



Faith Family News

December 2023

1611 41st Street
Moline, Illinois 61265

Don't Leave Christ Out!



By Chris Gibson
Christian Education Director

Where has Christ gone? The simple answer is, "nowhere". He is always there right beside us, but we tend to forget in our busy lives. We have appointments, deadlines to meet, start and stop times, functions, events, parties, hobbies, kids, parents, family, and friends to tend to. Most of the time our lives are focused on everything in the world and we forget that Christ is always right there with us.

More recently in our church services at Faith, you may have noticed a change in the Apostles' Creed. In the 3rd Article of the Creed, we used to say "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church". We now say, "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Christian Church". In Luther's Small Catechism it is written "Christian Church" not catholic Church. So, how did we ever get to saying catholic Church and why did we only recently change this back to "Christian Church"?

At the beginning of October this year, Pastor Trisha, Beth George (Church Council President), and I attended the National LCMC Annual Gathering in St. Charles, Missouri. At the worship services during the Gathering the congregation would say the Apostles' Creed. In the creed the LCMC used "Christian Church" not catholic Church. Since we are part of the LCMC and no longer ELCA (and haven't been for years) we decided that we should probably follow what the LCMC is doing and not what ELCA had left us doing. So, now to

the question of "how did we ever start saying catholic instead of Christian?"

Beginning in the 1950s Faith used a Red Lutheran Churches Service Book and Hymnal. In that Red Hymnal, the Apostles' Creed says "Christian Church" not catholic Church. In 1978 the Green Hymnal was published that we at Faith currently have and in our pews. This Green Hymnal "Lutheran Book of Worship" was driven by the Lutheran Church in America, Philadelphia and was done so in collaboration with The American Lutheran Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. A large portion of the collaboration from the other churches, outside of the Lutheran Church in America, was for the writing and arranging of the hymns done by professors, doctors, and professionals of music. Most Lutheran churches purchased a small limited number of the hymnals to mainly use for their choirs' use and to print or project an occasional new song to be added to a service. However, in whole the Green Hymnal was highly rejected by many of the Lutheran Churches and never placed in the pews due to the words "catholic Church" that had replaced "Christian Church" in the Creeds. It was in fact, the Green hymnal that created this change for those churches that placed the hymnal in the pews and followed it's Worships of Service.

As we approach Christmas, we should also remember not to leave Christ out of Christmas. You will see signs that say Merry Xmas, Happy Holidays, and Seasons Greetings. Christ is nowhere to be found in those signs and sayings. Christ is the Reason for the Season! There is no Christmas without Christ!

We are indeed Christians. We do follow Christ. He is always with and all around us. He is there, each and every day of our lives and continues to walk by our side. Don't forget He is there! Include Christ in Everything You Do!



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Hello Church, as I write this article it's two days away from the Thanksgiving celebration. Let us be thankful for our pastor and the rest of our church staff. This includes their families. Speak a word of encouragement at every opportunity. That little gift of encouragement can go a long way. Hey, we are all on the same team—be a champion of encouragement!

Now on to some church business . . . I would like to inform you that we have terminated our contract with FINN AV & IT Solutions because they were not following through with the Managed Service Contract. However, I am so thankful to let you know we have been blessed with a company called Target MARC Security (owned by

Ryan Case.) He has been updating our current IT issues and making improvements. We are beyond thankful for the work proficient in A/V and IT. Pastor Lee will be another resource we will be able to use in the future as we continue on this journey.

I would also like to inform you about some unplanned expenses we have incurred. Our air conditioner system needed fixed at the cost of \$6,000. The sealing of our parking lot cost \$12,000 and the boiler that heats the Sunday school wing is currently in the process of being fixed (waiting on parts), probably to exceed \$5,000. These are all building maintenance issues that needed taken care of to keep our church feeling and looking better.

As always, if you have any questions, please let any of your council members know.

And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to our God the Father through Him. – Colossians 3:17

Prayerfully,
Elizabeth George
Church Council President

NURSE'S CORNER

Our First Defense Against Illness



I remember clearly placing my fingerprint in the agar of the petri dish in my microbiology class I was taking for my nursing degree. A few days later, my classmates and I examined our samples. It was shocking to see the amount of “growth” in our dishes—evidence of the germs we unknowingly carried on our hands.

While our faith is all about believing in what we cannot see, that experiment changed my perspective when it comes to hand hygiene: Seeing IS believing. Perhaps that is why I am a regular “hand-washer” now!

Handwashing is our FIRST defense against illness.

Since we are going into the season of colds, flu, RSV and yes, Covid—it's still out there, folks—it is time to refresh our minds about the importance of clean hands.

- Avoid touching the “T” zone of your face: the eyes, nose, and mouth. These are portals of entry for germs into your body.
- Wash your hands often, especially before eating and after using the bathroom.
- Wash your hands for a full 20 seconds or longer.
- Take advantage of sanitizing gels and wipes now available at many stores and wipe down your shopping cart handle. The person before you may have had a cold or the flu.
- When you've been out in public, wash your hands as soon as possible, avoiding the “T” zone until you do. If you use a public restroom, use a paper towel to turn off the water and to open the door when you leave.
- If you are sick, stay home to prevent the spread of your illness to others.
- Don't cough or sneeze into your hands—use the sleeve of your shirt or a tissue.

For more information on the prevention of illnesses, visit www.henrythehand.com.

Christmas Food Donations for YouthHope



We had a successful food drive for our Thanksgiving Baskets and we want to continue the giving for Christmas! YouthHope Food Pantry is in need of items to complete their Christmas baskets. They have been ordering and setting aside what they can, but right now are short on

canned gravy or gravy mix.

RiverBend has seen a 35% increase in needs and the amount of available food donations is down. YouthHope Food Pantry has seen the same. They would like to thank everyone for their kind donations in the past and ask that you keep them in mind when making future donations.

YouthHope Food Pantry is always looking for volunteers. If interested call YouthHope (309) 762-4577 for additional info on volunteering.

YouthHope Christmas Baskets

- Canned Cranberry Sauce
- Pumpkin
- Canned Corn
- Canned Green Beans
- Boxed Stuffing
- Jar of Gravy/Gravy Pouch
- Canned Sweet Potatoes/Yams
- Potatoes (Boxed Mashed, Au Gratin, or Fresh Potatoes)
- Canned Fruit
- Box of Macaroni & Cheese
- Cornbread/Biscuit Mix/Cake/Brownie/Cookie Mix

Extra Pantry Items Needed:

- Ravioli
- Pork & Beans
- Evaporated Milk
- Diced Tomatoes
- Soup
- Pudding or Jell-O
- Applesauce
- Paper Products (Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Napkins, etc)

S.T.A.R.S. December Luncheon



Please join us for an old-fashioned Christmas Carol Sing-Along featuring Dana Calhoun playing at our December S.T.A.R.S. Luncheon!

WHEN: Tuesday, December 12 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

COST: \$15/person

MEAL: Catered meal from HyVee

PLEASE sign up on the bulletin board outside the Parish Nurse's office and pay BEFORE December 7. Please use the S.T.A.R.S. envelopes to remit payment!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, December 2

- Church Decorating for Advent and Christmas, 9:00 am

Sun, December 3

- First Sunday in Advent

Sun, December 10

- Second Sunday in Advent
- Communion Sunday

Tue, December 12

- S.T.A.R.S. December Luncheon & Sing-Along, 11:30 am

Sun, December 17

- Third Sunday in Advent
- Communion Sunday

Sun, December 24

- Fourth Sunday in Advent
- Communion Sunday
- Children's Christmas Program, 10:00 am
- Candlelight Service, 9:00 pm

Mon, Dec 25 - Mon, Jan 1

- Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Sun, December 31

- ONE COMBINED SERVICE at 10:00 am

Have a
Happy New Year!

DECEMBER

Birthdays

Dec 1	Chris Bogen	Dec 15	Patricia Corbin
Dec 2	John Kruse	Dec 19	Londyn Roberts
	Thomas Lindauer	Dec 20	Pete Quinn
Dec 5	Randy Oldenburg	Dec 21	Dora Lee DeLong
	Ray Rogers	Dec 23	Ricky Hoyt
	Kimber Rogers	Dec 24	Gabriella Keel
Dec 6	Isabella Terrell	Dec 25	Karen Jensen
Dec 7	Dean Corbin		Kathryn Turner
Dec 8	Kelly Anderson	Dec 28	Tim Christensen
Dec 10	Eileen Lister	Dec 30	Addyson Jo Keel

Anniversaries

Dec 2	Randy & Kelly Peterson
Dec 10	Jim & Debbie Case
Dec 16	Brad & Pastor Trisha Smith

New Online Life Group



The Bible is written by books of the Bible and not necessarily by the order of events. The chronological Bible puts events in chronological order of happening. In this new group, facilitated online by Debbie Case, they will be reading this Chronological Bible with readings broken down for each day starting on January 1. They will also meet in person the last Tuesday of the month starting on January 30 at 5:00 pm. Bring your own dinner and enjoy fellowship!

"This is a group focused on learning through scripture in the Bible and living the Word in our daily lives. We will help hold each other accountable to keep ourselves learning and growing as we study together. We will care for one another and extend grace understanding that we are all in different places in our lives. We will all our do

our best to support each other with kindness and respect."

If you'd like to join the group, please email the church office or speak with Deb at church. These Bibles are available on Amazon and there will be several copies for sale in the church bookstore.

"The Savior's Birth" — A Nativity Skit



Attention Parents,

Faith Lutheran will be having a Children's Christmas Eve Program titled "The Savior's Birth"—A Nativity Skit. This program will be our church service for Sunday, December 24 at 10 am.

All children are invited to be a part of and in the program. Please contact Chris Gibson (chris.gibson@faithlcmc.org) if your children will be here at church that day and will be in the program.

We will also hold practices on Saturday, December 16 and Saturday, December 23 at 10 am. The children have already been rehearsing the songs for the program in Children's Church on Sundays.



December 24

10:00 am | Children's Christmas Program

9:00 pm | Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 31

10:00 am | ONE COMBINED New Year's Eve Service

PRAYER LIST

MEMBER SHUT-INS

Thelma Egeberg
Judie Emmert
Dorance Johnson
Jackie Petty
Candy Smith

MILITARY

Brady Barlow
Drew Bogen
Jeff Burchfield
Cat Henry
Doug Hoff
Ray Rogers

Bookkeeper's Corner

By Wayne Smith
Faith Lutheran Church Bookkeeper

As we approach the end of 2023, I thought the congregation might be interested in where our church is financially. The answer is... **not very encouraging**. Below are our balances in several major areas on a Year-to-Date basis through the end of November.

2023 YEAR-TO-DATE (through Nov)

	Actual	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Income			
Simply Giving	89,388	88,062	1,326
Envelop Pledges	154,858	187,000	-32,142
Other	53,248	34,279	18,969
Total Income	297,494	309,341	-11,847
Expense			
Salary & Benefits	152,817	142,562	13,866
Property	96,969	66,624	30,345
Other	113,060	98,155	9,294
Total Expense	362,846	309,341	53,505
Income - Expense	-65,352	0	-65,352

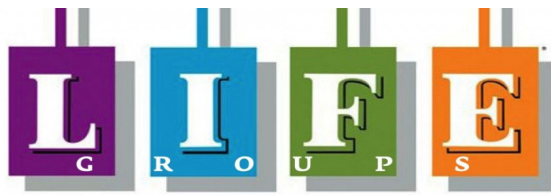
Rather than me trying to explain all these numbers, let me just state a few facts to hopefully put everything in perspective:

- The results above show a deficit (expenses exceed income) of \$65,000 as of the end of November.
- Compared to past years, having a deficit at this point in time is not unusual, but the deficit is generally in the neighborhood of \$20,000 to \$30,000, not \$65,000.
- The first two items in the "Income" section clearly show that our committed income (pledges) is nearly \$31,000 **below** what was budgeted.
- In the "Expense" section, the Total Expense is \$53,500 **over** budget and that \$44,000 of this is due to the first items in Expense – Salary & Benefits and Property.
- Having Total Expenses over budget is not necessarily bad if you have extra (unbudgeted) income to cover the unbudgeted expenses. In the Other category in the Income section, the church had nearly \$19,000 of

extra income. This offsets part of the \$53,500 deficit, but certainly not all of it.

- The end result is that about half of the \$65,000 deficit is due to insufficient income and half is due to over spending.
- In all but one year in the past six, the church's December results were so good that the church not only made up the deficit, but ended up with a profit.

So what does all this boil down to? To break even for this year, the church must have enough income in December to cover December expenses plus an extra \$65,000 in income to catch up for the previous 11 months deficit. Is that possible? If so, it's up to all of us!



Please check with instructor on when/if class is meeting.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP • SATURDAY 8:45 AM

Men's Fellowship meets Saturdays in the Smart Room at Faith & goes out for breakfast on the 2nd Saturday of each month. This is a group you will look forward to every week. All are invited. For more info, contact Chris Gibson at (918) 231-1042.

WOMEN'S GROUP • SATURDAY 8:45 AM

Join Linda Cothron as they enjoy coffee and Bible study each Saturday morning at Faith. One Saturday they meet out for breakfast. Contact Linda at (309) 738-9425. All are welcome to attend.

BOOK CLUB • LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

This group reads the book of the month and meets to discuss the book. Books can be purchased on the church bookstore. Questions? Contact Cindy Gibson at (815) 378-6698.

THE LAZARUS CONNECTION • MONDAY 5:30 PM

This VDC Men's Reunion Group meets every Monday evening from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the church. This casual group is for men who want to stay connected and accountable on their weekly walk with Christ. For more information contact Jim Case at (309) 798-4176 or jcase1277@gmail.com.

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER • MONDAY 5:00 PM

Come pray with our prayer warriors as they confidentially pray for members, our community, and our leaders each week. All are welcome. Have a request for prayer? You can contact Beth George at (563)209-2083 or by leaving a prayer request in the heart shaped pray box.

FAITHFUL QUILTERS • TUESDAY 9:00 AM

This group meets each Tuesday morning at 9:00 am for several hours to work on quilting and crafting. Contact Sandy Perry at (309) 762-6563.

MEN'S GROUP • THURSDAY 6:30 PM

Cool Dudes coffee group is meeting on Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm. Contact Todd Rittenhouse at (309) 721-2006 to join in. All are welcome to attend.

WOMEN'S CONNECTION • DAILY ON FACEBOOK

The greatest of these is love! Join us for a daily devotion! Visit our Facebook page at Faith Lutheran Church and press the "join" button or feel free to call Barb at (309) 738-4228.

JIM'S LIFE GROUP • SUNDAY 9:40-10:40

Join Jim's Life Group in the smart room for a video-led Bible study. Join the group anytime. Books are available for purchase in the church bookstore. Contact the church office for more info.

Faith Lutheran Church

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www.faithlcmc.org
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Sunday Services

8:30 am

10:45 am

9:40 am Sunday School

*(5th Sunday is one
service at 10:00 am)*

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE