

I am looking forward to serving you in 2024.

Happy New Year!

Music@faithlutheranchurch.com

Annual Gala

The Mission Health Lexington Annual Gala will be held March 1, 2024 at the Central Bank Center. Tables of 10 are now available for \$1100, and the price will increase to \$1250 on January 1. Sponsorship is available at multiple levels. Please contact Penni Black (penni.black@uky.edu) with any questions. We look forward to seeing many of you at this fantastic event that is growing every year.

Thank You



Many thanks from the church staff to the members of Faith for their generous gifts at Christmas.

Pastor Dana, Kathy Egner, Amanda Nord, Paige Barricklow, Leah Hower, Ruth Lundborg, Neil McComb, and the nursery staff.

Nursery Help Needed

Faith's Sunday Morning Nursery is looking for a Qualified Nursery Attendant

Do you know someone who might be a good fit? Please share the following and let us know.

Nursery Attendant (at least 21 years of age) needed to care for children up to 5 years old during 4-hour blocks (8:15 - 12:15) on 2-3 Sunday mornings a month, with flexible scheduling. If anyone you know who has experience working with young children may be interested, please ask them to contact church office for position description and more information to submit letter of interest and resumé. Starting pay rate is \$14 per hour, but negotiable for successful candidates with child care experience and first aid training. Starts ASAP, after interview, reference check, and clear criminal record check.

What is “Healthy Congregations”?

Healthy Congregations is NOT a program itself, but a non-profit organization that offers resources, courses, workshops, coaching, etc. to help grow thoughtful leaders to strengthen faith communities. Pastor Dana has attended several of these offerings and at one time considered becoming a facilitator for the workshops that are offered to church congregations. Our church council felt that this organization may provide some excellent resources through some or all the six training workshops which are offered. The workshops are:

1. Creating Healthy Congregations
2. Healthy Congregations Respond to Anxiety and Change
3. Leadership in Healthy Congregations
4. Relationships in Healthy Congregations
5. Healthy Congregations Develop Generous People
6. The Spiritual Life of Healthy Congregations

Each workshop is made up of five sessions, and each session can be designed for 45 minutes to 90 minutes. Workshop One needs to be the initial workshop. The other workshops can be done in order or juggled in their sequence. There are a number of facilitators across the country who have been trained to provide the workshops and you can go online at “Healthy Congregations” to learn more about this organization.

The facilitator in our area who has agreed to provide the first workshop is Rev. Kevin Burney. He is an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church and is currently serving as the Assistant to the Bishop at the Kentucky Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in Crestwood, Kentucky. He has extensive training in teaching, counseling and pastoral care and has been a Facilitator for Healthy Congregations Workshops for many years.

Our intention (as the Council has suggested) is to offer the first workshop to our congregation, and

PRAYER
CHANGES
EVERYTHING



Prayer List

The persons on the parish prayer list are lifted in prayer at every Sunday service. If you would like to be on the prayer list or no longer need to be on the list, please call or email the parish office.

If you would like a pastoral visit or home communion, you may contact Pastor Dana by calling the church office or by email

(www.pastordana@faithlutheranchurch.org)

The prayer/care ministry invites you to join them in connecting with persons on our prayer list. You can volunteer to connect by phone or email, by a personal visit, or by agreeing to add one specific person to your daily prayers. Contact Pastor Dana for more information or to become part of this ministry.

Members of the Parish (ongoing concerns):

Nancy George, John Atkerson, Gary Chastain, Diana Seidel, Pete Gross, Susan Harper, Bea Rosenberg, and Wayne Schedler.

Friends of the Parish:

Johnson Deshommes, Linda Davis (sister of Barbie Moore), Ed Carey (father of Kevin Carey), JC Miller (father of Jennifer Carey), Barbara Babcock (mother of Val Dutcher), the family of Joe Seidel and the family of Carl Fugmann..

Healthy Congregations (continued)



depending on the response and evaluation by attendees, to continue the series, or to conclude the program. Currently, we have scheduled the initial workshop for Saturday January 27 at the church, with a tentative schedule as follows:

8 AM: Open for participants to register (registration is free) and continental breakfast.

9AM: Workshop begins

10:30: Break

10:45: Program continues

12:30 Lunch (provided by Parish Life)

1:15 PM Program continues

3:30 PM Program concludes

This workshop is intended for all members of Faith Lutheran Church who would like to strengthen their commitment to the church and improve our Faith community. We know that a commitment to attend a workshop for a 5-hour session is a big deal, but we trust the investment of time will be worthwhile. On behalf of the Council we hope that you will check your schedule, and if possible block this day off to attend this program.

Sincerely,

Pastor Dana Lockhart

Bob Henry, Council President

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 3 | Mary McCormick |
| 6 | Judy McGrew |
| 10 | Diana Seidel |
| 12 | Sue Anne Lau
Pat Mundt |
| 19 | Jaiden Lentz
Mary Ann Patrick |
| 21 | Martin Shearer |
| 24 | Bea Rosenberg |
| 28 | Kristi Karow |
| 29 | Tiffany Yahr |



November Financial Summary

November 2023	Total Income - Month	Total Expense - Month	Actual Total Income Less Actual Total Expense	Total Income - YTD	Total Expense - YTD	Actual Total Income Less Actual Total Expense
Budget Forecast	\$29,728.33	\$39,040.55		\$327,011.63	\$429,446.05	
Actual	\$27,713.74	\$35,574.23	(\$7,860.49)	\$318,082.15	\$372,089.83	(\$54,007.68)
Variance	(\$2,014.59)	(\$3,466.32)	(\$7,860.49)	(\$8,929.48)	(\$57,356.22)	(\$54,007.68)
%	93.2%	91.1%		97.3%	86.6%	



Harstad Fine Arts Series Presents:

Adventures in Harp Town

Sunday, January 14



Harpist **Erin Hill** along with her steel guitarist and percussionist will delight you with favorite Celtic and pop songs for an uplifting and fun-filled afternoon of beautiful vocal and harp music. The concert starts at 3:00 PM and will last 80 min, followed by a reception.

Admission is free, but tickets are required. Please click [HERE](#) to reserve your ticket(s).

For questions, email info@harstadarts.com.

"LexArts has provided funding support for the Harstad Fine Arts Series 2023/2024 season through its Fund for the Arts."

LEXARTS





In mid-October, the Mission Endowment Trust Fund (MET) committee asked Faith members to consider making a one-time gift of \$75, \$750 or \$7500 to the MET in honor of Faith's 75th anniversary. As previously discussed, that simple request opened the spigot and God filled the bucket for his work through your donations. The amount of your donations has increased and is currently \$22,445.00.

With your generous donations, we will be able to make a significant impact on our congregation and the wider community. Whether it's providing assistance to those in need, supporting uplifting events or fostering spiritual growth, your contribution plays a vital role in making it all possible.

Once again, thank you for your kind and generous support. Your dedication to making a difference is an exemplary example for all of us to emulate. May God bless you abundantly for your faithfulness and unwavering support to the Mission Endowment Trust Fund.

The MET currently is taking written grant requests for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2024. Anyone who identifies a special need is invited to submit a grant request to the MET committee for consideration. MET grant request application forms are available in the church office or can be obtained via the website. Go to www.faithlutheranchurch.com, select the Stewardship link and scroll to Mission Endowment Fund. Click on Distribution and download the grant application form.

If you have questions, please contact any of the MET committee members—Urton Anderson, Ellie Burnside, Jennifer Carey, Gayle McGrath, Dave McGrew, Richard Michel or Joyce Rector-Hayes.

Faith Lutheran Church

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Lexington, KY 40502

Phone: 859-266-7621

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Email:

office@faithlutheranchurch.com

Church Council 2023

Bob Henry, President

Gayle McGrath, Vice President

David Templar, Secretary

Debbie Rosenberg, Treasurer

Kevin Carey

Sherri Greer

Sue Anne Lau

Brian Lundborg

Reverend Dana Lockhart, Pastor

Financial Secretary

Shane Hadden

Sunday Worship Schedule

In-Person Worship 8:30 and 11:00 AM

Online Streaming, 11:00 AM

Staff

Reverend Dana Lockhart, Pastor

859-266-7621

pastordana@faithlutheranchurch.com

Amanda Nord

Parish Administrator

office@faithlutheranchurch.com

859-266-7621

Kathy Egner

Director of Music

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859-266-7621

Neil McComb, Sexton

859-229-8834

Paige Barricklow, Youth Assistant

pebarricklow15@gmail.com

859-940-0631

Charla Heersche, Learning Center Director

flc859@gmail.com

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