



Water and Word

The holy day of lights, to which we have come and which we are celebrating today, has for its origin the baptism of my Christ, the true light that lightens everyone coming into the world, and effects my purification...It is a season of new birth: let us be born again! We duly celebrated at his birth—I, the one who presided at the feast, and you, and all that is in the world, and above the world. With the star we ran, with the magi we worshiped, with the shepherds we were enlightened, with the angels we glorified him, with Simeon we took him up in his arms, and with the chaste and aged Anna we made our responsive confession...Now we come to another of Christ’s acts and another mystery...The Spirit bears witness to His Godhead, for he descends upon one that is like him, as does the voice from heaven...Let us venerate today the baptism of Christ. (Gregory of Nazianzus Fourth Century)

How can water do such great things? It is not water that does these things, but God’s Word with the water and our trust in this Word.

Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit. (Luther’s explanation to the sacrament of Baptism question 3)

Epiphany calls us again to the life-giving waters of Christ made known to us in our baptism. Take time each day to remember that you are a “child of God, sealed with the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.”

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Peace,

Pastor John Albertson



Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Joyce Smith.

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.

Our own Troop 360 will be having their annual Pancake Breakfast here at Faith on Saturday, February 15th from 7:00 am—11:00 am. Cost is \$6 for adults, \$4 for kids 5-17 and under 4 free. Come out and support our local troop!

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 Firestorm of 1894".

The Faith Lutheran Reads books are in! If you haven't received your copy of Love Without Limits, please check your mailbox. The discussion date for those who have read the book is February 23, during the Sunday School hour.

Blood Drive

The Marion Churches blood drive is Tuesday, February 18th at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection from 2:00-6:30 pm. Winter weather and cold and flu season make it hard to keep up with our hospitals' needs during this time of year. But it is donors like YOU who make sure the winter blood supply remains strong! *All donors will not only save FOUR lives, but will also earn a special St. Patrick's Day t-shirt!* The signup sheets for donating are on the welcome table in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Christy Pratt at parish-nurse@faithluther.org or call 319-361-0445.



Marion Food Pantry

In 2019, Faith Lutheran donated over \$5000 in food donations to Marion Food Pantry.

If you would like to volunteer some of your time at the Marion Food Pantry on a Tuesday or a Thursday, please contact June McCoy at 361-4618. Volunteers work mostly once a month on Tuesdays or Thursdays. Some choose more often. Volunteer sessions run between 2 and 2 1/2 hours. From 1-3 pm, one can: bag groceries, control a waiting line, or do office work-check client qualifications. In the mornings, there are shelf stocking, or even shopping opportunities, if you drive a hauler.

We are also still taking food donations for the pantry. You may drop off any items at anytime. Please be sure that any items you drop off are non-perishable and have not past their expiration dates. Thank you for your support of our neighbors in our community.

Come Touch the Robe:

The mid-week (Thursdays) Lente worship this year will focus on the choir's presentation of the cantata, "Come Touch the Robe," by Peter Choplin.

Soup suppers will be offered at 6:00 pm in the Family Center followed by worship in the sanctuary using Holden Evening Prayer as the setting for the liturgy.

March 5: Healing

March 12: Transfiguration

March 19: Miracles

March 26: Servanthood

April 2: The Passion of Our Lord

Sunday, April 5th: "Come Touch the Robe" Choir Cantata @ 9:00 am (No Sat worship)



Library Likes

Library Likes -This past Fall, many of you attended the Hidden Wholeness Series of classes. In the Faith library you will find 3 shelves of books and handouts with more information on these same topics. Stop by and browse our collection on raising resilient children, becoming healthier, coping with loss, aging, building a marriage, and dealing with grief. You'll find this material in a separate set of shelves that are outlined in blue, labeled "Highlighting Wholeness".

Adult Bible Study

Come join us for an informal Bible study the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:00pm. Will be looking at a few chapters in Exploring the Bible by Eric D. Barreto and Michael J. Chan. We have a few copies of the book for those who want to read prior to the group discussion.

Parish Nurse Notes

The next blood pressure and blood sugar check is February 9th and March 8th after service in Intern Dennis's office.

Our monthly Healthy Faith Incentive for February is saying thank you or complement a friend or a family member once a week since February is friendship and love month. Why should we do this? It will make us feel good and make the other person feel good as well. We are in the thick of winter, we need to do something to make us feel good, instead of feeling sad because of the weather. Once you do this, put your name in the drawing for gift card to HyVee. The box to put your name is on the bulletin board near the family center. You can also tell me and I can put your name in the drawing.

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

February Movie Night

Join us for Family Movie Night on Saturday, February 22nd From 7:00-9:00 pm the all ages options in the Family Center is "Arctic Dogs" (PG) or for Middle School & Older in the Youth Room we have "The Adams Family" (PG). The Grown Up Pick is "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" (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.



February Youth Activity

Join us for our February event on Sunday, February 23rd as we meet at AirFX at 2:00 pm. Cost is \$15 and includes jump socks. We will have a welcome and orientation. Fill out waivers at airfxcr.com/customer-waiver See Danny for questions.



Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday, Feb 5th –WNL
Worship w/HS for cooking and clean-up

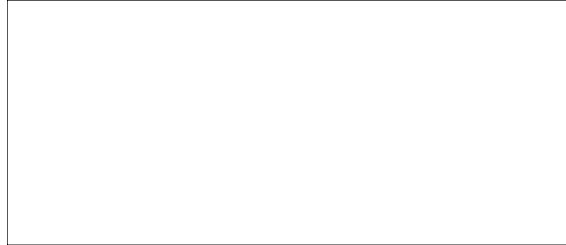
Wednesday, Feb 12th –WNL
w/Women for cooking and clean up.

Wednesday, Feb 19th—WNL w/ Boy Scout Pancake Dinner for cooking and cleanup.



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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

President

Stephanie Kubik

Vice President

Deb Bell Geiser

Secretary

Becky Kelsey

Treasurer

Dave Koch

Financial Secretary

Sue Tweeton

Director of Adult Nurture

Debra Aldrich

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.