

ST JOHN'S
LUTHERAN
GILLETTS CHURCH
GILLETTS
WISCONSIN

SERVING GOD, HIS CHURCH
His People
...AROUND THE CLOCK

The Clock Church

Messenger

Informing, Developing, and Preparing Disciples of the Faith

Christmas Worship Services

Sunday, December 24

Last Sunday of Advent
Worship Service
at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Services
at 3:30, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m.

*Children's Christmas Program will be
presented at the 5:30 p.m. service.*

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship Service
at 9:30 a.m.

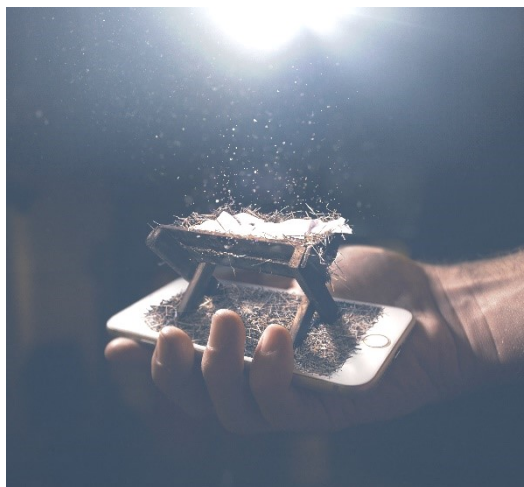
with Holy Communion
*Informal attire:
Come in your pajamas!*

December 2023



From the Pastor

It all begins with a baby and a rough wooden manger. Listening to my kids sing the song based on these verses all points to this moment—first, the shepherds and, later, the wise men. Luther commonly would refer to the Bible as the Cradle of Christ. This is central to the theology of our faith as Christians, particularly as Lutherans. The Word of God is meant to be the sole norm of our faith and life, and it, in its entirety, points to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We come to the manger and see all our hope and salvation born into the world that points us to the one who would give of himself wholly for our benefit. Eternity begins with that manger. As a pastor, I have found great comfort in the richness of our Lutheran tradition. The theology that we hold is centered on the work that Jesus did for us that began as He entered into creation. The salvation we receive is not dependent on our ability to live in an “appropriate” way. Our holiness comes from what Christ has done and the redemption given to us through His sacrifice on the Cross. We are called to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our actions and words. This is why the manger is so precious to our sight, as it is all foretold in the Scriptures. We need only look to the Torah and find Christ’s promise embedded within it. As Lutheran Christians, our beliefs are not a separation from the other Christian traditions but were born out of a need to reform the Church of the day to stand firmly rooted within the Holy catholic faith, the universal Christian faith that has existed since the Early Church.



“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”

Matthew 2:10–11, ESV

Many things differentiate us from other Protestant traditions, and that does not mean that we should stand divided, but seek to be in unity as we come together in the light of Jesus Christ.

As we begin our new Church Year, I love to celebrate and see where we have grown as a body of Christ, and am excited for what the future holds in our witness of Jesus Christ in the world. As I look ahead, the focus is to continue in the work that our Lord called all Christians to do: make disciples. It is not only my calling, however, as we are reminded that our Lord has called us to do this wonderful work, every one of us. It begins as we grow and learn the Word of God and seek to understand why we believe as we do. There is never any shame meant to be felt as we fail, but we are

called to repent and continue in doing the work our Lord calls us to. The reality is we will fail, we will fall short, but the Lord who came and was wrapped in a swaddling cloth as a babe is the one whom we celebrate, that will make all things new and guide us in the paths in which He desires to lead. Let us follow Him and do as all who met the babe born to be our savior and fall down before Him in worship. Let us all praise Him and shine His glory out to the ends of the earth.



To be put on the prayer list in the bulletin or newsletter, or to start the prayer chain, we need the consent of the person in need of prayer. If you know someone who could use prayer, a call, or a visit, please get their consent before letting the office know. Their name will not be put into our publications unless they agree to it. This is the same policy for pastoral calls & visits. **If someone on the list has had prayers answered, please let us know so we can take their name off of the list and give a praise report of the answered prayer!** Thank you.

Brenda Kadlec	Lorraine Giese	Barb Wicker	Joe Doering
Bill Pecha	Dorothy McDowell	Carrie Williams	Jamie Bratz
Dale Coopman	Lorraine Gentz	Art Percy	Rick Wollin
Bob Schindel	Merlin Lintner	Travis Rubright	Lori Skarban
Carolyn Block	Lenea Carlson	Briella Peiper	Sobiesczyk
Nancy Jaeger	Cynthy Bourgeois	Jim Dobberphul	Lori Schultz

Ways to Watch/Give

If you can't make it to church but still want to feel like you're there, you can watch the service LIVE each week. We broadcast live on YouTube at 9:30 a.m. and upload the video to Facebook (@clockchurch) to premier later Sunday afternoon. You may also click the "MEDIA" tab at the top of the Church website, www.clockchurch.org and there are links to follow.

* Also, if you click Subscribe on YouTube or Like on Facebook you will get notifications of all live streams or videos posted. If you need help finding anything, please stop in or call the office.

If you'd like to donate to St. John's online, please scan the QR code and it will bring you to our online giving site! Thank you!



SCAN TO DONATE

Worship Schedule

Sunday:
8:30am Sunday School for all ages!
9:30am Worship Service

Staff

Pastor
Christopher Byars

Office/Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director
Rachel Knueppel

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00am - 4:00pm
(Closed for lunch 12:30 - 1:30pm)

Friday
By Appointment

Highlights

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Letter from Council President

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Poinsettia Order Form



St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church (LCMC)

101 West Main Street - P.O. Box 296

Gillett, WI 54124-0296

Pastor Christopher Byars

Email: office@clockchurch.org

Office (920) 855-6215

November 16, 2023

FELLOWSHIP HALL FLOORING VOTE

Our flooring in the Fellowship Hall is in need of updating. Earlier this year the council approved setting up a committee to look into updating the flooring.

The committee came up with their recommendation which is as follows from Flooring Experts out of Appleton. It is a cement floor epoxy refinish with a lifetime guarantee. The price is \$17,592.50. The council felt we should add \$1,500 for possible costs of carpet disposal and other unexpected expenses that may come up to finish the project.

For the total project, this is the overview at this time:

\$17,592.50 Materials, labor, and flooring costs

\$1,500.00 Possible extra expense to finish project

\$19,092.50 TOTAL

\$13,000.00 Gift from the Women of the Church

\$1,125.00 Other gifts

\$4,967.50 AMOUNT STILL NEEDED

The council voted to bring it to a congregational vote at our church's Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, after our 9:30 a.m. church service. Following the Annual Meeting will be a dinner put on by the youth. Please plan to attend.

Sincerely,
Jerry Luther

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Luther".

Council President

Council Minutes *November 15, 2023*

Present: Bill Block, Micki Carlson, Jerry Luther, Clara Luther, Marilyn Reichwald, Jon Simpson, Pastor Chris Byars

Guests: Sydnie Patzer, Erik & Rachel Knueppel

1. Call to Order 7:00p
2. Devotions: Bill Block
3. Motion to approve agenda by Marilyn, Clara, MSC
4. Communications from attendees and correspondence
 - a. Rachel (CYF Report)
 - b. Sydnie (Flooring Team): The Flooring Team has done an excellent job in exploring options and considering many perspectives. A motion was made by Clara to bring the Flooring Team's final pick to the Annual Meeting for the congregation's approval. Second by Micki, MSC
5. Motion to approve Secretary's Report by Clara, Marilyn, MSC
6. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report by Marilyn, Bill, MSC
7. President's Report: everything seems to be going smoothly
8. Pastor's Report: New Member program/class, lots of shut-in visits, several baptisms and new members
9. Team/Organization Items for Council Action: none
10. Old Business
 - a. Sell lighting system to Austin Wright: Jerry talked to Dan Wright
11. New Business
 - a. Nurse's Nook is asking for a donation for their Christmas giving program (\$500 was donated last year, decided to hand it over to L.A.C.E.
 - b. Motion to give Christian Education Scholarships to Sydney & Taylor Anderson in the amount of \$250 each by Micki, Jon, MSC
 - c. Discussion on future road project
12. Miscellaneous
 - a. Staff Reviews: November 30
13. Communications from the council: none
14. Next meeting Date: December 19
15. Devotions: Micki Carlson
16. Motion to adjourn by Clara, Jon, MSC. Closed in the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Council Secretary Jon Simpson



Don't forget to order your scrip cards! On Sunday, December 3 and Sunday, December 10, there will be a table in the lower narthex. You can buy and order any gift cards you need for the Christmas season! In order to get your cards before Christmas, the deadline for ordering scrip cards is Monday, December 11.

Stewardship & Evangelism Team

November 6 | Time: 5:00pm

Present: Pastor Chris, Ruth Milhans, Keri Hicks, & Mel Reichwald

Old Business: None

New Business:

- ◆ Went through boxes of literature to decide what to keep and what to discard
- ◆ Discussed Veteran's Day and prepared cards to give veterans in church Sunday with a gift certificate for The Cracked Cup.
- ◆ Discussed how the S&E Team can help Pastor with new members. Throw out ideas about scheduling New Member Mtgs, involve other ministries to help inform new member of what we offer, introducing new members into small groups.
- ◆ Will ask for feedback from other committees during the All Team Mtg.

Next Mtg: December 4th | Time: 5:00pm

Submitted by: Keri Hicks



Women of the Church Team

November 11 | Time: 6:00 p.m.

Present: Dawn Byars, Jane Frederick, Laura Koenig, Helen Lisowe, Sydnie Patzer, Sharon Raatz and Heidi Schindler.

Meeting was called to order by Sharon Raatz with a prayer.

Secretary's Report was read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report was read and accepted.

Old Business: 1. Bazaar- very successful. Thanks to everyone who worked, donated and participated. In 2019 the Women of the Church donated \$5,000.00 to the fund for new flooring in the Fellowship Hall. It was decided to donate another \$8,000.00 (\$3,000.00 from last year's Bazaar and \$5,000.00 from this year's Bazaar).

New Business: 1. Decided to continue sending care packages to our college students.

2. Made list of shut-ins for flowers.

3. Candy bags for Christmas program.

4. Made list of Christmas gifts and donations.

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: December 12 | Time: 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Helen Lisowe, Sec.

Children, Youth & Family Team

November 8 | Time: 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chris & Dawn Byars, Erik & Rachel Knueppel, Sydnie Patzer, Heidi Young

OLD BUSINESS

Coffee fundraiser: November 19—December 3: Rachel handed out order forms, discussed giving free samples after church on November 19 & 26 and December 3

Meal for Advent Service on December 6

NEW BUSINESS

Discussed new Story Bibles to hand out for baptisms, as well as a church tote to carry everything

Approve handout for Advent Cookie Kits

Christmas Play: need props, will advertise soon

Next Meeting: December 13 | Time: 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by Rachel Knueppel

Mission Team

November 8 | Time: 9:00 a.m.

Present: Kenny Butzin, Mel Reichwald, Pastor Sam Magumba, Jerry Luther, Pastor Chris, Wayne Wenzel, Sheri Wenzel

Old business: Giving for Our Madagascar mission: \$260

Giving for Tartu House of Hope year to date: \$2,725

New Business: Dec. mission of the month is Lutheran World Relief . WE hope to meet a goal of \$700 to pay for a group of small animals to help a family start a small business and support themselves. We have made out our tentative schedule for 2024. It is as follows:

January: Greater Love Community Church in Uganda. This is Pastor Sam Magumba's Church.

February: Care Share Food Pantry. We will be collecting cans of soup on Super Bowl Sunday

March: Bay Area Pregnancy Center. We will also be collecting for the CP Telethon

April: Friends of Madagascar

May: Abuse shelters of Shawano and Oconto Counties

June: Food for the Poor

July: Impact Ministries

August: Orphan Grain Train

September: WRVM

October: Spiritual Orphans Network

November: We Believe

December: Lutheran World Relief

Next Meeting: December 13 | Time: 9:00 a.m.

Submitted by: Sheri Wenzel



December's Items of the Month
for the Care Share Food Pantry:
soups, stews, and chili



C Y F Ministry Director Report

Past events:

- ◆ Reformation Sunday was such a hit! It's great to see our kids coming out of their shells and actively participating in the life of the church. We are looking forward to the next one!
- ◆ Sunday School is going well! We're working on making consistency a key with Sunday School families. We're using a rewards system and have a memory verse for every quarter instead of every Sunday to make it easier for kids to hide God's word in their heart. This past Sunday, we had 16 kids in Sunday School!!
- ◆ Our 3 baptisms this past Sunday have led to two more kids getting baptized soon!
- ◆ Confirmation is going well! More students are actively participating in conversation and discussion.

Events in the planning stage:

- ◆ Our coffee fundraiser will start on Sunday, November 19 and end on Sunday, December 3.
- ◆ Instead of a cookie decorating event, we are planning on giving cookie decorating kits to each family. We are trying to be conscious of not over-scheduling our families. We also are trying to find more ways for parents to connect with their kids' spiritual lives at home instead of just hearing about Jesus at church.
- ◆ Our Christmas Eve Children's Program is written (thanks to Dawn Byars!) and plans are in motion. We will give out the script right away to the older kids who are narrating and rehearsals will begin Sunday, December 3.

A Thurmont Christmas

St. John's Lutheran Church
"The Clock Church"

101 W Main St. Gillett, WI

Friday, December 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church
Church Rd & County BB,
Oconto Falls, WI

Saturday, December 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

There is no charge for admission
but a free will offering will be gathered
for "We Believe"



Hope Awakes in Bethlehem

*For unto you
is born this day
a Savior which is
Christ the Lord*



St. John's Lutheran Church "The Clock Church" Annual Christmas Cantata

Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, December 15, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

There is no charge for admission
but a free-will offering will be accepted.
A dessert reception will follow each
performance.

St. John's Lutheran Church is
handicapped-accessible to all.

The Women of the Church are thankful for everyone who supported the Annual Bazaar! Here are the winners of the big-ticket items:

QUILT – TRISHA STAGE

\$50 ROMY'S GIFT CERT – MEL REICHWALD

CROSS – LOU ARNDT

PRIMAL EATS – DEANNA WENZEL -PIPER

SNOWMAN WREATH – JANE BIGELOW

TABLE RUNNER – EILEEN KEEGAN

GILLETT COLORS BLANKET – LAUREL BLOCK

TRACTOR BASKET OF FLOWERS – NORM FINNELL

The Prayer Shawl Group is in need of prayer shawls for boys ages 2-7 and girls 3-7. If you knit any shawls, you can bring them to the church at any time!

Bulletins/Poinsettia Order Form 2023

Order Deadline is Sunday, November 29, 2023

When writing checks, please make them out to **St. John's Lutheran Church** and write either **bulletins** or **flowers** in the memo line.

Poinsettias (Cost of sing 6-1/2" plant is \$18.00)

of: _____
Color: red, white, pink

Do you plan on:

_____ Taking plant(s) home
_____ Leaving for display

TOTAL: \$ _____

Christmas Bulletins

\$ _____ Amount donated

Given in memory / honor of: (Please circle one)

Given by:

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE

In keeping with tradition, the office will be closed between Christmas and New Year's as I will be on vacation.

A few notes for the end of the year:

You can pick up your offering envelopes in the lower narthex. They will be available starting Sunday, December 3. Also, our counters will meet for the last time this year on Tuesday, December 26. If you are doing any end-of-the-year giving, please consider getting it to the church before that date so we can include it in our 2023 giving statements. Any donations received after this date may be counted towards your 2024 giving. Thank you!

Last, thank you so much for all of your kind words, visits, patience, and helping hands this year! I pray God's blessings on you and your families this Christmas!



Rachel Knueppel



2023 ADVENT SERVICES

Wednesday, December 6

6:00p.m. Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

7:00p.m. Advent Service

Wednesday, December 13

6:00p.m. Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

7:00p.m. Advent Service

Wednesday, December 20

6:00p.m. Dinner in the Fellowship Hall

7:00p.m. Advent Service



Altar Flowers for the month of December are being provided by Scott & Kerri Pankow and Jim & Laura Koenig.

The next month's flower slot is still open! You can still sign up to provide altar flowers on our Flower Chart—stop in the office to sign up!



Worship Assistant Schedule

December 3	9:30 a.m. (First Sunday of Advent)
Usher/Greet	Jerry & Sharon Luther, Clara Luther, Junior & Sydnie Luther
Read	Amy Myrick
Communion	Amy Myrick, Jerry Luther
Acolyte	Trystan Kirchner
December 6	7:00 p.m. (Midweek Advent service)
Usher/Greet	Dan Brown, Darrell & Jan Ruege
Acolyte	Dakota Freidman
December 10	9:30 a.m. (Second Sunday of Advent)
Usher/Greet	Darrell & Jan Ruege, Bill & Laurel Block
Read	Laurie Penkivich
Acolyte	Isabella Ondik
December 13	7:00 p.m. (Midweek Advent service)
Usher/Greet	Don & Ramona Genke
Acolyte	Teddy Wright
December 17	9:30 a.m. (Third Sunday of Advent)
Usher/Greet	Miles & Donna Winkler, Linda Bublitz
Read	Elaine Hertwig
Communion	Claire Hertwig, Miles Winkler
Acolyte	Kiera Konitzer
December 20	7:00 p.m. (Midweek Advent service)
Usher/Greet	Darrell & Jan Ruege
Acolyte	Nathaniel Byars
December 24	9:30 a.m. (Fourth Sunday of Advent)
Usher/Greet	Bob & Heidi Schindel, Claire Hertwig
Read	Heidi Schindel
Acolyte	Charlotte Byars
December 24	3:30 p.m. (Christmas Eve service)
Usher/Greet	Sandy & Teddy Wright, Jerry & Sharon Luther
Read	Jerry Luther
Communion	Jerry Luther, Jon Simpson
Acolyte	Isabella Ondik

December 24	5:30 p.m. (Christmas Eve service with Children's Christmas Program)
Usher/Greet	Al & Pearl Czechan, Bill & Laurel Block
Communion	Laurel Block
Acolyte	Wyatt Ondik & Dakota Friedman
December 24	7:30 p.m. (Christmas Eve service)
Usher/Greet	Miles & Donna Winkler, Randy & Sharon Raatz
Read	Mel Reichwald
Communion	Miles Winkler, Mel Reichwald, Amy Myrick
Acolyte	_____
December 25	9:30 a.m. (Christmas Morning Pajama service)
Usher/Greet	Byars Family
Read	Nathaniel Byars
Communion	Dawn & Jameson Byars
Acolyte	Jameson Byars
December 31	9:30 a.m.
Usher/Greet	Sharon Raatz
Read	Elaine Hertwig
Acolyte	Sydney Anderson
ALTAR GUILD LEADERS	Laura Koenig & Lisa Anderson
January 7	9:30 a.m.
Usher/Greet	Jery & Sharon Luther, Clara Luther
Read	Amy Myrick
Communion	Jerry Luther, Amy Myrick
January 14	9:30 a.m.
Usher/Greet	Al & Pearl Czechan
Read	Doug Yahnke
January 21	9:30 a.m.
Usher/Greet	Jerry & Karen Winkler, Vern & Annette Dahlstrom
Read	Elaine Hertwig
Communion	Jerry Winkler, Claire Hertwig
January 28	9:30 a.m.
Usher/Greet	Kurt & Keri Hicks, Jane Frederick, John Severson
Read	Mel Reichwald

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 John Lockstein
- 2 Joan Hansen
- 4 Gerri Hansen
- 5 Noel Nienstedt
- 7 Don Lisowe Sr
- 9 Malayla Heleniak
- 10 Kelly Moore, Vanessa Kastning
- 11 Billie Jo DuQuaine
- 12 Donald Genke, Donna Delzer
- 13 Brad Ruege
- 14 John Timm
- 15 Sharon Steiner, Brad Severson, Sawyer Frederick
- 16 Kelly Frederick
- 18 Vern Dahlstrom, Rich Gandt, Maequin Largo
- 19 Mackenzie Simpson
- 21 Ella Kadlec
- 22 Jerry Winkler, Zak Peterson
- 24 Kevin Ruege, Heather Ondik
- 25 Shecter Lisowe, Mehrsa Genke
- 26 Robert Kruschke
- 27 Brinley Habeck
- 28 Erik Knueppel
- 30 Victor Loberger



Date	Years
4 Dan & Carol Brown	52
13 Doug & Debi Schroeder	48
15 Rich & Kari Gandt	33
27 Claire & Elaine Hertwig	65
31 Dennis & Janice Olesewski	65

Baptisms

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM was celebrated on Sunday, November 5, 2023 for Khaleesi Laurel Krause. Her parents are Dustin Krause & Megan Kleiber. Her sponsors are Logan Krause and Andrea Arndt. May God bless Khaleesi, her parents, and sponsors as we welcome them into the family of God.

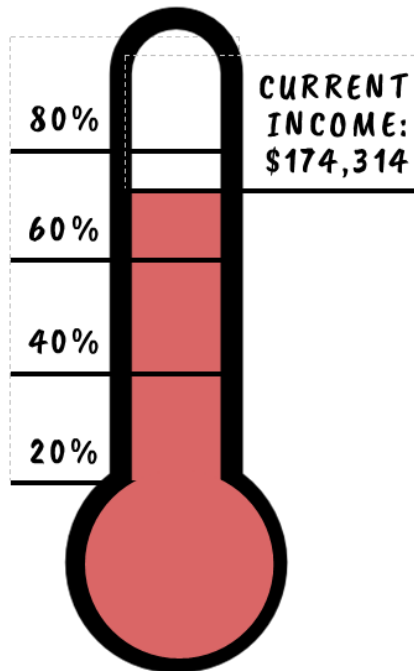
SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM was celebrated on Sunday, November 12 for Vanessa Kastning, Antone Michalek, and Dominik Wright. Antone's mother is Vanessa Kastning. Dominik's parents are Austin Wright and Jesslyn Holl. Their sponsors are Dan & Sandy Wright, Austin Wright, and Teddy Wright. May God bless Vanessa, Antone, Dominik, their parents, and sponsors as we welcome them into the family of God.

Memorials

We are thankful for any Memorial Gifts given to us in honor of loved ones who have passed on. At St. John's we don't expect any of these things but are thankful for them as they better our worship life together. Thank you for remembering us in your giving as you help perpetuate the ministry here in honor of your loved ones.

- Technology Updates: \$8,650
- Replace altar cloths
- Reblack parking lot: approx. \$8,500
- Banners for church, approx. \$100/each
- Safety & Security upgrades to facilities (doors, glass security film, etc.)
- L.A.C.E. Endowment Fund
- Carillon (new unit): \$6,500-15,000

**OUR GOAL:
\$240,600
2023 budget**



Help us end the year strong!

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY to the family of Jim Wicker, who passed away on Thursday, November 16, 2023. The funeral was held here at St. John's on Saturday, November 25 at 11:00 a.m.



Thank you!

A big thank you to all of you for the prayers and cards I received before and after my surgery. God answered all your prayers. Surgery went well and I am on the mend. God bless you all, Sheri Wenzel

Thank you to the L.A.C.E. Team for the gift of money towards the We Believe program!
- Rachael Weckler

Treasurer's Report

Operating Checking

Beginning Balance (9/30/2023)	\$10,256.13
Deposits	\$15,971.59
Expenses	- \$23,923.23
Ending Balance (10/31/2023)	\$2,304.49

Christian Symbol

ROSE — This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.

