



February
2024

a publication of Fellowship Lutheran Church, Rev. Robin Wargowsky, Pastor
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"May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God."
Ephesians 3:19 (NLT)

Dear Fellowship Members and Friends:

As we approach the month of February, a sense of anticipation and solemnity fills many of our hearts as we prepare for the upcoming special events ahead. This year, February 14th holds a unique significance for us—it marks not only Valentine's Day but also the beginning of the sacred season of Lent. Lent begins with the solemn Ash Wednesday service in which our foreheads are marked with ashes in the sign of the cross to remind us of our human mortality and frailty.

Valentine's Day, often associated with expressions of love and affection, sets the tone for the weeks to come as we embark on a journey of reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal during Lent. It's a beautiful convergence of love—both earthly and divine.

Lent, observed for 40 days leading up to Easter, is a period of self-examination and preparation, mirroring the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness. It is a time when we have the opportunity to seek a deeper connection with God through prayer, fasting, and acts of compassion. As we reflect on Christ's journey, we are invited to examine our own lives, identify areas in need of transformation, and draw closer to the source of unfailing love.

This year, the intersection of Valentine's Day and the beginning of Lent serves as a poignant reminder of the ultimate love story—the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our sins. As we exchange tokens of love with one another on Valentine's Day, let us also open our hearts to receive the boundless love that God offers us through Jesus.

During Lent, we will gather for midweek soup suppers and special services, engage in meaningful practices, and foster a sense of community through shared experiences. This season provides us with the opportunity to grow spiritually, individually and as a congregation, as we walk together toward the joyous celebration of Easter. Please join us for our Ash Wednesday service on February 14th at 7:00 p.m., and on the next five Wednesday evenings for our soup suppers at 6:15 p.m., followed by our midweek Lenten services at 7:00 p.m. This year our theme will be "Guided to the Cross".

As we navigate the days ahead, let us be mindful of the love that surrounds us—both human and divine. May this season of Lent be a time of profound spiritual growth, a journey marked by love, grace, and the pursuit of a deeper relationship with our Creator. Wishing you a blessed Valentine's Day and a meaningful Lenten season filled with the love that surpasses all understanding.

See you in church!

Pastor Robin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SMOKY ROW FOOD PANTRY located at 7260 Smoky Row Rd., Columbus is in need of the following items for January, February, and March:

- Baby items (diapers - all sizes) and wipes
- Winter coats, hats and gloves (adult, child, and infant)
- Non-perishable food staples, such as beans, corn, rice, pasta
- Toiletries, such as shampoo/conditioner, soap, toilet paper, etc.
- Lightbulbs



Place donations in the containers located in the Narthex. Your generosity is gratefully appreciated by our neighbors in need. Thank you!

Sunday School Come join our Sunday School classes for youth and adults at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings! The youth class is taught by Pete and Lilly Cardimen. Susan Wolfe facilitates the adult class which is studying the Old Testament, based on a DVD curriculum by Amy Jill Levine.



Women's Dinner and Guys Night Out Update The next women's dinner will be on Tuesday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m. at Anna's Greek Restaurant, 7370 Sawmill Rd., Columbus, OH 43235, (614) 799-2207. The next Guys' Night Out will be on Tuesday, February 27th at 6:00 p.m. at Don Tequila Grill, 9762 Sawmill Parkway, Powell, OH 43065, (614) 932-9100. All are welcome!



ASH WEDNESDAY service will be on Wednesday, February 14th, at 7:00 p.m. Please join us for this special service which begins Lent and when we will receive the imposition of ashes and holy communion.

WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPERS/LENTEN SERVICES

Beginning Wednesday, February 21st, we will begin our midweek soup suppers/Lenten services. Soup suppers will begin at 6:15 p.m., with a Lenten service to follow at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome! The theme this year is, "Guided to the Cross" We hope to have 2 volunteers each week to prepare the soup or sandwich and salad-type suppers. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex.



Worship Servers Needed! If you are able to help out at our 10:00 a.m. worship service, please let Pastor Robin know. Assisting ministers, lectors, counters, and greeters are needed. Not sure what these roles involve or never done it before? We will be happy to help you out! We are also looking for fellowship hosts following worship on the 1st Sunday of each month. Sign-up on the table in the narthex.



Holy Communion We celebrate Communion weekly. All baptized Christians who believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine are invited to join us in the celebration of Holy Communion. Grape juice is available in the center of the trays. Non-communing children and adults are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Thrivent Members - For those of you with choice dollars. don't forget that Fellowship can be a recipient of those dollars. Thank you to all who have donated this way in the past!



Give to Fellowship with Your Smartphone with Vanco Mobile - If you would like to give to Fellowship with your smartphone, please download Vanco's smartphone app, **Vanco Mobile**. Vanco Mobile will enable anyone to donate at anytime to Fellowship. It makes it easy to give instantaneously for a regular gift, a recurring gift, or a special occasion gift.

Pastoral Care Request If you have a pastoral care request (hospitalization, upcoming surgery, need for counseling, etc.), please call Pastor Robin at (937) 725-4930. If you would like a home visit by Pastor Robin, please let Pastor Robin know so it can be scheduled. It does not need to be a pastoral emergency...just an opportunity to get to know you better.



Staying Connected Program for the Elderly - Ohio has a program for the elderly to "stay connected." You get to pick the hour to receive the phone call. For more information, here is the link: <https://aging.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/aging/care-and-living/get-help/staying-connected/> .

Kroger Plus Fundraising Information: If you would like to register your Kroger card for the Community Rewards Program, please contact Pastor Robin or the church office. Thank you so much for participating in this fundraiser!

LSS Food Pantry Souper Bowl

Fellowship members and friends, the congregation will participate in supporting LSS Food Pantries on Sunday February 11th by participating in their Souper Bowl fundraising drive.

Last year LSS had 24 churches participate in raising over \$23,500 and they collected more than 3,300 lbs. of food! This year, the goal is to have 30 churches participate, raise more than \$30,000 and collect over 4,000 lbs. of food!



How it works:

1. Choose an AFC or NFC team, or if you don't care who wins but want to contribute - you can choose don't care who wins. LSS benefits no matter what team wins.
2. Make a contribution using VANCO or in person on Feb 11th at Church corresponding to your favorite pick! We will have baskets out front for the collection.
3. Fellowship will gather the contributions and summarize the result!

According to theshelf.com:

Spectators spent an average \$85.36 per person on Super Bowl-related purchases including food, drink, decorations, and apparel. That totaled to a whopping \$16.5 billion in consumer Super Bowl spending. It's no surprise that food and drink take the cake for the most popular purchases, accounting for 79 percent of Super Bowl spending.

- Food and Beverage: 79 percent
- Team Apparel and Merchandise: 12 percent
- TVs: 10 percent
- Decorations: 7 percent
- Furniture: 7 percent

This year, total spending on food, drinks, apparel, decorations and other purchases for the day is expected to reach \$16.5 billion, or \$85.36 per person, according to the National Retail Federation (NRF). That's up from \$14.6 billion and \$78.82 per person in 2022.

Please help Fellowship help those in need this year!

Attendance Information (In-person & virtual)

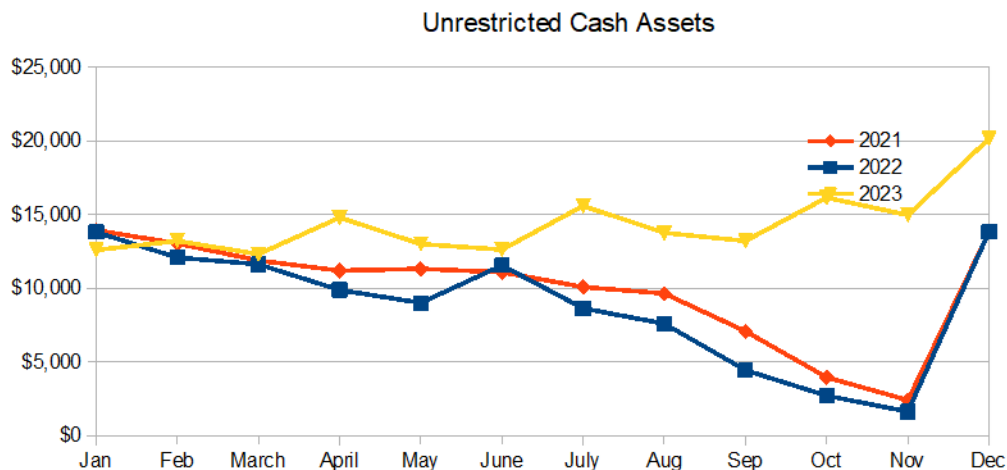
December 3	37/38 views	January 7	37/18 views
December 10	28/28 views	January 14	29/13 views
December 17	36/30 views	January 21	29/10 views
December 24 am	23/22 views	January 28	29/22 views
December 24 pm	73/67 views		
December 31	20/15 views		

2023 Financial Summary

- *Todd Engen, Treasurer*

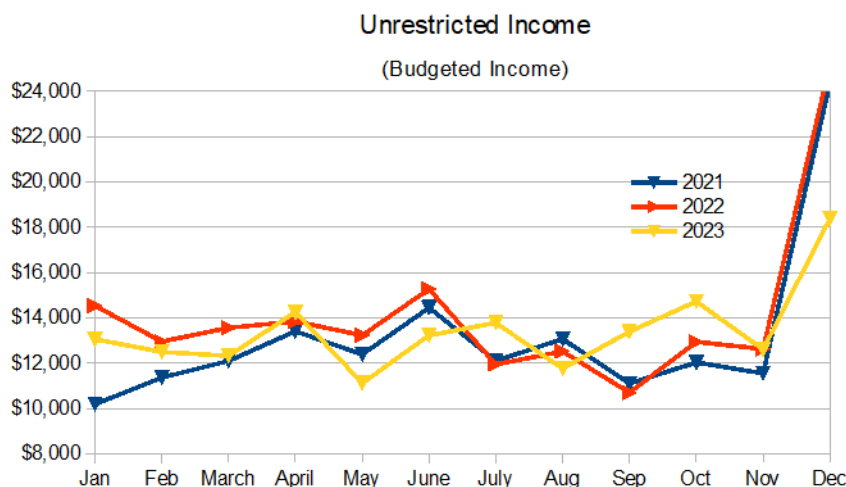
Before I start with the data, I'd like to thank everyone in the congregation for keeping Fellowship financially healthy in 2023. Your support allows us to make our ministry here on Sawmill Rd. We started 2023 with an optimistic budget and a carryover in our unrestricted cash assets of more than \$14,000. We budgeted for more than our estimated income. It turned out that our actual unrestricted income (\$161,511.76) significantly exceeded our estimated income (\$148,780.00). Most of that delta was due to strong Worship Offering that was about \$13,000 above our budgeted amount for the year. Thank you!

That leaves us in a good position going into 2024. Our Unrestricted Cash Assets stand at \$20,164.34 going into 2024. These are the cash assets that go to pay our day to day expenses along with the cash income that we receive throughout the year. The following graph shows the trend of our Unrestricted Cash Assets throughout 2023 compared to prior years (the Yellow line is for 2023).



You can see that our unrestricted cash assets tracked prior years pretty closely through June. Then, as we went through the end of the year, we held steady and gained a little as the year continued until we had our usual year-end increase.

Our unrestricted income for the year was strong. We mostly avoided the typical fall dip in worship offerings. (See following graph. Again, 2023 is in Yellow.)



We had lower expenses versus for our budget in 2023 for our building maintenance, utility costs, parking lot maintenance, and copier lease line items. We also reduced our benevolence to the Synod to \$5,000 for the year which was about \$3,000 less, full year, than our prior years.

We concluded an audit of our financial processes and policies in 2023. Our auditor looked at a sampling of our larger expenditures to insure that we are properly handling and recording our expenditures. She also looked at our policies related to financial practices. She found some things that we could do better in the future. Most of our policies have not been updated for many years. So, that was hardly surprising. Council is beginning work on looking at the policies to update, especially ones identified in the audit.

Some of our major accomplishments towards our mission include:

- Supporting the greater church through our benevolence to the Southern Ohio Synod of \$5,000. These monies help pay our Synod staff and the programs of the Synod including: Hopewood Outdoors (formerly Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio), Lutheran Social Services, Stewardship For All Seasons program, Cultivate - to assist new local congregations' ministries, and others.
- Souper Bowl support for Lutheran Social Services Food Pantries
- Good Gifts donations supporting Lutheran World Hunger programs to provide resources to help families around the world feed themselves
- Grace Lutheran Bequest, administered by our Outreach team: support for the Smoky Row Food Pantry, LSS Food Pantries, LSS Faith Mission and LSS Choices, as well as augmenting our Good Samaritan fund in helping needy people who come through our doors.
- Thrivent Action Grants that augmented many of these programs and also supported our Outdoor Service.

All in all, we are entering 2024 in a stronger position than 2023. Below are summary financial statements outlining our results of 2023 and our standing at the end of the year.

If you have any questions about the financial details, feel free to reach out to me.

2023 Financial Statements

The following reports show the financial status of Fellowship Lutheran Church for 2023. There are 3 major reports that a non-profit reports and they are shown on the following pages. They show our current financial position in the form of our Balance Sheet (or Statement of Financial Position), our Income and Expense Statement, our Statement of Activities. In addition there is a full-year 2023 budget comparisons to actual.

Statement of Financial Position

ASSETS

BANK ACCOUNTS	
CHECKING ACCOUNTS	\$11,217.00
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	33,145.29
Subtotal Bank Accounts	44,362.29
FIXED ASSETS	
BUILDINGS	2,363,290.13
EQUIPMENT	142,822.16
Subtotal Fixed Assets	2,506,112.29
OTHER ASSETS	597.44
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,551,072.02

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES	
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS	\$1,731.30
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	
MORTGAGES & LOANS	248,121.90
TOTAL LIABILITIES	249,853.20

NET ASSETS

UNRESTRICTED	\$2,278,154.73
DONOR RESTRICTED	
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	23,064.09
TOTAL EQUITY	2,301,218.82
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$2,551,072.02

Income and Expense Statement

	2023 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Budget %
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTION INCOME			
UNRESTRICTED	\$161,511.76	\$148,780.00	108.56%
DONOR RESTRICTED	4,155.75	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Contribution Income	165,667.51	148,780.00	111.35%
INTEREST INCOME	930.50	10.00	9,305.00%
NON-CASH DONATIONS	124.93	0.00	0.00%
RELEASE FROM RESTRICTIONS			
TEMP RESTRICTED RELEASE	-24,615.13	0.00	0.00%
RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION	24,615.13	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL INCOME	166,722.94	148,790.00	112.05%
 EXPENSES			
FIXED EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION	\$89,685.56	\$90,565.49	99.03%
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	3,438.60	3,925.00	87.61%
WORSHIP	2,102.61	2,106.00	99.84%
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	1,163.76	800.00	145.47%
EDUCATION & YOUTH	380.82	695.00	54.79%
OUTREACH	5,500.00	5,000.00	110.00%
PROPERTY AND SUPPORT	43,527.87	58,310.80	74.65%
STEWARDSHIP EXPENSES	26.40	150.00	17.60%
OTHER EXPENSES	247.38	0.00	0.00%
RESTRICTED FUND EXPENSES	8,564.56	0.00	0.00%
RESTRICTED SUB-FUNDS	1,400.57	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	156,038.13	161,552.29	96.59%
<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>145,325.62</i>	<i>161,552.29</i>	<i>89.96%</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	<i>10,712.51</i>	<i>0.00</i>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	156,038.13	161,552.29	96.59%
<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>145,325.62</i>	<i>161,552.29</i>	<i>89.96%</i>
<i>Non-Budgeted</i>	<i>10,712.51</i>	<i>0.00</i>	

Fellowship Lutheran Church
Statement of Activities

Restricted Restricted	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTION INCOME			
UNRESTRICTED	\$161,511.76		\$161,511.76
DONOR RESTRICTED		4,155.75	4,155.75
Subtotal Contribution Income	161,511.76	4,155.75	165,667.51
INTEREST INCOME	930.50		930.50
NON-CASH DONATIONS	124.93		124.93
RELEASE FROM RESTRICTIONS			
TEMP RESTRICTED RELEASE		-24,615.13	-24,615.13
RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION	24,615.13		24,615.13
Subtotal Release <u>From</u> Restrictions	24,615.13	-24,615.13	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	187,182.32	-20,459.38	166,722.94
EXPENSES			
FIXED EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION	\$89,685.56		\$89,685.56
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	3,438.60		3,438.60
WORSHIP	2,102.61		2,102.61
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	1,163.76		1,163.76
<u>EDUCATION & YOUTH</u>	380.82		380.82
OUTREACH	5,500.00		5,500.00
PROPERTY AND SUPPORT	43,527.87		43,527.87
STEWARDSHIP EXPENSES	26.40		26.40
OTHER EXPENSES	247.38		247.38
RESTRICTED FUND EXPENSES	8,564.56		8,564.56
RESTRICTED SUB-FUNDS	1,388.13	12.44	1,400.57
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	156,025.69	12.44	156,038.13
TOTAL EXPENSES	156,025.69	12.44	156,038.13
CHANGE IN EQUITY	31,156.63	-20,471.82	10,684.81
BEGINNING EQUITY	2,246,998.10	43,036.91	2,290,035.01
DIRECT CHANGE TO EQUITY		499.00	499.00
ENDING EQUITY	\$2,278,154.73	\$23,064.09	\$2,301,218.82

Fellowship Lutheran Church
Budget Report

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January 2023 - December 2023

Account		Actual	Budget	Difference	%
LIABILITY					
01-2000	LIABILITIES				
01-2600	LONG-TERM LIABILITIES				
01-2610	MORTGAGES & LOANS	-10,099.90	-9,600.00	-499.90	105 %
	(a negative number indicates a lowering in the mortgage principal)				
INCOME					
01-4000	INCOME				
01-4010	CONTRIBUTION INCOME				
01-4020	UNRESTRICTED	160,264.38	148,780.00	11,484.38	108 %
01-4500	INTEREST INCOME	930.50	10.00	920.50	999 %
TOTAL INCOME		161,194.88	148,790.00	12,404.88	108 %
EXPENSE					
01-5000	EXPENSES				
01-5100	ADMINISTRATION	89,685.56	90,565.49	879.93	99 %
01-5105	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	3,438.60	3,925.00	486.40	88 %
01-5200	WORSHIP	2,102.61	2,106.00	3.39	100 %
01-5300	CONGREGATIONAL LIFE	1,163.76	800.00	-363.76	145 %
01-5400	EDUCATION & YOUTH	380.82	695.00	314.18	55 %
01-5500	OUTREACH	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	100 %
01-5600	PROPERTY AND SUPPORT	43,527.87	58,310.80	14,782.93	75 %
01-5620	STEWARDSHIP EXPENSES	26.40	150.00	123.60	18 %
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$145,325.62	\$161,552.29	\$16,226.67	90 %
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$155,425.52			
	(Expenses + Mortgage principal payments)				

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Robin Wargowsky
Treasurer	Todd Engen
Secretary & Financial Secretary	Tracy Farel
Organist	Dixie Heck
Sub. Pianist/Organist	David Fleisher, Amy Wargowsky, Ruth Albert
Choir/Band Director	George Biemel
Custodian	Kenneth Hunt

Executive Committee

President	George Biemel
Vice-President	Mike Rankin
Secretary	Sonya Thelin Pastor Robin

At-large Council Members

Angela Kidd
Bill Lude
Susan Wolfe

Team Coordinators

Congregational Life	Vacant
Education & Youth	Vacant
Outreach	Pete Cardimen
Property	John Votino
Stewardship	Vacant (Council)
Worship	Karen Harris

Thank you for your leadership!!!

Worship Servers Schedule for January 2024

	February 4	February 11
Asst. Minister	Sonya Thelin	Cindy Frey
Lay Reader	Sonya Thelin	Cindy Frey
Counter	Bill Lude	Bill Lude
Greeter	Karen Harris	
Fellowship Host		---
Altar Guild	Dianna Roll & Angela Kidd	Dianna Roll & Angela Kidd

	February 18	February 25
Asst. Minister	George Biemel	Paul Wargowsky
Lay Reader	George Biemel	Paul Wargowsky
Counter		
Greeter		
Fellowship Host	---	---
Altar Guild	Dianna Roll & Angela Kidd	Dianna Roll & Angela Kidd



Worship Servers Needed!

If you can fill any of our openings for assisting ministers, readers, counters, greeters or fellowship hosts or help out in future months, please call or email Pastor Robin. Thanks!

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC	29 7:00 pm - NA	30 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	31 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	1 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	2 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	3 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
4 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am - Worship 11:00 am - choir 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC	5 7:00 pm - NA	6 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	7 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	8 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	9 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	10 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
11 Souper Bowl Sun. 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am -Worship 11:00 am - Executive 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC	12 7:00 pm - NA	13 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - Worship Team (zoom)	14 Ash Wednesday 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - Ash Weds. Service	15 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 1:30 pm - SICC Prs 8:00 pm - CJMC	16 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	17 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
18 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am -Worship 11:00 am - Choir 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC	19 7:00 pm - NA	20 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - Council	21 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:15 pm - Soup Supper 7:00 pm - Service	22 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	23 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	24 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
25 9:00 am - Sun. School 10:00 am -Worship 11:30-4:00 pm -CJMC	26 7:00 pm - NA	27 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:00 pm - Women's Dinner & Guys' Night Out	28 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 6:15 pm - Soup Supper 7:00 pm - Service	29 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	1 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	2 6:00 am - CJMC Pray

FOR OUR MEMBERS:

Fritzi Bear	Don Johnson
Major N Crispin	Lillian Kachic
Carolyn Crispin	Ed Lathy
Byron Engen	Frank & Leena LeMay
Margery Gress	Pete & Sonja Meighen
Cheryl Hamilton	John Votino
Zach Jaeger	Ray Ward

February Birthdays

Zach Jaeger	2/09
Eliana Anderson	2/10
Erling Lee	2/11
Caitlyn Votino	2/11
Kathleen Wolkan	2/18
Lillian Cardimen	2/22
Paul Wargowsky	2/22
Leena LeMay	2/28

FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Jim Barnett, Bill Lude's friend
Rosemary Craig, Cindy Frey's mother
Lyn Fitzer, Bill Lude's friend
McKenna Harris, Karen Harris' granddaughter
William Leach, Karen Harris' brother
Angel McLeish, Pete Cardimen's coworker's wife
Nora Murphy, Margary Gress's friend
Scott Reimer, John Votino's friend
John & Charlotte Schall, Pastor Robin's parents
Jeff Sielaff, visitor



DEATHS:

Scott Leininger, Bill Lude's friend & former member

Happy Birthday to those celebrating birthdays this month! This list reflects the information we have in our computer at this time. We welcome your corrections and additions!

February Anniversaries



Fellowship Lutheran Church
7350 Sawmill Road
Columbus, OH 43235

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Purpose: To share God's love and grace through our words and actions.

Our Vision: To be a diverse, thriving community of faith where all are welcome to celebrate God's love and grace.

February 2024 Newsletter