



“If you lived here, you’d be home by now.”

Perhaps you have seen this board sign at the entrance to a small town. Whenever I see it I wonder who lives here. What is the church like? Is the food any good at the café? And often times as I drive through these towns late at night I wish I lived there so I could rest from my journey!

The church also provides a home—“a rest upon the way.” Here we experience the grace of God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, the sacraments of Baptism and Communion, and the community.

As we pray, sing, learn, laugh, struggle, together we experience God’s great love for us. “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!” That’s about as personal as it gets. God is a personal God sending Emmanuel, giving His Son’s body and blood for us and claiming us in baptism for work in the world.

Our faith, though personal is meant to be shared. We are “blessed to be a blessing.” Marked with the cross of Christ, called to be salt and light in the world, we go out telling the story confident that God will make good on His promise.

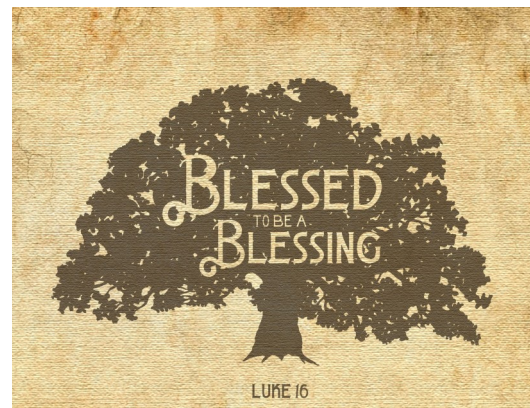
Perhaps it’s been awhile since you participated in the life of this Faith community. Come home to the church, you are welcome here.

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Peace,

Pastor John Albertson



Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Erik Hendrickson, Betty Thompson.

First Communion Instruction will be available on Wednesday, February 13th at 5:00 pm or Wednesday, February 20th at 5:00 pm. See PJ for questions.

Come support Faith's local Troop 360 at their annual all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast held here at Faith on Saturday, February 16th from 7:00 am—11:00 am; Adults \$6, Kids 5-17 \$4; Under 4 eat free! **We will have a new member dinner** and informational meeting on Sunday, February 24th at 6:00 pm in the Family Center. See Marlene Pasker or PJ for questions or more details.

Parish Nurse Notes

The next blood pressure and blood sugar check is February 10th in the associate pastor's old office after service. Also, I am free to discuss any healthcare concern you may have. Wow! The cold, flu and RSV season is here! Please, if you do not feel well, have a fever, vomiting or having diarrhea stay home and keep sick kids home! It is really bad out there! Also, wash your hands every time you blow your nose, touch your nose or mouth. These are the ways to prevent the spread of these viruses. These are viruses, they can't be treated with antibiotics. Call your health care provider if you are not getting better. If you would like to talk to me, you can e-mail Christy Pratt at parishnurse@faithlutheran.org or call me at 361-0445. All discussions are confidential!

Faith Lutheran Reads



Are you familiar with the Linn Area Reads project? A book is selected, and the local libraries get multiple copies for people to check out and read. In addition to reading the book, people may choose to attend discussions about it. The Adult Education Committee is sponsoring our first Faith Lutheran Reads! Our book is *The Faith Club: A Muslim, a Christian, A Jew – Three Women Search for Understanding*, by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner. Faith will purchase books for all those who wish to read it. Discussions at a variety of times will be scheduled sometime in April for those interested in having a conversation about the book. A sign-up sheet for a free copy of the book is available by the tv monitor in the narthex.

Fishing for Food

Faith Lutheran's Social Concerns Committee is kicking off a campaign for February and March entitled "Fishing For Food." We will like all members to help support our local Marion Churches Food Pantry by bringing items desperately needed for distribution at the Pantry and fill the boat that will be located in the narthex beginning next week.

What items are needed:

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| *Canned Meat | *Canned Fruit |
| *Applesauce | *Instant Potatoes |
| *Peanut Butter | *Cream Soups |
| *Ramen noodles | *Chicken noodle soup |
| *Bags of white/brown rice | |
| *Toilet Paper | *Paper Towels |
| *Kleenex | *Shampoo/Conditioner |
| *Toothpaste | *Deodorant |
| *Toothbrushes | *Hand Soap |

Fellowship Events

Good Time Rollers will have a Pizza and Uno party at the home of Deb & Jeff Ausman on Saturday, February 16th at 7:00 pm. Please sign up on the welcome table.

Join the Fellowship team to watch the Cedar Rapids Rough Riders take on the Dubuque Fighting Saints on Friday, March 29th. For tickets, sign up on the table in the Narthex. \$15 per ticket - drop off at the office or in the Fellowship Box or Box #180. Please sign up by March 10th. At the Stadium, meet by the ticket area around 6:45pm. Should be a fun night of watching hockey!

Evening Adult Bible Study

Are you interested in studying the Bible with a small group? We are offering an evening Bible Study, beginning in February. We will meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, starting on February 11. Plan to join us in the Library at 7:00 p.m. Plan on having a bit of dessert, too.



Men's Book Club

Men's Book Club will meet on Saturdays— March 9-April 13th from 8:00-10:00 am in the Library. We will read and discuss the book, "I Heard the Owl Call My Name" by Margaret Craven (PJ's favorite novel!) The books are available on the welcome table in the narthex.

Blood Drive

The Marion Churches blood drive is Tuesday February 19th at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection from 2:30-6:30 pm. What a way to help 3-4 people at one time is to donate your blood to them. It takes only 1 hour of your time. Also, new with this drive is childcare. If you haven't donated before because of the kids, now you can drop them off at the nursery and donate your blood to the drive. We are also looking for volunteers to help with childcare. There are 2 shifts, 2:30-4:30pm and 4:30-6:30pm. Middle and high schoolers are also able to help. The signup sheets for donating and to volunteer are in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Christy Pratt at parishnurse@faithluther.org or call 319-361-0445.



YFM February Event

February YFM Event will be Board Games with friends on Sunday, February 17th from 2:00—4:00 pm.

Games and snacks are provided in the Family Center, just bring your favorite board game and come for some fun and fellowship! All are invited!



YFM Movie Night

Join us for Family Movie Night on Saturday, February 23rd From 7:00-9:00 pm the all ages options in the Family Center is "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" (PG) or for Bigger kids & Middle School in the Middle School room we have "The Grinch" (PG)



For Middle School & Older in the Youth Room we have "Bohemian Rhapsody" (PG-13). The Grown Up Pick is "A Star is Born" (R) (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.

Wednesday Night

Wednesday, Feb. 6th—WNL w/ HS team for cooking and clean up

Wednesday, Feb. 13th —WNL w/ Men's Team for cooking and clean-up.

Wednesday, Feb. 20th—WNL w/ Boy Scouts for cooking and clean-up.

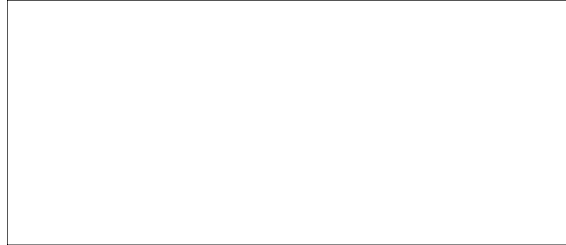
Wednesday, Feb. 27th —WNL w/ Women's Team for cooking and clean-up.





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

Worship

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

Worship Times

Saturdays

5:30 pm— Worship

Sundays

9:00 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

Daniel Stone
Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Diane Lehtinen
Choir Director

Steve Roggow
Bell Choir

Christy Pratt
Parish Nurse

Faith Lutheran Church Council Members

David Ripley
President

Connie Bulman
Director of Worship

Jeff Ausman
Vice President

Dustin & Jenny VansCoy
Directors of Youth

Deb Bell Geiser
Secretary

Barb & Chris Thompson
Director of Fellowship

Karen Cain
Treasurer

Marlene Pasker
Director of Witness

Dave Koch
Financial Secretary

Mike Dautremont
Director of Facilities

Diane Lehtinen
Director of Adult Nurture

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.