



Old Country

As they say in the old country, “That hurt me!” which means I was moved by the action.

If Advent and Christmas means anything to me it means gratitude. I am thankful at the outpouring of love and support I received from the congregation.

The Advent food pantry calendar reminded us that there are hungry people who need our support. Through the generosity of this congregation over \$1000.00 worth of food was collected. The Angel tree tags and the Marion Senior Manor gift cards also helped folks to enjoy the season.

Seeing all the folks at Christmas filled my heart with joy. The 5:30 worship service recorded 290 in attendance and the 9:00 recorded 90. Music, candles, carols all made the Christmas story come alive in a very personal way, “for unto you is born this day a Savior, Christ the Lord.”

My annual trip to the fish house on Lake of the Woods provided a time of rest and renewal. The fishing was great, the eating was better!

Now with the arrival of the Wise Men the church enters into the season of Epiphany, the season that bridges the time between Christmas and Lent. The star of Epiphany which led the wise men to the manger will soon lead the faithful to the cross. That is our journey and our lot. The personal announcement of Jesus birth to you is the invitation to “take up your cross and follow.” Look for the star as you continue your journey of faith.

This week we welcome our new Intern Dennis and his family as he begins a yearlong internship with us. Please join us on Sunday, January 19 for a potluck meal in his honor.

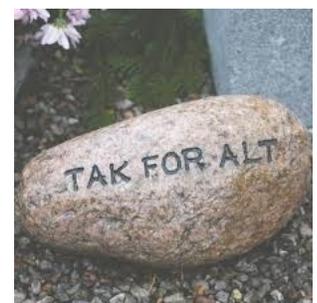
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As they say in the old country: “Tak for Alt!” Thanks for everything.

Peace,

Pastor John Albertson



Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Darlene Blankenburg, Dolores Holecek, Taylor Reinhart (brother-in-law of Deb Bell-Geiser, Penny White, Richard Hill, Pastor Roger McKinstry, Harriet Instefjord (mother of Connie Bulman), Ian Kendall, grandson of Marlene Pasker, Maximillian, nephew of Peggy Wittmer.

We express our sympathy to Kevin Richmond and family on the passing of his father.

We express our sympathy to the family of Rodger Mork who passed away. Services will be held here at Faith on Thursday, January 9th.

Special thanks to all that provided special music at our Christmas Eve Worship services. They include: the Faith Choir, the organists, Katie Barnidge, our brass group of Mick Vana, Hannah Kruse, Ellie Wilkes, Hank Gerst, and Issy Stone.



Parish Nurse Notes

The next blood pressure and blood sugar check is January 12th and February 9th after service in the Intern Dennis' office.

Our monthly Healthy Faith Incentive is being active for 30 minutes a day out of 5 days a week. The 30 minutes can either be done all at once or break it up in a couple of minutes to make it to 30 minutes. There is a list of activity ideas on the incentive bulletin, including activities done at church. Activity of any kind is a great anti-inflammatory, especially if it is 30 minutes or longer in a day. If you reached the weekly goal, put your name on a slip of paper and put it in the drawing for a Hy-Vee gift card. Last month's winner was Stephanie Kubik. Way to go Steph by drinking your water!

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

2020 Flower Chart

The new 2020 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.

Please note: if you put your name down it would be helpful for you to put your contact phone number down as well. The week of your flower sign up, Flower Coordinator Kathy Rude (826-2149) will give you a call and coordinate both your dedication in the bulletin and your order and she would be happy to help answer any questions. If you have not heard from her by Wednesday then please contact the church office as she may have been unable to reach you.



Church Potluck

Mark Your calendars for a Old-Fashioned Church Potluck on Sunday, January 19th following Sunday school. The main dish of pork loin will be provided but please bring 2 dishes (side or dessert). This will be a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new Intern Pastor Dennis Rodenburg, wife Elise and family.



Faith Lutheran Reads

Thanks to all who signed up for the Faith Lutheran Reads book, *Love Without Limits*. The books have been ordered and we'll let you know when they arrive. For those who signed up and wished to purchase their book – we also ordered a book for you and will let you know how much it is when it arrives. There will be a book discussion for people who have read the book on February 23 during the Sunday School hour.



Annual Congregational Meeting

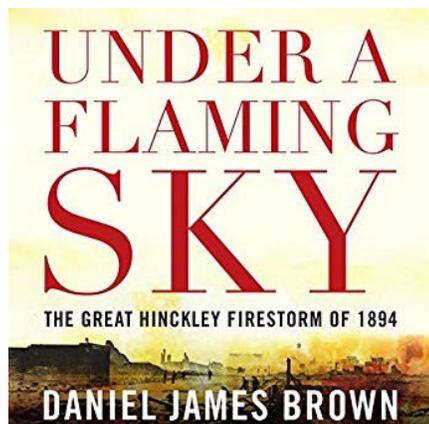
Our Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Faith Lutheran Church will take place on Sunday, January 27th immediately following 9:00 am worship in the Sanctuary. Make plans to attend this important business meeting of our Congregation.



Men's Book Study

Men's Book Study will meet on Saturdays from Feb 8th-April 4th from 9:00-10:30 am in the Library. We will read and discuss the book, "Under A Flaming Sky– The story of the Great Hinkley Fire-storm of 1894".

Please sign up on the welcome table in the narthex if you would like to attend.



January Movie Night

Join us for Family Movie Night on Saturday, January 18th From 7:00-9:00 pm the all ages options in the Family Center is "Abominable" (PG) or for Middle School & Older in the Youth Room we have "Maleficent" (PG). The Grown Up Pick is "Downton Abbey" (PG) (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 Activity

Our January Youth and Family Ministries Event will be dependent on the weather. If possible, we will be sledding at Bowman Woods School on Sunday, January 26th at 2:00 pm. Dress warmly and bring your sleds and meet there. If there's no snow, then bring your favorite board game and come for some fun and snacks at the Faith



Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday, Jan. 8th—WNL w/ Men's team for cooking and cleanup.

Wednesday, Jan 15th –WNL Worship w/ HS for cooking and clean-up

Wednesday, Jan 22nd –WNL w/Women 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

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

Dennis Rodenberg

Pastoral Intern

Daniel Stone

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Christy Pratt

Parish Nurse

Faith Lutheran Church Council Members

David Ripley

President

Vice President

Deb Bell Geiser

Secretary

Karen Cain

Treasurer

Dave Koch

Financial Secretary

Diane Lehtinen

Director of Adult Nurture

Connie Bulman

Director of Worship

Dustin & Jenny VansCoy

Directors of Youth

Barb & Chris Thompson

Director of Fellowship

Director of Witness

Mike Dautremont

Director of Facilities

Teresa Wilkes

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.