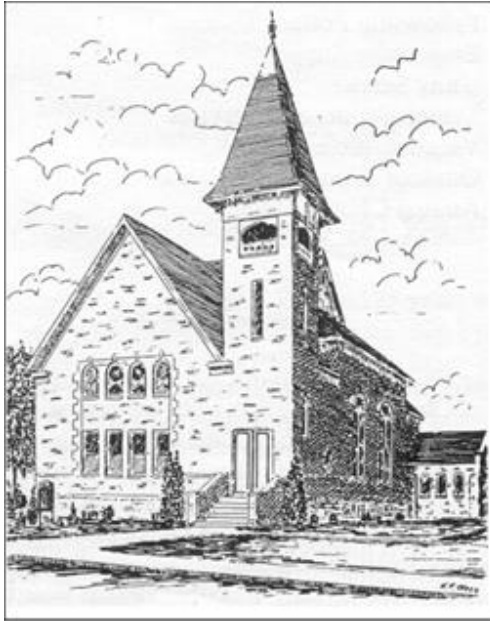


Faith Presbyterian Church  
108 Main St W  
PO Box 307  
Silver Lake, MN 55381



## Upcoming Events

**Dec. 12** - 10 AM Worship-Choir Music Sunday

**Dec. 19** - Sunday School Christmas Program during 10 AM Worship

**Dec. 24** - Christmas Eve Service 5 PM with Communion

**Dec. 25** - No Worship Service

**Dec. 26** - Regular 10 AM Worship Service

# *Faith Friends Newsletter*



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JOY to the WORLD

## A Note from the Pastor

Greetings, and welcome to the season of Advent!

It's hard to believe that two months have passed since Jason, the cats, and I arrived here in Silver Lake. It has been a bit of a whirlwind as we've tried to get unpacked and settled in amidst the start of new jobs, changing seasons, and a new rhythm of small-town life. One thing that has made our transition easier has been the sense of welcome we feel from all of you. Thank you for your warm smiles, kind gestures, and supportive words as we have made Silver Lake our home!

As most of you know, we hit the ground running at Faith Presbyterian; when I arrived at the end of September there were several major events already on the calendar. We have seen two families through funerals, hosted an ordination and installation service, shifted between in-person and virtual worship to help mitigate Covid concerns, and started a new confirmation class! Now we are entering Advent and the beginning of a brand-new church year as we wait expectantly for the coming of our savior. Exciting and challenging things are happening in the life of this church!

Some things that we are looking forward to are:

- A music-centered worship service, hosted by the choir on 12/12
- Having children front and center in worship as our CE program leads a Christmas pageant in a few weeks on 12/19
- Our Christmas Eve celebration with communion, which will take place at 5 o'clock on 12/24
- Nominations for our next class of elders – if you are excited to be more actively involved in church life and are looking for an opportunity to serve, let the nominating committee know!
- A New Members' class in January for folks who are interested in joining the church – Please contact me if you want to be a part of that or know someone who has expressed interest.

Read on in this newsletter to hear more about these things and more! While Covid has changed our patterns of communal life, there is still so much life-giving activity happening here and in the communities around us. This Advent, we wait with hope to see how the Holy Spirit will breathe new life into each of us and Christ's church.

Peace and Light,

Pastor Laura

## Session Report

“It has been quite the year and a half since we last gave a session report in our church newsletter! So much has changed in that time, and yet, some things are still strangely familiar. Through the diligent work of the Pastor Nominating Committee. We have brought a new pastor to Faith Presbyterian Church. We are now settling into a new rhythm of life together. The threat of COVID-19 has faded and resurfaced quite a few times, and we are still working as your church Session to make wise and safe choices about how to be the body of Christ in the midst of a pandemic. Worshipping life has returned mostly to normal, but we did take an emergency vote at the end of October to suspend in-person worship for two Sundays after several members of the congregation tested positive for Covid – we rejoice that everybody has now returned to full health! As we prepared to come back together on November 14<sup>th</sup>, your Session agreed to encourage masks and distancing, pause coffee hour, and continue to monitor the threat of the virus in our community. We are looking forward to celebrating together with all of our church family this Advent season as long as it remains safe to do so. The Nominating Committee is hard at work selecting their recommendations for new elders and deacons. At our last Session meeting in November, we discussed the budget for the coming year and approved a new members’ class in January of 2022 for new members joining the church on January 30. Church life is still a little quieter than it was pre-pandemic, but there is much to be excited about here in our community!”

~ with permission from Pastor Laura ~ *Deb Jensen, Clerk of Session*



reasonsforhopeJesus.com

## Presbyterian Women

**WANTED!!** Women of Faith Presbyterian. We need you to help on the first Wednesday of every month by coming to our meeting. Help us make decisions that will help our church. One project we just finished was our Thank Offering. It enables us to express our thanks for all we have been given. Envelopes are still available at church and can be put in the offering plate or given to Dorothy Merrill, Treasurer. We recently had a sign-up sheet for Christmas poinsettias. The plants will be displayed in the church on Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and after. A discussion was held about cake for Birthdays again, but it was tabled until the next meeting. Directly after our once-a-month meeting, we hold our Bible Study. The topic for this year is called "What My Grandmother Taught Me." It is about the Women in the Bible and it's very interesting. Please think about coming to join us as, I am sure this Bible Study has a little something for every woman.

*Donna Holm, Secretary*

### Treasurer's Report

#### BALANCE SHEET: Assets & Liabilities

As of period end October 31, 2021, the church has \$687,116 in assets. The majority of which are investments. Liabilities are payroll liabilities and money held for scholarships. Assets less liabilities show equity of \$685,515 which includes a net income of \$31,277.

#### PROFIT AND LOSS BUDGET VS ACTUAL:

Revenue: The report shows that revenue is 72% of the anticipated budget. The tithes are at 78% which is less than we would like to see. The time that the church was closed due to covid-19 may have contributed to this short fall. The largest deficit is Pola Czesky due to the event not taking place in 2021.

Expenses: Total expenses through October are under budget 48%. We see the largest difference in the Pastoral Ministry. The Pastor salary had been budgeted for the entire year and we did not start expensing until October. The only category over budget is Church at Worship and that is because we had to use more Pulpit Supply during the year. Even with the below budget expense we still showed a loss of \$18,000 before gains on our investment. We had strong investment interest and gains of \$45,626 which resulted in a Net Income of \$27,627.

*Carol Denneson-Treasurer Megan Bisek-Assistant-Treasurer*

## Balance Sheet by Class As of October 2021

	<u>Oct 31, 21</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
<b>Checking/Savings</b>	
10000 · FCB General Checking xxx13	5,105.55
10100 · FCB General Savings	13,365.31
10150 · FCB Cemetery Savings	2,130.42
10175 · FCB Memorial Checking	350.00
11000 · Hutchinson Coop Investment	116,935.85
11100 · New Covenants Investments	512,680.45
11110 · New Cov't Memorial Fund	8,205.86
11125 · Edward Jones - Cemetery	28,342.80
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>687,116.24</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>687,116.24</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>687,116.24</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
<b>Credit Cards</b>	
27000 · Credit Card Payable	<u>1,099.52</u>
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	1,099.52
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	
24100 · FICA Liability	71.18
24110 · Medicare Liability	<u>16.64</u>
<b>Total 24000 · Payroll Liabilities</b>	87.82
25000 · Pass Through Liabilities	
25100 · Dostal Scholarship	<u>353.69</u>
<b>Total 25000 · Pass Through Liabilities</b>	353.69
26000 · Presbytery Mission Payable	
26200 · Peace and Witness	<u>60.00</u>
<b>Total 26000 · Presbytery Mission Payable</b>	<u>60.00</u>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<u>501.51</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>1,601.03</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,601.03
<b>Equity</b>	
30000 · Opening Balance Equity	34,947.11
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	619,290.82
Net Income	<u>31,277.28</u>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>685,515.21</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>687,116.24</b></u>

<p><b>Profit and Loss</b>  <b>Budget vs. Actual General Fund</b>  <b>As of October 2021</b></p>
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	<u>Jan - Oct 21</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>			
41600 · Misc Revenue	195.00		
42000 · Per Capita	1,869.00	3,655.00	51.14%
49500 · Tithes/Offerings	58,275.09	75,000.00	77.7%
49550 · Pola Czesky Revenue	0.00	5,500.00	0.0%
49700 · WOW Worship on Wed Revenue	127.19		
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>60,466.28</u>	<u>84,155.00</u>	<u>71.85%</u>
<b>Expense</b>			
60000 · Administrative	15,415.32	20,099.00	76.7%
61000 · Christian Education	771.58	1,170.00	65.95%
62000 · Church at Worship	6,209.63	5,880.00	105.61%
63000 · Church Property	24,660.76	34,050.00	72.43%
64000 · Mission	5,155.00	7,905.00	65.21%
64900 · Stewardship	0.00	300.00	0.0%
65000 · Pastoral Ministry	26,253.80	95,376.00	27.53%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>78,466.09</u>	<u>164,780.00</u>	<u>47.62%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-17,999.81	-80,625.00	22.33%
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
49600 · Interest - Bank Ck & Sav	10.69	15.00	71.27%
49650 · Interest - Hutch Coop	1,736.17	2,000.00	86.81%
70500 · Interest & Dividends - New Covt	29,290.86	5,000.00	585.82%
70550 · Capital Gain/Loss - New Covt	2,990.74		
70600 · Market Gains and Losses	11,598.00	16,000.00	72.49%
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>45,626.46</u>	<u>23,015.00</u>	<u>198.25%</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>45,626.46</u>	<u>23,015.00</u>	<u>198.25%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><b>27,626.65</b></u>	<u><b>-57,610.00</b></u>	<u><b>-47.96%</b></u>

## Deacons' Report

Greetings from the Deacons.

Deacons who served this church during the year are Doris Wraspir, Betty Williams, JoLen Bentz, Linda Brooks, Margie Fronk, Linda Prochaska, Helen Jensen, Nancy Krcil, and Jacki Rossi. If the roster sounds familiar it's because the elected are serving an additional term, due to Covid circumstances.

The Deacon's mission statement reads in part "to provide a ministry of compassion and caring" which is exactly what this dedicated group has done and continues to do. While our social lives were put on pause the need for prayer and healing is ever increasing. Through the year the Deacons have received many prayer requests for situations from illness, surgeries, pending medical test results, healing, traveling, bereavement sympathies, wedding wishes, baby arrivals, many Covid-related issues, as well as issues in our community/world. The group keeps in close contact via group texts and calls as needed. Whether on vacation or at home, prayer requests are as close as the phone. State mandates and facility guidelines limit in-person visits so most correspondence is done by phone calls and cards. Please keep in mind that things are not as "they used to be". There are situations of: quarantine, restriction of visitors, as well as privacy issues that affect everyday life. As situations arise and prayers are needed, do not hesitate to call the church or one of the Deacons. We respect each person's privacy.

We are blessed to welcome Pastor Laura to our church and look forward to working with her in the coming months as the Deacons welcome new members to the group.

*JoLen Bentz, Moderator*





## Personnel Committee Report

With the efforts of the Personnel Committee, we all welcome our new Minister Pastor Laura. In January the Personnel Committee will be doing the annual Job Evaluations for the employees of the church. Happy Holidays!

*Doris, Bruce, and Nancy,*

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## Music Notes

As we come into the season of Advent our hearts prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. We come with Hope, with Peace, with Joy and with Love. That is the theme for the annual Choir Sunday which will be on December 12th. We will be singing about the Candles of Advent and present a song that reflects each of those candles and their meaning thru songs and familiar carols. On Christmas Eve we will rejoice with the birth of the Christ Child - a tiny infant, a holy King who brings all of these things into our lives - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Come join us on December 12th for a worship filled with music and singing.

*Barb Wawrzyniak, Choir Director*



## Music and Worship

The Music and Worship Committee resumed meeting in September 2021. They were very happy to welcome Rev. Laura Messer to the meetings.

Rev. Laura will be making a few changes in the order of the worship service. Welcome and announcements will be done by her. The children's time will be done after the second scripture reading. This will give the children a brief explanation of the scripture. Different benediction selections will be used in place of Three-fold Amen.

A Thank you note was sent to all supply pastors who participated during the vacant pulpit.

Pocket change Sunday will be changed to the first Sunday of the month. J-dollars will be collected with pocket change.

Rev. Laura's office hours will be Monday-Thursday 9AM-5PM. She will be available on her days off for emergencies.

The Advent schedule was finalized:

Dec. 12 - 10 AM Worship-Choir Music Sunday

Dec. 19 - Sunday School Christmas Program during 10 AM Worship

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service 5 PM with Communion

Dec. 25 - No Worship Service

Dec. 26 - Regular 10 AM Worship Service

Advent devotionals were chosen and will be available for everyone.

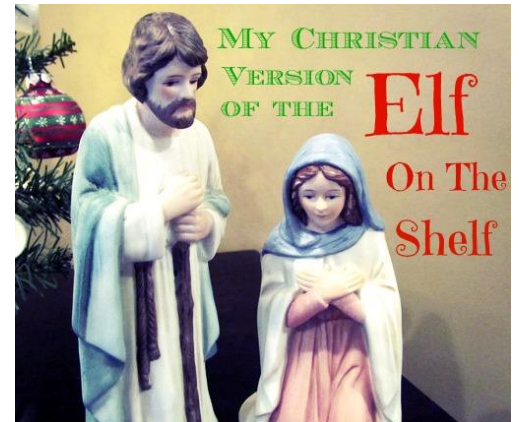
Anyone having concerns or suggestions about Worship is asked to speak with any of the members: Bret Nelsen, Linda Brooks, Laura Pieper, Jacki Rossi, Barb Wawrzyniak, and Dorothy Merrill.

*Dorothy Merrill*



## Christian Education

This year we are doing some fun things for Advent. We are playing a Christian version of Elf on the Shelf featuring Mary and Joseph; try to spot them each Sunday in the Sanctuary. On the day of the Christmas Pageant, they will be found at the Nativity scene. The kids are also doing a Christmas scavenger hunt in class until the pageant. Our Christmas program this year is called "Do Not Be Afraid" and will be held on Sunday, December 19th. at the 10AM Worship Service. We look forward to presenting to you! After the Pageant, come and join us for Jesus' birthday party. Everyone is invited! Once the festivities are finished, classes are done for winter break. Classes will resume January 9<sup>th</sup> at our regular scheduled time of 8:45 am to 9:45 am.



*Britany Jensen, Christian Education Director*

## Announcements

**PASTOR LAURA'S OFFICE HOURS:** We are so fortunate to have our Pastor and Blessed to have her close by. Pastor Laura does have regular business hours in her office behind the manse garage. There is a separate entrance door on the West side of the Manse closest to the parking lot. Her hours are Mon-Thurs 9-5. We all want to be considerate of her privacy after business hours. If it is an afterhours emergency please call, she will make time for you and address your concerns. Pastor Laura cell #785-580-6925

Thank you – Faith Presb. Session

**J-Dollars!** J is for Jesus and Faith Presbyterian is introducing a new mission with our J-dollars. In addition to our Pocket Change Sunday, we are asking for you to check out a new idea that was given to us for furthering our mission work to help others in our church and community. On each dollar bill is a serial number and if that serial number begins with a "J" - it's a dollar for Jesus. We would appreciate if you would save that J-dollar and give it to the church in our Pocket Change Jar and we will use it to help someone in need. If you have questions, please contact anyone on the Worship Committee.

## Faith Presbyterian Church

108 Main Street West  
PO Box 307  
Silver Lake, MN 55381

(320) 327-2452

[faithfriends@embarqmail.com](mailto:faithfriends@embarqmail.com)

Church Office Hours:  
Tuesday-Thursday 11:00-3:00

**Sunday Morning Worship**  
10:00 AM

### **Church Staff**

Pastor

Rev. Laura Messer  
1-785-580-6925

Secretary  
Megan Bisek

Clerk of Session  
Deb Jensen  
320-583-8100

Organists  
Barb Wawrzyniak  
Jacki Rossi  
Dorothy Merrill  
Laura Pieper

**Web Page:**

[www.FaithPresbyterianChurch  
ofSilverLake](http://www.FaithPresbyterianChurchofSilverLake)

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anChurchofSilverLake.Org

