

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Welcome to the season of waiting! Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in sovereign majesty over all things. Until the arrival of that glorious Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting that He has redeemed us by His cross and resurrection. With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).

✠ PREPARATION ✠

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – "Light One Candle"

(All God's People Sing – 163 Verse 1)

Light one candle for hope
He brings hope to every heart

one bright candle for hope
He comes! He comes!

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

HYMN "The Advent of Our King" (LSB – 331 - 6 verses)

The advent of our King
And we must hymns of welcome sing

Our prayers must now employ,
In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son
Himself a servant's form puts on

Incarnate deigns to be,
To set His servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise
Nor let your faithless heart despise

To meet your lowly King,
The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light,
And His true members all unite

He soon will come again
With Him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day
The sinful self be put away,

Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The new self now put on.

All glory to the Son,
With Father, Spirit, ever one

Who comes to set us free,
Through all eternity.

(please stand)

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our soul waits for the LORD;

People: He is our help and our shield.

Pastor: For our heart is glad in Him,

People: because we trust in His holy name.

Pastor: Let Your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,

People: even as we hope in You.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Confident in His steadfast love, let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of waiting on You and clinging to Your promises, we impatiently go our own way. Instead of loving our neighbors as ourselves, we put our wants first and serve our interests instead of Yours, O God. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: "You are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:7-8). Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them,

taking away our guilt and giving us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, our Savior and King, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT: *Psalm 25:1–3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: righteous and having salvation.

Pastor: To You, O LORD,

People: I lift up my soul.

Pastor: O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame;

People: let not my enemies exult over me.

Pastor: Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;

People: they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: righteous and having salvation.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to us

People: **as we wait for Your arrival.**

Pastor: Protect us by Your hand that we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins

People: **and saved by Your mighty deliverance;**

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

(“Behold, please look, we are all Your people.”)

1 Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence - 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil - to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. 5 You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. 8 But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

(We wait for Jesus, who sustains us and takes our guilt away.)

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge - 6 even as the testimony about

Christ was confirmed among you - 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 11:1-10

(please stand)

(Our King enters His royal city as His people wait for Him.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the eleventh chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" 4 And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. 5 And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6 And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. 7 And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. 8 And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. 9 And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

HYMN “Savior of the Nations, Come” – (LSB 332 - 8 verses)

Savior of the nations, come,
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,

Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood,
Was the Word of God made flesh -

By the Spirit of our God,
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Here a maid was found with child,
In her womb this truth was shown:

Yet remained a virgin mild.
God was there upon His throne.

Then stepped forth the Lord of all
God of God, yet fully man,

From His pure and kingly hall;
His heroic course began.

God the Father was His source,
Into hell His road went down,

Back to God He ran His course.
Back then to His throne and crown.

For You are the Father's Son
By Your mighty pow'r make whole

Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
All our ills of flesh and soul.

From the manger newborn light
Darkness there no more resides;

Shines in glory through the night.
In this light faith now abides.

(please stand)

Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Spirit be

Glory to the Son, our king,
Now and through eternity.

MESSAGE: "True Humility"

Mark 11:1-10

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING

(please be seated)

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (LSB 781 vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

✘ SACRAMENT ✘

PREFACE

(please stand)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for whose arrival we expectantly wait. With the crowds who cry, "Hosanna!" we humble ourselves before Him as the King who comes to save us from sin and redeem our lives for eternity. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, for the mercy You show us in Jesus Christ, Your Son and our King. As we remember His death and resurrection and await His final coming, prepare our hearts to receive the redemption He provides through His body that is given and His blood that is shed for the forgiveness of sins. For our heart is glad in Him,

People: because we trust in His holy name.

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His holy name and in the timeless words He has taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,

You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

You take the sin of the world away;

And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(please be seated)

HYMN: "Once He Came in Blessing" (LSB 333 – 4 verses)

Once He came in blessing,

Came in likeness lowly,

Bore the cross to save us;

All our sins redressing;

Son of God most holy;

Hope and freedom gave us.

Now He gently leads us;

Precious food from heaven,

Manna that will nourish

With Himself He feeds us

Pledge of peace here given,

Souls that they may flourish.

Soon will come that hour

Christ will come in splendor

With the faithful sharing

When with mighty power

And will judgment render,

Joy beyond comparing.

Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
Keep our hearts believing,
Ever may confess You

From our sins release us.
That we, grace receiving,
Till in heav'n we bless You.

HYMN: "O Lord, We Praise Thee" (LSB 563 – 3 verses)

O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee, In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy! May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry, And Thy blood for us plead
In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast thereof remind us!
O Lord, have mercy! Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!

May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union Nor despise this blest Communion!
O Lord, have mercy! Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

HYMN: "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come" (LSB 350 – 4 verses)

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!

My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
That forever we may sing:

Jesus, hear our supplication!
Bring us blessing and salvation,
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood.

People: Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of waiting that, on the Day of His arrival, we may rejoice forever as those You have redeemed;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN "How Great Thou Art" (LSB 801 - 4 verses)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Refrain

Consider all the works Thy hand hath made,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

*Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art! How great Thou art!*

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
Refrain

But when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in -
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing He bled and died to take away my sin; ***Refrain***

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"
Refrain

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

For continued healing – Judy Beauford - Steven Haberoth - Linda Fults

For Family and Friends

Prayers have been requested for **Gus Addington** by his family. Gus suffered a season ending torn Achilles tendon in a Boerne High School basketball game. He is scheduled for reconstructive surgery on December 26th. For Gus and his family, we all pray for patience, compassion, inner peace, strength, a skilled medical team, and God's will to lift up Gus beyond this unexpected adversity in his life.

Prayers for our **Mission Aviation Family - Will and Jennelle Wolf and their 3 children**

Prayers for Rolf Schulz and wife, Linda Schulz

Rutledge Family requests prayers for Sister-in-Law **Heather Mulledy** battling breast cancer

Mario & Eve Betancourt requests prayers for **Reese Richeson**, 16-year-old daughter of friends, undergoing treatment for brain cancer

Donna Cifers requests prayers for her 89-year-old mother's health issues – **Margaret Chamness**

For Messiah's Call Committee and the Pastor God is preparing for us

Prayers for Justice & Peace in the Middle East

For family discord, reconciliation, and healing

Prayers for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for all those with physical, emotional, or other needs – your will be done

Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message

We pray in Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.

DECEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 3rd - Steve & Janet Haberoth – in thanksgiving of God's Blessings

Dec. 10th – Bill & Linda Dicke – honoring Linda's Birthday

Dec. 10th – Kathleen Blakely – in memory of mom Polly Mohnke on her 100th Birthday {Dec. 9th}

Dec. 17th – Dennis & Sue Parker – in memory of Doug's Birthday

Dec. 24th – Kim & Maurine Maloy – in memory of those who have gone before us

Dec. 24th – Terry Chhabra – in loving memory of her parents Randall & Carlotta Burns,

Amanda Addington's Grandparents, Gus & Luke's Great Grandparents

Dec. 31st – Bill & Sharon Loren - in thanksgiving for another year of God's blessings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . *Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!*

LOOK UP! THE STAR OF PEACE DRAWS NEAR - *This Wednesday Dec. 6th we begin our Advent journey with the most common way to seek peace: possessions. This is the top of our star, the most obvious pursuit of peace, shooting upward without an end in sight. The Advent season knows all about seeking more things. Shopping is in full swing and the promise is that if only we had all the right things, then we would be complete and at peace. To counter that pursuit of peace by gathering more & more, God intersects us with the words of contentment from Paul. "Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content." (1 Tim. 6:6-8) Join all who have heard His invitation and have followed His star. In Him we have a lasting peace.*

Pastor's Bible Study in the BEGIN Book - *Pastor will continue with The Gospel According to John.*

Time & Talent Inventories – *It's not too late to turn in your Time & Talent Inventory. Please complete the Time & Talent Sheet and return by Email or paper copy to the Church office. **We have received 18 responses from a congregation of roughly 100 families.***

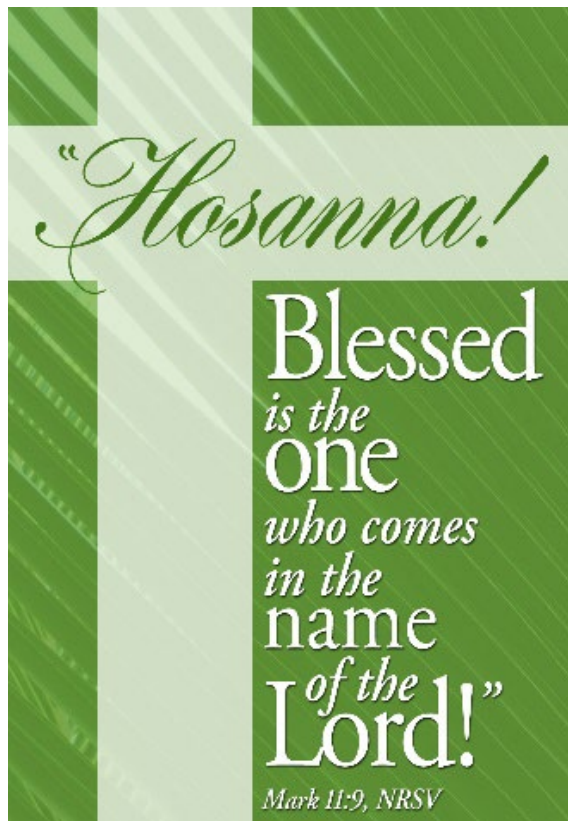
Messiah's Annual Adult Christmas Party sponsored by the Fellowship Committee tickets are on sale **TODAY** - \$10.00 each. The Party is Dec. 9th from 5:00 to 8:00 pm includes Fabulous Food and drinks, Merry Music and Caroling Sing-along, Door Prizes, Fellowship & Fun! Plus - a "**Special Thing**" for the **Men of Messiah!**

The Friends Of Our Preschool Volunteers will be hosting a Christmas Blessings Luncheon for the staff of Messiah's Kids Preschool on Thu., Dec. 7th in the Family Life Center. We look forward to sharing time with Preschool Director, Gina Huskey, and her dedicated staff! It is always a blessing and a joy!

We need YOU! Messiah is looking for more ushers and ladies are welcome to usher too! Please let Marilyn Mazurek know if you'd like to usher next year, training will be provided. Marilynptx50@gmail.com or text 210 380-1906

Upcoming Events – Detailed information can be found on MLC's website.

- Dec. 7th – **Ladies Day Out Lunch** at 11:00 am gift exchange and lunch at Albe Vita. RSVP to Lindy Eschenko or sign up at church!! Gift exchange is always optional \$10-15.
- Dec. 17th - **Multigenerational Christmas Card Making and Cookie Decorating** is scheduled for Sunday, December 17th, immediately following church service. Lunch will be served! For more information contact Kathy Giardinelli by text at 210-334-8820.



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us Today – December 3, 2023

Elders: Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann
Coffee: Sue Parker
Treats: Sue Parker
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Children's Church: Mario & Eve Betancort
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Tony Giardinelli
Reader: Dennis Parker
Ushers: Allen Leitko – Anthony Sansone – Joe Sorensen – Mike Stender
Greeters: Sue Theis

Serving us Wednesday – December 6, 2023

Elders: Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: OPEN
Reader: Pam Fields
Ushers: to be determined
Greeters: Sue Theis & David & Sharon Sattler

Our Response to God Last Week Worship Attendance: 79 | Sunday School: 22

October 2023 Contributions			
General Fund	\$49,622.54	Building Fund	\$1,875.00
Renovation Fund	\$150.00	Family Life Center	\$4,100.00