

## **Worship and Music Budget/Advent & Christmas Planning Meeting Report**

The Worship and Music committee met on Saturday, September 10, 2022 at noon. In attendance were Lauren Kennedy, Brittany Kooi, Debbie Anderson, Pam Engel, Nancy Collins, Michelle Kneipper, Rich Newman, and Lori Rieger. After opening devotions, attention was turned to setting the proposed budget for 2023. Worship supplies amounts were adjusted quite a lot to account for being back to serving communion at the altar. While we will still continue to offer the individual cups and wafers for those who prefer to commune from the pews, we anticipate the costs to be quite a lot less than 2022, since most congregants choose to go up for communion at this point.

The next budget item requiring discussion was the question of whether we should increase the per service rate of pay for our dedicated organists/pianists, both to take current inflation and comparable rates from other churches in the area into consideration. The committee learned that Holy Love has been paying approximately 20-60% less per service than other churches at which our musicians also play. It was also noted that the format for recording the online services has also changed since last year's budget was set. Previously, all 3 pianists had played (and been paid for) each month's recording. However, now they rotate, and each monthly recording only requires one pianist. Taking all of these things into account, a motion was made by Debbie Anderson to increase the pay per service for the organists/pianists from \$100 to \$125. Rich Newman seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

After the budget proposal finished, the committee began planning for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. First, November 20<sup>th</sup> was set to decorate the church after the worship service, with announcements to be placed in the bulletin and e-News for a few weeks prior to that Sunday, asking for volunteer help. It was decided there will be 2 midweek Advent services: a night of Christmas carols, cookies & hot chocolate will be held December 14<sup>th</sup>; and a Longest Night service to acknowledge and support those for whom the holiday season can be a hard or painful time, will be offered December 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be 2 services offered on Christmas Eve: a kid-friendly, interactive service at 3:30 p.m., and a traditional Candlelight service at 7:30 p.m. With Christmas Day falling on a Sunday this year, it was decided that there will be no in-person worship service on December 25<sup>th</sup>. There will still be an online service available for Christmas Day, and services will resume as normal on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Kennedy