

# Fully Alive!

COMMUNICATING AND CELEBRATING THE MISSION AND MINISTRIES OF HOLY CROSS

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## THE REVELATION OF JESUS

We are about halfway through the book of Revelation at this point; we have said from the very beginning of this series that one of the purposes we are studying it is to see Jesus revealed to us more clearly. I hope that you have been and are amazed at the power and authority which are demonstrated by the Lamb who was slain and the Son of Man with blazing eyes of fire, hair as white as wool, and a voice that sounds like many waters.

That is one of the purposes of going through the book of Revelation: to expand our understanding of the complete picture of who Jesus really is. It is appropriate and comforting to talk about Jesus as a friend who sticks closer than a brother, or a Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep, or the Suffering Servant who takes away the sins of the world, or a personal Savior who wants to be in relationship with every one of us. But let us never forget that He is the Alpha and the Omega. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the Risen King and it is the power of the resurrection that He takes to His throne in heaven. He came as a baby, He will return as a King. He came as

a servant, He will return as Lord of all. He came with a cross, He will return with a sword. He came on a donkey, He will return on a horse. He came by himself, He will return with an army. He came to establish a spiritual kingdom, He is returning to rule an earthly kingdom. He came in weakness, He will return in power. He came as one who appeared defeated and He will return victorious.

Jesus says in Matthew 28:18, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Before His resurrection Jesus' authority and power were not complete. That is why Jesus had to come to take back what the enemy had stolen. After His resurrection it is clear that there is nothing that now stands in Jesus' way. In heaven and on earth forever and ever Jesus will reign and rule. He achieved this right, power, and authority through his perfect life and sacrificial death and resurrection. Now all power and authority are His. When He returns there is no further work to be done or sacrifices to be made. There is no struggle or any resistance. When Jesus comes back again the earth will be laid bare, the devil will be

banished, and any opposing force will be destroyed.

Jesus' weakness is illustrated for us in the Gospels, and we desperately needed that weakness to have our sins forgiven. Jesus' power is demonstrated in the book of Revelation, and that it is why it is so important to study and understand. We desperately need that power for Him to establish His earthly kingdom. This is not a story where the ending is in question or the hero is in doubt. Jesus has all power. Jesus will rule and reign on earth. It's only a matter of when.

To thine be the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

~Pastor Jeff Niederstadt



**DISCIPLESHIP CORNER: SEEKING THE KINGDOM**

One of the first questions asked in *Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to be an Everyday Missionary* is: **How is Jesus messing with you?** This question is likely to stir up attention, bewilderment, and a little bit of controversy, which is precisely why disciples ask, “How is Jesus messing with me?” The meat of the matter directs us to see that Jesus is already working in our midst. You don’t have to find Him. You don’t need a new worldly revelation to identify Him. Jesus is in our communities accomplishing the work which He intends to do.

Now get this: the disciple is invited to join Him. That’s you! *You* are invited to join the redeemer of the world on His mission! Why? Because He loves you. Simple as that. “Wow,” you may say, “But where do I start?”

The disciple first starts by **seeking the kingdom**. Jesus warned His disciples that the people were missing the kingdom in His explanation to the parable of the Sower. “Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: ‘You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive. For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” (Matthew 13:14-17)

We, like the twelve disciples, have heard that Jesus is on the move in the kingdom, even in our neighborhoods. Keep your eyes peeled for what He is doing; it may be the simplest thing. A neighbor waves and acknowledges you as you walk by their house; another shares an interest in gardening or landscaping; you find a common complaint about humid Minnesota summers and swarms of mosquitoes! In whatever way it happens, pay attention for what I like to refer to as “God sightings.” God may direct you through the Holy Spirit to offer encouragement to a friend. He may lead you to check in on an old acquaintance. He may boldly provide an opportunity to share a Word of Scripture with a neighbor. In whatever way it occurs, keep your eyes open and **seek the kingdom**.

~Pastor Jordan Schut

**SANCTUARY UPGRADE**

Prayers are ascending to the Throne of Grace, information is being gathered, and discussions are taking place to decide what to recommend for an updated display system for the sanctuary.

On a larger scope, the choice is between LED Walls versus Screen(s) and Projector(s). On a smaller scale, details include locations, retractability, cost, size, anticipated maintenance, visual quality, electrical services required, lifespan, and warranties. Here are some possible renderings. Many thanks to Denise Frey for her work with these!

*Retractable screens layout:*

*Combination of corner screens and center LED Wall:*



*Combination with additional side panels:*



Please continue praying for God to lead us. Whatever route we take, we want to excel in worshipping God through faith in Jesus Christ. May God increasingly show us His glory in Jesus Christ as we worship Him.



## YOUTH MISSION EVENT: A MOUNTAINTOP MOMENT

“I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1-2)

We refer to the highest highs of our lives as ‘mountaintop experiences.’ From the tops of those mountains, clarity is shown upon the mass valleys which we passed through prior to those peaks. While our faith is not founded solely on the mountaintop moments, we humans gain immense insight into our lives by looking back at the journeys that lead us to such heights.

Why all this talk about mountains? Precisely because last month’s youth servant event featured an adventurous trek into the mountains of Colorado. While there, the youth of Holy Cross journeyed from peak to peak and navigated serving in a very different environment. At new heights and a dizzying elevation, this was not an easy task. Nonetheless, our youth tackled what was set before them as they lived lives of service and learned from others’ servant stories.

Two days of travel led our crew into the remote region of west central Colorado where Lutheran Valley Retreat, our camp

host for the week, is located. The final 40 minutes of that drive occurred over winding unpaved roads leading further into the reaches of the mountains. Upon arrival, we were greeted by enthusiastic staff from camp and four other churches who would serve alongside us. Those churches traveled from Missouri, Arizona, and even southern Texas to serve just like us. With ~80 teens gathered in one location, we set to work. The week’s projects featured staining all the log buildings around camp, uncovering and defining new trails into the mountains, and assisting with fire prevention in the forests. The Holy Cross crew covered almost 20,000 steps each day moving from place to place and job to job. Through it all, they lived the servant lives to which God had called them.

Highlights of our week included Bible studies and campfire devotions about various servant stories. The Bible is full of servants who devote themselves to others, such as the friendship of David and Jonathan and the family story of Ruth. Jesus connects our lives of service into His great story, from the Old Testament to Christ Himself to our present day. Our adult leaders and I are proud of the multitude of ways in which

the youth stepped up to serve amid long days, cold nights, and a few sore throats. None of that could stop the Holy Spirit from sending us on His mission.

We extend a huge thank you to all who enabled this ‘mountaintop’ mission to happen! As a result of your verbal support, financial contributions, and time in prayer, God brought us safely to and from the trip of a lifetime. But the work doesn’t stop here. As we know through our Joining Jesus conversations, Jesus is on the move in our own communities. Continue to connect with our youth and ask them about their trip, as well as their lives in general. They are growing around us and have incredible stories to share. You may even find yourself learning a little from their witness. After all, God unites us as a body of believers through servant stories such as these. “From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” (Psalm 121:1b-2) Praise the Lord as He continues to lead us to our own mountaintops, and through every valley in between!

~Pastor Jordan Schut

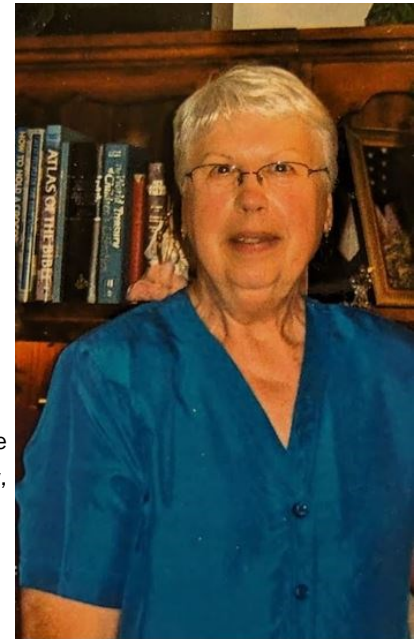




ILLUMINATION STATION: GETTING TO KNOW OUR FAMILY @ HOLY CROSS

SPOTLIGHT ON VONNIE WEELDREYER!

Vonnie was raised on a farm near White Lake, South Dakota. “Back then the doctor had a couple of rooms at his home where the women would come to have their babies. However, I think he came to our family home to deliver me.” As a farm girl, Vonnie helped milk the cows, feed the chickens and pigs. She felt lucky to get to help her dad with these chores since her sister helped their mom with the house work. Vonnie had one older sister and two younger brothers. Vonnie attended a country school, grades 1-8. (Later her sister taught at one.) The family attended Trinity Lutheran Church in White Lake. After high school, Vonnie worked for the State Welfare Department. One day her typewriter stopped working; Mike, an IBM employee specializing in equipment repair, fixed it. Later she met Mike again at a Dakota dance, while with her family. Mike and Vonnie were married in South Dakota. Due to numerous transfers during his employment with IBM, the family moved several times including Rochester, MN, Indiana, Michigan, and back to Rochester. They have three children: Jim, Lynn, and Jeffrey. Vonnie recalls, “Because we moved around a lot, I stayed home and had plenty of work with the home and raising the kids. I kept busy being a mom, relocating, re-establishing in each new city, finding a school for the kids, and finding a new church home.” When they returned to Rochester, Vonnie stated, “We chose Holy Cross because it made sense. We lived near the church and had attended there in the past. Back then, Holy Cross was worshiping in the Parish Hall because they did not have the new addition built yet. As we were ready to move to Indiana, Holy Cross had their groundbreaking for the new Sanctuary and the other offices.” With the kids grown, Vonnie worked as a secretary for Bethany United Methodist Church. Their family includes three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mike and Vonnie enjoyed square-dancing and camping. They traveled to Germany, several other European countries, and Hawaii. December of 2003, Mike was called to his Heavenly home. Vonnie’s hobbies include gardening, cooking, canning, and reading. She toured the Holy Land with a group from Holy Cross, and later to Utah with a friend. Vonnie volunteered at the Methodist Hospital Auxiliary, served on the Holy Cross Altar Care Team, and helped prepare the Fully Alive newsletters to be mailed. She enjoyed Bible studies. Vonnie shared that she marvels at the story of Ruth, but also wonders how Mary must have felt as a mom, raising a child that God said would be the Messiah.

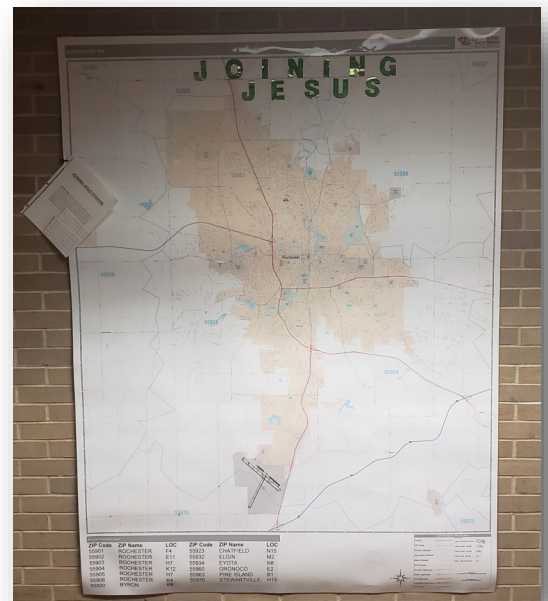
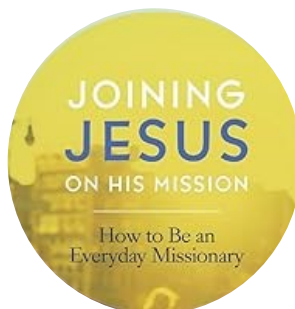


August 2010

JOINING JESUS CONTINUED

Have you put your house on the map yet? In case you didn’t know, there is a large Rochester map in Holy Cross’ West hallway that has house stickers that you can place on the map. The idea is that you will take a sticker and put it in the general area of where your house is located and then commit to pray for those in your neighborhood. As we continue to implement the ministry of Joining Jesus at Holy Cross, I am prayerful that you will join Jesus in His mission to make disciples of all nations. That means that we have the opportunity to share the good news with others through prayer, acts of kindness, by serving, by inviting, and by telling them about who Jesus is. We are starting monthly Zoom meetings for encouragement about Joining Jesus. If you

missed the first one they will be on the last Wednesday of every month at 1 pm through November. You can find more information online under the MINISTRIES tab, Joining Jesus Zoom Call. Put your house on the map and join Jesus on His mission.



## FACILITIES UPDATE

*"Let us rejoice and be glad  
and give him glory!"*

*Revelation 19:7*

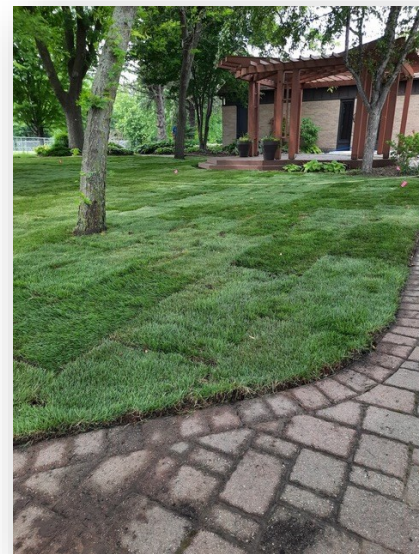
The outdoor Courtyard area is near completion. Grading and laying sod for the Courtyard was completed June 7 by Meyer Outdoor Services, Holy Cross's lawn care contractor. We now have conduit installed for speaker wires and electrical wiring for an improved worship environment as well as making it more convenient for our technical personnel. Also installed is an irrigation system for the grass. Completion of the drip irrigation system for the planted areas has yet to be completed.

There was a tremendous donation of labor and time from Phil Scott, Joe Keyes, Brian and Shirley Sjoberg, Shelley DeYoung and

so many others! Their work did not go unnoticed; we so appreciate their expertise and hard work! Also, we gladly can say that the project will come in under budget.

**Holy Cross' project for upgrading HVAC systems** was completed in June with the installation of an AC unit and a separate heating unit in the Administrative Office. Gratitude goes to our talented members Jay Gatzlaff and Joe Keyes who worked on many aspects of improving our HVAC systems throughout the church building.

**Projects to come in August** are resealing and restriping of the south parking lot, as well as the installation of a new concrete apron at the entrance. Parking lot costs are shared with RCLS. Also in August will be the repair and re-shingling of the sanctuary and parish hall roofs. So be prepared



for an active August at Holy Cross.

~ Sandy Abenstein  
Trustees Team Lead

## LIFEGROUPS UPDATE



**Saints Alive** continues to plan informative subjects and fellowship opportunities. We recently organized a beautiful night hike at Chester Woods, as well as a trip to Berne, Minnesota, for the first Berne Pizza Night of the year. The local church in this little town hosts a pizza night every Wednesday during the summer. At these outdoor pizza nights, regional musical ensembles entertain the public as numerous volunteers prepare hundreds of pizzas in their two outdoor woodfired ovens. All of their profits go to help community groups.

On June 13, our member, Dick Krom, showed up to a Saints Alive gathering dressed in his authentic Civil War uniform

and told about his research of his Great Grandfather's preserved letters written to his loved ones back home while serving with the 1st Minnesota infantry during the Civil War. This research has led to an acclaimed book written by Dick.

On July 31, Saints Alive will offer an **educational seminar** about palliative and hospice care. Teresa Goddard, Rich and Kristin Sellentine's daughter and a Physician's Assistant at Mayo who works in these areas, will be our presenter. This July 31 seminar begins at 7 pm in our newly air-conditioned Parish Hall.

Each summer we host a **congregational picnic and outdoor worship** away from the Holy Cross campus. Mark August 17 on your calendar to visit Chester Woods County Park, six miles east of Rochester on Highway 14. During this day, you are encouraged to connect with Holy Cross campers in the campground and/or use the park for hiking, swimming or enjoying time on the lake. Chester Woods does not

have an entrance fee. At 6 pm, a congregational picnic will be held at Shelter 4, followed by a time of worship at the newly dedicated Chester Woods Amphitheater adjacent to picnic Shelter 4.

You may have heard that **Season 4 of "The Chosen" TV series** on the life of Jesus and his disciples is now available on the free "Chosen App." Anyone may now watch the fourth season for free and stream it to their smart television. Why watch reruns this summer when you can see new content? We are now planning to launch "Chosen LifeGroups" this fall. It is beneficial to the LifeGroup experience if participants have already watched the episodes at least once. Look for opportunities to join a Chosen LifeGroup or to serve as a host for a LifeGroup. We will provide materials and training to all our LifeGroup leaders.

~Ernie Freudenburg  
Connecting Coordinator

**COUNCIL CORNER**

Council met on Tuesday: June 18, 2024

**Joining Jesus:** Council ‘took ten’ and shared responses to some of the 5 questions from Dwelling 1:14.

**Devotions and Prayer:** Our focus for Holy Cross in 2024 is evangelism. Pastor Jeff shared the devotion ‘Open Doors’, based on Colossians 4:3. Like Paul, we are to pray that God give us many opportunities to speak about Jesus. Pray for open doors (hearts) that God has prepared in advance for us to ‘join Jesus on His mission’.

**Sanctuary Update:** Cindy presented LED Walls vs. Screens/Projectors design layout options. No decisions have been made yet; more research, feedback, and prayerful evaluation still to occur.

**Finance:** Please note the May Treasurer’s report in this newsletter.

**Elder’s Report:** Attendance figures reported for worship services in May: an average of 145 in person weekly; online units worshiping via hclc.tv averaged 24. Holy Cross welcomed New Members on May 12: Paul & Becky Grotjahn and Annie; Harold & Jan Bolton; Ray & Shanna Lunasin and Clara; and Dan & Jenna Acton and Pearson, twins Jane and Nora. Please take time to meet and welcome them into our family at Holy Cross!

**RCLS:** Mike Schmitt, a member of Trinity Lutheran, is the new RCLS Facilities Manager. Please keep RCLS in your prayers as they continue to work on filling the roles of a pre-K teacher and a principal. Currently there are 417 students registered for this upcoming school year (PS-8), which is the largest volume on record. This includes 93 new students!

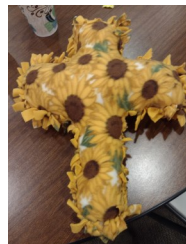
Please pray for RCLS and the quality Christian Education ministry provided to so many souls.

**HC Communications Team:** The team held their last formal meeting under the charter. Forms created for events and announcements are now in a testing phase throughout the summer by Staff, Ministry leaders, and Council members. A smaller, core team will likely resume communications work, as needed.

**HC Planning Workshop Follow-up:** BHAG: The team shared their progress work. Patty Clancy presented the 5-year goals and BHAG model with details of a draft plan. Over the summer Council is to absorb and focus on the Draft Model and send feedback to Mark and the team. More info to come this Fall!

**CREATIVE WOMEN’S UPDATE**

Creative Women’s is continuing to meet with the MN Adult Teen Challenge ladies each month. In March we met and made Bible covers. After a two month break due to a conflict of schedules, we met again on June 15. Our June craft was Cross pillows. The ladies enjoyed coming to Holy Cross for a time of devotion, brunch, crafting and fellowship. We generally have around 13-15 ladies from MN Adult Teen Challenge. We will again meet on July 20. Our theme will be lemons. Linda Hopkins will lead a



devotion “If Life Gives you Lemons, make Lemonade”, which is all about fresh starts. Following the theme, we will have a craft to allow us to create a fresh start on something. Come on out and enjoy some time of crafting with your sisters in Christ. Even if you don’t craft or feel you are not creative,

come out for a time of fellowship with the MN Adult Teen Challenge ladies. This is a wonderful opportunity to help these ladies form some positive relationships with other women as we join Jesus on His mission.

~Sherri Emedo

**VBS INVITE**



The ships are boarding, the animals are jumping, and our cruise is about to depart. That’s right: July is about here and our Great Jungle Journey VBS will be setting sail for a wild adventure toward the end of the month!

Swing along with our adventurers from July 22-25 as we navigate God’s truths through

the seven seas (C’s): Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, and Consummation. Through these stories, God shows us His work in the lives of His children in the world.

Vacation Bible School is an all-hands-on deck event at Holy Cross. If you haven’t signed up yet and still want to participate, please do so via the Holy Cross website under MINISTRIES>Children>VBS 2024 – Jungle Journey. Whether you are participat-

ing, volunteering, or following along with the ride, please uphold this upcoming week in prayer. Pray for God to equip our volunteers and leaders to share His Word. Pray for children to know, live, and share the love of their Savior. Pray that Jesus is glorified through every second of our adventure.

Get ready, because the Great Jungle Journey is coming to a port near you: July 22-25 from 6:15-8:15 pm!



**RUBY'S PANTRY**

Ruby's Pantry is for anyone in our community who would like to make their grocery budget stretch a little further. For \$25, families can receive an abundance of food – two full boxes of a variety of fruits, vegetables, dairy, meat, grains, and sweets. We provide “Blessing Boxes” to any family who doesn't have \$25 to buy a share of food. In June we provided 15 blessing boxes – the highest number since we started Ruby's Pantry in 2022.

Ruby's Pantry gives Holy Cross an extraordinary opportunity to offer service, compassion, and prayer to our community. Thank you to everyone who helps make

this ministry so impactful!! In June we distributed 397 shares as 252 cars passed through our line. Holy Cross keeps 10% of the monies collected to apply to other ministries, like CarePortal. In June this amounted to just over \$950. Praise God through whom all blessing flow!

~ Denise Frey



**MAY TREASURER REPORT**

	May 2024	YTD 2024	Prior YTD
General fund receipts	\$44,385	\$238,735	\$248,924
General fund expenses	\$53,873	\$279,028	\$246,269
Inflow/(outflow)	<b>-\$9,488</b>	<b>-\$40,293</b>	\$2,655

The people of Holy Cross have been generous with their gifts, including our Raise the Roof project receiving \$53,000 in pledges, of which over \$35,000 has been received in cash. But our operating budget (general funds), which pays the lights and salaries of staff, has been running short year-to-date (YTD). Please keep these givings in mind over the summer when vacations can take us away from normal routines.

May receipts were below average at \$44,385 (\$11,096/week). Budget need is about \$12,769/week. YTD Receipts are slightly below 2023. The staff and ministry boards will hold spending on elective expense until further notice, regardless if it was budgeted. May included a one-time expense of RCLS for \$4,450, and starting in June we will have two months without RCLS Tuition support, which averages about \$2,000/mo. But the YTD shortfall is

a revenue (giving) shortfall, not an expense issue.

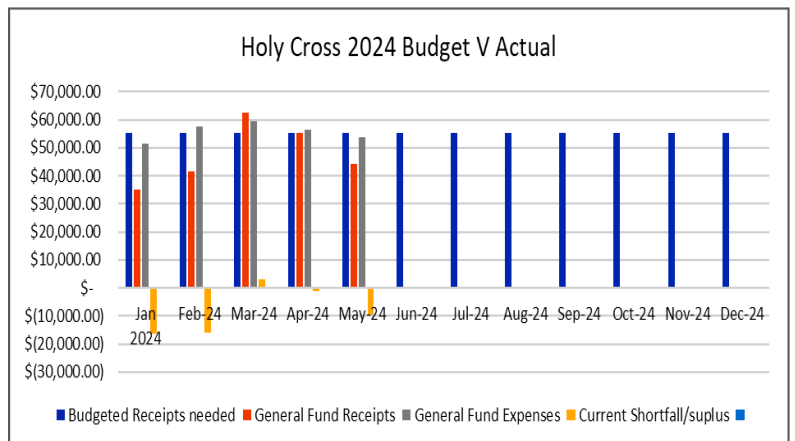
In May Designated receipts:

\$7,301 came in on the roofing project, raising the total received to \$35,642. Current pledges are \$53,000. In May, Holy Cross spent \$5,968 for placing automatic watering and wire conduit into the Courtyard, as well as the sodding prep.

Cash Balance in checking is \$80,149 and \$204,062 in savings. LCEF funds in Certificates of Deposit with LCEF are \$85,418 (Regedah). Additionally we have \$111,019 in money market and T-bills at Stifel.

~Roger Lindahl

	May 2024	YTD 2024
Designated fund receipts	\$9,023	\$43,432
Designated fund expenses	\$17,340	\$63,700
Inflow/(outflow)	<b>-\$8,317</b>	<b>-\$20,268</b>
Ruby's Pantry receipts	\$9,200	\$38,828
Ruby's Pantry transfers in	\$8,324	\$37,217
Ruby's Pantry Expenses	\$876	\$1,611
CarePortal receipts	\$2,250	\$10,294
CarePortal Expenses	\$3,927	\$8,350
Overspent	<b>-\$1,677</b>	\$1,944



# July Issue of Fully Alive!

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# Now's the Time to Register For The Great Jungle Journey

July 22-25  
6:15-8:15pm

Pre-K to  
6th grade



Register  
Children

Youth and  
Adults  
Register to  
Volunteer

Invite Your  
Friends, Family,  
Neighbors

Don't Miss Out  
On All of the  
Excitement

### VBS 2024 - Jungle Journey

We are gearing up for VBS this year! Join us for The Great Jungle Journey during the evenings of July 22-25!

Kids will travel through a jungle safari as they unpack God's true answers and connect the Bible to their everyday lives. They will explore the answers to the following questions.

- Did God really create everything?
- Why do bad things happen?
- Was Noah's ark real?
- Why do I need to be saved?
- Can I trust the Bible?

[REGISTER CHILDREN](#)

We are also calling all youth and adults to consider how you could support this adventure as station leaders, group guides, or in other volunteer activities including prayers and donations. To find out more, contact Pastor Jordan or Sheri Eneido

[REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER](#)

Kids Learn God's  
Word in a Fun  
Environment

Music, Crafts,  
Games, Snacks