

Faith Life

Dear Members of Faith,

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

This is the refrain we say together every weekend in the season of Easter. We proclaim and sing and celebrate the reality of Christ overcoming death and the grave. That means we have been freed from sin and death so that we might live a new life every day! Alleluia!

It is our hope that this Easter Joy inspires us in the ongoing work we get to do as Christ's church in the world. We have good news to share with a very hurting world. What is that good news? The good news is that we worship a God who loves us unconditionally. This love, called grace, is free. God's love, made known through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, frees us to love and serve our neighbors.

The theme here seems to be love. We are loved by God and called to love and serve our neighbors in Jesus' name. This good news is the foundation of the proposed Purpose Statement for Faith Lutheran Church that will be considered at the Annual Meeting on April 28th. The purpose statement will serve as our constant directive and remind us of our core purpose as God's people.

"Called by Jesus, we worship God and are led by faith to love and serve all people."

The rest of the Mission & Core Values document the Council has drafted with the help of a task force are grounded in this love. The Core Values section will be considered by the congregation at the congregational meeting on June 16. The document can be found at www.faithlc.org/council.

As we move into the summer months, it is our prayer that you continue to love and serve in your daily lives. How might God be calling you to love in new ways? How might God be nudging you to define "love" beyond your family and good friends? How might the Spirit be calling you to stretch beyond your comfort zone and learn something new about your neighbor? What will "serving all people" look like for you? How might you spend time in worship, prayer, scripture, and reflection, so that you might always be reminded of God's unconditional love for you?

We are created to be free!* Free to know God's love in Christ, and free to love and serve all people. Let's grow, learn, and serve together in Jesus' name!

Peace be with you,

Pastor Eric Carlson & Pastor Megan Clausen

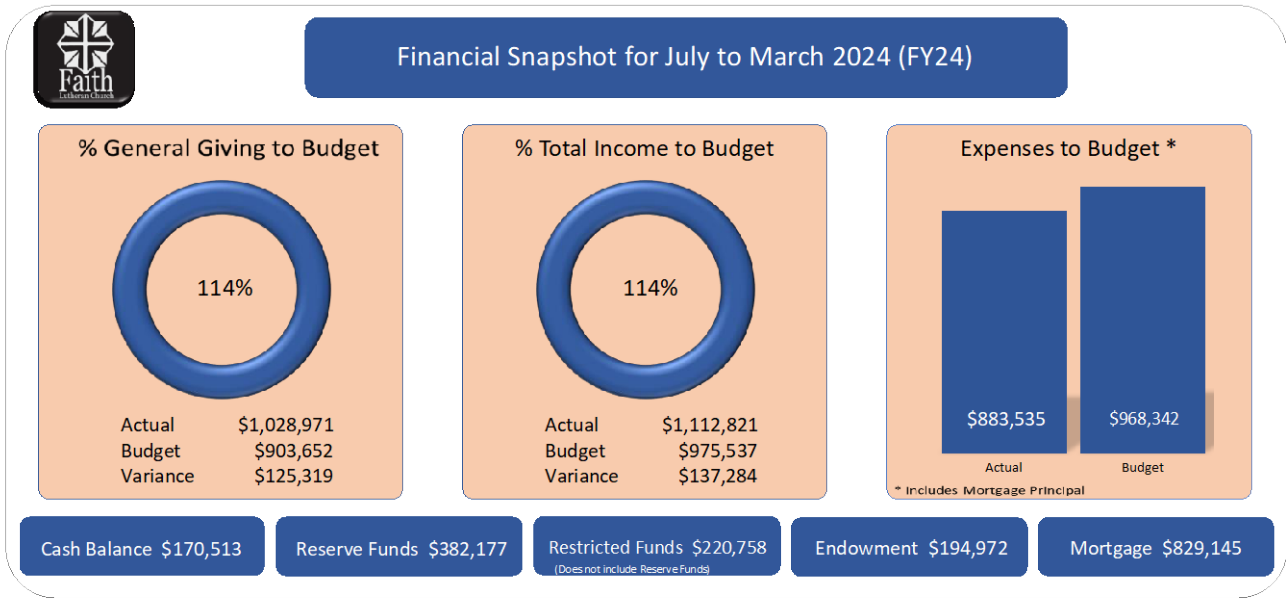
**Hint to upcoming theme for 2024.*

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Mission Spending Plan Update



By the Numbers...

114% General Giving to Budget

Actual = \$1,028,971 This number is the amount given by the congregation from July 2023 through March 2024.

Budget = \$903,652 This number is the amount of giving to the General Fund the congregation committed for July 2023 through March 2024. The General Fund supports 90% of the ministry needs of the congregation.

114% Total Actual Income to Budget = \$1,112,821

The number includes the General Fund and other revenues (duplex rental income, directed giving, Seeds of Faith reimbursements, and other receipts). Other revenues beyond the General Fund typically supports 10% of the annual needs of the congregation.

Expenses to Budget

Actual = \$883,535 Expenses are less than budgeted, mainly due to vacant staff positions.

Budgeted = \$968,342 The congregation committed to spend this amount on the ministries provided at Faith Lutheran Church from July 2023 through March 2024.

Restricted & Reserve Funds = \$602,935

Restricted funds at the end of December stand at \$220,758. These include specific areas of ministry that donors have supported over several years such as organ maintenance, the Kifula Tanzania Companionship, Memorial Fund, etc. This reserve fund stands at \$382,177.

What Does This Mean?

This means we **celebrate** the wonderful generosity of the congregation! Faith has not seen the level of giving for well 8 years. This is due to members and active participants taking seriously their spiritual practice of giving financially to God's mission in and through this congregation. **Thank you!**

Online giving is a great way to give your offering and tithes. Check out the information below.

Members can do so by:

- Sending a personal check to:
Faith Lutheran Church
10395 University Ave.
Clive, IA 50325
- Give online for one-time or recurring gifts
www.faithlc.org/give
- Text a one-time gift by phone
www.faithlc.org/givebytext