

Maranatha Free Lutheran Church
101 Foundation Ave
PO Box 94
Glyndon, MN 56547-0094

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 50
GLYNDON MN 56547

Glyndon:

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck
Senior Pastor @ Glyndon

Glyndon Office: 218-498-2808
mflc@maranathafreelutheran.com
www.maranathafreelutheran.com

Ulen:

Pastor Peter Ward

Pastor @ Ulen
Ulen Office: 218-596-8580

February 2025 Newsletter



... "where the Spirit of the Lord is,
there is freedom." II Corinthians 3:17

Members of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations



FEBRUARY 2025 @ ULEN



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:00am - Worship Service 10:30am - Sunday School	27 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	28	29	30 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	31	1
2  9:00am - Worship Service w/communion 10:30am - Sunday School	3 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	4	5 3:30-4:30pm - "Choices" Girls Study	6 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	7	8
9 9:00am - Worship Service 10:30am - Sunday School Council Meeting following	10 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	11	12 9:00-11:00am - MOPS 1:00pm WMF 3:30-4:30pm - "Choices" Girls Study	13 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	14 	15 10:00am - Ladies Valentine Brunch
16 9:00am - Worship Service 10:30am - Sunday School	17 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders 	18	19 10:00am - Quilting 3:30-4:30pm - "Choices" Girls Study	20 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	21	22
23 9:00am - Worship Service 10:30am - Sunday School	24 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	25	26 3:30-4:30pm - "Choices" Girls Study	27 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	28	1



FEBRUARY 2025 @ GLYNDON



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School 11:30am - Potluck Meal 12:30pm - Congregational meeting	27	28 6:00-7:30pm - Trail Life	29 5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - SaltTeens	30 7:00pm - Bible Study	31	1 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
2  8:00am - YMT Meeting 9:30am - Worship Service w/communion 10:45am - Sunday School	3	4	5 5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - SaltTeens 7:00pm - Men's 33 Study 8:00pm - Deacon Mtg	6 7:00pm - Bible Study	7	8 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
9 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School - Blood Pressure Check - Youth Bake Sale 	10	11 10:30am - Morning WMF at the church 6:00-7:30pm - Trail Life	12 5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - SaltTeens 7:00pm - Men's 33 Study 8:00pm - Council Mtg	13 7:00pm - Bible Study	14 	15 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast 6:00pm - Dusty Way Chapel
16 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School 5:00pm/6:00pm - Supper and Movie Night	17 President's Day 	18 10:00am-3:00pm - Quilting at the church 7:00pm - Evening WMF at Luci Carlson's home	19 5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - SaltTeens 7:00pm - Men's 33 Study	20 7:00pm - Bible Study	21	22 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
23 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School	24	25 6:00-7:30pm - Trail Life	26 5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45pm - Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - SaltTeens 7:00pm - Men's 33 Study	27 7:00pm - Bible Study	28	1 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

**Maranatha Free Lutheran Church
Glyndon, MN**

Financial Snapshot - Maranatha Glyndon			
31-Dec-24			
General Fund			
		Current Month	Year to Date
Contributions		\$46,357.00	\$313,710
Expenditures		-\$26,592.00	-\$314,182
Surplus / (Shortfall)			\$ (472)

	12/31/2024
GENERAL FUND INCOME	\$46,357
Deacons	-\$13,112
Education	-\$53
Finance	-\$7,657
Trustees	-\$5,450
Worship & Music	-\$320
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	-\$26,592
Other Income (Rent, Interest)	\$22
Other Income)	\$92
General Fund Balance Change	\$19,879

GENERAL FUND BALANCE			\$56,515 Target is \$60,000
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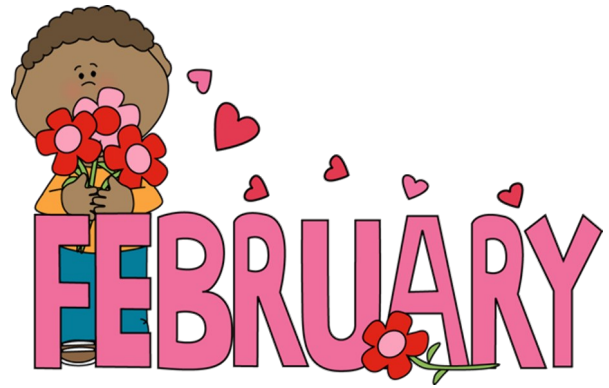
<u>Special Funds</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Building Fund			\$ 73
Building Improvement Fund			\$ 15
Christmas Eve	1,705	-1705	\$ -
Cookbook Sales for Missions			\$ 245
Designated Donations		(50)	\$ -
Furnace Fund	6525		\$ 32,294
Good Samaritan Fund			\$ 1,946
Holiday Baskets			\$ 1,442
Lent Offering			\$ -
Memorial Fund			\$ 9,808
Men's Fellowship/Breakfast	50	-18	\$ 1,563
Men's Fraternity			\$ -
Outreach Ministries			\$ 166
Sunday Fellowship Fund			\$ 469
Sunday School Missions	7		\$ 438
Thanksgiving Offering		-420	\$ -
Trail Life		-573.12	\$ -
Vacation Bible School			\$ -
VBS Blanket Project			\$ 404
Wedding Fund			\$ 500
Wednesday Suppers	300	-194	\$ 3,535
World Missions Fund			\$ 9,981
Youth Activities Fund			\$ 363
Youth FLY Fund	2,437		\$ 16,201
Special Funds Balance			\$ 79,445
General Fund Balance			\$ 56,515
CHECKBOOK BALANCE			\$ 135,940
PETTY CASH BALANCE			\$ 20

*Detailed expense reports are available in the Glyndon office.
Questions can be directed to Kristine Quanbeck - Treasurer
treasurer@maranathafreelutheran.com
218-498-2808*

December Financial Spreadsheet

February~ Happy Birthday!

Bella Johnson	February 01
Gavin Schmidt	February 01
Nellie Pender	February 02
Natalie Eckert	February 03
Megan Schmitke	February 03
Jim Enlow	February 05
John D Enlow	February 05
Stephan Delosoul	February 06
Ashley John	February 06
Nathan Lambert	February 06
Sidney Koehler	February 08
IsaBelle Olson	February 08
Zachary Chromey	February 09
Grady Erickson	February 09
Matthew Hamernik	February 09
Bernadene Bentley	February 10
Michal Schmidt	February 10
Jazmin Gonzalez	February 11
Josh Johnson	February 12
Riley Rickford	February 13
Clay Rasmussen	February 14
Jon Rosenfeldt	February 14
Jay Buchfink	February 15
Angela Sivertson	February 15
Celia Trick	February 17
Logan Schlauderaff	February 20
Debi Langerud	February 21
Andrew Austinson	February 24
Charlotte Heftta	February 24
Jim Specht	February 24
Jeff Bates	February 25
Angie Schlieper	February 25
Jake Murack	February 28



BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

February~ Happy Anniversary!

Conner & Morgan Herren	February 03
Ethan & Payton Johnson	February 03
Bob & Jocie Herzog	February 04
Alan & Sharon Christensen	February 07
Cliff & Mary Langerud	February 11
Steve & Ruth Stong	February 12
Brian & Chanyce Dahl	February 14
Zach & Julie Boehrsen	February 17
Marlin & Gloria Hadden	February 29



Military Personnel

Thankful for those who serve our country!

Kally Anderson, granddaughter of Vonnie Anderson
James Cortelyou, nephew of Art & Delores Welle
Levi Dahl, grandson of Harvey & Dianne Dahl
Cody Dravland, son of Todd & Sara Dravland
Trevor Dufault, son of Todd & Sara Dravland
Makaila England, niece of Joyce Johnson & Lila Ebner
Jonathan Eastvold, nephew of Joyce Johnson & Lila Ebner
Brody Erickson, grand nephew of Glennys Sivertson
Kyle Johnson, son-in-law of Gary & Debi Langerud
Layne Johnson, grandson of Ardis Johnson
Hunter Macziewski, son of Doug & Tiffany Macziewski
Sierra Northridge, member of Ulen congregation
Andrew Quanbeck, son of Pastor Lloyd & Jean
Josiah Quanbeck, son of Pastor Lloyd & Jean
Jakob Rolf, grandson of Jim & Mary Rolf

Cryptogram- Luke 15:6
 Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me, I have found my lost sheep."

1. Adam	12. Elimelech
2. Abraham	11. Lapidoth
e. Sarah	10. Joseph
a. Rebekah	9. King Xeres
h. Rachel	8. Hosea
f. Ruth	7. David
i. Hannah	6. Elkanah
l. Abigail	5. Boaz
k. Gomer	4. Jacob
g. Esther	3. Isaac
d. Mary	2. Abraham
f. Deborah	1. Adam
c. Naomi	

Match the Biblical Couple Names Answer Key

SALT + TEENS



You've Been Flocked!

FLAMINGO FUNDRAISING SEASON IS HERE!

Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall

HOW IT WORKS

Winter in Minnesota is cold, dull, and dreary. Add a splash of color and help support the Maranatha Youth Group as we work to get to the FLY Convention this July!!

For a small donation, you may send part of the flock (or the entire flock of 48 birds!) to a friend's house for a few days. Don't worry: the flock will soon become tired of your friend's snowy yard and will mystically migrate to another roosting spot within a day or so.

FLOCKING INSURANCE

Protect your lawn from the flocks! We now offer flocking insurance for a donation fee of \$25. Insurance protects you from one instance of flocking. Buy multiples to keep the birds away!





BEHOLD

FLY 2025 | JOHN 1:29

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1:29

JUNE 30 - JULY 5, 2025

FLY CONVENTION | YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO



The **Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) Convention** is the biennial national youth gathering of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The purpose of the FLY Convention is to provide congregations with a tool for **winning the lost, building the believer, and encouraging student disciple making** in the local congregations.

Late Rate Deadline - May 15, 2025 (\$849)
(cost to student is \$450)

REGISTER at: flyconvention.org



SALTTEENS BAKE SALE

2 Dozen per family

February 9th

Following the Church Service
~Everything Chocolate~

SALTTEENS LOCK-IN

GAMES **FUN FOOD FELLOWSHIP**



Friday, February 28 @ 6:00pm -
Saturday, March 1 @ 9:00am

**** Sign-up in the Youth Room and look for more details at SaltTeens during the month of February!**

Dinner & Movie Night

Sunday, February 16, 2025
5:00pm Dinner
6:00pm Movie

Dinner is a free-will donation meal provided by the SaltTeens as a fundraiser for the youth group

Movie sponsored by the Worship & Music Board
Ice Cream Floats will be served following dinner.

Unsung Hero is a 2024 film based on the true story of the Smallbone family, who moved from Australia to Nashville to pursue their musical dreams. Three of the Smallbone siblings, Joel, Luke, and Rebecca St. James, develop their musical talents and navigate the competitive music industry. Joel and Luke eventually form the duo *For King & Country*, while Rebecca embarks on a quite successful career as a Christian recording artist.



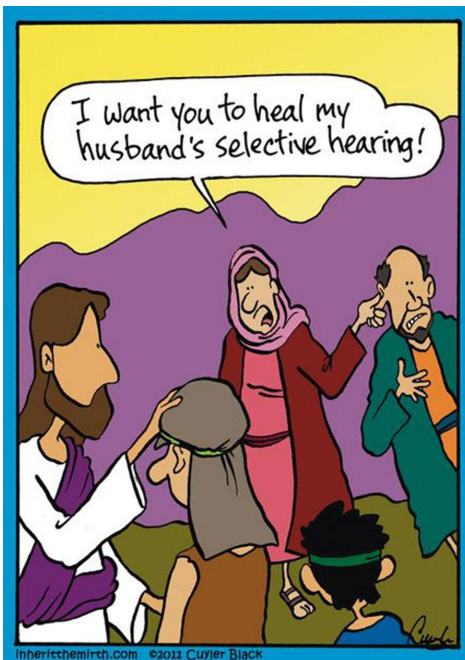
Women's Care Center

Maranatha Free Lutheran (Glyndon) will be collecting donations again *during the month of February* for the **Women's Care Center**. There is a bassinet display in the narthex for your donations. Bring in your donations anytime during the month of February. Thank you for your generosity. Below is a wish list provided by them.

2025 Donation Wish List

- ~ 2-3 piece outfits - Newborn to 5T
- ~ DIAPERS - Any Size
- ~ ONESIES - 0-3 month size, gender neutral, colored or patterned (no white ,please)
- ~ BABY BOTTLES - prefer 8-9oz. Dr. Browns or Avent (original)
- ~ BABY-SENSITIVE WIPES
- ~ BABY GROOMING KITS (Comb, Brush, etc.)
- ~ GIFT CARDS to Amazon only (NOT Walmart)
- ~ MONEY

*Money & Gift Cards give to Terrie Enlow or the Church Office. (Make checks payable to *Maranatha* and put *Women's Care Center* on memo).



Trail Life

Adventure › Character › Leadership

**Troop meetings are the
2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 6-7:30pm**
All boys grades K-12 are invited to attend!
If you have any questions, please contact
Corey Trick.

This month's Troop Meetings are:

February 11th

February 25th

Winter season is here!

Glyndon cancellation of church services or Wednesday evening activities will be posted on KVLV, In-Forum, WDAY, our Web page, Facebook and E-mail. We will follow DGF School storm cancellation policy, if school or after school activities are cancelled on a Wednesday, our evening activities will also be cancelled.



WMF NOTES (Women's Missionary Federation)

Glyndon Morning

Morning WMF met on Tuesday, January 14th, with 8 ladies in attendance.

Terrie Enlow opened with prayer and led our Bible Study on "The Light of Life: Nicodemus & Being Born Again."

President Cris Finstrom opened the business meeting with prayer. Secretary and Treasurer reports were read and approved.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- ~ Motion made and approved to send \$100 to the ARC
- ~ Terrie will coordinate collecting donations for the Women's Care Center during the month of February.
- ~ WMF has extra Bible study books from previous years that they are donating to anyone who'd like one.
- ~ Motion made and approved to send \$100 to Home Missions.
- ~ New 2025 WMF booklets were given out to those present.

Meeting concluded with prayer requests and time of prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Urlacher, Secretary



Glyndon Evening

Evening WMF met on Monday, January 27th at Luci Carlson's home. There were 9 lovely ladies present. Luci provided us with a delicious supper.

We looked at the first chapter ("The Light of Life") in our new Bible study book, a study of the Gospel of John. Luci opened our study with prayer and lead the study.

Janet opened our meeting in prayer.

Secretary and treasurer's reports were given and accepted.

Old business:

- ~ New Bible study books have arrived. "Seeing the light of God in the face of Christ" by Vicki Johnson.
- ~ Love offering was given to the recipient.

New Business:

- ~ For Giving Hearts Day: \$50.00 to Hospice of the Red River Valley .
- ~ \$50.00 given to Home Missions
- ~ \$50.00 given to The New Life Center

Prayer requests were given and prayed over.

Next meeting will be February 18th at Church with Coco Geray hosting and leading study.

Respectfully submitted by Coco Geray, Secretary

Ulen

Our Ulen WMF met Wednesday January 8, 2025 at 1:00pm with 7 ladies present. MaryAnn S. led our Bible Study "Seeing the Light of God in the Face of Christ". Following the study MaryAnn W. opened our business meeting.

Our Secretary's Report was read and Debi made a motion to accept as read and MaryAnn S. second, motion carried. Our Treasure's Report was read and MaryAnn S. made a motion to accept as read and Ellen second, motion carried.

Old Business:

- ~ Our ladies Christmas Party was discussed and enjoyed by those attending.
- ~ The Viking Manor Giving Tree was also discussed and looked at ways to do next year.

New Business:

- ~ Our project of the month offering for January goes to Home Missions. Ellen made a motion and Debi second to keep the amount each month at \$75, motion carried.
- ~ The widows Valentine Brunch was discussed and the date was set for February 15th at 10am. Food items and the planning of it were done.
- ~ We discussed having a light lunch following our Annual Meeting on the 12th consisting of sloppy joes, chips, and bars/cake.
- ~ Ash Wednesday will be March 5th and we will plan a meal to be served previous to the Bible study time. A sign-up sheet will be passed around closer to that date.

Our meeting was adjourned and we closed with several prayer concerns followed by the Lord's Prayer. MaryAnn W. served a delicious dessert.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Zillmer, Secretary

SERVING GROUP 2 ~ Glyndon

Serving Group 2 continues to be responsible for February & March. Take time to check the date or dates that you would be willing to serve goodies after church on Sunday mornings. We will also be responsible for serving other events that come up—lunches, special events, and funerals. Thank you for your willingness to serve our Lord & our church family—it is much appreciated. Any questions, contact Lori Pender. Thank you!

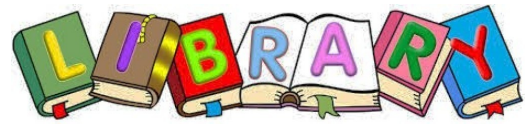
(Annual Congregational Meeting - Continued)

nominated Dave Jensen. Brad Dunham made a motion for nominations to cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Melody Okke, Jason Koehler, and Dave Jensen to serve on Nominating Committee, seconded by Vicki Haverkamp; motion carried.

- Call for Auditing Committee nominations. Mary Langerud nominated Cris Finstrom – declined nomination. Kristine Quanbeck nominated Jill Toms – accepted nomination. Craig Hurner made a motion for nominations to cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Jill Toms to serve on Auditing Committee, seconded by Bill Dale; motion carried.

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Johnson



GLYNDON LIBRARY—
BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR FEBRUARY

ADULT FICTION: By Irene Brand, “*Love Find You in Valentine, Nebraska*” is a perfect read for Valentine’s Day!

ADULT NON-FICTION: “*Becoming Mrs. Lewis*” by Patti Callahan is an unlikely friendship that turned into true love between Joy Davidman and (author) C.S. Lewis.

DVBD: Need something to make you smile on the cold, winter days? Try:

- “*Ken Davis: Under His Influence*” and
- “*Chonda Pierce: Have I Got A Story for You*”

~~~~~

*Thank You*

The library committee wishes to thank **Jeanie Rasmussen** for her many years of dedicated service to our church library. She started as the library coordinator at the first church across the street and continued her work as the library moved into our current building making sure our member and friends had numerous books and movie titles to choose from. In 2007, she stepped down as coordinator but has remained on the board until the end of 2024. Many of us have enjoyed the fruits of her labor. We have a beautiful and well-stocked library! Thank you, Jeanie!



*For God*

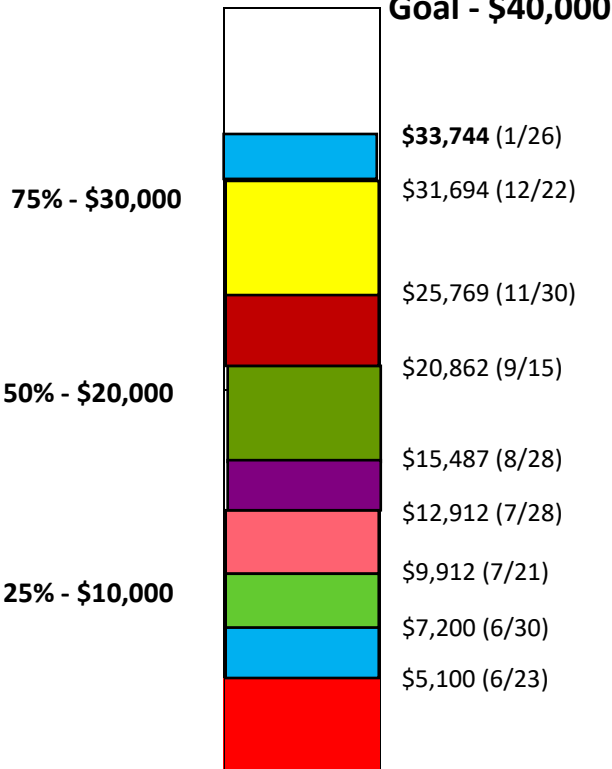
so loved the world,  
that he gave his  
only  
begotten  
Son,  
that whosoever  
believeth  
in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.



*John 3:16*

**GLYNDON FURNACE FUND**

**Goal - \$40,000**



**Maranatha Free Lutheran Church – Glyndon, MN**  
**Council Meeting**  
January 8, 2025

Present: Jeff Ehrichs, Art Welle, Cliff Langerud, Amanda Larson, Kristine Quanbeck, Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck, Glenn Urlacher and Anne Manderud.

Cliff shared Matthew 24:4-8 with us and opened our meeting with prayer.

Treasurer's Report was given by Kristine. We had a great December of giving, contributions of \$46,357 with expenditures of \$26,592 leaving a General Fund balance of \$56,515. Our Christmas Eve offering was split between The ARC and the Women's Care Center.

Pastor Lloyd read last month's Secretary's report. No corrections or additions and it stands approved as read.

Board Reports:

\*Finance – Amanda

- Furnace Fund end of the year balance is \$32,294. Once it reaches \$40,000, the account will be closed. At that time the Board recommends that 2% of weekly General Fund contributions be designated to the Building Emergency/Improvement Fund to replace monies used to fix a furnace.

\* Trustees - Jeff

- working on repairs to speakers in kitchen, cry room, etc.
- looking at replacing flooring in kitchen
- first furnace project will be in the youth wing

\* Education – no representative at meeting

\* Worship & Music – Anne

- Movie Night will be Sunday, Feb 16th, showing "Unsung Heroes" – youth will serve supper prior, times not set yet (supper-5, movie-6).
- to add color to our sanctuary for Easter this year, we'll be offering a variety of spring flowers to chose from.

\* Deacons – Glenn

- Deacons will have a retreat on Saturday, Feb 22
- Due to HIPPA rules, the youth can no longer get family names to give holiday baskets to. Nikki asked if the Holiday Baskets Special Fund can be renamed to Youth - Community Service
- planning for the Lenten services
- the security system team is being formed

\* Pastor's Report – Pastor Lloyd

- attendance was good in December
- visits with some Friendship Club members and time with the Youth
- the Lenten season will continue in the book of Luke

Old Business: None

New Business:

- motion made, seconded and passed to rename the Holiday Basket Special Fund, Youth - Community Service
- February Council meeting 2/12/2025 at 8pm

Pastor Lloyd closed in prayer.

Motion to adjourn passed.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Manderud for  
Alyssa Johnson

**Maranatha Free Lutheran – Glyndon**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 12:30pm

President Cliff Langerud called the meeting to order. The hymn, "Near the Cross", was sung. Cliff followed with devotion and prayer.

Congregational Secretary's meeting minutes from November 20, 2024, on pg. 2-3 of 2024 Annual Report. No corrections nor additions, approved as presented.

Treasurer's report was given by Kristine Quanbeck. Reviewed pg. 9 in 2024 Annual Report. Income for 2024 was \$313,710 and expenses were \$314,182. General Fund Balance as of December 31, 2024 was \$56,515 (target \$60K). The proposed budget for 2025 is \$380,296.58, increase of 1.85%. To meet budget, monthly contributions of \$31,619.38. No corrections nor additions, approved as presented.

Auditing Committee Update – Jill Toms

- Jill and Dave Jensen completed annual auditing, all accounted for.
- Reminders:
  - \* When taking in a deposit/contribution, use deposit ticket with signatures of two non-related Individuals.
  - \* For Sunday offering, two signatures are also needed.
  - \* For payroll/payment for services, fill out timecard and sign. The timecard to be signed by supervisor/board member.

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck's Report

- Reviewed pg. 7 – Church Records. Will be validating/ updating membership numbers this year.
- Reviewed his report found on page 16-17 of the 2024 Annual Report.

Call Committee Update: Dave Jensen

- Three meetings so far.
- Will be sending letters of inquiry soon.

Board Reports

- Board of Deacons
  - \* Report found on pg. 18 of the 2024 Annual Report
- Board of Trustees
  - \* Report found on pg. 20 of the 2024 Annual Report
- Board of Christian Education
  - \* Report found on pg. 19 of the 2024 Annual Report
- Board of Worship & Music
  - \* Report found on pg. 21 of the 2024 Annual Report
- Board of Finance
  - \* Report found on pg. 20 of the 2024 Annual Report

Old Business

- Approval of 2025 budget as presented at November meeting. A motion was made by Joyce Johnson and seconded by Bill Dale to approve the 2025 budget; motion carried.

New Business

- Call for Nominating Committee nominations. Glenn Urlacher nominated Melody Okke. Jason Koehler offered to remain on the committee. Kim Jensen

# Maranatha News

FEBRUARY 2025

## FROM PASTOR LLOYD...

Dear Folks at Maranatha,

I love being part of the AFLC! It has been my church denominational identity almost my entire 64 years. However, to those unfamiliar with our church body those letters don't mean much, and "Association of Free Lutheran Congregations" is kind of a long name. So, in recent times as a way of describing who we are, AFLC leadership has focused on three words to summarize the emphasis of our church body – FREE, LIVING & LUTHERAN. Perhaps these three words can help some of you understand more who we are as an AFLC, and or explain Maranatha's emphasis to someone else.

Pastor Jason Holt wrote the following to explain what we mean by "Free"

*"When we use the term 'Free' in the AFLC, we are mindful of both freedom in Christ and freedom in the congregation. We are free in Christ, because of the Bible's message. God's Word has affirmed that each person who believes in Jesus is someone who has been declared 'forgiven.' This condition means that we are released from the bondage of sin and death through Christ's cross. This freedom is experienced daily. The Christian knows the freedom of the soul as one pardoned by God's grace in Jesus.*

*We are free in the congregation as well, because of the Bible's message. The living Lord liberally gives liberty to His children. Christians know freedom in their individual lives with Jesus and gather together, motivated by His resurrection life. This real freedom encompasses the whole of God's local assembled people, and by it the congregation acts autonomously under God's Word and God's Spirit.*

*When we say, 'Free,' we are not speaking subjectively. It is the right vision from Scripture."*

(Pastor Holt is the AFLC Presidential Ministry Associate)

When we use the term 'Living' in the AFLC, we are describing the spiritual reality that has taken place in individual lives and in the congregation as well. A person who has become "free" in Christ and experienced forgiveness of sins has gone from being spiritually dead in sin and separated from God, to being spiritually alive in a personal relationship with God. The Holy Spirit of God comes to live in the person's heart, and through the written Word of God, now guides and directs that individual life. That person will still sin, but will desire to live in daily repentance of sin and faith in Jesus. Spiritual life for the believer will also involve freely talking to God in prayer, regularly gathering with other believers for worship and fellowship, and also a heart concern for others to come to know life in Christ.

A congregation is "living" only if its members are spiritually alive. When that is the case then they will meet together around the Word of God, freely serve each other, and encourage each other to live out their Christian faith in all areas of their lives.

Maranatha is also a 'Lutheran' congregation. Our heritage traces back to Martin Luther in the 1500s, and to his rediscovery of the truth of Scripture that believers are justified before God by their faith in Jesus, and not in any way by their works. We are aware that not all churches today with 'Lutheran' in their name still hold to the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. However, we do recognize it as such, and we understand the traditional Lutheran emphasis on Law and Gospel as valuable insight into understanding God's Word. We also look to the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as secondary means to help us understand and experience God's grace and forgiveness.

FREE, LIVING, & LUTHERAN. Words that help to explain what our congregation and others in the AFLC emphasize.

Perhaps those three words can be helpful for you to briefly explain the focus of your congregation next time you invite someone to church! Perhaps even this next week!

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck