



2023 Fall Voters' Meeting Report

Bi-Annual Meeting | On the Sunday of the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, September 24, 2023

Below is a summary of God's work at Faith thus far in 2023

As of September 2023:

- Total Baptized Members: **123**
- Non-members, but baptized & under Pastor's care: **11**
- Communicant Members: **92**
- Voters: **40**

OFFICIAL ACTS

Out of 38 Sundays, we have had **38** Sunday Divine Services. No Summer evening services were held this year due to a very busy summer schedule with conventions, conferences, etc.. Still, even with the lack of a midweek service, the combined total average weekend attendance per week is higher than previous years.

Average weekend attendance: **41** (up from 38 in 2022, 27 in 2020, 32 in 2021; 40 in 2019).

11 special services were held. Average attendance at these was **28** (29 in 2022, 23 in 2021, 25 in 2020, 29 in 2019).

Holy Communion has offered **1148** times in services, not including distributed to individuals at home, at Oakhill, or in individuals services.

We have **3 shut-in members**, and **4 individuals** at Oakhill under my pastoral care.

Bible Study

Our adult Bible has averaged about **15 people**, but the last few Sundays, attendance has dropped. An average of **7 children** have been in the nursery with a parent.

Carla is a sole teacher for our Sunday School. We need more volunteers to teach, and/or to be assistants once a week in the nursery.

Our goal is to have 30% of our membership in Bible Study. Bible Study usually lasts for 45 minutes (10:30-11:15). Can you devote your Sunday mornings each week to the Lord?

A congregation active in Bible Study is usually also a congregation growing numerically. We also have a goal to "be a growing church." If we want to be able to spend time to talk with others about Jesus, we first of all need to make room in our schedule to do the same for ourselves. Our world is spiritually starving. We have the food to give them!

I have also led monthly Bible Studies at Oakhill Correctional, ranging from about **14-21 men**, and conducted monthly pastoral visits to 3-4 each month.

I currently have **3 students** in confirmation. 1 will be finishing up within a few weeks, 2 are in their second year. 1 student has seemingly dropped out.

I have done 3 pre-marriage classes (7 classes each), 1 parenting class (4 classes), as well as meeting with number of individuals for adult instruction classes, including some men at Oakhill.

DOXOLOGY

Our congregation was the recipient of a \$5000 grant to allow us to partake in the Doxology program – for pastor, lay leaders, and pastor’s wife.

This has been in our budget since 2020, and we instead have had it graciously paid for by a grant from the ELS. Praise be to God for this opportunity.

This was only the first component; the second will be November 3-5, 2023 (Fri-Sun). The council needs to appoint at least one person to attend the retreat (not simply chosen by pastor). Some congregations have in the past sent their entire councils, and then send new council members each year after. I am convinced that if as many from our congregation go as possible, it will have a profound positive impact on our congregation.

A thought: since this was already in our budget, can we use this allocated money to send everyone from council? It’s an all-inclusive weekend at a beautiful spiritual retreat center outside of Dayton, OH. Cost is less than \$250 per person (simply to cover costs; Doxology is really provided as a service to the church). The cost for the first individual is completely paid for already. We need to report to them who is attending by October.

Baptisms

- Hannah Behl - April 30, 2023
- Augustine Hendrix - May 28, 2023
- Wrenley Milz - June 25, 2023
- Braelyn Klahn - September 10, 2023

Youth Confirmations

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Reception by Adult Confirmation

- Hayden Milz - June 25, 2023

Reception by Profession of Faith

- Karen Bausch - June 2023

Transfer Out

- Jim, Kim & Bekah Powers to St. John’s Lutheran, Milton, WI (WELS) - March 2023

Transfer In

- Steve and Daniel Rehborg - January 2023

Release

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Deaths

- Vicki Normington - February 10, 2023

Weddings

- Hayden & Mariah (Klahn) Milz - January 22, 2023
- Montana & Haley (DeGroot) Klahn - February 25, 2023
- Matthew & Kelsey (Klitzman) Mawhinney - Sept. 2, 2023