



God's Plan for the Mustard Seed

“It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches” (Matthew 13:32).

This is the parable of the mustard seed, of which many of us are familiar.

In the life of this pandemic we have become much more familiar with statistics, which have determined the severity of outbreaks and aid decision making. When I'm counted as part of a sample, such as someone who's been tested, I feel awfully small, much like the mustard seed. In the metrics of data, there's not much I can do to become more than statistics. Even in the growth into a plant, I am *just a number*.

However, God created the mustard seed in order to grow into a plant that is a beacon for the other parts of creation. I am called to act like the seed, given the work of the Holy Spirit in the soil. It is God's faith and watering me in baptism that makes me grow to give shelter and food to those that need it. It is God's faithfulness in this congregation that a community garden is planted to provide that food through the Feed Iowa First campaign.



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And it is God's grace given to us that we all grow to become much more than a number, much more than just a seed. We become God's beloved children.

Intern Dennis Rodenberg

Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Char Jacobson.

Gathering Again Info

Our in-person church services are held on Sundays at 9:00 am. Health screening begins at 8:20 am.

Here's what to expect:

- Before church, Christy will greet you, ask a few questions, and take your temperature.
- She'll provide you with a mask if you don't have one and direct you to the hand sanitizer.
- All people will wear masks throughout the service.
- People will maintain 6-foot intervals when entering, sitting in the sanctuary, and exiting.
- Every other pew will be closed off. The open pews will be for families to sit together or for individuals to sit 6 feet apart.
- Pick up a hymnal as you enter the sanctuary. Return the hymnal as you leave.
- We will not yet have congregational singing or reciting prayers.
- We will be using Service of the Word without Holy Communion.
- The East bathroom (the "old" bathroom) will be available.
- The water fountain will be turned off.
- An offering plate will be available for envelope drop-off (OR please mail in your offering).
- We will wave, bow, or nod to others for passing the peace.
- Please do not leave the area of the church enclosed by the blue partitions.
- Fellowship before or after the service will take place in the parking lot with physical distancing.

Pastor John is on vacation July 9-26th. Please contact Intern Dennis or Pastor Wendell for help.

We expect that changes at a moment's notice might be necessary due to the COVID-19 crisis.

At this time, we encourage those who are over 65 and/or with health conditions to not attend in-person services. We fully respect all decisions to attend or to not attend.

On-line options for worship include the church website sermon podcast, and Facebook or YouTube streaming services. Links to these are easy to find on the home page of the church website.

Any questions? Feel free to contact:

Pastor John
 Pastor Dennis
 Danny Stone
 Mike Dautremont, Facilities Director
 Christy Pratt, Parish Nurse
 Deb Aldrich, Worship Director

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your mind and all your strength; . . . love your neighbor as yourself.
 Mark 12:30

Online Worship Updates

Faith's team continues to improve our online worship offerings. Danny upgraded to a live video editing service that allows for multiple cameras and cuts to graphics. We can now include visuals of the prayers and hymns. Please, add your insights in the comment section of the video or email Danny at Youth@FaithLutheran.org.

The Sunday worship service is broadcast live at 8:50 am. Visit www.faithlutheran.org and select the link on the right for viewing either on Facebook or YouTube. If searching for the video on YouTube, search for "Faith Lutheran Marion Iowa." Once in YouTube, you may need to select "All videos" or "Live streams" from the pull-down menu under the Faith four-color logo and the "Home" menu. As always, Danny is happy to help with technical issues. Unfortunately, he is busy during the broadcast and may not see a message. Before and after the service, message or call him at 319.743.5990.

Parish Nurse Notes

How do you stay healthy during this time of crisis? How do you keep others healthy? Stay home if you are sick, wash your hands for 20 seconds and cover your nose and mouth when you cough. Also, wearing a mask can also help to keep others healthy. Just make sure you are washing those masks or disinfecting them with a spray disinfectant every time you use them.

Also, make sure your nose and mouth are covered with those masks, having your nose out of the mask isn't protecting others from you. If you have a concern or would like to talk with me, you can contact Christy Pratt parishnurse@faithlutheran.org or call 319-361-0445. All conversations are confidential.



Faith Farm Hot peppers and Zucchini

4 Backpacks Left!

We once again are supporting our neighbors in need with the Marion Cares Backpack Drive. Faith has committed to 20 backpacks. And we have just 4 remaining. Signup by entering

this address:

<https://signup.com/go/pXbmsxq>

Monetary donations are also being accepted. Backpacks are due back to Faith on 7/31.



Faith Farm Update

In case you didn't know or had forgotten, we are growing hot peppers and sweet corn for Feed Iowa First. We had some storm damage to the corn, along with deer damage, but it is starting to tassel and have cobs. We will be picking corn in another couple of weeks! We started picking the hot peppers and zucchini a couple of weeks ago and transporting them to FIF. We have been picking 2-3 times a week, rotating people to pick. The picture shown on the left is the refrigerator full of veggies to transport to FIF this last Tuesday. Way to go Faith!

We have been busy in the garden with weeding and picking, putting in over 45 hours of volunteer work! We also have been rotating people to weed and the garden is looking great! Thanks to all that have helped with weeding and picking. A huge shout out to Russ and Greg Gerst with all the tilling they have been doing to make the weeding easier.





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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 Time Sundays

8:20 am—Health Screening

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

Mick Vana

President

Stephanie Kubik

Vice President

Deb Bell Geiser

Secretary

Becky Kelsey

Treasurer

Dave Koch

Financial Secretary

Sue Tweeton

Director of Adult Nurture

Debora 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.