



Farewell with Gratitude

As I approach the completion of my internship, I want to express my gratitude for your kindness, support, encouragement, feedback, and prayers throughout this year. I found myself stretched to my limit several times as I worked at Prairiewoods, completed seminary classes, and honored the relationship with you here at Faith, but I always came away from my experiences in the parish with a sense of renewed energy and focus. I also want to share several prayers I have known since high school that helped sustain me through this discernment time, in the hopes you will share them with your children and grandchildren as they make their way through life:

The first is from a significant anthropologist from the middle of the last century who was theologizing about evolution when it was still not well accepted by the church, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, “Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate stages. We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new. And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability – and that it may take a very long time. And so I think it is with you; your ideas mature gradually—let them grow, let them shape themselves, without undue haste. Don’t try to force them on, as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make of you tomorrow. Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give Our Lord the benefit of believing that his hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.”

--excerpted from *Hearts on Fire*

The second is from poet Rainer Marie Rilke, “Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves ...Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.”

Finally, one from the monk, Thomas Merton, “My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

–*Thoughts in Solitude*

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I especially want to express my thanks to those of you who engaged pastor’s classes this year with an open mind and heart. I felt safe in sharing my thoughts and spirituality with you. You received me and my efforts in a gracious and enthusiastic manner. It is good to know Jeff will have the opportunity to experience the warmth and faithfulness of this praying community.

Shalom haverim,

Rodney

Faith Church News

We continue to pray for The Below Family, Jean Grimm, Joyce Smith, Terrie McCarthy, Paula Burley, Diane Anderson, Joe Miglia, father of Angie & Barry Miglia, Lee Dytrt, brother-in-law of Catherine Dytrt, Caleb cousin of Sherry Stark, Matt Cook son-in-law of Pard & Mariann Keith, Lydia granddaughter of Dick and Coreen Hein.

Make plans to join us on Sunday, July 23rd to celebrate the ministry of Pastoral Intern Rodney Blum! We will have a brunch and egg bake donations are needed. If you can bring one, please sign up on the welcome table in the narthex.

Parish Nurse Update

The next blood pressure and blood sugar check is August 13th after service in Pr John's office.

Due to the high need for blood donations, the Marion Churches decided to add another blood drive. It will be on August 1st from 2:30-6:30pm at Resurrection. Please consider donating blood during this busy time. You will save 3-4 lives with just 1 pint of blood!

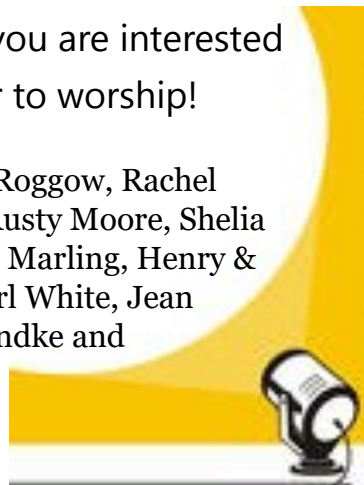
If you would like to talk to me, you can e-mail Christy Pratt at parishnurse@faithlutheran.org or call me at 361-0445. All discussions are confidential!

The Social and Concerns Committee will once a month spotlight a group of volunteers to thank them for their time and talents.

July's Spotlight is on Our Greeters

Please contact Jen if you are interested in Greeting prior to worship!

Thanks to: Steve & Barb Roggow, Rachel Kruse, Catherine Dytrt, Rusty Moore, Shelia Williams, Greg & Lynette Marling, Henry & Katy Zylstra, Penny & Earl White, Jean Grimm, Jim & Louan Handke and Larry Munson.



Faith Farm Update

Hi Faith Farmers !It's time for us to touch base regarding the progress of our cherry tomatoes. I met with Rick Y. yesterday to put our heads together and come up with a plan since harvest will be upon us in a few weeks. Here are some notes, all simply for your reference and reflection.

Condition of Plants The plants are generally looking good. When looking at Faith Farm as a whole, it's clear that the outer-most rows have suffered some damage from the deer. Despite that, many of those nibbled-on plants still have a few flowers and small tomatoes on them. Harvest might be light on those rows, but we'll take what we can get since we anticipated deer activity on the farm. Overall, there are not as many flowers as I would like to see on all of the plants, which might be concerning...or it might be too early to tell. There are several rows, especially in the middle of the farm, that are looking great! Rick and I enjoyed a couple nearly-ripe tomatoes last night and are confident that they will be relatively plentiful.

Weaving At your convenience, please weave one or two more times (if you have the space) as the tomatoes are starting to grow thanks to the heat. I'm sure you've all discovered that it's easier to weave the plants when the twine is already up. However, our "Marion-Round-About" method that Barbara explained works very well :) Rick placed an extra box of twine in the black plastic bag by the garage. Weave at will, farmers!

Harvest I would guess - and this is just a guess - that we will be harvesting some rows in a week or two. Other rows might take until the beginning of August. Here's where we need your judgement: Check in on your row every few days or so. When you see your tomatoes are ready to pick, go for it! Rick is going to get some boxes from Sonia since he sees her every Thursday and will place them somewhere that we can all access them as needed. The tricky part will be getting the tomatoes to Sonia after they are picked. Any suggestions on this?

Your Next Steps To recap: 1. Weave your row one or two more times, if applicable. 2. Keep an eye on your row to determine when you need to harvest. 3. Continue your positive attitudes! 4. Contact any of the Faith Farm leaders with your questions (me, Christy, Barb, Susan) or Rick for logistical/materials type questions.

Barb Thompson (barb.thompson@gmail.com)
David Cunningham (kikemoskimus@gmail.com)
Susan Cunningham (2oldrabbits@gmail.com)
Christy Pratt (parishnurse@faithlutheran.com)
John Lane (jlane71@hotmail.com)
Kelli Kennon-Lane (johnkellilane@gmail.com)

God's Work Our Hands

God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) is set for Sunday September 10th here at Faith. It is a day the ELCA has set aside for a day of service. There will be clipboards with sheets in the narthex to sign up for a service project. Also, when signing up, indicate if you need a shirt or not. We will be using the same shirts from our last GWOH. There will be service projects for everyone!



We will gather between 8-8:45 am for breakfast. Don't forget to wear your God's Work, Our Hand's t-shirt! After breakfast, we will go to service together and praise God. Once service is finished, we will go to our service area and work. God's Work, Our Hands day will end around noon or until the project you are working is done. We will meet back at church for a luncheon in celebration of Pastor John's 25th Anniversary of Ordination. Thank you for your participation in this day of service!

Listed below are the various service projects:

- Making blankets
- Cleaning up at Indian Creek Nature Center
- Helping to pick cherry tomatoes at the Faith Farm for Feed Iowa First
- Making Cards
- Help Feed Iowa First at the Shop
- Making Hygiene kits

You can contact Christy Pratt for questions at 319.361.0445 or parish-nurse@faithlutheran.org.

Summer Fun Club Updates

Summer Fun Club continues with an all ages event at Super Skate on Wednesday, July 12th with the EWALU Counselors from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Sign up on the welcome table if you can attend.

Then on Wednesday, July 19th with have a special event for the Senior High when we go bowling. Stay tuned for sign up and more information!



Wednesday Night Live Needs You!

We are looking for fresh faces for WNL. If you are interested in helping with Family Time on Wednesdays beginning in September and going through April we need you. *The materials are already created and we just need one or two people who are willing to lead it.*

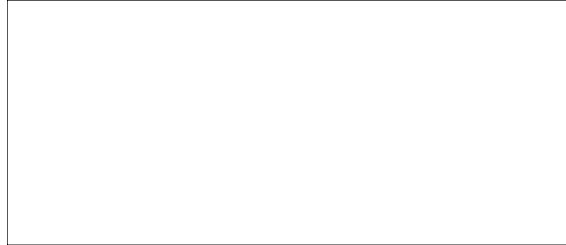
We are also looking for a bookkeeper/ secretary for WNL. This is not a Wednesday night responsibility but rather we need someone who is able to attend a monthly Thursday meeting of the board. Contact Kellie Osbeck for questions or interest at 515-971-1111 or kellie.osbeck@gmail.com.





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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.

SUMMER 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

Diane Lehtinen

Choir Director

Rodney Bluml

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.