

DECEMBER 2024



Official Newsletter of
Faith Lutheran Church, Marshfield, WI

Abounding in Hope: Embracing the Promise of Advent

FROM PASTOR HEATHER BROWN

Romans 13:15

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Dear People of God,

On Sunday, December 1, we will light the first candle on our Advent wreath – the candle of HOPE. For Christians, HOPE means more than wishful thinking or optimism. Indeed, the HOPE we have in Jesus Christ brings us certainty and confidence.

We know that we have a God who keeps his promises, especially as we reflect on the past. Long ago God promised that the Messiah would come to save God's people from their sin. God's promise was fulfilled when he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to be born as a babe in a humble manger in Bethlehem.

As we look to the future, we know that God has promised that Jesus Christ will return to our world, once again, and establish his kingdom on earth. We await Jesus' final return to earth with hope and expectation, confident that he will come back in all his glory. Indeed, we await Christ's second coming with certainty, trusting that God's promise will prevail.

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This year you will have the opportunity to use a special devotional resource for your Advent observance. It's called "The Way of Love" and it highlights seven spiritual practices to help us center our lives on Jesus Christ.

Over the course of a seven-day week, "The Way of Love" will offer a reflection on one of the following: Worship, Bless, Go, Rest, Turn, Learn and Pray.

In addition, on Tuesdays at 12 noon (December 3, 10, 17) you will be invited to share in a special time of Advent prayer and devotion that will be offered both in-person at Faith Lutheran and on YouTube. Watch for the link to be sent-out in the days to come.

May you abound in peace, joy and hope in this Advent Season!

Pastor Heather

SERVICE TIME

IN-PERSON 9:00 AM

New!

WAYS TO WATCH

1. Live-streaming on our APP, Facebook & YouTube.
2. Cable Access 989
Broadcast Times:
 - Sunday at 12 Noon
 - Monday at 11:30 AM
 - Friday at 11 AM
3. Always access on App, Facebook & YouTube.



PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers: (Names will remain on the prayer list for three weeks unless otherwise requested.)

Sandy Fredrickson; Marian Hintzel; Doris Lockre; Karen Pugh; Marian Oelhafen and her son-in-law, Steve; Maxine Morgan's brother, Keith and god-daughter's family; Stan Panek; Dave & Diane Herron's niece, Mia & Tom Krake.



*Pick Up Your
Advent
Devotional
on Sunday!
or at the office
during the week.*

GLOW

Celebrating December: Joy, Learning, and the Christmas Spirit

FROM CO-DIRECTORS
JUSTIN POLZIN & BRIANNE THOMPSON

Well, it seems the cold weather has officially arrived! Be sure to bundle up and keep the kids warm as we head into the holiday season. We're continuing to share in the children's excitement as they learn about the Church, Jesus, and the many wonderful stories we get to read and listen to together. The kids are especially eager to share their Christmas Program with you all this December!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM NOVEMBER

Spotlight on the First Grade Class – November 17th

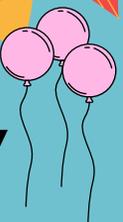
November 17th was a truly special day as our First Grade class took center stage during the service! These enthusiastic children greeted the congregation, handed out bulletins, ushered, collected offerings, and even assisted with communion. Their energy was infectious, bringing joy not only to themselves but also to everyone in attendance. We'll be taking December off from showcasing our children during services, but don't worry—we'll be back in January! Mark your calendars for January 19th, when our 2nd and 3rd graders will take the spotlight.

Reminder: No Classes on December 1st

Just a quick note—there will be no classes on Sunday, December 1st, due to the Thanksgiving weekend. We hope you enjoy this time with your loved ones and have a wonderful holiday! Classes will resume as usual the following Sunday.



Happy
BIRTHDAY



BIRTHDAYS:

ALEXIS RHODES - 12/05
BREELEIGH POLZIN - 12/22

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS:

LOUISA RAND - 12/27



Pictures from Kid's Night Out.

GLOW

UPCOMING EVENTS



DECEMBER 1ST 6:00PM

GLOW CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

DECEMBER 8TH 10:00AM

GLOW CHRISTMAS PROGRAM REHEARSAL

DECEMBER 8TH

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS DELIVER TO SHUT INS

DECEMBER 15TH 9:00AM

GLOW CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Confirmation Church Visits

Our 8th-grade Confirmation students have continued visiting churches in the community to learn about the similarities and differences among various faiths. They have one more visit scheduled in December, after which they'll complete this meaningful part of their program.

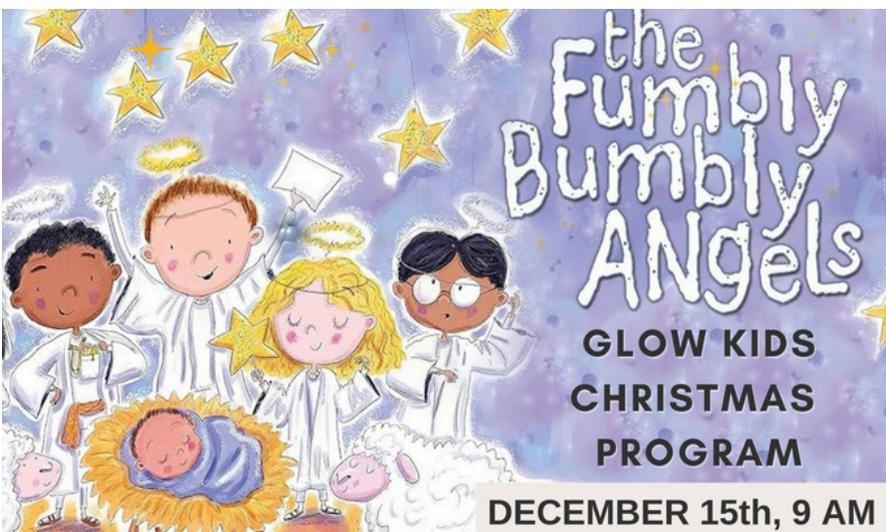
The Christmas Program Is Almost Here!

Our children have been hard at work preparing for the Christmas Program, and their progress has been amazing. This is a performance you won't want to miss! The program will take place on Sunday, December 15th, during the 9 AM worship service. Mark your calendars for what promises to be a joyful celebration of the season.

Join Our Team

As always, we're thrilled to welcome new faces to our Education Team! Whether you can commit regularly or help occasionally, we value your involvement. Every contribution helps us grow as a church family and serve our community in meaningful ways.

Thank you for your continued support. Here's to an exciting and blessed December! From all of us on the Education Team—teachers and students alike—we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! 🍀





Faith Lutheran Youth: December Highlights and Holiday Cheer

FROM KIM VRANA

FLY on Sunday Morning

We finished our fall series on generosity and recently talked about angels. Our next Gathering is on Sunday, December 8th in the Youth Room in the lower level at church. Access is through the north stairway by the Entrance and then straight ahead through the room with the foosball table. We will gather from 10 to 11 AM. Youth in Grades 9 through 12 are invited to join us. This is our last FLY on Sunday Morning for 2024 and we have some very special events planned.



Aluminum Cans

Just a reminder that FLY is still collecting aluminum cans. FLY brings in about \$100-\$150 a year from recycling these cans. They can be dropped off in the church garage anytime or taken to Shaw's on Mill Creek Road and let them know you want the money for your cans to go to FLY.



Mission Trip 2025

FLY will be heading to New York for our Mission Trip in 2025! The trip is scheduled for July and is open to youth currently in Grades 7 through 12. We are looking forward to serving our brothers and sisters in need in the Big Apple.



2024 FLY Spaghetti Dinner

"Grazie" to everyone that helped support Faith Lutheran Youth (FLY) through our 10th Annual Italian Dinner Fundraiser. Funds raised support for our Mission Trip 2025 to New York. We hope you found the dinner yummy - we enjoyed making and serving it to you. We are so glad so many of you were able to come in person for an evening of spaghetti fellowship and youth in aprons. The Grimm Family was the winner of the 50/50 Raffle. Special thanks to all those who donated ingredients for our dinner and especially Rhonda at Chips of Marshfield for donating the sauces. Special thanks to the youth and parents who helped make it all possible - it is no small task.

Holiday Gathering

Current youth in FLY and any high school grads from the last 4 years are welcome to join us for our annual Holiday Gathering. This event is always a lot of fun and includes, food, a sock exchange and some exhilarating games. We will celebrate in the Upper Room from 5 to 8 PM on Monday, December 30.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 🕯️ DEC. 8TH FLY GROUP MEETING 10 AM
- 🕯️ DEC. 30TH FLY HOLIDAY GATHERING 5 PM



Mission Team Updates

Facilities Management Team

CHAIR PAM JOHNSON

Facility Highlights:

- Window wells in the Fellowship Hall and Classrooms in the lower level were cleaned out.
- One of the Boilers in the church needed to be looked at by the House of Heating and it was determined it needed a new control panel and an igniter. These have been ordered and installed.
- Boiler in the Parsonage was checked and it is fine.
- Discussion on smoke alarms, fire extinguishers and exit lights was talked about and will talk to the fire department about placements.
- A discussion on the Parsonage and a motion to write a letter to Council to recommend that the Parsonage be demolished.
- In that, the letter in this newsletter gives information and a Q&A. Please read it and on January 5th come and bring your questions.



Parsonage Letter for Congregation

Since the first table talk on October 7, the Facilities Team has continued to analyze the two options for the future of our parsonage: to tear down the parsonage or to keep and remodel/renovate the parsonage.

Multiple discussions, deliberations, and debates have occurred. This is a complex issue and includes analysis of both initial costs and ongoing maintenance costs. At its November meeting, Facilities made the difficult decision to recommend to Council that the Parsonage be torn down and initially replaced with a green space.

Our church building must be our priority. Our church building is aging and will require significant capital investment over the next decade to remain in good operating condition. A new church roof and new boilers are just two of many items that will be needed. Tearing down the parsonage is the most cost effective way to maintain our church.

Tearing down the parsonage and creating a green space has an initial cost of about \$50,000. There are minimal on-going costs and the green space retains several options for future use such as parking, picnicking or solar panels.

Keeping the parsonage has an initial cost of \$65-\$80,000 depending on use but has significant on-going maintenance costs as electrical, roof, boilers, bathroom repairs, and flooring at a minimum will need to be replaced in the next 2-5 years.

As a Team we were tasked to make a recommendation to Council. Many people have spent many hours gathering information and discussing options. We feel confident our recommendation is best for the future of Faith Lutheran Church.

Continued on next page...



Parsonage Letter continued...

The next step is to hold a table talk after service on January 5. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. The plan is to then place this recommendation before the congregation at the annual meeting.

Please understand that tearing down will NOT start the day after the annual meeting. There is a process that we must follow before any demolition starts. Funding must be decided and permits granted for starters.

The actual tearing down could be 1 to 2 years away, but this gives us a direction.

 **Mark Your Calendars for Parsonage Table Talk - January 5th 10 AM**



Mission Team Updates

Faith In Action Team Updates

CHAIR TREVA TISDELL

MARSHFIELD HOLIDAY PARADE: Dec. 5th
On Tuesday December 3rd, we will be decorating a float, and we could use help.

What we need:

- Help decorating on Tuesday night – December 3rd at 6:00 pm at the home of Matt Tysver, 11719 Lincoln Ave.
- Outdoor Nativity animals (cows, camels, donkeys, etc.) to borrow for decorations on the float
- Individuals (adults and kids) to ride the float on the day of the parade. Only children 13 and older can walk in the parade.
- Individuals to walk and hand out candy.



All children participating should meet at the church at 5:00 pm, to put on their costume if one has been assigned to them. There will be a light meal for kids and adults participating in the parade.

After everyone has eaten and is in costume, we will drive over to the old Armory Parking Lot, park our cars, and walk over to the Marshfield Street Department parking lot where our float will be. If you are participating in the parade, but not coming to the church first, please be in place at our float by 6:00 pm, the parade begins at 6:30.

The parade will end somewhere around 9th Street. We will load everyone on the float and drive back to the Armory Parking Lot and unload everyone. Parents, this is where you must pick up your kids. If you are unable to help this year, plan to attend and watch the parade and show your support for us. Thank you to John & Kathy Campbell for donating the food for our light meal and to Matt Tysver for the use of his trailer and truck to pull our float. Sign up to help, contact Justin Polzin at jpolzin84@gmail.com or familyed@faithmarshfield.com.



Mission Team Updates

Faith In Action Team Updates Cont.

CHAIR TREVA TISDELL

November Coffee Outreach

Thank you to those who donated baked good for our November outreach to the Marshfield Wastewater Treatment Facility. The employees truly appreciated it.

Our December outreach will be to Castle Rock Veterinary Hospital on December 16th which is a Monday at 8:30 AM. Drop off goodies on Sunday at Church.

Christmas Caroling on Sunday

December 15th, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

We will meet at the church at 3:00 pm and will end around 5:00 pm. If interested, please sign up on the poster located in the Gathering Area by December 8th or contact Michelle Rhodes at 715-897-3503.

Communication Team Update

INTERIM CHAIR ALICIA HEINRICH

Highlights

- Tom Loucks took professional pictures pro bono of council, staff, and GLOW teachers! Thank you Tom!
- Cheryl gave stewardship talk, showing new website and app, including how to give online.
- We started testing online volunteer scheduling and attendance in our Digital Management Program Subsplash.
- Team to help create another fundraiser idea with Welcome Team and Worship and Music Team taking pictures of our Stained Glass Windows to sell for our capital campaign. More details coming.
- Website updated with Resources page.



Finance Team Update

INTERIM CHAIR ALICIA HEINRICH

Highlights

- Stewardship no longer part of Faith-in-Action continuing resolution. Will now be a part of Finance Team and the Executive Council's responsibilities.



Mission Team Updates

Social Concerns & Green Team

CHAIRS JOHN & KATHY CAMPBELL & LISA HELSTEIN

WANTED Bakers, Crafters, and Buyers.

On December 8, the Green and Social Concerns Team will be holding its annual Craft and Bake Sale to benefit organizations helping those in need. On December 7, from 9-11:30 AM, the Team will receive your delicious, beautiful, and useful contributions.

Fair Trade Sale - December 15th

Stop by the table in the Gathering Space after worship and check out the Equal Exchange products for sale by the Social Concerns Team. There are several varieties of coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate bars and baking chocolate. All of the products are organic, too.

Operation Christmas Tree

Operation Christmas, our tradition of donating gifts to others in our community who may not otherwise receive a Christmas gift, will be similar to last year in that we will only ask for gift cards or certificates. This year, however, there will be a tree in the Gathering Space with the gift card requests hung on the tree, and you can choose which gift card you would like to purchase. The amount is your decision. Gift cards can be returned to church on Sundays or to the office during the week. The tree will be up from December 1st to December 15th. December 15th will be the final day to return the gift cards on a Sunday.

If you are not able to come to church but would like to donate a gift card, feel free to drop off at the office no later than December 12th. Some of the gift cards may need to be mailed, so please do not wrap them or put them in a gift bag.

Homme Youth and Family Programs Lutheran Social Services

The Homme Youth and Family Program in Wittenberg provides a court ordered treatment program for boys 10 through 18 years old. They have sent us a letter asking for assistance in providing Christmas gifts to those in the program and included a list of gift suggestions. Items may be dropped off at the church during office hours or on Sundays. Sunday, December 8th is the final day for drop-off. Gifts should be left unwrapped, but gift bags are welcome. No bathrobes, food or glass items are wanted.

- New clothing sizes M through XL
- Remote control cars
- Athletic shoes, snow boots sizes 8-11
- Games
- Winter jackets/snow pants
- Watches
- Slippers
- Art Supplies
- Badger/Brewer/Bucks items
- Word find/crosswords
- Basketballs/footballs
- Wallets
- Fishing gear
- DVD's – G or PG rated movies
- Coloring books
- PS4 games rated "E"
- McDonald's gift cards
- Car Air Fresheners (for rooms)



Finance Team Updates

Care Fund Update

FROM TREASURER ALICIA HEINRICH

We supported a variety of families needing help with making rent during the months of October & November.

BALANCES as of 11/29/24

Refugee Fund \$2,453.19*
Care Fund \$ 709.68
 Total Balance \$3,162.87



**The Refugee Fund is managed by Team II of the Refugee Group and a determination of monies will occur by Dec. 31st, 2024.*

Capital Campaign Progress

FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Hip! Hip! Hooray! The latest fundraisers brought us over the top.

Thank you to everyone who participated this past year to make our capital campaign a success this year!

- Women of FLC - No-Bake Bake Sale - \$2,475.86
- Worship & Music - Culver's Night - \$469

(Individual member donations not listed in Progress Bar)



Treasurer's Report

FROM TREASURER KENT MUELLER

General giving for October was \$18,845, compared to \$25,478 for 2023 and \$22,239 for 2022. The year-to-date general giving is \$27,500 less than the budgeted general giving. Year-to-date income is \$20,608 higher than expenses. Year-to-date total income is lower than budget by \$4,789, expenses are lower than budget by \$23,837, and interest earnings are higher than budget by \$1,560, resulting in net income that is \$20,608 higher than budgeted.

Memorial and Other Funds Report

FROM TREASURER CINDY PRUST

For more detail or any questions, please contact Cindy Prust. Here are the totals as of 10/31/24:

Undesignated Memorial	\$11,230.43
Flowers & Altar	\$ 3,481.37
Piece Corp	\$ 164.19
Music Ministry	\$ 4,321.22
Churkey Ed. Fund	\$ 3,191.37
God's Work, Our Hands	\$ 1,025.58
Property Improvement	\$ 875.58
Kitchen Remodel	\$ 3,039.36
Sound System/Proj.	\$ 0.00



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Day of Advent 9:00 WORSHIP 10:00 ADULT ED 6:00 GLOW Xmas Practice	2 Office Closed 6:30 Social Concerns/Green Zoom Meeting 7:00 Al-Anon	3 10:30 Personnel Team Mtg 7:00 Boy Scouts #382	4 8:30 Finance Team Mtg 12:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Communications Mtg 6:00 NA Meeting in CR 7:00 Choir Practice	5 8:30 Piece Corps 12:30 Ecumenical BS 6:30 Holiday Parade 7:00 Scout Troop 345	6 Office & Building CLOSED	7 9:00 Social Concerns Set-up for Bake Sale
8 SC Craft/Bake Sale 9:00 WORSHIP CHOIR CONCERT 10:00 GLOW Practice/AD ED/FLY 10:00 Refresh in God's Word 10:15 W&M Meeting 6:00 Exec. Council Meeting	9 Office Closed 6:30 Facility Team Mtg 7:00 Al-Anon	10 7:00 Boy Scouts #382	11 9:00 Miriam Circle 11:30 LSS Meeting in UR 6:00 NA Meeting in CR	12 8:30 Piece Corps 12:30 Ecumenical BS 6:30 Ed & Fam Team Mtg	13 Office & Building CLOSED	14
15 3rd Day of Advent 9:00 WORSHIP GLOW X-MAS Program Temple Talk: Education 10:00 GLOW/ADULT ED 10:00 Council Meeting 3:00 FIA Christmas Caroling	16 Office Closed 7:00 Al-Anon	17 7:00 Boy Scouts #382	18 9:00 Elizabeth Circle 12:30 Staff Christmas Party 5:30 Youth Advisory Team 6:00 NA Meeting in CR	19 8:30 Piece Corps 6:00 Faith In Action Mtg 7:00 Scout Troop 345	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Office & Building CLOSED	21
22 4th Day of Advent 9:00 WORSHIP 10:00 ADULT ED	23 Office & Building OPEN 8:00-12Noon 7:00 Ruth Circle at MM 7:00 Al-Anon	24 Christmas Eve Office CLOSED 1st SERVICE 3:00-Contemporary 2nd SERVICE 5:30 Traditional	25 Christmas Office & Building CLOSED	26 Office & Building OPEN 8:00-12Noon	27 Office & Building OPEN 8:00-12Noon	28
PASTOR HEATHER BROWN ON VACATION						
Christmas Break						
29 9:00 WORSHIP	30 Office & Building OPEN 8:00-12Noon 5:00 FLY Holiday Gathering 7:00 Al-Anon	31 New Years Eve Office & Building CLOSED	JAN 1st Office & Building CLOSED	JAN 2nd Office & Building OPEN 8:30-2:30 PM	JAN 3rd Office & Building OPEN 8:00-12Noon	JAN 4th
PASTOR HEATHER BROWN ON VACATION						
Christmas Break						



Fast and Easy Online Giving In 5 Steps!

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Marshfield, WI 54449
www.faithmarshfield.com
office@faithmarshfield.com
715-387-3757



- 1 – Download & Open the App
- 2 – Tap the Icon at bottom of Screen - Tap "GIVING"
- 3 – Enter Your Gift and Select General Fund
- 4 – Select method of giving: Bank, Debit/Credit Card, or Apple Pay
- 5 – Press Give Button. Done!



DOWNLOAD TODAY
<http://get.theapp.co/n4rm>

Winter Office Hours:

Tuesdays-Thursdays 8:30 AM-2:30 PM

Service Time:

Sundays 9:00 AM

See Calendar for Holiday Office Hours. Closed on December 24th-25th. Closed on December 31st-Jan 1st.



Christmas SERVICES Eve

3:00 PM - CONTEMPORARY | 5:30 PM - TRADITIONAL

With special music, a puppet show, and annual candle-lighting. Live-stream options available.

Download our APP!



207 S CHERRY AVE. MARSHFIELD, WI 54449 | 715-387-3757



www.FaithMarshfield.com