



All Saints

“And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia! (ELW 422)



Life is hard. It is filled with uncertainties and doubts, sickness and death. Life is filled with relentless responsibilities and endless details to attend to. Try as we might it is impossible to sugar coat the strife we face from day to day. It seems like destructive ways of sugar coating the stress are on the rise: alcoholism, obesity, gambling, relationship failure, economic crisis, suicide. Certainly Faith Lutheran Congregation is not immune! In some ways, this is nothing new. Christians of every time and every place faced hardships as well. We call these people “saints.” Not because they were special or more holy than the rest, but because they placed their lives in God’s hands and lived their lives in the light of God’s grace. Their memory stands as a witness to God’s sure and certain promise of a “new day” when strife and warfare will cease. In the meantime, the church provides a place where folks can come in out of the strife and rest. In weekly word and worship we prepare ourselves for “yet another day of service in Jesus name.” All Saint’s Day recognizes the ministry and mission of people like you and me who have made a difference, folks who have kept the faith despite the insurmountable odds of daily living. May we draw courage from their lives, hold each other in prayer, and keep our ears tuned to that “distant triumph song.”

“From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

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Peace,

Pastor John Albertson

We remember the saints that passed at Faith Lutheran Church in the last year: Joyce Smith, Roger Mork, Kathy Rude, Richard Hill and Von Trumblee.

Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Gary Lahr (brother-in-law of Deb Bell Geiser), Elroy Hill, Diane Anderson, Char Jacobson.

Christ in Our Home Devotional booklets for October-December are available in the free Little Library by the Family Center entrance.

Gathering Again

The Regathering Committee along with the Church Council has made the decision to return to online worship for the foreseeable future starting November 8. Looking ahead, Christmas Eve worship will be online only.

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

Social Media Use

Faith Lutheran uses the Church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/faithlutheranmarion) as a tool to communicate important information and share worship and service opportunities to live as God's mission in the world. Faith Lutheran also employs the Refrigerator Door (www.facebook.com/groups/RefrigeratorDoor) as another resource to share news about the members of the church and to serve one another in the caring call of loving our neighbors who happen to be members of the group. Both pages are monitored by administrators at the church and inappropriate material will be removed.

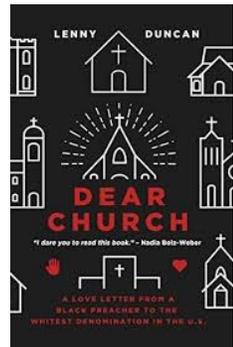
Social Media is a way that many people communicate, and is a mission tool for God's abundance in this world, enhancing relationships. Similar to any method of communication, there are dangers to relationships when misused. We ask for people that use Faith Lutheran Church's pages to always consider not simply the message but the audience. We also encourage you to consider similar questions in how you communicate on your own personal social media platforms.



Intern Dennis & PJ's Classes

Pastor John offers 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.

Fall Pastor's Class began Sunday, September 20. Additional books are available in the Free Little Library outside the Family Center entrance. You are invited to join Intern Dennis who is 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,". Due to Covid, we have moved class to an online version, using the Zoom platform to meet at 5:00 pm on at each Sunday night following. 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!



Stewardship Resources

The Greek word for Wisdom is "Sophia." God has given you many gifts in God's wisdom. It is our calling to respond to these wise gifts to love and serve one another, as Jesus Christ has so loved us. The ELCA plays on this theme in a stewardship campaign called "SOFIA", or Stories of Faith In Action. As you contemplate the gifts you have been given and how you may respond to Jesus calling you to service, I invite you to page through these [stories](#).



You may also explore other tools at elca.org/sofia. May they challenge and inspire you in your own lives of faith in action.

Confirmation

We celebrate with Isabelle Graubard and her family as she was confirmed here at Faith on Sunday, October 25th.

ISABELLE GRAUBARD

John 3:16

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Social Concerns & FIF

We gave **The Marion Churches Food Pantry** a \$2,000 check and they were sure grateful! They said dry beans and non-processed food is in demand. You may drop off your donations outside the church on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 7:00 am—3:00 pm.

The Marion Churches blood drive was another success. We had 37 registered donors and gave 40 units total, helping 160 patients in need for a blood transfusion.

The need for blood is so great! With the pandemic, blood drives have been cut due to large places being closed, including school drives. If you are interested in helping out and donating, you still can. Just make an appointment with Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center at 319-377-4355 or <https://www.bloodcenter.org/>

-The Feed Iowa First garden is finished for the year. We have donated over 2,300 lbs of produce to Feed Iowa First. They have distributed over 35,000 lbs of produce to hundreds of needy homes from all the garden plots throughout the metro area. We have donated over 95 hours of work into the garden. Thanks to all who have helped this important project in our community.



STAYING CONNECTED DURING COVID-19

Holiday Giving Opportunities

Once again, Faith Lutheran will be helping a few local organizations that help local people this holiday season.

First, we have been asked by Marion Senior Living to help make Christmas a little brighter for their residents by providing \$25 gift cards for Hy-Vee, Fareway or Walmart. Cards can be dropped off at church or mailed to 155 Boyson Rd **by December 6th.**

Marion Cares Angel Tree Tags will be an online only signup. Right now plans are in place to have the online link for signup by Sunday, November 22nd.

When you adopt a child you are committing to approximately \$80 in gifts for that child. There will be 4 different items gift requests. Purchase the gifts, wrap them and put them in a large garbage bag. Your bag will need to be delivered directly to Antioch Church by Tuesday, December 8th. (Specific times and



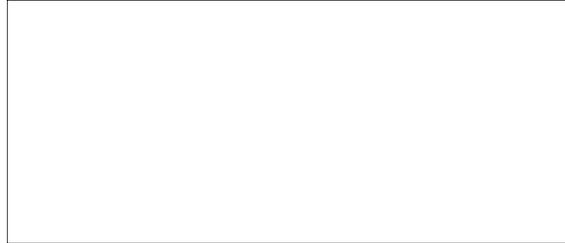
dates earlier will be provided at a later date.) If you are unable to adopt a child for the \$80 commitment, you may donate directly to Marion Cares at 1050 McGowan Blvd, Marion 52302. When the link is available we will share it on our the Refrigerator Door on Facebook and on our faithlutheran.org webpage.

Thrivent is partnering with HACAP to collect hygiene items from now through November 10th. Donations include: soap, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes, toothpaste and deodorant. Please take your donations to Thrivent at 3349 Southgate Ct. SW, Suite 101, CR open from M-F 9-4 for safe, no contact drop off.



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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

Sunday, November 1st

8:20 am—Health Screening

9:00 am—Worship

ONLINE ONLY

Worship Sundays

Beginning November 8th

9:00 am

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.