

# Greenfield Good News!

## December 2024



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## “Having a baby, changes everything around us”

Remember when you had your first baby or knew a friend who did? It's a crazy experience. Your life changes dramatically when you become a parent. Your home soon fills with baby items, it's everywhere! Even a simple errand that might take just 5 to 10 minutes requires lengthy preparation; loading the car with essentials takes an additional 10 to 15 minutes, not to mention bundling up the baby for the trip. Having a baby truly changes everything in your world, much like the Christmas season does.

The calendar on the wall tells us it is December (or at least it will be by the time you receive this newsletter). In the same way, the church calendar reminds us that we are entering the season of Advent. Both calendars signal that it's time to prepare.

December prompts us to get ready for Christmas: cleaning the house for guests, facing the crowds of holiday shoppers, wrapping presents, baking cookies, decorating the tree, attending parties, and hanging stockings with care.

However, the Advent to-do list is quite different from the pre-Christmas one. Rather than rushing around madly, the Advent season invites us to take time to wonder and anticipate with great joy the incredible event yet to come. Instead of cleaning our homes, the Advent to-do list asks us to cleanse our hearts and minds in preparation for the birth of the Christ child, whose arrival changes everything.

And indeed, Jesus' birth transforms everything. When my firstborn arrived, I described becoming a parent as flipping a light switch on inside me. It was a light I had never known was there, and once it was on, I couldn't imagine life without it. This feeling echoes the opening verses of John's gospel: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." The light that entered the world through Christ's birth shines brightly for all to see and changes everything.

At His birth, Jesus brought the light of God's love, truth, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness into the world. This light offers hope and courage to those who see it, reminding us that we are not alone on this journey. It encourages us to become light-bearers ourselves, sharing God's love and compassion in tangible ways—such as donating to food pantries, forgiving those who have hurt us, volunteering at homeless shelters, advocating for the vulnerable, and much more.

Now that this light has entered our world, it's hard to imagine a time without it. A baby truly can change everything. A baby can flip your world upside down and introduce you to a depth of love you never knew existed. Indeed, a baby boy named Jesus, born in a stable so long ago, can do all of this and so much more for you, for me, and for all the world.

Blessings, *Pastor Kurt*

# GF EVENTS

Good Things Are Always  
Happening at Greenfield!



*Calendar Events may be added and information is always subject to change.*

Please check your bulletin, the website and Facebook for the most up to date information. Please contact the office to get your events and activities information into the Greenfield Good News!

## DECEMBER

- **Sunday, Dec. 1** – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent. Service at 9 am. Children's Christmas program practice after service.

- **Wednesday, Dec. 4** - **Cookie Making and Drop off** –

Confirmation Youth Cookie Making & Decorating. Cookie Drop off for those donating cookies for the Breakfast with Santa Youth Cookie Sale. Please bring cookies to the kitchen today. The cookie sale will be on December 7 at the Community Center



- **Saturday, Dec. 7**—Breakfast with Santa and Youth Cookie Sale



- **Sunday, Dec. 8** –

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent. Service at 9 am.

### **Church Choir Christmas Cantata**

Children's Christmas program practice after service.

- **Tuesday, Dec. 10**—Martha Leah Circle at Drucie's at 2 pm.

- **Wednesday, Dec 11** – Church Council Meets at 8 pm

# GF EVENTS continued...

- **Wednesday, Dec 11** – Confirmation 6 pm meal, 6:30 pm class

- **Sunday, Dec 15** –  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent.  
Service at 9 am.



## Children's Christmas Program



- **Monday, Dec. 16**—Holiday Centerpiece Make & Take class. 6 pm in the fellowship hall. \$25. Instructor is LeAnn Jevne. Sign up on the sheet by the big bulletin board in the office.
- **Wednesday, Dec 18** – Confirmation 6 pm meal, 6:30 pm class
- **Sunday, Dec 22**—4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent. Service at 9 am.
- **Tuesday, Dec 24** – **Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm**
- **Wednesday, Dec 25** – NO Confirmation Christmas holiday
- **Wednesday, Dec 25** – **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**
- **Sunday, Dec 29** – Service at 9 am

**POINSETTIAS**—If you would like please donate a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one to help adorn the sanctuary for Christmas. Have them here Sunday, Dec. 15th. Thank you.





# thank you

There are so many wonderful things that have happened over the year and none of it would have been possible without our wonderful Church Family. We just want to take a minute to say a big thank you to all who have participated or helped in any way over the year.

Thank You to the Holiday Bazaar Committee!

Thank You to Dave Kiehne, Sandy Strozyk and Eric Slindee for Temple Talk sharing messages on Time, Talent and Tithing during our stewardship month.

Thank You to all who Helped with the Greening of the Church

Thank You to all who donated or helped with the Youth Christmas Cookie Bake Sale

Thank You to all who helped with the Greenfield Sign restoration

Thank You to our Teachers

Thank You to our Choir and Choir Director—Stephanie Morse

To our pianist/organist—Reagan Rose

Thank You to all of our Ushers and Helpers and Acolytes

Thank You to our Readers

Thank You to our Video Helpers

Thank You to Our Altar Guild

Thank You to our Youth and Children and Director—Josh Krage

Thank you to Committees

Thank You to Our Quilters

Thank You to Our Circles

To Our Council Members

Thank You to those who help with Coffee Fellowship

*And anyone we might have inadvertently missed we apologize and thank you so much!*



# The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Holiday Bazaar Was a **SUCCESS!!!**

A huge thank you to our members for their generosity and support for our first bazaar!

Committee members, donors, event set up workers and event workers- youth and adult! All of you contributed to a successful, smooth running, well attended event.

Anyone interested in participating on next year's committee, please let Kris in the office know. Many hands make lighter work!

**NOW THE BIG ANNOUNCEMENT -  
The event raised over \$10,000 after expenses!  
Our goal was to raise money for the general fund and also  
bring members together in unity for our church.  
We accomplished both.**



## Greenfield Youth Mitten Tree Ministry Continutes...

**THANK YOU for all the donations so far!!**

The Greenfield Youth Mitten Tree is all about giving back to our neighbors in need. Every donation helps provide warmth and support to children and adults in Fillmore County. Contact Josh for more details about this important Youth Ministry.

**A BIG THANK YOU goes out to the Rachel Circle for doing the Mitten Tree for all these years!**





# ***Greetings*** ***From the Youth Program!***

## **Happy Thanksgiving!**

As is the norm, when the Holiday Season approaches we have more to do (just like the children at Greenfield Lutheran Church).

The children's/adult choir sang *You Are Holy* together on November 17th and it was amazing. In case you missed their performance, check out the Church's Facebook page and watch the video.

The Senior Youth did a wonderful job helping our with the Empty Bowls event held on November 10th. This was another way of our Youth giving back to their community. Special Thanks to Atlee Hershberger, Connor Hovey, Lleyton Engen, Owen Schoepski, Clayton Schoepski, Josh Haugerud and Oliver Flaby for helping with this event. Pictures of these helpers are posed on the Church's Facebook page.

Our Youth Christmas Program will be on Sunday December 15th. I recommend all of you come and enjoy this special event as both the Sunday School Program / Confirmation Program are working together to relive the birth of Christ.

These kids are an amazing group to work with and I am truly blessed to be a part of their Faith Journey.

***Peace - Josh Krage***



# Traveling for Christmas?

*You can continue to support Greenfield even when you aren't able to be here in person!*

Give as able using the Vanco app, details are on the next page. You can give to special events, Youth events, or even set up recurring offerings so it's one less thing to remember to do.

Please see the next page for exciting details! Call the office if you have questions or need help. Your offerings help keep Greenfield going.



**Reminder:** When you do automatic giving from your checking or savings accounts you can use this slip shown for the offering plates. **They will be in the pews with the regular offering envelopes. Thank You!**



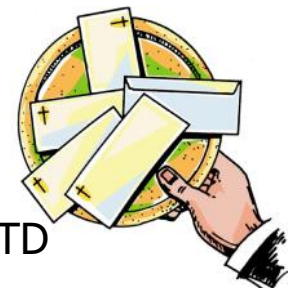
## Greenfield Lutheran Church Income and Expense

### OCTOBER 2024

Revenue: \$11,018.00  
Expense: \$20,456.53  
Deficit: **<-\$9,438.53>**

### YEAR TO DATE THROUGH OCTOBER

YTD REVENUES \$193,941.35  
YTD EXPENDITURES \$206,065.39  
Creates a negative cash flow of **<-\$12,124.04>** for OCT YTD





## A New Way To Join In The Worship Of Giving

**You can give using your smartphone. Just download the Vanco Mobile App from Apple or Google Play.**



- Enter our church's name and click Search. Then, select our church.
- Log in, don't have an account? Sign up.
- Select your fund and donation frequency.
- Select a payment method and enter your credit card, debit card or bank account information. You can save this payment method for future donations.
- You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount on top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.
- Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.



**Donating to the church is now easy with the new Vanco mobile app.**

**Consider using this secure method to support Greenfield Lutheran Church Harmony, Minnesota**



**VANCO**  
FAITH





**Church Council Officers:** President - Paul Hemenway ~ Vice President- Mary Beth Ostrom  
Secretary - Mindy Kingsley ~ Treasurer - Vicky Tribon

**Church Council Members:** Matthew Anderson, Janet Ewalt, Paul Hemenway, Mindy Kingsley, Josh Krage, Stephanie Morse, Mary Beth Ostrom, Scott Snyder, Owen Schoepski, Vicky Tribon

## Church Council Minutes October 9, 2024

**Members Present:** Paul Hemenway, Josh Krage, Vicky Tribon, Stephanie Morse, Owen Schoepski, Pastor Bockoven

**Absent:** MaryBeth Ostrom, Scott Snyder, Mindy Kingsley

Called to order at 8:00 AM

Devotions led by Matt Anderson.

Motion to approve previous minutes with corrections:

Motioned by Janet Ewalt, Motioned 2nd by Josh Krage. Motion Carried.

### ***Motion:***

Instruct Steve Donney to; facilitate and move money between our various Funds and accounts in sufficient amounts to fund the "expected distributions for 2025. Generally, from the "at risk" investments to "safer" MM or fixed annuity accounts. And, Steve will, on a best-effort basis, depending on the difficulty of accomplishing this, either move most or all of the MIF (ELCA) money to either Thrivent or Vanguard MMs read-just the Thrivent annuity allocations.

Vickey Motioned, Stephanie 2nd. Motion carried.

This reason for moving the Legacy's ELCA MIF funds is even at our \$80,000+ balance they are crediting 1.25% currently. This compares to approx. 4.5% in the MMs.

Right now, around \$40,792 will be distributed from the Endowment Fund which is 5% of earnings that can be distributed in January. This number could change by the end of the year.

By moving the funds, it will keep those funds gained in a safer, less risky account. Our total Assets in our Accounts as of 9/30/2024 was \$1,361,991.43.

### ***Financial Report:***

In September, expenses exceed revenues by \$5,538.59. For the year we are short \$2,686.51. Weekly giving is up compared to the past two years.

Motion to approve by Stephaine, seconded by Janet.

### ***Reviewed committee minutes.***

Janet motioned to approve committee minutes, 2nd Vicky Motion carried.

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November 10th, we will plan the dedication of the newly refurbished church sign cabinet.

Josh Simon is willing to do snow removal again this year. Discussion of salting of parking lot after snow events. Discussed having the Ostroms salt the parking lot with a push fertilizer spreader as needed. Pastor will talk to the Ostroms. Josh Simon's price is significantly cheaper than other quotes.

Motion to hire Josh Simon for snow removal.

Vicky made motion, Stephanie seconded. Motion carried.

Empty Bowl Request for usage of our kitchen equipment and supplies on Nov. 10.

Vicky motioned for approval, Janet seconded. Motion carried.

### **Council Nomination for 2025.**

Paul, Josh, Vicky, and Owen will be off the council until our annual meeting. We need 3 3-year terms, and one 1-year term. We would like to get a high school junior to join council.

### **Portico-The Pastor's insurance.**

Motion to continue with 2025 Gold+ plan for Pastor Kurt.

Motioned by Josh, 2nd by Owen. Motion carried.

### **Children/Youth Director Report**

Rescheduled movie night because of Monster Bash.

The 20th of October Youth Choir will sing.

Trunk-or-Treat will happen.

### **Pastor's Report**

One baptism this month.

Holy Experiment begins October 13th.

Pastor will attend the Fall Conference October 13th-15th.

Pastor will take time off the Week of the 14th.

Jim Rushton will be the supply Pastor on October 20th.

Bishop will be up for re-election this May. The Synod Assembly will be in Mankato in May. Pastor would like some representatives to attend to elect the bishop.

