



Two Wonders

“Upon that cross of Jesus, my eyes at time can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.”

As we enter the season of Lent we are reminded—perhaps more than any other time of the Church year—of our sinful nature. The Ancient liturgy takes a direct approach to Lent, “we confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean...wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace.” The hymns remind us of our unworthiness: “Chief of Sinners Thou I Be.” “Where You There When They Crucified My Lord.” The Scriptures too. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” In the Lenten weeks to come we will explore Luther’s theme of the Freedom of a Christian. We are free yet bound. Free from sin and bound to serve our neighbor. Yet before we can serve our neighbor we must face the “sins” that cling so closely. Facing our sins, claiming God’s forgiveness in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, living at the foot of the cross these holy days of Lent, we can then go on be God’s hands in the world. As you ponder the “two wonders” think on these words: “Whether we gaze with longing into the garden or with fear and trembling into the desert, of this we can be sure—God walked there first! And when we who have sinned and despoiled the garden are challenged now to face the desert, we do not face it alone; Jesus has gone there before us...Face the desert we must if we would reach the garden, but Jesus has gone there before us.” (James Healy, Priest.)

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Peace,

Pastor John Albertson



Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Don Rivers, Terry McCarthy, Crystal Tally Dye, Jim Welsch, Spencer Carver brother of Bailey Freese; Cindy Andrews mother of Stephanie Kubik; Bob Schunter's cousin, Roger; Jean Garlinghouse's son, Pete; Elverda Smith's son-in-law, Jim; Annette Mohling's mother, Alice; Merrick friend of Jean Dunn. Evelyn Johnson, mother of Sue Schunter.

Social Concerns is collecting macaroni and cheese for the month of February. Please bring your items to church anytime for donation to the local Marion Food Pantry.

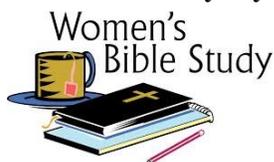
Join us for Games on Thursday, March 5th at 1:00 pm. All are welcome!

We are continuing to collect your cross pictures that depict items you use in your vocation/profession. Please take a picture and get it to us. The goal of this project is to get each of us thinking about where God is in our everyday lives. For the 40 Days of Lent we will focus on being **IN:VOCATION**.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study Continues! Join us in February as we study Aspects of Discipleship: Divorce and Jesus' Teaching in Mark. Come to women's Bible study to learn how Jesus teaches people about the end of a marriage and how it affects our lives today.

Please bring your Bible. All women are welcome. Meeting times Wednesday, March 18th (one-time change for Lenten worship) at 6:45 pm or Tuesday, March 24th at 1:00 pm. Come for fellowship and faith. See Pastor Amy if you have any questions.



Midweek Lenten Worship

Midweek Lenten Worship will begin on Thursday, February 26th and continue every Thursday until March 19th. We will have two worship opportunities each Thursday.

Lunch will be provided at 11:30 am prior to our noon worship and our evening session starts with soup supper at 6:00 pm and worship will begin at 7:00 pm.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for volunteers to bring soup, bread or desserts for the evening Lenten soup suppers prior to worship. Please sign up on the welcome table in the Narthex if you are able to help. Please join us for dinner on February 26, March 5, 12, and 19 at 6:00 pm.

We are also still looking for volunteers to provide snacks and to clean up for Sunday fellowship time. If you are willing to donate 2 dozen snacks or a bit of time for clean up on a Sunday, please sign up at the table in the Narthex. Contact Amy Sagan for questions.

Communion Assistants

Communion Servers Class: If you are interested in assisting with Communion, please stop in Danny Stone's office on March 1st at 9:15 am. The only requirements are to be a confirmed member and a desire to distribute God's grace. Any questions, call Vic Dierksen 377-3250.



SEDER MEAL

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus celebrated the Jewish Passover with his disciples. The meal celebrated the release of the Jews from bondage after years of slavery in Egypt. Nearly three thousand years later Jews still celebrate that freeing event with a Seder meal.

Many Christians around the world participate in an adaptation of the Passover meal as a way for people of Christian faith to express their faith in what Christ did on that first Maundy Thursday; it is a participation of our freedom from bondage to sin as a community of believers.

It is in that spirit that we at Faith Lutheran will include a Seder Meal service as part of our Lenten observance this year. This Seder Meal will be held on Thursday, March 26th at 6:00 pm followed by a family style dinner. The event is free to participants but please sign up now on the clipboard on the welcome table.

Movie Night

Join us for Family Movie Night on Saturday, March 14th. From 7:00-9:00 pm the all ages options in the family center is "Annie" (PG) or for bigger kids in the Youth Room we have "Big Hero 6" (PG). The Grown Up Pick is "The Theory of Everything" (PG-13) (Pre-K youth must be accompanied by parent or care giver)

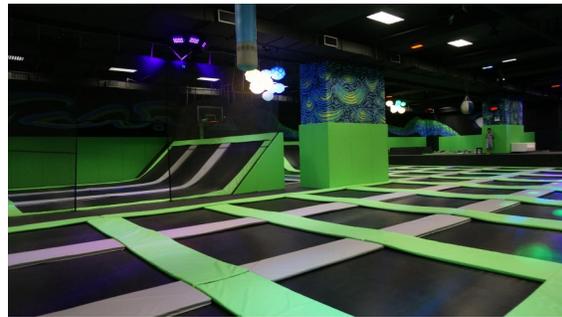
Then the Senior High Youth are offering from 9:00-11:00 pm including "Mocking Jay" (PG-13). Donations are always welcome to help pay for the snacks.



YFM Activity

Join us for our next YFM Event for the month of March. Meet at Sky Zone at 2:00 pm (5515 Council St. NE). We will have a welcome and orientation at 2:00 pm and jump from 2:30-4:00 pm. Fill out waivers at skyzone.com/cedarrapids.

The cost is \$10 per jumper (includes jump socks). Please sign up on the clipboard in the narthex.



Mime Rehearsal & Meals

Mime rehearsals continue on Sunday evenings from 6-9 pm and Wednesday nights. Please sign up on the clipboard in the narthex to provide meals for our dedicated young people. The mime will be performed on Wednesday, April 1st at 7:30 pm in the Family Center. Make plans to join us!

WNL

Wednesday, Feb 25th— WNL with the Women's Team for cooking and clean-up

Wednesday, Mar 4th— WNL with HS Team for cooking and clean-up.

Wednesday, Mar 11th— WNL with Men'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 Opportunities

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

Worship Times

Saturdays

5:30 pm– Worship

Sundays

8:00 am –Worship

10:45 am–Worship

Sunday School for All Ages

9:10 am

Midweek Worship

Thursdays

Noon (luncheon before)

7:00 pm (soup @ 6:00 pm)

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

Don Schluter
Custodian

Amy Waelchli
Associate Pastor

Daniel Stone
Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Steve Roggow
Bell Choir

Christy Pratt
Parish Nurse

Faith Lutheran Church Council Members

Mike Nutt
President

David Ripley
Vice President

Steve Deines
Secretary

Jackie Devine
Treasurer

Karen Cain
Financial Secretary

Director of Adult Nurture

Diane Lehtinen
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

Jeff Ausman
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.