



Online Worship, In-Person Witness

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

Although we are in a time of online worship, we are called to be in “person witnesses.” If anything separates us from other religions, teachings, views, practices, it is the fact that Jesus lived among us. He lived as God in the flesh! He ate with people, worked with people, healed people, fished with people. He experienced joy and sadness. He was very much a hand’s on Messiah. He came all the way down to earth to show us the way to eternal life!

We too are called to be hand’s on. I realize that this is difficult. The expression of worship takes on a different form, You Tube. The congregation is limited to those in your own household. The good news about online worship is that you can sing like no one’s listening—show up in your comfortable clothes—enjoy a cup of coffee.

When I wander into the sanctuary, I do not see an empty church. I know where most people sit and so as I look out I say a prayer for you.

The work begins after worship as we “let our lights shine.” As much as possible share God’s love with those you meet. Take this opportunity to get closer to your families. Read and study the Bible, take advantage of virtual Pastor’s class and the Parables of Grace on You Tube. Send a note or email. Make a phone call.

It’s the little things that remind us that we are still connected to one another.

Responding to God’s call to be witnesses in “Jerusalem, Judea, and to the ends of the earth” may you continue to be safe as well as hold one another in prayer.

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Peace,

Pastor John Albertson



Faith Church News

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

We express our deepest sympathies to Rhiannon Oakes Nehl and family on the passing of her husband, Charlie.

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

Bishop Amy Current

The Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA called Amy Current as its new bishop this summer. She assumed the role of bishop on November 1. She succeeds Bishop Michael Burk, who retired after serving two terms starting in 2008. Bishop Current previously served as Vice President of Admissions and Student Services at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque and has been ordained since 1997, serving several congregations in North Dakota as pastor.

Due to the pandemic, most of the work of the synod is being conducted remotely. The Center for Ministry in Iowa City is closed to onsite meetings and outside guests. However, the work of the synod in supporting the ministries of congregations continues; staff is available via email and phone.



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.

Pastor's Class will be taking a mini-break around Thanksgiving. We will be in recess on November 22 and 29, resuming December 6 at 7PM. We will then have just two more classes on December 13 and 20 as the conclusion to our intriguing, spirit-filled discussions surrounding Rev. Lenny Duncan's book "Dear Church." It isn't too late to join if you would like, regardless if you have read the book. We dive into topics surrounding the use of scripture and liturgy in our setting and how it relates to our call into anti-racism work. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Dennis at dennis@faithlutheran.org for the Zoom information and any further questions. And if you aren't interested in class, but would like to read this book, there are additional copies available at the Little Free Library outside the handicapped entrance.

Parish Nurse Notes

Special thanks to people for coming to in person service wearing a mask and social distancing while we were together. Please wear a mask every time you are out and social distance, stay home if you think or if you are sick. Also, to self isolate anytime you think or if you are exposed to covid-19 until you are able to be tested. You can call your doctor or go through Test Iowa at <https://www.testiowa.com> to get tested for covid-19. Testing is also being done at some Hy-Vee and Walgreens locations. Call first before you go. Stay safe everyone!

Blood is always in short supply during this pandemic. If you are able to donate you may make an appointment with Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center at 319-377-4355 or <https://www.bloodcenter.org/>

Stewardship Resources

The programming and life of Faith has certainly been different through most of 2020. As many churches have and are doing, the council and leaders of the congregation analyze how the finances have been impacted and what it means for the mission of the congregation moving forward. This is a challenge, as I would assume is the case for most of you on an individual level. Regardless of financial position, the uncertainty of the times ahead lead to thinking outside the box for decision making. Yet in our faith lives as faithful Christians living in this place and at this time, there is much more than hard cash that defines this congregation. There is a “halo effect” that injects not only physical capital, but spiritual and emotional capital. When we look at the effect that Faith has on its members through not only nurturing faith lives of all ages—but also supporting local causes, feeding our neighbors through Feed Iowa First, and hosting events and groups such as the Boy Scouts—the halo that this congregation becomes expands much further beyond the corner of Boyson and Alburnett Road. While a specific number hasn’t been calculated for this congregation, studies would suggest this congregation contributes

\$1.2 Million towards mission near and far. This equates to about four times as what is actually tracked in giving from parishioners. As you consider your personal giving level, take comfort

that your money and investment in God’s mission here on earth through Faith Lutheran Church is true stewardship of God’s gifts. You are tending to these gifts given to you and in paying these gifts forward in the mission of this congregation, you are giving back to God what is God’s. May your giving be cheerful!



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.

Marion Food Pantry: We are once again doing the reverse advent calendar food collection items. Please see the attached sheet. Items can be dropped off on Wed/Thurs/Friday from 7:00 am—3:00 pm outside the carport.





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Pastor John cell: 319.651.8171
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Email: secretary@faithlutheran.org
Website: 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.

ONLINE ONLY
Worship Sundays
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

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|---|--|
| John A. Albertson Senior Pastor | Dennis Rodenberg Pastoral Intern |
| Jen Heinsius Secretary | Daniel Stone Director of Youth and Family Ministry |
| Diane Lehtinen Choir Director | Christy Pratt Parish Nurse |

Faith Lutheran Church Council Members

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|---|--|
| Stephanie Kubik Vice President | Debora Aldrich Director of Worship |
| Deb Bell Geiser Secretary | Dustin & Jenny VansCoy Directors of Youth |
| Becky Kelsey Treasurer | Barb & Chris Thompson Director of Fellowship |
| Dave Koch Financial Secretary | Mike Dautremont Director of Facilities |
| Sue Tweeton Director of Adult Nurture | Christy Pratt 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.