

# Faith Life

From Your Pastors

April 2023



## Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

That 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. Our hearts and lives are filled with joyful Alleluias. However, your pastors understand there are days when we continue to live more in the shadows of Good Friday than the joy of Easter. We know grief, pain, sickness, and sin distract us from the celebration of new life. We know despair over our divided country and war-torn world can overwhelm our thoughts. The good news is, Christ is risen, whether we are ready or not. God's life-giving Spirit is inviting us to live as Easter people in the world as it is today.

Easter has been known as the first day of God's new creation, pointing to the new heavens and the new earth that God is creating (Isaiah 65:17), breaking into our world now. In worship, we pray, 'your will be done, on earth as in heaven.' At Easter, we begin to imagine what God's will looks like, as the writer of Revelation envisioned: "God will dwell with them...and will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new.'" (Revelation 21:3-5). That is who God is. That is what God is doing! We are called to be part of God's work in making all things new.

As Resurrection People, God sends us into our world to:

- **live** among God's faithful people
- **hear** the word of God and **share** in the Lord's supper
- **proclaim** the good news of God in Christ through word and deed
- **serve** all people following the example of Jesus
- **strive** for justice and peace in all the earth

*(Affirmation of Baptism, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 236)*

Thanks to all of you for carrying the Good News of Jesus into this world that God loves so much.

The peace of Christ be with you.

*Pastor Eric Carlson & Pastor Megan Clausen*

## Stay Connected

**Be the Light** - On Sunday, May 21 we will share in a celebration and kick-off our summer theme. Festival worship is at 8:15 and 10:30 featuring all music ensembles. Brunch will be served at 9:30.

**Join us for worship!** Saturday at 5:00 pm; Sundays at 8:30 am & 10:30 am.  
Livestreamed worship is at 10:30 am. You will find online worship at [www.faithlc.org](http://www.faithlc.org).

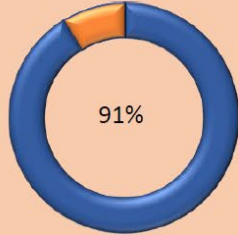
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# Mission Spending Plan Update



## Financial Snapshot for July to March 2023

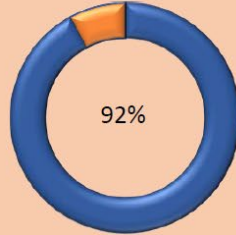
### % General Giving to Budget



91%

Actual	\$790,410
Budget	\$867,813
Variance	(\$77,402)

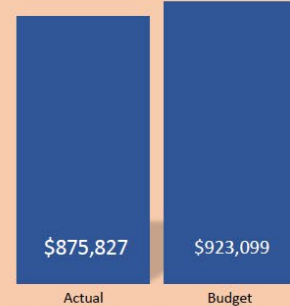
### % Total Income to Budget



92%

Actual	\$865,517
Budget	\$939,908
Variance	(\$74,391)

### Expenses to Budget \*



\* Includes Mortgage Principal

Cash Balance \$117,764

Restricted Funds \$519,821

Endowment \$177,900

Mortgage \$917,078

## By the Numbers...

### 91% General Giving to Budget

**Actual = \$790,410** This number is the amount given by the congregation from July 2022 through March 2023.

**Budget = \$867,813** This number is the amount of giving to the General Fund the congregation committed for July 2022 through March 2023. The General Fund supports 90% of the ministry needs of the congregation.

### 92% Total Actual Income to Budget = \$865,517

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 = \$875,827** Expenses are less than budgeted.

**Budgeted = \$923,099** The congregation committed to spend this amount on the ministries provided at Faith Lutheran Church from July 2022 through March 2023.

### Restricted Funds = \$519,821

Restricted funds include specific areas of ministry that donors have supported over several years. These funds include support for organ maintenance, the Kifula Tanzania Companionship, Memorial Fund, etc. Restricted funds also include a reserve fund standing at \$186,492.

## What Does This Mean?

The people of Faith Lutheran continue to respond generously. However, fulfilling the congregation's commitment for the fiscal year at the end of June has been a challenge in prior years. Members and other active participants are invited to maintain or increase their spiritual practice of giving financially to God's mission in and through this congregation. 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](http://www.faithlc.org/give)
- Text a one-time gift by phone  
[www.faithlc.org/givebytext](http://www.faithlc.org/givebytext)