



*Faith Evangelical*  
Lutheran Church *Walworth, WI*

December 2023

## Mission Statement

Guided by the Power of the Holy Spirit, we at FELC experience God through **Worship, Learning, Service, and Fellowship.**





# Let Us Pray



Oh Emmanuel, God with us, truly in this Advent season we celebrate that you are not hidden in some faraway cloud, but you chose to be with us in the blur and mystery of our lives.

In the midst of lists and rush, you are with us as a song that echoes in our minds, as the light of a candle, as a card from a friend. They are signs of your presence.

We turn to you this season and pray that you would birth joy and healing, blessing and hope in us.

Let something wonderful begin in us - something surprising and holy. We especially will pray for Kris and Kevin Strehlow, Randy Scott, Karla Tildahl, Paul Erickson, Melany Christensen and Bill Lyon. Give them care and love.

May your hand be upon us. Let your love fill us. Let your joy overwhelm us. Let our longing for you be met on a coming holy night. Emmanuel with us once again.

Amen.



Genealogy of Christ

(Women in Jesus' Lineage)

by Lauren Wright Pittman

## Advent

Advent worship starts Sunday, December 3rd. We will be celebrating with the Holden Prayer Service. Our theme is *Our Advent Journey*. We will be lighting the Advent wreath each Sunday as we focus on *hope, peace, joy and love*. Please join us as we prepare for Christ's birth.



## A Message from Pastor Lily

I'm choosing joy this holiday season. We started putting our Christmas decorations up on November 20th. Life goes by too fast and why not live into joy a little extra. There is so much going on in the world, there always is, but why not try to really sit in each moment the best we can.

I just led a devotion at our congregation council meeting about how Jesus comes to us, we don't have to do anything extra, we don't have to climb a tree to get to him, we don't have to be the tallest in the room for him to see us. Jesus sees us and is already running towards us to get our attention, he loves us that much. I don't know about you, but I want to see Jesus, especially this season. So I am deep into the preparations and celebrations.

Each Advent we focus on *hope, peace, joy and love*. Advent starts on Sunday, December 3rd and I say we start focusing. It can be hard to wait, it takes time to prepare, but let us seek comfort in the Savior of the World that is already here. We can take a deep breath and be present.

At times I get stuck in all the consumerism that comes along with Christmas. It definitely isn't all needed, but I also love all the excitement. I heard a podcast recently with two priests talking about how they love the silly little advent calendars with chocolate, wine or tea, and they admit to taking part in these countdowns. Their take was that in a time where the world speeds up and lives seem busier, having a little ritual of eating a piece of chocolate, something they can expect and get excited about helps them remain present in it all.

At the drop-off for daycare the other day I heard a little one tell the teacher, "Christmas is God's Birthday." without hesitation she responds, "Yes, it is!" We don't use a "Christian" daycare, we use what works for us, a close place that is easy for our hectic schedules. The world seems to just know the importance of this time of year.

God's birthday is coming up! All are invited, all are welcome and it sure seems like everyone is celebrating, as they should be. How are you preparing for, celebrating and remaining present in this holiday season? However you choose to do so, remember that God is here, the Holy Spirit is always present and Jesus is the true gift. Choose joy.

Love and Peace,  
Pastor Lily Brellenthin

If you want to reach me by the pastor phone, call or text at 262-812-3064, or email me at [pastorlily@felcwalworth.com](mailto:pastorlily@felcwalworth.com)



## Worship Assistants Needed

Are you interested in helping during Sunday morning worship?

We are looking for Readers, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Projectors, Choir Members and Counters. Email Sarah in the office if you're interested at [office@felcwalworth.com](mailto:office@felcwalworth.com) or call her at 262-275-3445.



## Christmas Trees Available!

Contact the church office for more information

## Rideshare

Are you interested or available to help drive people to church events? Contact the church office if you are willing to help support our community in this way!

## Pledges Forms Due December 3rd

Please turn in your pledge forms to the church office to help us form our budget.

Thank you so much!



Please help ring bells for the Salvation Army on Friday, December 8 at Daniel's Foods in Walworth at the east entrance. Sign up in the Gathering Space for an hour between 9am-3pm.

## Faith Formation December Updates

Wednesday, December 6: Advent Candlelight Worship at 7:00pm

Sunday, December 10: Live Nativity. Students be to church by 4:15pm

Wednesdays December 20 and 27: No Class or Worship Service.



## Congregation Council Opportunity

Do you like serving your community? Do you have a desire to be a part of something bigger than yourself? Well, here is just the thing for you! You can use your time and talents to help our church thrive by joining the Congregational Council in 2024. See a current council member for more information.





# December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am RIC Chat *Poinsettias Order Forms & Pledge Forms are due today*	4 9:00 am Worship Cookie Pick Up Live Nativity 5-6pm	5 7:00 pm Wine & Word	6 7:10 am CHAOS Breakfast 9:45 am Sew-ers 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Class 7:00 pm Candlelight Worship	7	8	9 10am-12pm Student Haircuts @ Big Foot 12:30 pm CHAOS Cooking Baking @ Big Foot
10	11	12 10:00 am All Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Event Planning Meeting	13 9:45 am Sew-ers 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Class 6:55 pm Worship	14	15	16
17	18	19 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch	20 9:45 am Sew-ers No Faith Formation or Worship	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 Christmas Day	26	27 No Sew-ers No Faith Formation or Worship	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 9:00 am Worship	1 New Year's Day	Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church (262) 275-3445 office@felcwalworth.com Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday from 9am-Noon				



The next RIC CHAT is **Sunday, December 3**. The topic of our discussion will be **Disability Awareness**. Join us as we learn from one another on how to be a welcoming and affirming church community to all people.



## CHAOS High School Youth Group

### CHAOS Breakfast on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:10 am.

Join us for good food, good friends, and good conversation!

All High School Students are welcome. Please come as you are. You are loved!

Join our TeamReach with the code Chaos2324 to see our schedule of upcoming events.



### Christmas Cut-Out Cookie Baking and Decorating

All high school and Youth Gathering youth are invited!

Saturday, December 9

12:30—until we are finished

Meet at Big Foot High School  
in the Foods Room.

**Christmas Cookie Pick Up!**  
**Sunday, December 10 after the**  
**Worship Service.**



### Free Haircuts for Students

Saturday, December 9

from 10am-Noon at

Big Foot High School



Tuesday,  
December 19th  
at 12:00 pm.  
Come for a free  
meal and  
fellowship.

### Family Holiday Gift Cards

Walworth Elementary and Middle School is collecting gift cards for their families in need this holiday season. Purchase gift cards in denominations of \$25 or less and drop them off directly at the school or at the church in the white “thank you” box in the Gathering Space. You can also donate cash, and we will shop for the gift cards for you. All donations are due to the church by December 6 and the school by December 11. Thank you for your generosity.



### Monthly Meetings

**Wine & Word:** Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 pm

**Worship Committee:** Tuesday, December 12 at 6:00 pm

**Event Planning Meeting:** Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm

**Congregation Council:** Thursday, January 11 at 6:30 pm

# Worship Servers

<b>December 3</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
Reader	Chad R.
Ushers	Susie & Terry S.
Communion Assist.	Chad R.
Projector	Rebecca R.
<b>December 10</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
Reader	Tracey S.
Ushers	Weborg Family
Communion Assist.	Tracey S.
Projector	Weborg Family
<b>December 17</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
Reader	Pam Ch.
Ushers	Sheen Family
Communion Assist.	Pam Ch.
Projector	Sheen Family
<b>December 24</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
Reader	Susie S.
Ushers	Kristi R. & Rick L.
Communion Assist.	Susie S.
Projector	Tracey S.
<b>December 31</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
Reader	Various
Ushers	Larry & Tracy V.
Communion Assist.	N/A
Projector	Liz H.

<b>December 24th: Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>
Reader	Kristi R.
Ushers	Sheen Family
Communion Assist.	Kristi R.
Projector	Sheen Family

<b>January 7</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
Reader	Rick L.
Ushers	Susie & Terry S.
Communion Assist.	Rick L.
Projector	Liz H.
Counters	Gail N. & Susie S.
<b>January 14</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
Reader	Tracey S.
Ushers	Perry W.
Communion Assist.	Tracey S.
Projector	Taylor W.
Counters	Tracey S. & Grace C.
<b>January 21</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
Reader	Pam Ch.
Ushers	Sheen Family
Communion Assist.	Pam Ch.
Projector	Sheen Family
Counters	Gail N. & Mike S.
<b>January 28</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
Reader	Susie S.
Ushers	Tracy & Larry V.
Communion Assist.	Susie S.
Projector	Tracey S.
Counters	Susie S. & Tracey S.



Join us for Worship on Sundays at 9:00 am  
and for Family Worship on Wednesdays at 6:55 pm

Advent: *Hope, Peace, Joy, Love*

## **Sunday Scripture Readings for December**

### December 3: First Sunday of Advent: *Hope*

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

### December 24: Fourth Sunday of Advent: *Love*

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalms 89:1-4, 19-26

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

### December 6: Candlelight Worship 7:00pm

Isaiah 9:2-6

### December 10: Second Sunday of Advent: *Peace*

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

### December 24: Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 pm

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 1:26-38

### December 17: Third Sunday of Advent: *Joy*

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 31: First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10--62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]







## Monthly Financial Report October 31, 2023

Cash Received:		
From Envelopes, Special Contributions, & Others	\$12,535	
From Memorials/Dedicated (or transferred)	<u>625</u>	
Total Cash Received		\$13,160
Cash Paid:		
Operating Expenses*	\$13,209	
Synod Benevolence	0	
Committees	(2,291)	
For Memorials/Dedicated (or transferred)	<u>1,325</u>	
Total Cash		<u>12,243</u>
Monthly Change in Cash (Cash Rec'd – Cash Paid)		(917)
Checking Account Balance, October 1, 2023		11,593
Checking Account Balance, October 31, 2023		12,510

\* includes changes in non-cash assets, current liabilities and restricted transfers

\*\* included monthly and specific donations

### Unrestricted Cash Balance

Checking Account	12,510	
Mission Investment Fund ***	106,043	
Endowment Fund (Fund A)	<u>230,282</u>	
Subtotal		348,835
Less: Memorials/Dedications/Restricted Cash		<u>19,533</u>
Unrestricted Cash Balance		329,302

### Year to Date Information

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
From Members to General Fund (Through Oct. 31, 2023)**	110,053	99,375
	206,293	142,066

### Memorial/Dedicated/Restricted Information

Balance, Sep. 30, 2023	20,233
New Dedicated	
Designated by Contributor	525
Christmas in July	(238)
Crop Walk	100
Youth Group	(1,087)
Balance, October 31, 2023	19,533



# *Faith Evangelical*

*Lutheran Church* *Walworth, WI*

## **Contact Us:**

**Address:** 420 Read Street, Walworth, WI 53184

**Telephone:** 262-275-3445

**Email:** [office@felcwalworth.com](mailto:office@felcwalworth.com)

**Website:** [www.felcwalworth.com](http://www.felcwalworth.com)

**Facebook:** [Facebook.com/FaithEvangelicalLutheranWalworth](https://www.facebook.com/FaithEvangelicalLutheranWalworth)



## **Church Office Hours:**

Tuesday – Thursday: 9:00am – Noon

## **Staff:**

Pastor Lily Brellenthin

Cell Phone: 262-812-3064

Email: [pastorlily@felcwalworth.com](mailto:pastorlily@felcwalworth.com)

Rebecca Roehl, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries

Cell Phone: 608-728-2798

Email: [education@felcwalworth.com](mailto:education@felcwalworth.com)

Sarah Quealy, Administrative Assistant

Office Phone: 262-275-3445

Email: [office@felcwalworth.com](mailto:office@felcwalworth.com)

## **Congregation Council 2023**

### **Executive Team**

Rick Lottig – President

Gail Connelly - Vice President

Susie Schaid - Secretary

Kristi Reiersen – Treasurer

### **Council Members**

Laurie Collins

Karlie Kroening

Kelsie Kroening

Karen Martinez

Jim Newman

Mike Sheen