

Faith Lutheran Church

The Messenger

February, 2023

Dear Friends,

Lent is coming! Ash Wednesday, the start of our annual Lenten journey, is on February 22 this year... which means Lent is less than a month away!

Historically, Lent is a penitential season that invites us to take stock of our lives, acknowledge our sinfulness and to commit to acts of devotion to God. Accordingly, almsgiving, fasting, prayer, and education are all particularly appropriate in this season. In the ancient church, when adult converts were baptized at the Easter Vigil, Lent was the final period of "faith formation" prior to their initiation into the body of Christ. In the 21st century church, I wonder if acts of evangelism and outreach should not be included in our Lenten disciplines. This is a time when the world around us take some interest in our faith: why are those people wearing ashen crosses on their foreheads? What does it mean to "give something up for Lent?" Why is every fast-food restaurant advertising a fish sandwich?

As modern Christians, we tend to be fairly comfortable at private devotions and acts of personal piety. Where we struggle tends to be in sharing the joy that is within us. So, what could a Lenten season of evangelism look like? Oddly enough, it begins with telling people that they are going to die.

That is, at the core, the message of Ash Wednesday: remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return. At yet these words have profound meaning, they speak a stark truth, but they also prepare our hearts and minds to contemplate the radical nature of God's grace. I will never forget the first time I put ashes on my daughter's forehead. My beautiful child, who I loved more than my own life, held at an altar while receiving the ashes, I almost broke down crying. And that moment of truth and honesty and pain made me see the cross, where God's beloved child was condemned to death, from an entirely new vantage point.

In the years since then, I find it remarkable how many visitors show up for Ash Wednesday services.

"Remember that you are going to die" doesn't seem like a very positive marketing slogan, and yet it seems nothing resonates with people like the truth. And each year, we have this golden opportunity to engage with visitors who are coming and looking for truth, hope, peace, and ashes. This is a golden opportunity for evangelism.

This year, in addition to the noon and 7 PM worship services, I am planning to offer "Ashes to Go" outside the church on Ash Wednesday. I have mixed feelings about "Ashes to Go:" I would much prefer that people "get their ash in church!" But when I participated in this event at UK, I was struck by how many people found an opportunity for prayer and ashes in the midst of their busy day to be a blessing. Coming out of Covid, when not everyone yet feels comfortable in group settings, and when plenty of people are engaging online, also allows this to be a "hybrid ministry." You can't get the ashes from a screen, but you can drive to church and get the ashes in the comfort of your car, and then go and watch the entire service online. The originators of "Ashes to Go" commend it to the church as a transformational act of evangelism, taking our faith, hope, tradition, need for repentance and trust in God's grace into the wider community. As the Ashes to Go website puts it: *"Ashes to Go" is about bringing spirit, belief, and belonging out from behind church doors, and into the places where we go every day. It's a simple event with deep meaning, drawing on centuries of tradition and worship to provide a contemporary moment of grace.*

Honestly, I am not sure if this will be a success or not. But as I watch the traffic line up on Tates Creek Road every afternoon, as I see the people walking and biking past our church building, and as I meet parents coming to get their children from the Learning Center, I wonder if "Ashes to Go" might not be an opportunity for deeper

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engagement with our wider community. And so, from 4:30 pm to 5:30 PM on Ash Wednesday, I plan to be outside (probably freezing) and offering prayer and ashes to anyone who stops to receive them.

Lent is coming. And with it are boundless opportunities for evangelism and outreach. As pastor of this congregation, I encourage everyone to add “who can I invite” and “how can I share my faith” alongside the age-old question of “what should I give up” this year.

In Christ, Pastor Dana



- 2 Helen Born
Bonnie Chastain
- 8 Susan Hamilton
- 11 Bert Grotrian
- 14 Aja Hammonds
- 15 Paige Barricklow
- 17 Debbie Anderson
- 21 Hower, Leah
- 25 Ole Wendroth
- 27 Patty Slevin

- 8 Daniel & Sue
Anne Lau
- 16 Joyce & Ford
Cornett
- 16 Charlie & Susan
Hamilton
- 16 Gene & Susan
Harper

Save the Date!

On February 26, Pastor Dana will be installed at a special service at 3:00 PM. Bishop Gafkjen from the Indiana-Kentucky Synod will preach. This is a wonderful time to celebrate our new pastor, so please plan to attend.

Mission Health Lexington

Celebrate the Magic of Mission Health Lexington at our annual gala on February 24. Tickets are now on sale. Put your own table together or indicate in the "additional comments" section which church you are from and we will gladly seat you with fellow members. For details and to make your reservation, visit

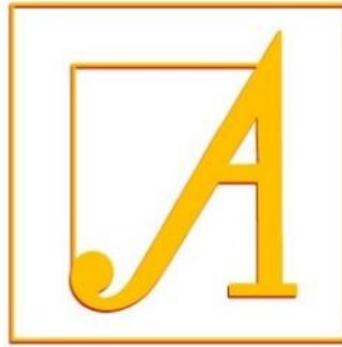
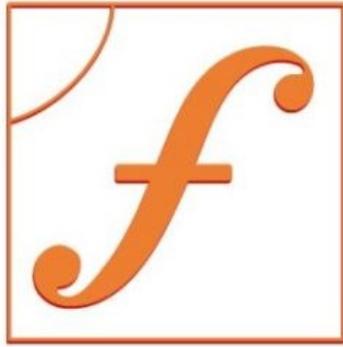
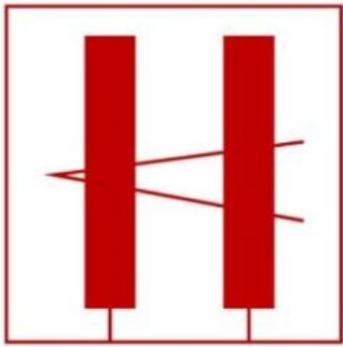
<http://www.missionhealthlex.org/events>

If your birthday or anniversary does not appear here, please let the church office know. We never intentionally leave anyone out!



December Financial Summary

Dec 2022	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	\$28,658.33	\$34,949.28		\$343,900.00	\$433,563.36	
Actual	\$38,277.00	\$40,027.00	(\$1,750.00)	\$376,873.00	\$409,236.00	(\$32,363.00)
Variance	\$9,618.67	\$5,077.72	(\$1,750.00)	\$32,973.00	(\$24,327.36)	(\$32,363.00)
%	133.6%	114.5%		109.6%	94.4%	



The Harstad Fine Arts Series Presents:

Whit Whitaker

Freedom Journey

February 12 at 3:00 PM

Freedom Journey is a vision of freedom borne on the wings of faith, hope and strength.



and

It uses song and artistic expression as the vessel of interpretation to remind us that the pains of this country's past should never be forgotten and should serve as our lesson to continue on the endless road to freedom, justice, and equality.

We thank the Mission Endowment trust for underwriting this event.

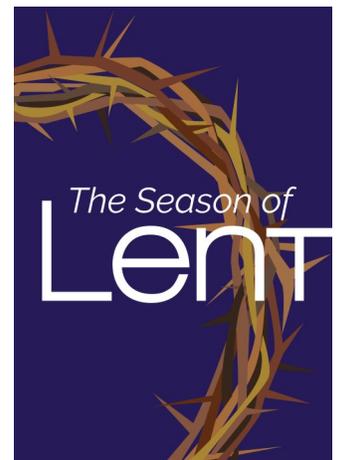
Childcare will be provided.

Free tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/freedom-journey-tickets-399212634737>

More information at www.harstadarts.com or email info@harstadarts.com

Lenten Worship

February 23	Ash Wednesday 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist Ashes to Go 4:30-5:30 PM
Wednesdays in Lent	7:00 PM Holden Evening Prayer
April 6	Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
April 7	Good Friday Worship 12:00 Noon and 7:00 PM



Faith Lutheran Church

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Church Council 2022

Richard Heine, President

David Templar Vice President

Sherri Greer, Secretary

Debbie Rosenberg, Treasurer

Jonathan Delap

Carolyn Holmes

Kevin Carey

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

Kathy Egner, Parish Administrator

Interim Director of Music

office@faithlutheranchurch.com

859-266-7621

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9:00-2:00

Neil McComb, Sexton

859-229-8834

Charla Heersche, Learning Center Director

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