CONNECTIONS
Fairlawn Lutheran’s Monthly Newsletter

Voters Meeting Recaps 2021

Each December, members of Fairlawn Lutheran gather for a presentation by church leadership groups regarding the work of the church, and they are asked to vote on the next year's budget, by-law changes and nominees to fill leadership team positions. The following are just a few highlights presented:

- The call committee has done several rounds of interviews for a Director of Family Ministry, but none yet have been a match. The committee continues its next review of candidates.
- Most programming has resumed (adult, women's family ministries, etc.); Mahjong continues to grow with a majority of non-member attendees and some good relationships built with the community.
- RAHAB ministries has become an ongoing charity partner and we are also supporting missionary Dr. Becky Eiwen in Nepal.
- Elders have returned worship-related activities to pre-COVID standards.
- The school has remained in session in-person all year and returned to full classes and added extracurriculares this fall.
- Audio/visual enhancements including new equipment have enabled better sound in the sanctuary and better online streaming quality.
- Offerings were up for the second year in a row - the 2022 operating budget was approved at $829,600 (income and expenses). Spending on missions will increase over last year as we move toward a 10% goal.
- 24 nominees were approved for leadership team openings - 9 are new to a leadership team and the rest are returning for another term or moving to another team. For the second year in a row, all open positions were filled!

It takes not only staff members, but a Board of Directors, Leadership Teams and individual volunteers to manage the work of the church - how can you plug in? There is something that each of us can do to make disciples. Take some time to think about how you can use your God given gifts to glorify Him.

REMINDER: All new and returning leadership team members should attend the leadership retreat in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday, January 15, 9am-Noon. Please bring a laptop computer or tablet.

Bible Studies

The Sunday Christian Education hour will have new options in January - some ongoing studies and several new “mini-studies”. See the full list of options later in this issue of Connections.

JANUARY 2
The Chapel Bible study begins “A Study of Exodus & the Life of Moses” and Pastor Gau’s Bible study on “Names of God” will conclude.

JANUARY 9
Pastor Stephens leads a one-session study on Epiphany.

JANUARY 16
Three new Bible studies begin - Pastor Gau leads "Raising Resilient, Christ-Purposed Children", Pastor Stephens leads a 4-session study called "What Happens When We Pass Into the Next Life?", and Susan Stephens leads "Sordid and Disgraced Women of the Bible", a two-session mini-study.

With so many options and our new mini-studies, it’s a great time to try something new or attend your first Bible study!
The children of Fairlawn Lutheran Sunday School prepared a program and served during worship December 19. The sermon was provided by the children through a video (available on YouTube) focused on how God sent angels to earth as it relates to the Christmas story. Sunday schoolers sang a group song and individual students shared musical offerings and served during worship. Some of the middle school and high school members served communion, read scripture and served as ushers. A big thank you to Millie Thomas, Sunday School Director and video writer and director, the Sunday School teachers and families, Claire Gau for coordinating student worship attendants, and teaching and accompanying musical offerings, and Bob Kronenberger and Allyson Robinson for video recording and editing.
Parent Workshop: Households of Faith
*Wednesday, January 19, 6:30pm, Chapel*
Parents of all ages and at all stages are welcome to join us as we discuss how to make our homes spiritually vibrant. Topics include applying spiritual disciplines, extending hospitality and engaging in spiritual conversations. All welcome - babysitting available upon request. Contact: Kim Hornyak, kim.hornyak@fairlawnlutheran.org

Free Mahjong
*Tuesdays, 12:30pm, Fairlawn Lutheran Chapel*
Learn how to play the ancient game of Mahjong or join in a game if you are experienced! All welcome – bring a friend! There will be someone to teach the game to beginners on the first Tuesday of each month - please contact Kim Hornyak 330-836-7286, kim.hornyak@fairlawnlutheran.org if you would like to learn the game or if you are new so we can be sure to have enough tables.

Free Game Day
*Monday, December 20, 12:30pm, Fairlawn Lutheran Fellowship Hall*
Join us for a variety of card and board games. Open to all! Bring a friend!
Contact: Cathie Lucarelli, cathie.lucarelli@gmail.com

Free Euchre NEW!
*Monday, December 20, 12:30pm, Fairlawn Lutheran Chapel*
You asked for it and now we’re introducing Euchre to our game days! All welcome - bring a friend! Contact: Cathie Lucarelli, cathie.lucarelli@gmail.com

Family Make & Take: Lenten Devotions
*Sunday January 30, 11:15 - 12:30, Fellowship Hall*
All families with younger children welcome for a free Make and Take event! Join us for lunch, fun and a craft your family can make together, then take home and use during Lent! RSVP Kim Hornyak by 1/25 (kim.hornyak@fairlawnlutheran.org).

Women’s Retreat
*March 4-6, Berlin, Ohio*
The 2022 Women’s Retreat, Clothed in Christ, focuses on Colossians 3:12-17. All women welcome for Bible Study, discussion, activities, food and fun at a hotel in Amish country. Learn more and pick up a registration form in the church lobby! Bring a family member, friend or neighbor!

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**Young Adult Event Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/4</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Church Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/11</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Movie Night</td>
<td>Church Youth Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/18</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Church Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/25</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Game Night</td>
<td>Church Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/30</td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
<td>Axe Throwing</td>
<td>Timber Beast Axe Throwing</td>
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<td>Medina, OH 44256</td>
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For young adults late teens through early thirties. All welcome - bring a friend! Contact: Marcy Brabander (330) 858-4222, marcynichols04@gmail.com
It was a joy to celebrate our Lord's birth at two Christmas Eve services this year! The 5pm service featured contemporary music and the 7pm featured traditional music. A big thank you to the musicians, dancer and service volunteers! Thanks also to Tom and Holly Strachan and team for the beautiful church decorations, and to Pastor Gau, Altar Guild, Facilities Team, A/V Team, Safety Team, staff, Elder Team and all other volunteers for everything it takes to prepare our celebration!
How You Can Help This Month:

☐ Donate non-perishable food for Haven of Rest and OPEN M (i.e. coffee, soups, cereals, canned goods) - drop off in Fellowship Hall.

☐ Donate new or gently-used coats, hats and scarves for Haven of Rest (drop off in Fellowship Hall by 1/31).

☐ Help the Brownbaggers pack sack lunches for St. Bernard's homeless outreach on January 26 from 1:00-2:30 in the Fellowship Hall - contact Ann Congeni for info at acongeni@aol.com.

☐ Help make cards for our homebound members Thursdays at 10:00am - contact Lisa Tobin slingerslaw@gmail.com for info.

☐ Pray.

POPCORN FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH

Fairlawn Lutheran youth are selling popcorn to raise money for the National Youth Gathering trip to Texas this summer. 40% of your purchase of Metropolis Gourmet Popcorn will go toward the Youth Program. With more than 50 flavors of Ohio-grown popcorn (from a local company), you're sure to find a favorite snack or gift.

The youth will have order forms in the lobby after services or you may order online https://fundraiser.metropolisohio.com/schools/fairlawn-lutheran-church-youth-group/

At right: The Outreach Team planned a “Parent's Day Out” for church and school families with young children. The idea was to give parents a chance to shop, meet up with friends or even just take a break while their children enjoyed snacks, games, and crafts. It turned out to be a great outreach event, as all 18 children who attended were from school families! Thank you to everyone who planned and volunteered at this event!
## FAIRLAWN LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP TEAMS 2022

(Year listed is beginning of two-year term)

### BOARD OF MINISTRY DIRECTORS
(Provide accountability and support for Senior Pastor, provide guiding principles)

- Cathie Lucarelli (2022)
- Dave Brinkman (2021)
- Nancy Marfile (2021)
- Drew Meyer (2022)
- George Stridder (2021)

### CALLED STAFF
(Syndically rostered church workers who are ordained/commissioned and approved by Board & Congregation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Pastor</td>
<td>Rev. Jim Gou</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lay Minister, Adult Min.</td>
<td>Kim Horvay</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Director</td>
<td>Katie Burgard</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office Admin</td>
<td>Elaine Daubromkie</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Communication Director</td>
<td>Alyson Robinson</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Gary Finner</td>
<td>Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bookkeeper</td>
<td>Christine Bratfender</td>
<td>Open</td>
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### OUTREACH
Reaching out to the community outside the church

- Andrea Bonelosbal (2021)
- Amy Fursakawa (2021)
- Connie Little (2021)
- Barb Porter (2021)
- Jean Wurzbacher (2022)

### ELDER TEAM
Reaching up to God in our worship life

- Mary Doe Raisel (2022)
- Ben Juangel (2021)
- Dave Kohrimer (2021)
- Matt Polley (2021)
- Laura Ball (2022)
- Bill Wood (2021)

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
God reaching down to us primarily through His Word

- Tim Keller (2022)
- Amber Luptak (2022)
- Sue Tauchen (2022)
- John Talen (2022)
- Miller Rehbach (2022)
- Sunday School Director
  - Milly Thomas

### MEMBER CARE
Reaching in to support our members and build relationships

- Dobbie Celorne (2022)
- Carol Wielitzel (2022)
- Ann Conner (2022)
- Marilyn Horsy (2022)
- Meredith Mariani (2022)

### SCHOOL TEAM
Responsibility for advising Director and making ministry decisions

- Pam Chun (2022)
- Tony Conger (2022)
- Laura George (2022)
- Alyssa Lane (2022)
- Rick Palevic (2022)

- Finance Liaison
  - Rick Porter
- School Director
  - Katie Burgard

### FINANCE
Responsibility for managing all finance matters of the congregation

- Earl Evans (2021)
- Dave Glass (2021)
- Paul Hindergreger (2022)
- Eric Jongerson (2022)
- Becky Lue (2021)

- Facilities
  - Ann Tobin (2021)
- Treasurer
  - Rick Porter (2022)

### FACILITIES
Responsibility for maintaining the church building and grounds

- Cliff Grove (2022)
- Tom Hunter (2022)
- Phil Gilchrist (2022)
- Mario Muratori (2021)
- Brad Tauchen (2021)

- Comm. Director
  - Alyson Robinson

### COMM/TECH
Responsible for all safety-related matters for church and school

- Trevor Chun (2021)
- Casey Ross (2022)
- John Thomas (2022)
- John Tancow (2022)

### SAFETY
Responsible for all safety-related matters for church and school

- Vail Fruharty (2021)
- Eric Jongerson (2022)

### SUPPORT TEAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Leaders</th>
<th>Roles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elders</td>
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<td>Christian Ed</td>
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<td>Member Care</td>
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<td>School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safety</td>
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**Outreach includes:**
- Evangelism
- Human Care/Missions
- Mission trips
- Membership community
- Parish Arts
- Birth ministry
- VBS/Summer camp
- Welcome center
- Community events
- Brown Baggers
- Vacation/retreat follow up
- Outreach groups (AA)

**Elders includes:**
- Worship services
- Acylges
- Communon assistants
- Beit choir
- Few workers
- Altar guild
- Usher & Greeters

**Christian Ed includes:**
- Bible study
- Small groups
- Church/Confirmation
- Portals of Prayer
- Sunday School
- Youth Groups
- Library

**Member Care includes:**
- Bereavement care
- Registration
- Administration
- Card ministry
- College ministry
- Ministry
- Internets
- Congregational meals
- Kitchen/Office service
- Shil-in-home bound care
- Pharmacy service
- Nursery

**School includes:**
- School readers and library
- School programs
- School activities
- Manage Director
- Annual reviews
- Set goals

**Finance includes:**
- Payroll/Benefits
- Retirement
- Reimbursements
- Budgets
- Payments
- School programs
- Offerings
- Donations
- Memorials
- Online giving
- Endowment
- Thrivent
- CFREF

**Facilities includes:**
- Repairs and maintenance
- Contracts/agreements
- Inspections
- Adoptions
- Bonding
- Insurance
- Contracted service
- Conred Bids
- Utilities
- Managed services
- Marketing & branding

**Safety includes:**
- Medical/safety training
- Defibillator
- First Aid kits
- In-building safety
- Secuity system
- Background checks

*red text = new to leadership or returning after absence*
National Lutheran Schools Week is January 23-29. The school will have special activities to celebrate our Lutheran preschool and kindergarten - check out the Fairlawn Lutheran School Facebook page to see how this ministry supports families as they raise their children in the Christian faith.

Fairlawn Lutheran School

Thank you Mary Beth Kalal, Amber Luptak, Katie Bungard and Beth Cook for providing an Advent dinner!

Our school families donated diapers to our Christmas collection for Akron Pregnancy Services.
A Study of Exodus and the Life of Moses (begins 1/2)
Exodus is story of redemption, tells how God brings us out of slavery to men and become His servants.
Exodus contains many valuable insights for us today, including God's methods for dealing with
rebellion, His shaping of Moses into a servant leader, governing principles for the just treatment of
others, and guidelines for pure and wholehearted worship.
LOCATION: Chapel (audio also available) LEADERS: Blaise Congeni/Dave Kohlmeier

Mini Study: Epiphany (1/9 only)
All welcome for this one-day study of Epiphany - the time during which we focus on the light of Christ that has
come into the world for all. Come learn more about this ancient festival!
LOCATION: Fellowship Hall  LEADER: Pastor Jeff Stephens

What Happens When We Pass Into the Next Life? (1/16, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13)
When a death occurs, there are always questions: why did he/she have to die? Does it hurt to die? Do we go
directly to heaven? The bottom line is we don't know everything about death and what happens afterward. This
study looks at what God says about death and the joy that comes after we pass from this life.
LOCATION: Library  LEADER: Pastor Jeff Stephens

Raising Resilient, Christ-Purposed Children (begins 1/16)
Raising children today is exhausting and stressful - how can we be sure to get them grounded in the faith?
Families with children of any age are invited to examine what the Bible teaches and what parenting strategies
to use as your family grows and your children develop. Topics will include parenting faith-filled, resilient, less
anxious children with servant hearts. All strategies will be based on God's word with a focus on developing
core character values centered on God's will. Babysitting provided.
LOCATION: Fellowship Hall (audio also available)  LEADER: Pastor Jim Gau

Mini-Study: Sordid and Disgraced Women of the Bible (1/16 and 1/30 only)
All women welcome as we discuss women of the Bible with difficult lives.
LOCATION: Associate Pastor's office  LEADER: Susan Stephens

Children and Teens
High School Bible Study  LOCATION: Youth Room  LEADER: Tim Keller
Grade 7-8 Bible Study  LOCATION: Choir Room  LEADER: John Telloni/Sue Tauchen
Sunday School (Age 3-Gr.6)  LOCATION: Preschool  LEADER: Millie Thomas
Nursery (Age 3 and under)  LOCATION: Nursery  LEADER: Dean & Jennifer Snyder

SUNDAYS, 9:00AM

Contact: (330) 836-7286, churchoffice@fairlawnlutheran.org.
ONLINE Men’s Promise Keepers Bible Study

Wednesdays, 6:30am
This diverse group of men enjoys fellowship, Bible study and topical discussion.
CONTACT: Mark Ludwig (330) 472-1824, mludwig@neo.rr.com

Women of Faith

Mondays, 6:00pm, Fairlawn Lutheran Church Youth Room
All women invited for Bible and topical study.
CONTACT: Lisa Sears, dl_sears@yahoo.com, text 330-441-8368

Tuesday Morning Ladies

Tuesdays, 10:00am, Fairlawn Lutheran Library
All women invited for Bible and topical study.
CONTACT: Joyce Morton, joycemorton62@gmail.com

Thursday Ladies Bible Study

Thursdays, 1:15pm, Fairlawn Lutheran Library
All women invited for Bible and topical study.
CONTACT: Amber Luptak, amber.l@fairlawnlutheran.org

Faithbuilders Bible Study

Second and Fourth Mondays monthly, 6:30pm, Fairlawn Lutheran Library
Open to all - Pastor Gau facilitates learning and discussion on a wide variety of topics.
CONTACT: John Reichenbach, mustang175@startmail.com
Saints at Fairlawn, Pippin, our much loved friend and companion, died yesterday from a stroke. She was 12. We know many of you knew her and loved her. Thank you for accepting her into the Fairlawn family. She will be missed.

Peace in Christ, Pr. Jim and Claire

Andy Bruno, son of Ginette Bruno, died November 30, 2021. The funeral was held at Fairlawn Lutheran in December. Please keep Ginette, Bob and the rest of the family in your prayers.

Lutheran Witness Subscriptions:
- current subscription holders who want to keep receiving the publication have automatic renewal.
- current subscription holders who want to cancel should call the church office.
- those who would like to begin a new subscription should call the church office.
Yearly subscription rate is $10.80. Deadline is January 16.

Congratulations Brandon and Charlotte Smail! Father and daughter were baptized together in December!

Thank you so much for the cards and well wishes. We haven’t found a church that compares to FLC. We miss all of you and our choir very much!
Gene and Sandy Miller

The flower arrangements on the altar are donated by members/attendees - many choose to purchase an arrangement in memory of a loved one, for a celebration such as a birth, anniversary or birthday, or in thanks. The altar guild purchases and places the arrangement on the altar, and after service, the flowers may be enjoyed at home by the purchaser.

You can find the 2022 Flower Chart in the Fellowship Hall near the mailboxes. If you would like to give glory to God and beautify our sanctuary with a flower arrangement, please put your name on the chart on the requested date, fill out a Flower Form found nearby, and place it in Karen Feth’s mailbox.
PRAYER REQUESTS
Prayer requests will be posted on Realm. Submit your prayer requests to kim.hornyak@fairlawnlutheran.org, or call the church office (330-836-7286).

January Birthdays

1 Dan Chovan
1 Merle Mackey
1 Rob Sutherland
1 Don Tobin
1 Brad Yant
2 Grace Goettler
2 Karl Schwarze
2 Debra Turner
3 Carol Hull
3 Bill Roller
3 Joan Scherler
3 John Telloni
5 Laura George
5 Bob Hessel
5 Mia Trapuzzano
6 Chris Evans
7 Carol Weitzel
8 Jeff Gillette
8 Jim Koehler
8 Michelle Telloni
9 Amy Hinderegger
9 Ron Kyle
9 Marie Tuccillo
11 Sam Tobin
13 Mary Kay Aberth
15 Janet Scott (teacher)
16 LaDonn Eckberg
16 Bob Fischer
16 Janis Mack
16 Rich Scherler
16 Gary Sutherland
17 Alexa Furukawa
17 Richard Kotick
18 Sandy Chism
18 Pam Chuna
18 Evan Haskell
18 Sharyn Hood
19 Sophia Muratori
19 Nancy Parks
19 Rondi Seagren
20 Madeline Congeni
20 Samantha Congeni
20 Bob Hessel
20 Mark Hinderegger
22 Kate Meyer
23 Gary Pinter
24 Bob Guilda
24 Betty Huber
24 Carrie Lewis
24 Olivia Ludwig
25 Betsy Tancous
26 Beth Cook (teacher)
26 Kim Hornyak
26 Kim Hornyak
28 Ruth Wigand
28 Roseanne Zeigler
29 Dean Richards
30 Herb Croft
30 Gina Hedervary
30 Amanda Shannon
30 George Strickler

Fairlawn Lutheran Income & Expense Through 11/30/21

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Special Service Attendance
Light blue= in-person, dk. blue=online

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<td>Advent Service Average</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve 5pm Average</td>
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<td>Christmas Eve 7pm Average</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Year's Eve Average</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>178</td>
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Happy Anniversary!
3 Lee & Joanne Gillette
5 Alan & Lisa Tobin (30 years!)
23 Marc & Karen Collins
26 Rod & Nancy Parks
CHURCH

SATURDAYS
4pm Service

SUNDAYS
9am Christian Ed hour (all ages)
10am Service

SCHOOL

20 years of high-quality Christian education for children preschool - Kindergarten.

Christian education
Small classes
Convenient location

3415 W. Market Street
Fairlawn, OH 44333

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Fairlawn Lutheran will embrace people and walk with them in a RELATIONSHIP with Christ.