



Advent Promise

“But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:8-15)

Advent encourages us to wait. Waiting takes different forms depending on the circumstance. To wait for something exciting is difficult. We wait with joy and expectation. Waiting for Christmas...for birthday or anniversary...wedding or vacation...On the other hand to wait for the test results...the repair bill...the punishment... is taxing. We dread this kind of waiting. We all know what a good day feels like, a thousand years of happiness packed into one day. And many of us know the burden of a day that feels like a thousand years. Time marches on and sometimes it's with haste and sometimes it's like a glacier moving through a mountain pass.

Whatever the case Advent speaks a word of hope. “The Lord is not slow!” God is present in our waiting and is preparing us for the birth of his Son Jesus who promises to be patient with us, forgive us, redeem us.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;

All things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might we pray, Redeem us for eternal day;

Defend us while we dwell below, from all assaults of our dread foe.

(Evening hymn for Advent 8th Century)

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Peace,

Pastor John



Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Diane Anderson, Char Jacobson.

We express our deepest sympathies to Karen Zierath and family on the passing of her mother, Betty Carsner.

We also express our deepest sympathies to Deb Aldrich and family on the passing of her father, Elroy Hill.

Gathering Again

The Regathering Committee along with the Church Council has made the decision to return to online worship for the foreseeable future. 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

Lectors needed!

Hello fellow faith members, Angie Miglia is looking for lectors who would like to read for our virtual services. If anyone is interested please let her know and she will contact you with details. akmiggs@yahoo.com



Holiday Video Messages

... from Faith friends to Faith friends.

We all miss smiling faces in the narthex and warm embraces as we pass the peace. We cannot gather in person, but we can have a little fun sharing Christmas cheer. Record a brief Christmas greeting with your phone or on your computer – less than 30 seconds would be great. Email your clip to Danny at youth@faithlutheran.org. We will stitch the submissions into a video that will be shared on Facebook and YouTube. Send your video to Danny by December 15th!

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 resuming class on 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/>

Advent Calendar

Marion Food Pantry: We are once again doing the reverse advent calendar food collection items. We are applying for a Thrivent grant for this project as well. Please see the items below. Items can be dropped off on Wed/Thurs/Friday from 7:00 am—3:00 pm outside the carport.

Items to collect include:

*box of cereal *peanut butter* stuffing mix
 *boxed potatoes *mac & cheese *canned fruit
 *canned tomatoes *tuna *dessert mix *jar of
 applesauce *canned sweet potatoes *
 cranberry sauce * canned beans * box of
 crackers * bag of rice *box of oatmeal *pasta
 *spaghetti sauce *chicken noodle soup
 *tomato soup *can corn * can green beans *
 can mixed veggies * can carrots



Christmas Eve Candles

Christmas Eve candles will be available for pickup for your home Christmas Eve Worship. Come pick up your candles safely on Tuesday, December 22nd or Wednesday, December 23rd under the carport at Faith.



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 this Friday, December 6th! A few more cards are needed!**

Marion Cares Angel Tree Tags will be an online only signup. The online link is now available.

<https://signup.com/go/AuibRGg>

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. The link is available on our the Refrigerator Door on Facebook and on our faithlutheran.org webpage.





155 Boyson Road
Marion, Iowa 52302-9443

Phone: 319.377.9700
Fax: 319.373.6001
Pastor John cell: 319.651.8171
Intern Dennis: 319.774.6327
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

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

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Vice President
Deb Bell Geiser
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Becky Kelsey
Treasurer
Dave Koch
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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.