



Open To the Presence of God

Spiritual Direction is the art of “redemptive listening and non-violent communication” which means listening without judging or formulating a response {from *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps* by Richard Rohr}. All of us have a need to be heard. Each of us secretly longs to have our true self find voice and be recognized. Listening to people share their inner truths is one of the trained ministries I have been involved in for the past twenty years. The Advent opportunities included below are to encourage you to engage in deep listening today so you can weed out fear, dialogue with the external voices of judgement and shame, and find life-giving, dignified, healing ways forward in your life. Some of us will find it comforting to listen quietly, on our own. Others, especially extraverts, will want a companion in the dialogue to sort out what is true and real. In either case, I invite you to talk with me about spiritual direction in your life.

ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES: You are invited to come together during Pastor’s Class for a unique experience of prayer in the contemplative tradition called *Visio Divina*, or holy seeing. During the hour, I will invite you to listen to the word of God, pray with an original piece of art from the St. John’s Bible called an illumination, and ponder God’s message individually and communally. The sessions stand alone, so you may attend one or both: December 11, Messianic Predictions; December 18, Word Made Flesh.

You are encouraged to find ten minutes each day of Advent to sit in sacred silence and allow God’s gaze to fall upon you, reveal your brokenness, heal your hurts, and love you into fullness of life. Come to the church, or find a quiet place. Light a candle if you can to mark the time as holy. (Small blue candles will be available for you at Faith to take and use throughout the season.) Hold a stone or palm cross to focus your thoughts. Pray the Welcoming Prayer by Thomas Keating, or another like it to enter into this time with God:

Welcome, welcome, welcome. I welcome everything that comes to me today because I know it’s for my healing. I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions, persons, situations, and conditions. I let go of my desire for power and control. I let go of my desire for affection, esteem, approval and pleasure. I let go of my desire for survival and security. I let go of my desire to change any situation, condition, person or myself. I open to the love and presence of God and God’s action within. Amen.

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Don’t fight your monkey mind; just notice it and let the thoughts go. What is true and of God will remain.

Pastoral Intern Rodney



Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Terrie McCarthy, Dennis Sutherland, Zach Miglia, Milo Popp, Cheryl Gaul, mother of Christy Pratt, Caleb Kerner, Cousin of Sherry Stark, Jackie Devine's Mother, Coreen Hein's sister, Marian Brown, Joe friend of Kathleen Blankenburg, T.J. Barnidge's uncle, Nick, nephew of Catherine Dytrt, Annette Mohling's brother, Lyle, brother, Dean and nephew, Drew.

Marion Food Pantry Collection items: Boxed potatoes, pasta, soup and rice.

The Churches of Marion Food Pantry is in need of a volunteer or two. For further information contact the president of the Board, Gary Frederick, 377-6887 or gfrede5612@aol.com

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place next Sunday, December 4th at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. Please make plans to attend.

Our Craft Club will meet on Tuesday, December 13th from 10:00 am—1:30 pm. Soup will be provided. Please bring a project you are working on and a white elephant gift for a fun, holiday gift exchange. You may also bring a snack to share.

Amanda Pierce, Lead Event Planner from AP Events, will be hosting a craft and vendor show in the family center at Faith Lutheran Church in Marion on Saturday, February 4th, 2017. Time is TBD. A portion of all table fees will be donated to the Faith Lutheran Capital Campaign. As always, AP Events organizes all craft and vendor shows with no more than two vendors and two crafters per product type on a first come, first serve basis. If you are interested in joining AP Events for the February 4th craft and vendor show to benefit the Faith Lutheran Capital Campaign, please contact Amanda Pierce at (319) 981-8243 or ap_events@outlook.com. AP Events would like to open the tables to Faith Lutheran Church members for priority registration. Craft and vendor tables will be open to non-members on Wednesday, December 14th. For more information, please visit www.apeventsiowa.weebly.com or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/APEventsIowa. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Cantata

Please join us on Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 pm for our Faith Lutheran Choir's Christmas Cantata. Following the Cantata stay for desserts. Please sign up on the clipboard in the welcome center if you could donate desserts. Proceeds from the reception will go to help the Youth fund trips and scholarships.

Cookie Walk

Faith's Annual Cookie Walk will take place on Saturday, December 10th from 9:00 am—noon. Sign up is underway for members to donate 6 dozen cookies on the clipboard on the welcome table. How does this work? Members donate their cookies which are displayed in the Family Center. Then we invite our family, friends and the community to join us from 9-noon to select cookies to purchase for their holiday entertaining. Cost is \$5 per bakers dozen. In partnership with this event we are also collecting mittens, scarves, and hats to donate to a local organization. For Questions, please contact Danny.



Spiritual Silence

The simplest spiritual discipline is some degree of solitude and silence. But it's the hardest, because none of us want to be with someone we don't love. Besides that, we invariably feel bored with ourselves, and all of our loneliness comes to the surface. We won't have the courage to go into that terrifying place without Love to protect us and lead us, without the light and love of God overriding our own self-doubt. Such silence is the most spacious and empowering technique in the world, yet it's not a technique at all. It's precisely the refusal of all technique.



Giving Opportunities

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

The **Marion Senior Living Community** asked that we provide some \$20 gift cards to be given to their residents at their annual Christmas parties. We are still just a few short. Please drop one off at the church office or in the collection plate.

Marion Cares tags are now all claimed. Please purchase your item and bring it back wrapped or unwrapped to the church office. Ideally we would like them back by the week of December 4th.

Finally, this weekend we will have available Pet Angel Tree tags to benefit the **Cedar Valley Humane Society**. Items for donation will include: Peanut butter, New spray bottles, cat and kitten food (wet), Cat treats, Cat litter, Canned cat food, Cat toys, KMR (Kitten Milk Replacer), Puppy food (dry), Dog and puppy food (wet), Bathing supplies, Pill pockets, Rawhide bones, Treats, Dental treats, Martingale collars (all sizes), Leashes (all sizes), Two-handled leashes, Muzzles (all sizes). Also cleaning supplies are needed. Please have items back to the church by Sunday, December 18th.

As you can see, there are so many ways to help out those in need during the holidays! Thank you in advance for the generosity of spirit that is always present at Faith Lutheran. Questions: See Jen or call 377-9700

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Christmas Worship Times:

Saturday, Dec. 24th—5:30 pm & 9:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 25th—9:00 am only



December Movie Night

Join us for Family Movie Night on Saturday, December 17th. From 7:00-9:00 pm the all ages options in the Family Center is “The BFG” (PG) or for bigger kids in the Middle School Room we have “The Secret Life of Pets” (PG). The Grown Up Pick is “Florence Foster Jenkins” (PG-13) and the Middle School and Older kids have “Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children in the Youth Room (PG-13) (Pre-K youth must be accompanied by parent or care giver)

Donations are always welcome to help pay for the snacks, come and join the fun, family night!

Youth Christmas Parties

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Christmas Parties. Middle School will be Sunday, December 4th beginning from 6:00-8:00 pm. Please bring a small wrapped (unisex) present for the gift exchange.

The High School Christmas Party will take place on Sunday, December 11th beginning from 6:00-8:00 pm. Please bring a small wrapped (unisex) present for the gift exchange.



Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday, Nov. 30th— WNL Worship with Women’s team for cooking and clean-up.

Wednesday, Dec. 7th- WNL with the HS team for cooking and clean-up.

Wednesday, Dec. 14th-WNL with the Men’s team for cooking and clean-up.



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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

8:00 am–Worship

9:10 am–Sunday School

10:45 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

Rodney Bluml

Pastoral Intern

Daniel Stone

Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Steve Roggow

Bell Choir

Christy Pratt

Parish Nurse

Faith Lutheran Church Council Members

David Ripley

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Vice President

Steve Deines

Secretary

Karen Cain

Treasurer

Dave Koch

Financial Secretary

Diane Lehtinen

Director of Adult Nurture

Connie Bulman

Director of Worship

Kellie & Josh Osbeck

Directors of Youth

Amy & Nick Sagan

Director of Fellowship

Lynette Marling

Director of Witness

Bruce Tweeton

Director of Facilities

Vicki Barnidge

Director of Youth Nurture

Jeff Ausman

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.