



The New Day Star

In Russia, the custom exists of fasting (on the Christmas vigil) until the first star appears. This brings to mind both the star which led the magi to Bethlehem and Christ who is the true light. May this day also be a day of fast in our souls: let us abstain from all bad or useless thoughts and speech, and await in silence and composure the savior who is coming to us. Darkness falls. Soon the first star will rise and mark, according to the church calendar, the start of the new day and of the greatest feast of Christmas. With the rising of this star, may the light of our Lord rise for us so that, in the words of the apostle Peter, “Ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.” (A monk of the Eastern Church).

Christmas announces that The New Day Star has come among us. A baby is born, Christ the Lord. And this baby is Immanuel, God with us. Life is never again the same because of this birth. The old ways of sin and death have been “covered” up with the announcement, “God and sinners reconciled.” With that announcement we shout out, “Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies; with angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem! Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the new born king!” (ELW 270)

Join me in worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The New Born King comes to us in song, in prayer, in word, candlelight, in bread and wine, in the glow of family and in the silence of the holy night. Advent preparations lead to new lives as Christ is born in us again. The darkness has been replaced by the “New Day Star.” May this newness enable us to serve our neighbor who is Christ in our midst!

Jen, Leif and I pause to say “thanks” for your love, support, and prayers this past year. May you have a blessed Christmas as you ponder in your hearts this “great joy” which has happened, the birth of Christ the Lord.

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Peace,

Pastor John Albertson.



Join us in worship on Christmas Eve for traditional candlelight communion worship at 5:30 or 9:00 pm.

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

Mark Your calendars for a Old-Fashioned Church Potluck on Sunday, January 19th following Sunday school. Please bring 2 dishes (side, main, dessert). This will be a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new Intern Pastor Dennis Rodenburg, wife Elise and family.

Parish Nurse Notes

The next blood pressure and blood sugar check is January 12th after service in Intern's office.

December is influenza awareness month. If you haven't gotten your flu shot 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.

Our monthly Healthy Faith Incentive is drinking at least 4 glasses of water a day. If you reached that goal for the week, put a check on the bulletin near the family center. After putting the check, put your name on a slip of paper and put it in the drawing for a Hy-Vee gift card. Last month's winner was Abby Pratt. Way to go Abby and eating those fruits and veggies!

If you would like to talk to me, you can e-mail Christy Pratt at parishnurse@faithlutheran.org or call me at 361-0445. All discussions are confidential!

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.

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24th

5:30 pm Candlelight worship with Communion

9:00 pm Candlelight worship with Communion

Join us for one of our Christmas Eve Worship services. We will be featuring a variety of special music that you won't want to miss!



From the Faith Staff:



Giving Opportunities

1. 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.

The first round of food went to the Churches of Marion Food Pantry delivered by Sherry Stark. After it was counted we had contributed approximately \$575.00 worth of food. And more is being collected daily. Thank you so much for your generous spirit. One Faith family took their 2 grandkids and the Advent calendar to the store and let them each shop the list for a great memory and wonderful teaching moment about generosity. Let 's continue this spirit year round!

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



Wednesday Night Live

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

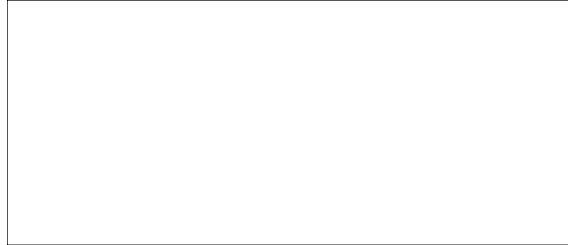
Wednesday, Dec. 18th –WNL w/ Women for cooking and clean-up

Wednesday, Dec. 25th –Merry Christmas—No WNL



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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

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24th

5:30 pm

&

9:00 pm

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.