

The Messenger

January, 2021

From the Pastor

I keep hearing people say that they're going to stay up until midnight on December 31st not to celebrate entering into 2021, but to make sure that 2020 leaves. It has been a challenging year as we deal with the many changes brought on by the coronavirus pandemic. We've had to adopt many safety protocols to inhibit the spread of the virus, which have adversely affected many businesses like restaurants. We've had to resort to worshipping via livestream, which counters the incarnational nature of our gathering for worship. But we've made these sacrifices in order to help stop the spread of a disease that has already claimed over 335,000 lives of people in our nation, and 1.77 million worldwide.

As we enter into the season of Epiphany this month, may the light of Christ shine bright within and upon our lives. As vaccines get approved and distributed we can see a light at the end of the tunnel for some of our safety protocols to be lifted. We look forward to the coming day when we can all gather together for worship without the fear of infecting one another. We look forward to the day when we can gather in person for Bible Study and social events. We look forward to the day we can hug those from who we've been apart. Until those days come to fruition I invite you to remember how God's light has continued to shine upon us. The changes we've endured haven't kept us from being the Church. We've continued to do justice with partners in ministry. We've continued to check up on one another with listening and caring. We've continued to support

ministries in our community that feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and provide needed healthcare. We've continued to let the light of Christ shine through us.

Perhaps when we look back on 2020 in years to come, we won't be so disgruntled about what we've been through. Perhaps in hindsight we'll better be able to see God's guiding presence that helped us to endure. I imagine that there are many spiritual lessons that we've learned this year that will serve us well in faithful living for years to come. For example, becoming more patient and accepting of what is; learning anew the importance of physical presence in our relationships; learning how to stay connected even when apart. Maybe we've found some new ways to stay spiritually grounded and have discovered new ways to worship within our own homes. We've learned lessons in generosity, perhaps by supporting restaurants that have struggled by ordering take out, or by giving an extra gift to overtaxed agencies helping those on the margins.

I believe that the lessons we've learned during 2020 will serve us well in being the church in 2021 and beyond. May the light of Christ continue to guide us and shine upon and through us too!
Deep Blessings,



Worship

The Sunday morning in-person worship service is currently suspended due to rise in COVID-19 cases. The 11:00 AM worship is live-streamed via YouTube and our Facebook page. You can access the livestream from our [website](#) or from our [Facebook](#) page. For safety reasons, only those who are serving attend this service: the pastor, assisting minister, cantor, musician, sacristan and technology coordinator.

Faith Lutheran Learning Center

Faith Lutheran Learning Center thanks you for your love and support and wishes you a healthy and blessed new year! Check out the Faith Lutheran Church [website](#) or the Learning Center [Facebook](#) page for videos of our kids singing Christmas carols.

Tuesday Bible Study

In the Tuesday morning Bible Study we are currently studying the Gospel of John, which was written so that people may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing they may have life in his name (20:31). The meeting is held on Zoom at 11:00. Here is the link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87550398740?pwd=QWFobEsvNTE0bIZPdytoWVgvOTZ0QT09>

All are welcome. We would be happy to have you at any time.

Livestream Operators Needed

Every Sunday we need people to operate the livestream equipment. If you would be willing to be trained to do this, please contact [Kathy](#) in the office.

Thanks

From Blessings in a Backpack

Dear Faith Lutheran Church,
Thank you very much for your generous donation of \$870.79 received on October 1, 2020, to help provide hunger-free weekends to children living with food insecurity in your designated program/school. Your gift is critical to Blessings in a Backpack's work to ensure children receive the nutrition they need to grow, learn, and thrive—to be a kid. Thank you for being a hero. You have made a difference.

With gratitude,
Brooke M. Wiseman
Chief Executive Officer
Blessings in a Backpack

From St. Thomas Lutheran Church

Thank you again for your very generous contribution to our food pantry. I should note that Gordon Grotrian, who brought your check to us, is himself a volunteer in our food pantry, so your investment in us is not only monetary, but very personal as well. You have been a good "parent" congregation for us, and we appreciate it. May God's peace be with you.

Ordell Hill, coordinator
Community Food Bank at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Richmond, Kentucky

From the Catholic Action Center

Thank you for your donation of \$1267.14 to the Catholic Action Center of Lexington, KY, an inner city house of hospitality for those in need. At the Catholic Action Center, the hungry are fed, the naked are clothed, the stranger is welcomed. Your donation allows this ministry to continue. Wishing you peace and blessings.

Life Together at Faith

January Birthdays

- 3 Mary McCormick
- 4 Louise Heiss
- 6 Judy McGrew
- 10 Diana Seidel
- 12 Emerson Farrar
Sue Ann Lau
Pat Mundt
- 19 Jaiden Lentz
Mary Ann Patrick
- 24 Trude Ranta
Bea Rosenberg
Trevor Wilson
- 28 Kristi Karow

January Anniversaries

- 13 Dana & Rebecca Lockhart
- 16 Tim Sorenson & Jennifer Baricklow

Baptism Anniversaries

- 12 Anna Holmes
- 13 Soren Kurth
- 18 Nancy George
- 24 Maximus Schadler
- 26 Al Akers
- 27 Anna Davis

Thank You from the Staff

The staff of Faith Lutheran Church wishes to thank all of you for the generous Christmas gifts. We are especially grateful for the love and support you show us throughout the year, and we pray that we will all be richly blessed this coming year. God's peace, Pastor Mark, Kathy, Neil, Kaleb, and Leah.



November Financial Summary

Nov 2020	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	\$36,164.83	\$36,461.51		\$397,812.60	\$401,076.61	
Actual	\$34,977.50	\$30,480.57	\$4,496.93	\$322,741.06	\$302,598.77	\$20,142.29
Variance	(\$1,187.33)	(\$5,980.94)		(\$75,071.54)	(\$98,477.84)	
%	96.7%	83.6%		81.1%	75.4%	

Faith Lutheran Church

1000 Tates Creek Drive
Lexington, KY 40502
Phone: 859-266-7621
Fax: 859-266-9600
Email:
office@faithlutheranchurch.com



Church Council 2020

Jonathan Delap, President
Richard Heine, Vice-President
Gayle McGrath, Secretary
Roland Born
Sherri Greer
Carolyn Holmes
JoEllen McComb

Other Key Leaders

Shane Hadden, Financial Secretary
Debbie Rosenberg, Acting Treasurer

Worship Schedule

Sunday Online Streaming, 11:00 AM

Staff

Mark Sloss, Pastor

pastormark@faithlutheranchurch.com
859-266-7621

Office hours: Tues-Thurs 9:00-12:00, day off Friday
765-437-3879

Kathy Egner, Parish Administrator

office@faithlutheranchurch.com
859-266-7621

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00-3:00; Fri. 9:00-12:00

Neil McComb, Sexton

859-229-8834

Charla Heersche, Learning Center Director

flc859@gmail.com
859-268-0108

Faith Lutheran Church
1000 Tates Creek Road
Lexington, KY 40502