



Holy Cross Day

Holy Cross Day, September 14

This day is a lesser festival of the church year celebrating the cross of Christ. The festival originated in the Middle Ages as the anniversary of the September 14, A.D. 355, dedication of a basilica built by Constantine at the site of the crucifixion and resurrection. The present church of the Holy Sepulcher stands on the same site. (Worship Workbook)

Why should we commemorate this day? **The cross is the central symbol of the Christian Church.** It is referred to as the “second tree” the tree of life as opposed to the tree of death in the Garden of Eden. The cross is the reminder that death has been defeated. **Christ is Risen! Grace abounds.**

“Against the darkness is lifted the beacon of hope, against the forces of evil and destruction is erected ‘the sign of the Son of Humanity’ against death and defeat is raised the sign of life and victory.”

Martin Luther’s most famous theology is the theology of the cross—the position that to live a Christ like life is to deny one’s self and take up the cross in loving service to the neighbor.

It has been said that the cross is “the abyss of wonders, the center of desires, the school of virtues, the house of wisdom, the throne of love, the theater of joys, and the place of sorrows. It is the root of happiness, and the gate of Heaven.” (Thomas Traherne)

May we be ever mindful of the glories of the cross as we seek to serve our neighbor who is Christ in our midst?

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God is saying to you today, “I will never send you into a situation alone. I go before. I am standing beside you. I walk behind you. Whatever situation you are facing now, be confident that I am with you.” (Author unknown)

Peace,

Pastor John Albertson

Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Elroy Hill, Diane Anderson, Char Jacobson.

Pastor John is offering an online study on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm. The topic of the study is “Parables of Grace” and you can find the link by going to our faithlutheran.org website and clicking on the link.

Gathering Again Info

Our guidelines for Sunday in-person worship at 9:00 am:

- * Christy Pratt, Parish Nurse will do a quick health check before you enter.
- * All people will wear masks throughout the service.
- * People will stand and sit 6 feet apart.
- * We will not yet have congregational singing, reciting prayers, or Holy Communion.
- * The water fountain will be turned off.
- * An offering plate will be available for envelope drop-off (OR please mail your offering).
- * Please do not leave the area of the church enclosed by the blue partitions.

Experience is showing us that we can accommodate no more than 40 people for in-person worship. We ask for your patience as we work through further details.

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

Factors we are considering:

- school closures
- the Governor closing other places besides bars or reducing the number of people who can gather
- the Linn County Health Department issuing further restriction.

If these conditions change, we will temporarily return to online-only worship.

Please watch your email for updates.

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. We fully respect all decisions to attend in-person worship if it is available or to worship online.

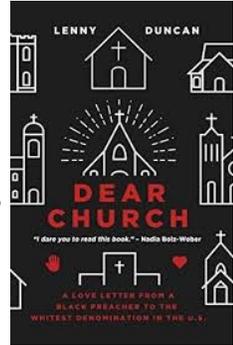
Any questions? Feel free to contact:
Pastor John, Intern Dennis, Danny Stone, Deb Aldrich, Christy Pratt, Mike Dautremont

Fall Pastor's Class

Fall Pastor's Class will commence this coming Sunday, September 20. You are invited to join Intern Dennis who will be leading a discussion of our call to faith as children of God in light of racism in this country. We will be looking at Lutheran Pastor Lenny Duncan's book “Dear Church,” in which he calls the ELCA to reflect and take action in efforts to be the *whole body of Christ*. We will focus especially on the biblical passages referenced in the book and what those challenges and opportunities we find in our world today.

Due to Covid, we will be moving class to an online version, using the Zoom platform to meet at 5:00 pm on September 20 and then at each Sunday night following. A Zoom link to the class will be sent to the class by email. Look for it later this week.

Please contact Intern Dennis with questions you may have or if you are interested in talking more deeply on the call to listen and act on this topic. Blessings on your journey!



MSLC Needs Your Help!

Marion Senior Living is doing a fundraiser in place of their annual Lasagna dinner



fundraiser that has been cancelled because of the pandemic. 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!

God's Work Our Hands

On Sunday September 13th would of been our God's Work, Our Hands weekend. We would of had many projects going on inside and outside of church. Since we weren't able to be together this year, it was decided to post pictures of doing GWOH on Facebook. We received many pictures! Thanks for all that have sent in pictures! You can still post pictures if you haven't.



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Feed Iowa First Farm

Garden Update- We have 85 hours of volunteer time in the garden. The rainy week we had last week took a toll on the zucchini, so the zucchini may be done for the year. The broccoli is growing, but no heads as of yet and the hot peppers are producing well.

Youth Ministry Update

Faith's Youth Nurture and Youth Ministry leaders will continually reassess when it is safe to return for in person ministry. Danny will post Children's Messages and works to keep our youth engaged. For Sunday School and WNL, we will share weekly lessons for families to complete at home. Martin Luther would love the at home lessons, since he wrote the Small Catechism as tool for families. Additionally, Faith will share video clips to introduce the Sunday and Wednesday lessons. We may be separated physically, but the spirit unites us all.

SEIA New Bishop Ordination

The Reverend Amy Luann Current is called as the fourth bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

She is currently serving as Vice President of Admissions and Student Services at Wartburg Seminary. She graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, and received an M. Div from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA and was ordained on July 13, 1997. She was elected on the fifth ballot, with 178 votes. The Rev. Erika Uthe received 173 votes. She will be installed at a Service of the Word on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will preach and preside.

Following safe practices in a time of pandemic, your prayers and digital presence are requested for this distributed worship service that will be broadcast live from St. John Lutheran Church, St. Donatus, Iowa.

All are welcome to join worship via livestream. A link will be shared on the Refrigerator door.





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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

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.