



*May*  
*2021*

a publication of Fellowship Lutheran Church, Rev. Robin Wargowsky, Pastor  
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*"We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us - and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." 1 John 3:16-18*

Dear Fellowship members and friends,

John's words for Good Shepherd Sunday, "Little children, let us love..." have never been timelier. After all, it has been violence and not love that has been in the air in our country recently. Last weekend, cross-country murders were among the latest in the epidemic of murders infecting the nation. A shooting at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis that killed eight people on Friday was followed by an additional nine deaths in Illinois, Texas, Wisconsin, Ohio, Nebraska, and Louisiana. Not all of these incidents were technically mass shootings, but they were reminders of the nation's ongoing problems with gun violence... and our nation's ongoing problem with loving one another.

Yes, little children, let us live in love. Of course, John's words do not end there. This is not some sort of disembodied love. John's punchline drives home a deeper connection between faith and discipleship: "Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." The situation changes, and everything becomes more complicated.

John was a pastor of his flock. He had heard the words of faith and then watched people treat each other with a lack of love. Jesus said that all of the law and the prophets were summed up in the twin commandments of love of God and neighbor, and John urged his congregation to demonstrate that love. He used the very actions of Jesus to demonstrate the true meaning of love. This is not a feeling we have that attracts us to another. This is an action we take on behalf of another. Love is a verb and not an abstract feeling.

The patterns of the past few weeks are reminders of the ways the world has failed to love. However we understand the roots of gun violence and mass shootings, it is impossible to say we have acted with love toward each other. We have not acted in love toward siblings in need. We have executed the innocent, and denied due process to teenagers in hoodies, regardless of the crimes they may or may not have committed. We have failed to heed the voice of the Good Shepherd, preferring to hear his words to us as a romanticized love song instead of lyrics that lead us into action.

Loving in truth and action looks out for those in need, extending compassion and acting generously toward siblings in faith who lack necessities. In this way, love moves beyond platitudes into concrete, sometimes even risky actions. It is the love that dares to speak truths about justice issues!

See you in church!

*Pastor Robin*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **In-person Worship Resumed 4/11/21 (both 10 am and 5 pm services).**

Masks and social distancing are required and for the time being, we are holding off on our singing and liturgy. We celebrate communion weekly unless Franklin County is "purple." Our weekly online services continue.

**Holy Communion** Consecrated communion kits can be picked up in the church office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon for those unable to attend in-person.

### **Meals on Wheels**

Friday, May 21	Engen	Friday, June 18	Farel
Saturday, May 15	Wolfe	Saturday, June 19	Cardimen

If you are interested in becoming a Meals on Wheels volunteer in the next cycle, please notify Carol Jaeger or Pastor Robin. Our Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver meals in the area two days a month, the 3rd Friday and the 3rd Saturday.

### **Donation Opportunities**

#### **Smoky Row Food Pantry Needs - April, May, and June**

- Baby Items (Diapers 2-3-4, Wipes)
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Non-perishable food items
- Laundry Detergent
- Kitchen/Cleaning Items (Dishwasher Liquid, Dish Soap)

**\*Please bring donations to the church during the published office hours. Thank you!!**

**Staying Connected Program for the Elderly** - Did you know that Ohio has a program for the elderly to "stay connected?" We have at least one member who is enrolled in the program and really likes it. 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/>

**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!

**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!

**Do You Order From Amazon?** If so, then try Amazon Smile to support Fellowship Lutheran Church! First, go to Amazon Smile and choose Fellowship Lutheran Church, Columbus, OH as your charity. Then, shop as usual and Fellowship will receive a percentage of your purchase. It's that easy!

**Give to Fellowship with Your Smartphone with GivePlus+** - Our EFT provider, Vanco, provides a smartphone app, Give+, to 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.

**Worship Servers Needed!** If you are able to help out at our 10:00 a.m. worship service when we resume in-person worship services, please let either Tracy Farel or Pastor Robin know. Lectors, counters, and greeters are needed.

### **Attendance Information (In-person & virtual)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
3/3 (midweek)	17 views	4/1 (Maundy Thurs)	49 views
3/7	93 views	4/4	73 views
3/10 (midweek)	20 views	4/11	30/7/26 views
3/14	69 views	4/18	23/14/26 views
3/17 (midweek)	15 views	4/25	13/10/18 views
3/21	75 views		
3/24 (midweek)	7 views		
3/28	47 views		



As you may know, we have transitioned our financial tracking from a series of manual spreadsheets to the accounting package that is included in our church management software, Power Church. This is a true double-entry accounting system. It provides us a number of advantages, including: better tracking of expenses, more flexibility in adding new categories for expenses and income, integrates with the contributions part of Power Church to automate the recording of income, repeating expenses can be partially automated, audit capability to track how changes were made, multiple built-in reports to track income and expenses, check-writing, and many more.

We have also automated more of the expenditures so less time is required in bookkeeping. Some of our expenses were already done automatically such as our mortgage. But, most others have been manual, either written check or electronic. We have gone to automatic bill pay for our major mandatory expenses such as our utility bills (gas, electric, internet, Zoom). We have gone to web-based payments to the IRS rather than phone-based.

Our financial state is tracking as generally expected based on our 2021 budget that was approved at our November congregational meeting. Our expenses and income are tracking pretty close to what we predicted. Our income year to date is 94% of what we budgeted, and our expenses are 86% year to date. We had predicted a shortfall of \$24,000 between income and expenses and starting with a \$16,000 balance in our operating fund. We entered 2021 with an "Operating Fund" balance of \$19,165.64. As of the end of March, our Operating Fund balance was \$11,892.65.

There are some differences in the way a true accounting system reports information compared to the way we have done in the past. The most notable is that we looked at our mortgage payment as an expense. Actually, only the interest portion of our mortgage payment is an expense. The principal payment goes to reducing our mortgage balance and is treated as a reduction in a liability rather than an expense and an increase in our long term equity. Our Operating Fund was not a fund, per se, but was the difference between the amount in our bank accounts minus our restricted accounts and outstanding payments and checks. So, it is not 100% comparable to look at our last year's numbers vs. this year's.

It is important to think about how our spending reflects our mission. Our mission is to share God's love and grace through our words and actions. How have we been living up to that? We have increased our benevolence to the Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA from 7% to 7.5% of our worship income this year. That money goes to sharing God's Word and to disaster relief, helping the poor and many other things. It funds all of the missions of the ELCA that I have written about in the past in my role as Mission Interpreter. These include things like Lutheran Social Services (which includes their food pantries and many other ministries), ELCA Global Mission, Lutheran Disaster Relief, ELCA seminaries, and many more. We have been collecting food for the Smoky Row Food Pantry and subsidizing that with our partners at Thrivent through Thrivent Action Teams and grants. We recently reinstalled our basketball hoop to provide a safe place for the youth in our immediate neighborhood. We housed the Blessing Box out front that was a mini-food pantry. And, we have been providing our worship services online through the pandemic to enable our members and virtual visitors to hear God's word. All of those things require an investment of our financial assets.

I have created a summary of our financial state as of the end of March, based on the data in Power Church for your reference:

**TOP SHEET**

<b>Operating Fund (Net Current Equity)</b>			<b>\$11,892.65</b>
<b>Total Net Equity</b>			<b>\$2,204,790.36</b>
	Bank Account		\$17,628.16
	Savings Account (MMA)		\$16,225.83
	Mortgage Balance		\$275,914.84
		<b>March</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	Worship Offering	\$10,785.00	\$30,149.00
	Building Use Donations	1,175.00	\$3,375.00
	Miscellaneous Donations	140.18	\$185.69
	Interest Income	0.80	\$1.94
	Restricted Income	250.00	\$435.00
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$12,350.98</b>	<b>\$34,146.63</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>12,144.80</b>	<b>\$35,865.21</b>

There is not a direct Operating Fund in Power Church. I believe the closest thing to that is what I call Net Current Equity which is the difference between our current assets (checking and saving accounts) minus our short term liabilities (tax withholding, mostly) and our restricted funds.

If anyone would like, I would be happy to provide the details behind this information. Just let me know. Or, I can answer any questions you might have.

In closing, we face some challenges. We approved a deficit budget for this year. We hoped that when the pandemic cleared, we would return to regular services and our donations would increase with people coming to church. I would ask that you consider all the good things we do pursuing our mission to share God’s love and grace, and consider how and where you can contribute financially, but also in sharing your other talents in service to our mission. If you have an idea for a way to serve our community or share God’s love, let our leadership team know, or just get it started. If you can do a little more to help pay for the things we do, that will help us move our mission forward also. And, don’t forget to invite a friend to church! When we share our experiences at Fellowship, people will come; and people will support us.

Todd Engen – Treasurer  
[tcengen@att.net](mailto:tcengen@att.net)  
 614-226-4965

**FOR OUR MEMBERS:**

<b>Fritzi Bear</b>	<b>Frank &amp; Leena LeMay</b>
<b>Major N Crispin</b>	<b>Sonja Meighen</b>
<b>Barb Fisher</b>	<b>Joshua Mott</b>
<b>Margery Gress</b>	<b>Martha Sampson</b>
<b>Cheryl Hamilton</b>	<b>John W. Votino</b>
<b>Zach Jaeger</b>	<b>Ray &amp; Carol Ward</b>
<b>Lillian Kachic</b>	<b>Bill Zahn</b>
<b>Hazel Lambert</b>	

**FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

**Joan Albert**, Ruth Albert's mother  
**Ann Belser's mother**, Stacy Niedecker's friend's mother  
**Irene Chaussard**, John Votino's aunt  
**Rosemary Craig**, Cindy Frey's mother  
**Ty George**, Mallory Tonn's boyfriend  
**Marc Hamilton**, Cheryl Hamilton's son  
**Erin & Jamie Jacobson & family**  
**Chris Johnson**, Bruce Johnson's sister-in-law  
**Mark Kline**, Barb Fisher's friend's brother  
**Bob Spencer**, Mike Rankin's brother-in-law  
**Jenifer Takats**, Todd Engen's wife  
**Gary Tyack**, Mike Rankin's boss  
**Hayden Valesky**, Votino's great nephew

**DEATHS:**

**Dmitri Belser**, Stacy Niedecker's friend's brother  
**Harry Bowman**, Karen Harris' friend  
**William Seckle**, Martha Sampson's brother

**May Birthdays**

Susan Lee	5/05
Tom Scantland	5/07
Kate King	5/08
Maria Anderson	5/09
Matt Bear	5/12
Sam Sgro	5/13
John M. Votino	5/14
Karen Harris	5/24
John Votino	5/25
Hazel Almeida	5/28



***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!*

**May Anniversaries**

Michael & Kate King	5/04
David & Sarah Almeida	5/05
Bill & Kathy Farel	5/12
Bill & Pam Lude	5/30



**Church Staff**

Pastor	Rev. Robin Wargowsky
Treasurer	Todd Engen
Financial Secretary	Tracy Farel
Office Secretary	Tracy Farel
Organist	Michael Cherup
Sub. Organist	David Fleisher
Sunday evening pianist	Amy Wargowsky
Choir Director	George Biemel
Custodian	Kenneth Hunt

**Executive Committee**

President	Stacy Niedecker
Vice-President	Kathryn Tucker
Secretary	Sonya Thelin Pastor Robin

**Congregational Life**

Director	Cindy Frey
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**Education & Youth**

Director	Dianna Roll
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**Outreach**

Director	Carol Jaeger
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**Stewardship & Support**

Director	John Votino
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**Worship**

Director	Karen Harris
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***Thank you for your leadership!!!***

# May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>25</b> 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-3:00 - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	<b>26</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>27</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>28</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>29</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	<b>30</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>1</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
<b>2</b> 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-3:00 - CJMC 3:00 pm - Executive 5:00 pm worship	<b>3</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>4</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>5</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>6</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	<b>7</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>8</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
<b>9 <i>Mother's Day</i></b> 10:00 am - Worship. 11:30-3:00 - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	<b>10</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>11</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:00 pm - Worship Team (zoom)	<b>12</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>13</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	<b>14</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>15</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
<b>16</b> 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-3:00 - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	<b>17</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>18</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 7:30 pm - Council (zoom)	<b>19</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>20</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	<b>21</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>22</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
<b>23 <i>Pentecost</i></b> 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-3:00 - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	<b>24</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>25</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>26</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>27</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	<b>28</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>29</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray
<b>30 <i>Holy Trinity</i></b> 10:00 am - Worship 11:30-3:00 - CJMC 5:00 pm - Worship	<b>31 <i>Memorial Day</i></b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>1</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>2</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>3</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray 8:00 pm - CJMC	<b>4</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray	<b>5</b> 6:00 am - CJMC Pray

**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.

***May 2021 Newsletter***