



## Slow down, pray and draw close to God this year!

I wanted to start the article with a ‘thank you’ to the congregation for the unexpected gift at Christmas. I am humbled beyond words, so I will just say thank you from the bottom of my heart. I know that Faith is a great place to worship, and this really is a community that cares for and takes care of each other.

Christmas is behind us, and we have recently kicked off the new year. Now that we are over a week into 2018, maybe the talk of resolutions has died down. I’ll admit, it has gotten to the point, for me anyway, that the idea of resolutions has gotten a little tiring. The cycle seems to repeat every year. We talk of resolutions, we talk of the big things we will do, only to forget about them a few days later.

Recently, I read part of a book that called us to “stand and stare” and stop and contemplate God. This seems pretty novel, since we seem to get into the fast lane, and go, go go. Maybe we can, over time, work at slowing down, and contemplating God. It is something that I have mentioned in a sermon here and there, but with the pace of life these days, it might be nice to hear the reminder to slow down, and sit still once in a while. It may give us a chance to draw closer to God, and as we do that, we can let the peace of God roll over us. Happy New Year to everyone, and may we find time to slow down, pray, and draw close to God this year!

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Cheers!

Intern Jeff Geiger



## Faith Church News

**We continue to pray for** Dean Ricklefs, Joyce Smith, Ben Woods, Catherine Dytrt's granddaughter, Laura.

**Daytime Disciples will meet on** Tuesday, January 23rd at 1:00 pm in the Library. All ladies are invited to attend.

**Attention Good Time Rollers:** Looking for suggestions or ideas for gathering in January. Also looking for people to possibly host. Please respond by email to Marlene Pasker at [mkpbirdwatcher@fmtcs.com](mailto:mkpbirdwatcher@fmtcs.com).

**There will two opportunities for First Communion Instruction.** The first is on Wednesday, January 24th at 5:00 pm in the library and the next is Wednesday, February 7th at 5:00 pm in the library. See Pastor John if you have questions.

**The Marion Food Pantry is always looking** for food and monetary donations. You may bring your food to church and place it in the gray totes located in the narthex. All nonperishable items are accepted. Please read the expiration dates to be sure your food is acceptable.

## Marion Churches Blood Drive

How often do you get a chance to save someone's life? Well, it happens every time you give blood. Please consider joining with the members of Ascension and Resurrection Lutheran Churches in donating blood to make our common goal of collecting at least forty units.

**When:** Tuesday, February 13th

**Where:** Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

**Time:** 2:00 pm—6:30 pm

*"Blood is like a parachute..... if it's not there when you need it, it's too late."*

**The Sign up sheet is coming soon. Please put the date on your calendar and look for it on the welcome table**



## Annual Congregational Meeting

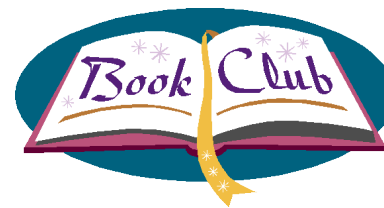
Our Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Faith Lutheran Church will take place on Sunday, January 21st at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Make plans to attend this important business meeting of our Congregation.

## Congregational Meeting



## Faith's Book Club

The Faith Book Club's next meeting is Thursday, January 18th at 7:00 pm at Butcher Block Restaurant and is a Free Read (Read what you want and we'll discuss what you read.) See Sue Tweeton for questions.



## 2018 Flower Chart

**The new 2018 Flower Chart is up** and ready for members to reserve their special dates to donate flowers in honor of a special occasion or person or in memory of a loved one that has passed.

Flower Coordinator is Kathy Rude 826-2149 and she would be happy to help answer any questions. Flowers are not allowed in the sanctuary during Lent.

## Faith's Women's Retreat

For those attending the Indian Creek Nature Center presentation and discussion led by Alida Selim of the Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids on Saturday, January 20th from 10:00 am—2:00 pm, we will have a light lunch provided with water and soda. No coffee will be served. Alida is a graduate of Cornell College and is the Youth Civic Engagement Coordinator at the ICCR and speaks to groups around the area to broaden understandings of Islam and Muslim women's experiences.

## Church Game Night

There will be Church Game Night on Saturday, January 27th at 7:00 pm following 5:30 pm worship. Bring your favorite games and an appetizer to share. Cider, hot cocoa and coffee will be provided!



## Youth Ministry Information

**Beginning this week**, Faith's Sr. High youth and caring adult volunteers start preparing for their annual Easter Mime. The kids met last Spring and planned to take a giant leap with the 2018 Mime. This year they will dramatize the Book of Exodus! Mark your calendar for 7:30 pm, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Faith Youth Ministry Team will host** a fundraising yard sale this April/May – date TBA. As you think about purging and Spring cleaning, please set aside the good stuff for the sale. All proceeds support our youth ministry scholarship fund that sends kids to EWALU, mission trips and the ELCA Youth Gathering.

## January Movie Night

Join us for Family Movie Night on Saturday, January 20th From 7:00-9:00 pm the all ages options in the Family Center is "Leap" (PG) or for Bigger kids & Middle School in the Middle School room we have "My Little Pony The Movie" (PG). For Middle School & Older in the Youth Room we have "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" (PG). The Grown Up Pick is "Dunkirk" (PG-13) (Pre-K youth must be accompanied by parent or caregiver) Donations are always welcome to help pay for the snacks, come and join the fun family night!



## January Youth Event

**The Youth and Family Ministries event for January is**

sledding or games depending on the weather next Sunday, January 14th at 2:00 pm. Meet at Bowman Wood Hill with your sled, tube, warm clothes and big smiles or bring your favorite board game and join us for snacks and games in the Faith Family Center. Stay tuned for more information.



## WNL

**Wednesday, Jan. 10th** —WNL with Men's team for cooking and clean-up

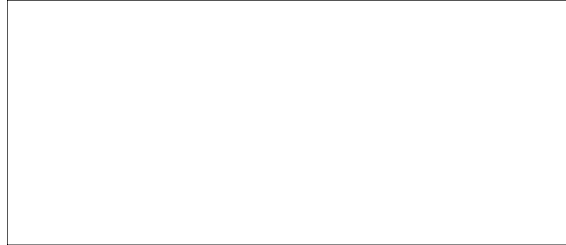
**Wednesday, Jan. 17th**—WNL with Women's team for cooking and clean-up

**Wednesday, Jan 24th** —WNL with HS team for cooking and clean-up.



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We are a community of Faith,  
growing in Christ, sharing God's love.

## Worship Opportunities

All are welcome and invited to worship at  
Faith Lutheran Church.

### Worship Times

#### Saturdays

5:30 pm—Worship

#### Sundays

8:00 am—Worship

9:10 am —Sunday School All Ages

10:45 am—Worship

*Faith has been serving the Marion-Cedar Rapids area for more than thirty years; supporting local ministries such as the Marion Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and Senior Assistance Programs. We are in partnership with the 10,657 congregations, 28 Lutheran colleges and universities, 8 seminaries, 450 global missionaries and one of the largest non-profit social service networks in the United States; as well as Lutheran World Relief worldwide. All are ministries of the 5.2 million member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

#### Faith Lutheran Church Staff

**John A. Albertson**

Senior Pastor

**Jen Heinsius**

Secretary

**Diane Lehtinen**

Choir Director

**Jeff Geiger**

Pastoral Intern

**Daniel Stone**

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

**Steve Roggow**

Bell Choir

**Christy Pratt**

Parish Nurse

#### Faith Lutheran Church Council Members

**David Ripley**

President

Vice President

**Paula Burley**

Secretary

**Karen Cain**

Treasurer

**Dave Koch**

Financial Secretary

**Diane Lehtinen**

Director of Adult Nurture

**Connie Bulman**

Director of Worship

**Kellie & Josh Osbeck**

Directors of Youth

**Amy & Nick Sagan**

Director of Fellowship

**Lynette Marling**

Director of Witness

**Bruce Tweeton**

Director of Facilities

**Vicki Barnidge**

Director of Youth Nurture

**Christy Pratt**

Director of Social Concerns

But most of the real work is done by unpaid members of the congregation, often without recognition, who see their service as a response to God.