



## Presentation of Our Lord

This feast brings the celebration of Christmas to an end, and by the Gospel's prophecy that a sword will pierce the soul of the Mother of Jesus, the day also looks ahead to the crucifixion. It is therefore a bridge between the Nativity and the Passion. (Festivals and Commemorations)

**Simeon is the central figure of this feast.** Luke 2 recounts the story: "Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him...Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, Lord, now let your servant depart in peace...Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, this child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel...and a sword will pierce your soul."

The Light has come. The light of Christmas shines through Epiphany and on into Lent. The bright light of the manger, however, grows dim in the darkness of the cross, yet God promises to be with us. Christ's presence pierces the darkness to "give light to those who sit in the deep darkness of sin."

Our lives are a mixture of light and darkness, relying on the light we wait as Simeon until that day when we will see God face to face.

In the mean time we work for that promised better day when all will be made new.

May the words of St. Sophronius (638 AD) enlighten your hearts and minds: "Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light. Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light...so let us hasten together to meet our God."

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Peace,

Pastor John Albertson



## Faith Church News

**We continue to pray for** Larry Lehtinen, Dean Ricklefs, Joyce Smith.

**There will be another opportunity for** First Communion Instruction on 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.

**Would you like to ring in the bell choir?** We have begun again on Tuesdays at 7:30 pm and are in need of another one or two volunteers. Anyone who can read music can play bells and it's a good stewardship for your church and fun! If you are interested please contact Steve Roggow at 319.270.5253 or swroggow@gmail.com or our church secretary Jen 377-9700.

## Ash Wednesday Worship

Join us for Ash Wednesday Worship on Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 pm.



## Mid-Week Lenten Worship

This year, our midweek Lenten theme will be "Seven Last Words". Please join us on:

- Wednesday evenings begin with supper in the Family Center at 6:15 pm followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm.
- On Thursdays during Lent, we will once again have a Sandwich luncheon in the library at 11:30 am followed by worship at noon.

## Fellowship Notes & Events

**Call for treat donations** between services on Sundays. Sign up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. (50-75 treats) Thanks so much for your yummy treats!

**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!



**The group formerly called "20s and 30s"** is now "Faith Social Club". The name change helps eliminate age requirements - we are just a group of adults looking to have fun together in a social setting. Join our next outing!!!

**On February 16th,** the Faith Social Club will be attending a Rough Riders Game. The Rough Riders will be playing the Muskegon Lumberjacks at 7:05pm. Join us for a fun night of cheering on the local hockey team with friends!!! Please sign up on the table in the Narthex by February 11th. Tickets are \$15 - please pay when you sign up by dropping payment off at the church office, or in the Fellowship box. We will meet inside the doors to the ice arena (down the stairs) around 6:45 pm for tickets.



**The next Fellowship meeting is** February 15th at 6:30pm.

## Scout Pancake Breakfast

Come support Faith's local Troop 360 at their annual all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast held here at Faith on Sunday, February 17th from 7:00 am—11:30 am.



## Youth Ministry Information

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 fund-raising 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 EW-ALU, mission trips and the ELCA Youth Gathering.

## 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 in the narthex.



## February Movie Night

Join us for Family Movie Night on Saturday, February 17th From 7:00-9:00 pm the all ages options in the Family Center is "Monster Family" (PG) or for Bigger kids & Middle School in the Middle School room we have "The Goonies" (PG). For Middle School & Older in the Youth Room we have "Wonder" (PG). The Grown Up Pick is "Only the Brave" (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!



## Mime Practice Schedule

**Wednesday, Jan 24th: 7-8:30 pm**

**Wednesday, Jan 31st: 7-8:30 pm**

**Sunday, Feb 4th: Noon-2:30 pm**

**Wednesday, Feb. 7th: 7-8:30 pm**

**Sunday, Feb. 11th: Noon-2:30 pm**

**Sunday, Feb. 18th: Noon-2:30 pm**

## WNL

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

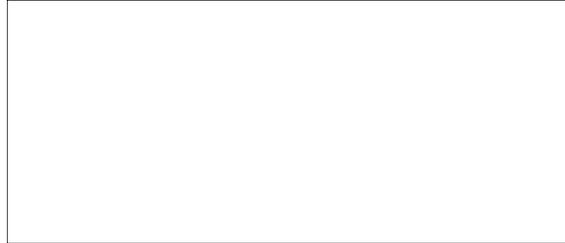
**Wednesday, Jan 31st**—WNL with Men's team for cooking and clean-up

**Wednesday, Feb 7th**—WNL with Women's 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

### Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 14th

7:00 pm

*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

**Jeff Ausman**

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

**Barb & Chris Thompson**

Director of Fellowship

Director of Witness

**Mike Dautremont**

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.