



Faith That Makes a Difference

John Bachmann in his book, “Faith that Makes a Difference,” offers these words that I think are both timely and worthy to ponder.

“The disciples own hope faltered but was restored by the resurrection. Forever after, followers may be indignant at what is happening, as was Peter when his Lord was abused; we may lack the imagination to recognize possibilities, as Mary Magdalene in the garden; or we may be slow to comprehend, as were the two on the road to Emmaus. But if we have faith, there is no excuse for not hoping.” (The Possible Dream)

Faith we learn from the Book of Hebrews is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” It is being able to count on God’s promises come what may. It is bearing the cross while telling the story. Our faith does not rest on our efforts but on the Holy Spirit’s life in us. Our faith is supported by the experiences of worship, singing, praying, preaching, sacraments, and being in the presence of the community. It is in worship that we are equipped to make a difference in the world.

Jesus doesn’t expect more than that we “come.” “Come and see” that’s the invitation. No other requirements needed. “Go and Tell.” That’s the mission of the church, you and me working together for that promised better day.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer could write from prison, “What will come out of my time here it is too early to say. But something is bound to come out of it.”

Keep the faith!

O Lord God, who has called us your servants
To ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
By paths as yet untrodden through perils unknown:
Give us faith to go out with good courage,
Not knowing where we go, but only that your hand
Is leading us and your love supporting us;
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

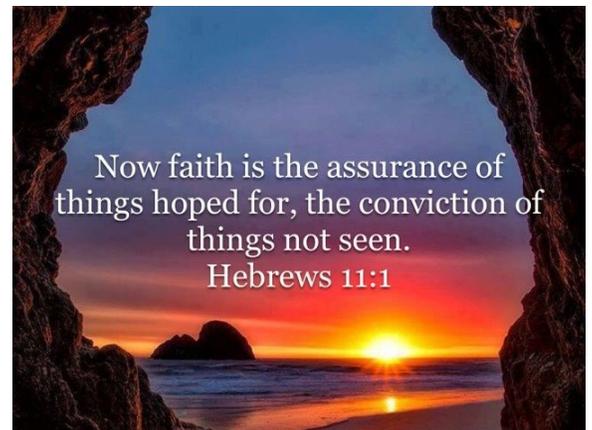
Inside this issue:

Faith Church News	2
Marion Senior Living Needs You!	2
Marion Cares Backpack Drive	3
Youth News	3
Worship Opportunities	4

Peace,



Pastor John Albertson



Now faith is the assurance of
things hoped for, the conviction of
things not seen.
Hebrews 11:1

Faith Church News

We are praying for Harold Miller.

Christ in Our Home latest edition is available in the Free Little Library by the Family Center entrance or in the church on the credenza.

Call now to reserve your date to donate flowers for worship. Jen will get back to you with information and options. The Flower Chart is available to sign up for an available Sunday to donate in honor, in memory of, or in celebration of an individual or event.

Hearing assistance equipment

is conveniently located in the narthex for any that are needing aid improving the quality and volume of the service. Please feel free to give it a try.

A reminder: Our service bulletins are on the "News and Bulletins" tab on our website. There is also a weekly reminder and link on Facebook. Feel free to download the bulletin to follow along if you worship with us virtually.

Gathering Again Committee Update

The Gathering Again Committee and the Council are taking steps to move forward in reopening the church. Careful and thoughtful decision-making processes are underway. We now have hymnals and welcome cards in the pew racks and the ribbons on the pews are down. Please be respectful and considerate of another person's space in the sanctuary and elsewhere. Both the GAC and the Council are happy to listen to concerns and answer any questions you might have.

GAC members are Deb Aldrich, Mike Dautremont, Christy Pratt and Pastor John. Council members: Steph Kubik, Deb Bell Geiser, Becky Kelsey, Dave Koch, Deb Aldrich, Sue Tweeton, Christy Pratt, Chris & Barb Thompson, Mike Dautremont, Jenny & Dustin VansCoy.



Thrivent Night at the Ballpark

Please join us for Thrivent Night at the Ballpark as the Cedar Rapids Kernels take on the Quad Cities River Bandits and we honor our local Special Olympians. The game will take place on Tuesday, August 3, at 6:35 PM. Tickets are \$10 each, a savings of \$3 off the regular box office price per ticket. Tickets can be purchased online by using the special URL below until midnight on Monday, August 2nd. Please select the special THRIVENT sections of 113, 114, and 115 when ordering your tickets online. You may also purchase tickets by calling the Kernels office at (319) 896-7560. Please mention that you are with Thrivent to receive the discounted price.

<https://www.ticketreturn.com/prod2Buy.asp?EventID=317772&promocode=thrivent>

Marion Senior Living Needs You!

Marion Senior Living had to find a way to fundraise during the pandemic. It was a success thanks to many of you and they are doing it once again. Beginning next week, five dollar Zio Johno's coupons are being sold and can be used in as many quantities as you wish and never expire.

Jen will have \$5 coupons for your purchase in the church office and available for pick up on Wed/Thurs/Fri from 7:00 am—3:00 pm.

The proceeds of this fundraiser help MSLC continue to update and expand the service and security options that assure the safety and well-being of our residents. Please help out if you are able!



Marion Cares Backpack Drive

Marion Cares had over 450 local students in need register for our Backpack to School Project this year.

You can sign up at

<https://signup.com/go/NiHokko> to provide a backpack and supplies for Linn-Mar and Marion students in need of assistance. If you are interested in helping at our Backpack to School event on August 10th, here is the volunteer sign-up:

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

Online sign up is easy and you can review the available slots in the link and click on the Sign Up button to provide a backpack and supplies for Linn-Mar and Marion students. Once the supplies are purchased, please write the Child Code number on a piece of paper and place it in the front pocket of the backpack. Backpacks can be dropped off at our office on August 3rd or August 5th between 8 am and 6 pm.



Our office is located at 1298 7th Ave in the lower level of the Carnegie building - you may enter on the East side. Thank you!

Attention Gardeners!

The Churches of Marion Food Pantry has a garden located right by Marion City Hall. These are raised beds and volunteers are needed for 1 hour time slots on Mondays at 4:15 pm or Wednesdays at 9:15 am. Any age or experience is welcome with the picking and bagging of produce for our neighbors in need.



Parish Nurse Notes

There have been some questions as to why we are continuing to wear masks at in-person worship. We are singing and this singing increases airborne vapors which increases the risk of spreading Covid-19. Although many of our congregation are vaccinated, there are some who may not be and we want to protect all in the best ways possible. Thanks for your care and concern for others.

Faith Farm News

We are producing a huge amount of kale in the garden and Feed Iowa First in distributing it to many in our community. The tomatoes are really beginning to grow and we look forward to beginning to pick some in the next few weeks. Along with the great farm production, we've had quite a bit of deer damage and are looking at old and new ways to mitigate that.

We are also grateful for a couple of Thrivent grants which have allowed us to purchase new hoses, a new hose reel and some new tools. We are also repairing a tiller that has been donated and are looking at purchasing a new outdoor storage locker for tools and equipment. Many thanks to Thrivent!

Youth News

Blessing of the Backpacks

Faith's students and educators are invited to receive a special blessing on Sunday, August 22. We will bless backpacks, students and teachers!

Sunday School Rally Sunday –

August 29-Gather with friends from Faith after worship for music, prayer, games, fun and snacks. Mark your calendars!



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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.

In-Person Worship

Sundays
9:00 am

Online Worship Available

Facebook & YouTube
Links at faithlutheran.org

Faith has been serving the Marion-Cedar Rapids area for more than forty years; supporting local ministries such as the Marion Churches Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, and Marion Senior Living Community. We are in partnership with the 9,091 congregations, 26 Lutheran colleges and universities, 7 seminaries, 240 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 3.4 million member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Faith Lutheran Church Staff

John A. Albertson
Senior Pastor

Jen Heinsius
Secretary

Choir Director

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

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

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.