

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Faith Lutheran Church Family, wishing you all of the best for 2024 and the continued blessings of Our Lord and Savior, who continues to watch over His flock at our church.

If you haven't been able to be a regular attender, we invite you back to the church in the weeks and year ahead. Services continue to be held at 10 am every Sunday. We also ask you to consider regular offerings to the church. In the reception of new members, the following is part of the vows to join in abiding by our confirmation vows "Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers, time, treasure and talent? If so, answer: "I will with the help of God."

IF YOU ARE ABLE, PLEASE CONSIDER INCREASING YOUR REGULAR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD. This could be by increasing the percentage of your income that you give or a set amount. To balance our annual budget, total church offerings need to increase from an average of about \$1,300 per week to approximately \$1,700 per week.

Giving has declined in recent years due to the loss of members as well as the pandemic. To continue operating and covering the expenses associated with paying a pastor as well as upkeep of the church facility, we are utilizing the investment income we receive each month. The church's investment account is derived from a pool of money that has been donated to the church over the years (mostly in memoriam). If approved by voters, the proposed 2024 budget will be supplemented by interest from the investment account. By 2025 we would hope to be able to operate solely with the regular offerings of members.

The investment account would also be utilized over the next few years to fund several overdue church maintenance projects. These would include replacement of the roof in the sanctuary building, trimming and/or removing several aging trees from the property and repairing failing siding on the east side of the sanctuary building.

The congregation would like to thank Pastor McCoy for his work in serving the church and in helping Pastor Laws transition to Faith. Pastor Laws and his wonderful family have been an incredible blessing as they have quickly settled in to life in Southern Oregon. Pastor is working on a variety of projects to help serve our current congregation and to help us potentially grow.

The growth of our church may come in many ways. Please consider inviting friends and family who are looking for a church home to Faith. As you already know, we offer a caring and supportive church family based on the true teachings of our Lord and Savior.

The Church Council invites your comments and questions concerning the issues covered in this letter. And mostly, we invite you to be a regular and active member of the Faith Lutheran Church family.

Blessings to all.

Members of the Faith Lutheran Church Council

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