



“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

This is our prayer for the season of Advent. A time to focus on the One who has come, Is coming, and will come again. Advent reminds us that we live in between the times. We live as people waiting and hoping for the end of all that separates us from loving God and serving our neighbor. As we wait, we work for that promised better day. We buy groceries to feed the hungry. We buy presents to brighten up the children’s celebration. We welcome the stranger and visit the lonely. We do this out of response to what God has done for us.

As we prepare the manger for the Christ child, we also make room in our hearts and minds for His coming. We pray, sing and worship trusting that the great message of Advent will take root in our hearts and will guide our actions.

And we look for the Kingdom to come, the day when wars will cease, when families get along, when the earth heals. We pray for the day when sorrow and sickness will be no more. The great day when Christ will come again, “what joy shall fill our hearts?”

May we experience Advent, find ways to welcome the Christ child, and keep the faith alive as we experience the blessings that come with waiting, watching and pondering the story in our hearts.

“Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our sins and fears release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.” ELW 254

Inside this issue:

Faith Church News	2
Parish Nurse Notes	2
Bell Ringers Needed	2
Youth Events	3
Worship Opportunities	4

Peace,

Pastor John



Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Darlene Blankenburg, Dolores Holecek, Gary Lahr (brother-in-law of Deb Bell-Geiser, Penny White, Richard Hill, Pastor Roger McKinstry and Harriet Instefjord (mother of Connie Bulman), Ian Kendall, grandson of Marlene Pasker, Maximillian, nephew of Peggy Wittmer.

We express our deepest sympathies to the family of Kim Talley-Dye who passed away last week. Services were held here at Faith on Tuesday, November 26th.

We celebrate the birth of Milliana VansCoy, daughter of Jenny & Dustin VansCoy.

We celebrate the birth of Harrison Radig, son of Danny & Shelby Radig.

Coffee with Pastor will have our annual Christmas Party & gift exchange on Thursday, December 12th at 1:00 pm in the family center. Please bring a \$5 gift and a plate of cookies or treats to share.

The Men's Breakfast will be Tuesday, December 17th at 9:00 am.

Parish Nurse Notes

If you haven't gotten yours yet, there is still time to get it. It is not too late to get a flu shot. It is recommended for everyone over the age of 6 months to get one. It is especially recommended for persons whom are immunocompromised or around someone that is. You can also protect yourself from illness by washing your hands frequently, getting plenty of sleep, exercise and healthy eating. You can also try elderberry syrup to help with your immunity.

Helping Hands Store located in the same building as Food Pantry is in need of winter clothing such as sweatshirts, sweaters, jeans, coats, hats, gloves and boots in all sizes and winter blankets. Donations can be dropped off on Tues/Thurs from 1-3 pm or drop in the large blue wooden box in the alleyway marked Helping Hands Store.

If you would like to talk to me, you can email Christy Pratt at parishnurse@faithlutheran.org or call me at 361-0445.

December Health Incentive

Our monthly incentive to get healthier has begun. You just need to eat 4 servings of fruit or veggies every day each week in December. If you make this goal or incentive, write your name on a slip of paper and put it in the brown bag at church. It is located on the bulletin board near the entrance door by the family center. There will be a monthly drawing for a HyVee gift card! Let's do this Faith members!



Bell Ringers Needed

We need volunteers to serve Faith by ringing in our bell choir. Ringers should know how to read and count music. We will teach them bell ringing techniques (it's easy)! Practice would begin after we get at least 8 ringers, probably on Tuesday or Thursday nights-TBD after choir starts. Ringing season ends when school gets out for summer. Those interested can contact Jen at church or Steve Roggow at 319-270-5253 or swroggow@gmail.com.

Cookie Walk Bakers Needed

Calling all cookie bakers. We need you to make our Cookie Walk a success. The date is Saturday, December 7th from 9:00 am—11:00 am. Just bring 6 dozen of your favorite holiday cookie recipe. Proceeds will go to fund youth scholarships. Sign up now on the welcome table in the narthex.



Giving Opportunities

1. **Marion Senior Living Gift Cards (due back 12/1)** *Easy to help just pick up a \$25 gift card to Hy-Vee, Fareway or Walmart and drop off at the church office. Cards will go to residents of MSLC for Christmas.*
2. **Marion Care Angel Tree Tags (due back 12/8)** *Grab a tag and purchase the item listed. Return to church to help brighten a child's Christmas.*
3. **The Churches of Marion Food Pantry Advent Calendar/Collection (anytime)** *Grab a Hy-Vee bag and an Advent calendar and pick up items when you shop to help fill the shelves of our local pantry.*

Faith Lutheran Reads

It's time once again for the Faith Lutheran Reads project! On the table by the tv you will see a display for this year's book, *Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions* (190 pages), by Jacqueline A. Bussie. Dr. Bussie is a religion professor at Concordia College, MN, and writes an entertaining, easy-to-read, and thought-provoking book about the words for *love* in the Bible and how Jesus meant for us to love one another. There are several options for reading this book: 1) buy your own copy - hardback is \$17.89 from Amazon and Kindle is 12.99. 2) Sign up for a church copy and share with a book buddy – we will help you find a match. 3) Sign up for a church copy without a book buddy. Several people “tested” reading the book and found it to be a rather quick read with interesting and hopeful ideas. Our schedule will be to sign up for books in November and early December, order the books in December, read in January, and discuss in February. Take advantage of this opportunity to read about “Loving across difference in a divided time” (*Living Lutheran*, January 2019).

Christmas Youth Parties

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Christmas Parties.

Middle School will be Sunday, December 22nd beginning from 6:00-8:00 pm. Please bring a small wrapped (unisex) \$7-\$10 present for the gift exchange.



Faith invites our Senior High and recent grads back to church for a fun overnight and Christmas Party of “Shenanigans” on Friday, December 27th from 8:00 pm to Saturday, December 28th at 8:00 am. Sign up now on the welcome table.

Youth Christmas Program

Our Youth Christmas Program will take place on Sunday, December 15th at 6:00 pm with desserts to follow. Sign up for desserts needed for the reception to follow the Christmas Program. Please sign up on the welcome table in the narthex. All proceeds from the free will offering will go to youth scholarships for Faith kids attending the camps and the National Gathering.

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday, Nov. 27th –No WNL– for Thanksgiving

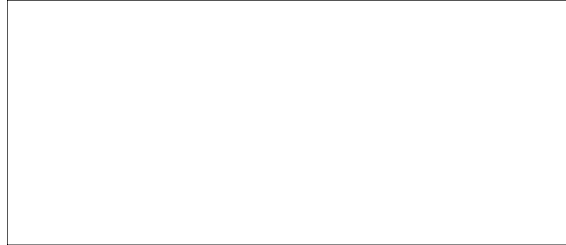
Wednesday, Dec. 4th –WNL w/ Men's team for cooking and cleanup

Wednesday, Dec. 11th–WNL w/ HS team for cooking and cleanup.



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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 Times

Saturdays

5:30 pm— Worship

Sundays

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	Daniel Stone Director of Youth and Family Ministry
Diane Lehtinen Choir Director	Christy Pratt Parish Nurse

Faith Lutheran Church Council Members

David Ripley President	Connie Bulman Director of Worship
Vice President	Dustin & Jenny VansCoy Directors of Youth
Deb Bell Geiser Secretary	Barb & Chris Thompson Director of Fellowship
Karen Cain Treasurer	Director of Witness
Dave Koch Financial Secretary	Mike Dautremont Director of Facilities
Diane Lehtinen Director of Adult Nurture	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.