



## Mystery Vacation!

Mystery Vacation! That's what our family experienced beginning June 28 when Amtrak called to cancel (yes, cancel) our reservations to Colorado due to a washout on the track. We were all shocked! Time with Paul's family, his cousin's wedding, hiking adventures, and seeing friends were gone in the blink of an eye! What now? we wondered.

A canceled vacation is not the worst event that happens in life, but it put us all to the test in terms of our attitudes. Would we be able to relax and have fun even though our plans changed? Yes. We did. We spent a few days in Illinois hiking and swimming, then we returned home for time together, house projects, and movies. Despite the abrupt change in plans and disappointment we felt, we really did well.

There is an oft quoted Bible verse that people use to imply 'worrying is silly because God is in control.' In the book of Jeremiah, chapter 29, verse 11, the prophet is writing a letter from God to the people of Israel in exile in Babylon. Their plans for life – not vacation – are utterly destroyed. They've suffered invasion of foreign armies, new rule by a foreign king, a march across the desert away a long, long way from home. They cried out to God, begging to return home, to follow God's laws, to worship God alone. And God, gracious and merciful, relents. Jeremiah, God's prophet, tells the people of Israel what God said:

I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord.

It's in my hands. Trust and be restored.

No harm will come, for my plans are for your welfare.

I've come to give a future and a hope.

You may know this verse (Jeremiah 29:11), but the letter from God through Jeremiah goes on to explain the Israel that although they will be restored, they must in the meantime live life fully. Jeremiah's prophecy instructs the people to plant gardens, let your children marry, have grandchildren. Oh yes, God will restore you...but it's gonna be a while. It matters, therefore, what you do in the meantime.

Surely the people mourned, but they also settled in for the long haul that is life. While they lived in a foreign land they returned to God through worship. They lived their daily lives in light of the hope the Lord promised. We, too, live in the hope the Lord promised: the new hope in Jesus Christ.

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This summer, if your plans change, pay attention to how you react to the surprises life throws your way. May you turn to the hope of Jesus Christ and in the meantime live in the hope and love of the Living Lord.

In peace,

Pastor Amy

## Faith Church News

**We continue to pray for** Martha Watkins; Clell Wildes, Kendra Hummel; Jan Schnack's brother in law, Franz; Spencer Carver brother of Bailey Freese; Bob Schunter's cousin, Roger; Jean Garlinghouse's son, Pete; Annette Mohling's brother, Lyle; Merrick friend of Jean Dunn. Evelyn Johnson, mother of Sue Schunter.

**We express our sympathy to** Diane and Larry Lehtinen on the recent passing of her father, Clifford Jarvela.

**Interested in a woodworking?** Please consider joining a group of us who are hoping to develop a space for a shop at the rear of the new garage. We have some seed money from Thrivent and a donation of insulation from Russ Gerst. If you are able to join us, contact retired Pastor Wendell Debner at 377-4790 or email him at [mwpulpit2@q.com](mailto:mwpulpit2@q.com).

**There is a benefit dinner & auction for** Spencer Carver, brother of our member Bailey Freese will be this Saturday, July 18th at 5:00 pm at the Teamsters Union Hall in Cedar Rapids.

## Parish Nurse Notes

The next blood pressure and blood sugar screening is August 9<sup>th</sup> in Pastor John's office.

Be on the lookout for Crop Walk 2015 information in the narthex. Details will be out soon. The walk is October 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. It will start at Thomas Park trail, walk to Boyson Rd and back.

Come join me with Pr Amy for the Cross Walk every Thursday at 9:30am at the Boyson trail.

If you would like to talk to me, you can e-mail Christy Pratt at [parishnurse@faithlutheran.org](mailto:parishnurse@faithlutheran.org) or call the office at 377-9700. All discussions are confidential!

## Task Force Needs Ideas/Input

As stewards of this Congregation's mission and to assure that this facility will continue to be a place of worship, the Church Council has set up a Task Force. The task force of Bruce Tweeton, Daisy Roehr, Rick Yoerger, Jeff Ausman and Jackie Devine have been asked to determine the Capital Improvements needed for the physical building and grounds. With an aging building, there are needs outside the normal operating budget. We are asking members for input. What do you see that needs to be done and what would you like to have done?

At this time, we are gathering information, determining cost, length of time needed to complete and order of priority. This is the time to raise your voice! You may talk to any of the members of the Task Force, or put suggestions in Jen's box or give them to the Pastors. We need immediate responses as we have a two month window to gather this information. The Council will make an informed decision on how to proceed. Thank you!

## 2015 National Youth Gathering

Faith is excited that the upcoming 2015 Youth Gathering in Detroit is beginning soon. We will be sending 11 youth and 5 adults including: Pr. John, Pr. Amy, Danny Stone, Rob & Paula Burley, Leif Albertson, Ryan Hendrickson, Trent Kuethe, Luke Poellet, Ben Woods, Jaydin Burley, Danielle Gerlach, Amber Hunt, Renea Hood, Lydia Lines and Miranda Tweeton.



They are leaving today, July 14th and will return next Tuesday, July 21st. Please keep them in your prayers for a safe, fun and successful faith-filled journey!

## Outdoor Volunteers!



*Dr. Jim & Donna McCabe have spent countless hours working on the landscape of the church planting flowers, weeding, trimming and watering. The effort certainly adds to the beauty of our worship home. Many thanks!*

## Fellowship Event

Join us on Saturday, August 8th at 6:30 pm following worship for a Sloppy Joe dinner. After dinner, we'll enjoy some board games and outdoor activities if the weather is nice. Bring a side dish to share and your favorite game. Please sign up in the narthex. All ages welcome!

it's **Game** night

## Summer Fun Club

On July 22nd we will have another Summer Fun Club at Faith from 7-9 pm. And on Wednesday, July 29th we will bowl with the Middle School & High School kids.

Our Summer Fun Club event for Saturday, August 1st will be a road trip to Lost Island Water Park in Waterloo. This event is for anyone including families, kids, teens and adult friends. We will leave the church at 8:30 am and return to Faith by 5:00 pm. Cost is \$20 per person and children 3 and under are free. Participants will need to bring money for snacks and lunch.



Please register on the welcome table in the narthex or on Facebook by July 27. Children in elementary school or younger need to be accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

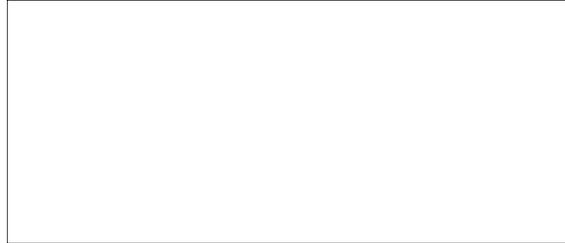
## Note from Fellowship Directors:

My husband Nick and I are your Fellowship Directors, and we wanted to say thank you to everyone for their generous giving so far this year. We are a little above expected for offerings this year, which is wonderful! Your offering does so much for our church and community; from supporting those in need at home and abroad, to helping fund various church activities, to basic church building operations, and countless other things. Historically, offering goes down a bit in the summer as many of us are busy with summer activities and traveling. We would like to encourage everyone to consider using the online giving option available through Faith's website. The site allows you set up recurring payments or a one-time payment if you've been unable to make it to church for a while. The link is under the Quick Links section on the main Faith Lutheran page. Thank you again for all your contributions, and have a wonderful rest of the summer!



155 Boyson Road  
Marion, Iowa 52302-9443

Phone: 319.377.9700  
Fax: 319.373.6001  
Pastor John cell: 319.651.8171  
Pastor Amy cell: 319.423-1347  
Email: [secretary@faithlutheran.org](mailto:secretary@faithlutheran.org)  
Website: [faithlutheran.org](http://faithlutheran.org)



*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 Hours

#### 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

**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

**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.