

July

Summary of Financial Information 2024

Financial Summary				
	YTD		Difference	Comments
	Actual	Budget		
Net Income (Loss) Church	\$19,959	(\$24,618)	\$44,577	
Net Income (Loss) ELC	\$17,715	\$1,820	\$15,895	
Total	\$37,674	(\$22,798)	\$60,472	
Grants (net)	(\$10,832)	(\$6,901)	(\$3,931)	
Without Grants	\$26,842	(\$29,699)	\$56,541	
Mortgage Balance	\$275,889			

Total Deficit of ELC	
2018	(\$17,051)
2019	(\$23,087)
2020	(\$2,544)
2021	\$39,832
2022	(\$10,484)
2023	(\$8,202)
2024	\$17,715
	<u>(\$3,821)</u>



First Things - September 2024

DIVE INTO GOD'S WORD!

Oh, no! The La Crescent Aquatic Center and Swimming Pool, after its short summer run, has already closed for the next nine long months! As a kid, my wife lived at the pool in the summer and through high school and college she taught and guarded at that same Appleton, Wisconsin, pool. The closing of the pool after each Labor Day weekend were among the saddest days of her life!

At the time of this writing, seven of the next ten days are predicted to run well into the 80s. Know that there are going to be plenty of hot days deep into September. However, with school back in session, grownups' and kids' lives get really busy, in particular the late teen students on whom we are dependent to staff the aquatic facility. So...what might we do?!

How about months of great refreshment....diving deep into God's Word! *"Deacons are to....keep hold of the deep truths of the faith,"* says Saint Paul. This is one of several prerequisites Paul laid down to Timothy for those who might serve as leaders in the churches along with and under their pastor. We can't all necessarily be leaders at First Lutheran, but shouldn't growing deeper in the knowledge of our Christian faith be something we sincerely desire? Shouldn't drawing nearer to the loving Lord of our salvation be dear to our hearts?

So...let's do it! There are weekend activities in September that could frustrate us at First Lutheran from getting off to a good start on this. So we will wait until Sunday, September 29th, to dive into God's Word beyond Sunday morning and Monday evening worship. Our hope is to have good numbers for a two or more track Sunday School of readers and non-readers. Towards successfully passing on our faith to the next generation of First Lutheran members, it will be important that the children be led far deeper than the hand applied water of Baptism. A solid Bible history background is critical toward leading young people deep into catechetical studies.



Giving Summary				
	YTD		Difference	Comments
	Actual	Budget		
Offerings	\$125,044	\$113,313	\$11,731	110.4%
Debt Reduction	\$15,460	\$0	\$15,460	
Total	\$140,504	\$113,313	\$27,191	

Assets				
	2023	2024	Change	Comments
	December	July		
Checking Account	\$78,454	\$62,561	(\$15,893)	
Money Market	\$0	\$50,474	\$50,474	
Total	\$78,454	\$113,035	\$34,581	Net increase in cash balance

Liabilities & Equity				
	2023	2024	Change	Comments
	December	July		
Dedicated Funds Total	\$90,965	\$91,738	\$773	
Other Liabilities	\$5,799	\$1,933	(\$3,866)	
Assets less Liabilities	(\$18,310)	\$19,364	\$37,674	Net increase in equity

For teens and adults, we are planning three weeks of diving deeper into a trio of popular biblical accounts than the participants have ever before experienced. With that as an appetizer, months of other deep study will make possible “a deeper hold on the truths of our faith!”

Maybe we can't all be deacons, but there awaits us great blessing if we place ourselves under the Spirit inspired Word, wherein lies “the deep things of God” - for *What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, what no mind has conceived – the things God has prepared for those love Him – these are the things God (will reveal) to us by His Spirit!*”(1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

Men, women, children! Summer is ending! The pool has closed! But prepare to dive in!

Vacancy Pastor Holub

Looking Ahead during this Vacancy

Worship Services

Worship services continue Sundays at 9:00 AM and Mondays at 6:30 PM. Pastor Holub will continue to serve through October 13. Currently Pastor and Jean are out of town and will return Wednesday, Sept. 11.

For the first two Sundays in September:

- Pastor Oliver Lindholm will be here on Sept. 1 & 2.
- Pastor James Mumm will be here on Sept. 8 & 9.

Please Note: We are hosting a belated welcome event for Pastor & Jean Holub on Sunday, September 15, as a meet and greet- snack and eat. Hope you can make it!



Pastor Curt & Jean Holub

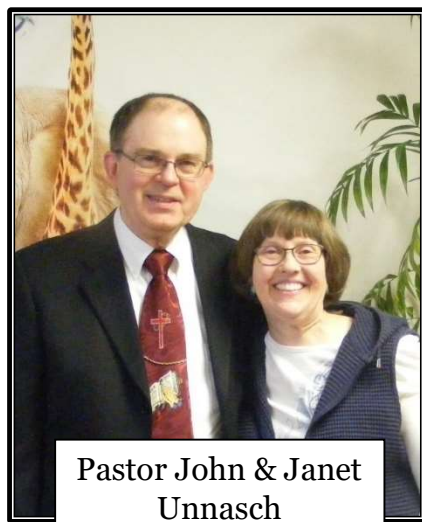
Should you need Pastoral care while Pastor Holub is away please contact **Pastor John Unnasch** at cell: 507-450-2882.

During our last call meeting we called **Pastor John Unnasch** to serve as our Vacancy Pastor and Coordinator. Pastor Unnasch currently serves a dual parish with Immanuel – La Crescent and Zion – Hokah. He will preach here one Sunday a month and will coordinate efforts for the remaining Sundays with guest Pastors.

Additionally, we extended a permanent Call to **Pastor Adam Pilarski** of Glencoe, MN. Pastor Pilarski is open to phone calls and emails. You are welcome, and encouraged, to contact him by email: Pastorapilarski@gmail.com, or by phone: 605-515-2388. Please keep him, and his family, in prayer as he deliberates.

Bible Study and CrossTalk

Bible study will be starting again. We'll begin **after-worship Bible study** and **CrossTalk** on Sunday, September 29.



Pastor John & Janet Unnasch



Pastor Jon Wolff

Confirmation classes will be taking place on Mondays at 6:30 PM this year, starting September 9 with Pastor Jon Wolff. Pastor Wolff has agreed to lead Confirmation class through the vacancy to allow for continuity.

Choir

Choir resumes Wednesday, September 11 at 7:00 PM. All singers welcome!



16th annual Men's Retreat at Camp Croix

16th annual Men's Retreat at Camp Croix on September 20-22, 2024. This year's theme is “Refuge in Times of Calamity: Lessons from Joel”, and promises enlightening perspectives and discussions led by Martin Luther College Prof. Tom Nass. Sign up now, while there's still room, at mensretreat.org! Friday 5:30-7:30pm arrival and supper. 9pm Welcome and Devotion. Wrap-up 10:30am Sunday, stay and fellowship as long as desired! (Four session seminar 9am –4pm Saturday). Full weekend \$160, \$185 After August 20 – includes all meals, lodging, recreation activities, and seminar.



LIVE NATIVITY THANK YOU DINNER!

FOR: Anyone who has volunteered for Live Nativity in any capacity this past year!

DATE: Wednesday, September 18th

TIME: 6:00pm A light dinner will be served. Food will be available throughout the evening.

6:30pm Prayer/Devotion- Updates- Question/Answer session

7:00pm (approx.) Steering Committee Meeting (you are welcome to stay for that if you wish)

LOCATION: First Lutheran Church – La Crosse basement. (400 West Ave.)

Come enjoy some fellowship and be the first to hear about some fun new updates that are in the works.

Questions? Contact Pat McGuire 608-385-0178