



## Advent Latin: “to come”

Advent marks the first season in the church year, comprising the four weeks before Christmas.

The coming to earth of humanity’s redeemer represents the focus and principal theme of the Advent season. Advent draws the worshiper’s attention both toward the long-awaited birth of Jesus at Bethlehem, and to the Second Advent when Christ will return to judge the living and the dead.

The church has observed Advent as a period of preparation for Christmas since the middle of the fifth century. Advent has several themes: repentance, darkness, hope, watchfulness, and preparation. The mood of this season is a combination of expectancy, soberness, and austerity. Blue, the color of hope, is the appropriate color for the season. (Worship Workbook)

### Advent Wreath:

A wreath of four candles used during the four weeks of Advent. The Advent wreath, which probably originated among early Lutherans in Germany, is a symbol of waiting and watchfulness during the weeks of Advent. (Worship Workbook)

This year the congregation will sing “He Came Down.” (ELW 253) One verse each week to mark the lighting.

### Advent Liturgy:

This year the congregation will use “Now the Feast and Celebration” written by Marty Haugen. While this liturgy may be new to you I think you will find it easy to learn. It follows the Lutheran pattern of worship: gathering, word, meal, sending. The simple yet rich melody enables the worshipper to enter into worship with praise and thanksgiving.

**Singing the Psalm:** Each week the pastors will lead in the singing of the appointed Psalm.

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**Watch, Watch, Wonder.** May you find time to “wait, watch, and wonder as you prepare your hearts and minds for the coming of the Lord?”

Peace,

Pastor John Albertson

## Faith Church News

**We continue to pray for** Coreen Hein, Dave Kroeger, Joyce Smith.

**Marion Cares gifts are due back** to church by Sunday, December 17th. Thanks for your support!

**We express our sympathy to the family** of Loren Netz who passed away on Thanksgiving. Services were held here at Faith on Wednesday, November 29th.

**The next blood pressure and blood sugar check** will be December 10th between services in Pastor John's office.

**Social Concerns will meet on** Thursday, December 7th at 11:00 am.

**Have you seen the new renderings** of the kitchen update? They are located in the narthex along with a choice of colors to be voted on with your financial contributions. Brochures and giving envelopes are also available for continued support to our capital campaign.

**Coffee with Pastor will have** our annual Christmas Party & gift exchange on Thursday, December 14th at 1:00 pm in the family center. Please bring a \$5 gift and a plate of cookies or treats to share.

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

December's Spotlight is on our  
Lectors

Special thanks to: Connie Conine, Vic Dierksen, Deb Bell Geiser, Russ Gerst, Larry Lehtinen, Phil White, Deb Aldrich, Daisy Roehr, Dave Gerlach, Dean Ricklefs, Skip Thompson, Rodney Hunt, Greg Marling, Tina Shannon, John Nirschl, Paul Gibbs, Shannon Stark.



## Bell Choir

Would you like to ring in the bell choir? Steve Roggow will be getting the bell choir back together for ringing starting in January and continuing through April or May. 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 or secretary@faithlutheran.org.

## Born in the Stable

**The Faith Lutheran Youth Nurture Christmas Program needs you!**

When: December 17, 2017

Time: 6:00 pm

Where: Faith Lutheran Church

If your family will be here that evening then we need your help to make this year's program amazing! We will need readers, musicians for a Middle and High School strings and band performance, singers, budding thespians to bring life to our performance! Our littlest participants will be dressed in our most adorable animal costumes for the occasion and will sing a traditional song! Please speak to Vicki Barnidge or Danny Stone if you wish to be a part of this lively performance! Rehearsals will be starting soon!



## Desserts Needed

Please sign up for desserts needed for the reception to follow the Christmas Program on Sunday, December 17th. Please sign up on the welcome table in the narthex. All proceeds from the free will offering will go to youth scholarships for Faith kids attending the camps and the National Gathering.

## Cookie Walk

Faith's Annual Cookie Walk will take place on Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 am—noon. Sign up is underway for members to donate 6 dozen cookies on the clipboard on the welcome table. How does this work? Members donate their cookies which are displayed in the Family Center. Then we invite our family, friends and the community to join us from 9-noon to select cookies to purchase for their holiday entertaining. Cost is \$5 per baker's dozen. For questions, please contact Danny.



## Senior High Overnight

Faith invites our Senior High and recent grads back to church for a fun overnight of "Shenanigans" on Friday, December 29th from 8:00 pm to Saturday, December 30th at 8:00 am.

Please bring \$5 for pizza and breakfast, snacks to share, board games and video games. Adults are needed to share the fun. Sign up at Faith's welcome table or on Facebook by December 27th.

## Faith Women's Retreat

Make plans to join us at Indian Creek Nature Center on Saturday, January 20th from 10:00 am—2:00 pm. Our presentation and discussion will be led by Alida Selim of the Islamic Center of Cedar Rapids. 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. Sign up now on the welcome table in the narthex.

## December Movie Night

Join us for Family Movie Night on Saturday, December 16th From 7:00-9:00 pm the all ages options in the Family Center is "Despicable Me 3" (G) or for Bigger kids & Middle School in the Middle School room we have "Leap" (PG). For Middle School & Older in the Youth Room we have "Valerian and the City of 1000 Planets" PG-13). The Grown Up Pick is "The Glass Castle" (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!



## Youth Christmas Parties

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Christmas Parties. Middle School will be Sunday, December 3rd beginning from 6:00-8:00 pm. Please bring a small wrapped (unisex) \$5-\$7 present for the gift exchange.

The High School Christmas Party will take place on Sunday, December 10th beginning from 6:00-8:00 pm. We will meet at Faith at 6 pm and head out for a progressive dinner. Please bring a small wrapped (unisex) \$5-\$7 present for the gift exchange.



## WNL

**Wednesday, Nov. 29th**—WNL Worship with Women's team for cooking and clean-up.

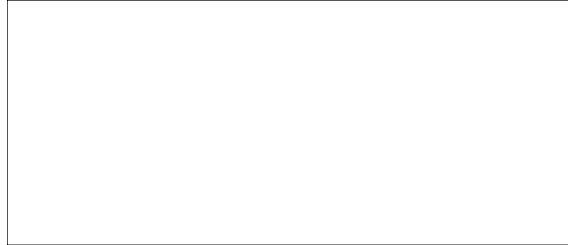
**Wednesday, Dec. 6th** —WNL with HS team for cooking and clean-up.

**Wednesday, Dec. 13th** —WNL Women



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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.