

August, 2022



# Faith Life Together

Volume 6 | Issue 8

**Pastor:** Ben Unseth

**Council President:**  
Paul Behrens

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user/faithlutheran  
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## August - Summer Continues!

Here we are in August! We look forward to a few more lazy days and the wonderful weather. We also start planning for activities and school to begin once again. Enjoy each day!

On **August 2, LSI (Lutheran Services in Iowa)** will begin a 9-week course for those who are interested in foster parenting. There is such a need for adults to love and care for children who have no one they can count on. If this is tugging at your heart, please contact the church office or [www.lsiowa.org](http://www.lsiowa.org) for more information.

Congregation input is important for the health of the church. On **August 7**, Faith will hold a **special congregational meeting** to vote on the proposed revised constitution and the HVAC system in the SON Room. Your input and vote are important. Be sure to attend immediately after worship.

The **Faith Lutheran Council** meets the second Wednesday of each month. This month they will meet on Wednesday, **August 10**. If you have questions or concerns, please contact one of the council members.

Get ready for the **August 14 Faith Worship and Fun Day at Ingham Lake Bible Camp!** Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. and is followed by a potluck meal. The meat and buns are provided. Bring along your favorite potluck dish! Then plan to spend the afternoon at Ingham Lake.

For those who will not make the trip to Ingham Lake Bible Camp, an abbreviated worship service will be held at Faith at 9:00 a.m. In addition, Pastor Mark Vander Tuig is attending worship at Faith and Ingham Lake that day. Your presence at either worship service or both will be a blessing!

Each year, Faith reserves a time during worship to celebrate our students with a **blessing of the children/youth**. On **August 21**, the children and youth, along with their backpacks, will be prayed over by everyone at Faith. Thank you to the Children's Ministry Team for leading this portion of the worship service!

August is full of good activity! Let's enjoy this last bit of summer! God's blessings to you!



PASTOR BEN UNSETH

## ***Life on God's Path***

I love bike paths. I used to enjoy riding on busy streets and highways, but smart phones have made drivers stupid! Walking across Grand Avenue, I watched a driver accelerate from the red light into the green light...while typing out a text message! I do not want to get run over by a ton of careless metal.

Bike paths give me joy and freedom and safety.

In May, I took my bicycle to Bikes, Boards and Shades for the first time. They tuned it up for my summer of fun. My first day pedaling, I rode from downtown up to church, then over to Riverview Terrace on the southeast corner of town. The next morning, I was sore. So, I kept pedaling.

In June, I biked from Spencer to Lake Okoboji for the first time. I sailed north with a 23 mph wind at my back. Coming home, I struggled against that wind, climbing uphill toward Fostoria. I was cycling at jogging, or walking, speed. But the next morning, despite 30 miles, my legs felt good!

In July, I decided to cycle from Spencer around Lake Okoboji. The morning was beautiful, and I cruised along happily. I was anticipating a new record distance for me – 45 miles. Despite my “smart” phone GPS, I ended up on the wrong bike path. I don’t know where I went wrong, but I gained a bonus of 5 miles before I found my way back to the right path. My legs were jelly after the 50 miles, and I wondered what the next morning would feel like. Good news, sunrise woke me up without soreness.

King David did not have a bicycle, but he understood running. He knew what it was like to run on a smooth path, and he knew what it was like to run on uneven ground covered with broken rocks. He knew what it was like to run from a whole army as the most wanted man in the kingdom. The arrows flew all around him, but he knew that God had a call on his life. The arrows flew all around him, and these arrows fell to the ground.

David continued to pray and worship and nourish his soul in God’s Word. The longest chapter in the Bible is by David, Psalm 119. Each of its 176 verses point us to God’s Word. Several verses picture our life under God as life on a path:

*<sup>9</sup> How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.*

*<sup>32</sup> I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.*

*<sup>35</sup> Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight.*

*<sup>101</sup> I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word.*

*<sup>104</sup> I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.*

*<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.*

A bike path is great. It makes my riding carefree and safe. Make God’s Word your life path! In August, our sermons will encourage you on God’s safe path – even when arrows are falling around you.



# Women's Bible Study: *Experiencing God's Peace* (a study of *Philippians*)

## ***Tuesday, Aug. 9 | 1:30 p.m.***

Do you have a favorite verse(s) from Philippians? One of mine is Philippians 4:6-7 - "*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*"

Let's decide this month what book of the Bible we want to study next.

If you are unable to come August 9, call me with your ideas - 262-6621.

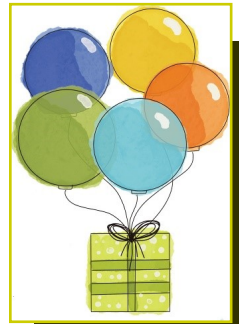
***Hope to see you on August 9! All are welcome!***

## August Birthdays and Anniversaries

### ***Happy Birthday Blessings to ...***

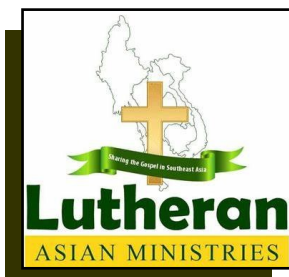
Aug. 2 Jolene Hansen  
Aug. 5 Isaac Rouse  
Jorgan Rustad  
Aug. 7 Joe Simington  
Titan Coleman  
Aug. 8 Shirley Nelson  
Alexander Simons  
Mark Sorensen  
Kent Heazlett  
Aug. 10 Peggy Olson  
Aug. 11 Marge Nielsen  
Aug. 12 Raul Ortiz  
Aug. 13 Michael Ruhs  
Aug. 16 Garold Becker  
Dennis Larson  
Aug. 17 Pastor Ben Unseth  
Aug. 18 GA Darnell-Wegner  
Linda Susie  
Autumn Erdman  
Brooke Freeman  
Trent Freeman  
Aug. 19 Alex Carlson  
Lydia Skadeland  
Aug. 20 Dale Brandt  
Marge Frad  
Connor Orr  
Christina Caton  
Aug. 22 Cindy Essick  
Larry Peterson  
Mike Trierweiler

Aug. 23 Carissa Doran  
Jackson Eilts  
Aug. 24 Darren Piercy  
Diane Allen  
Aug. 25 Nancy Ketcham  
Shanna Kooker  
Cade Freeman  
Aug. 26 Lora Johnson  
Aug. 27 Marv Schutter  
Easton Anderson  
Aug. 30 Jett Blazek  
Aug. 31 Jake Hanson  
Larry Nelson



### ***Happy Anniversary Wishes to ...***

Aug. 4 Stan & Jodene Jongma  
Aug. 7 Tracy & Donna Bengtson  
Aug. 15 Jacob & Brandi Heikens  
Jeff & Joan Loring  
Aug. 16 David & Jan Hopkins  
Aug. 17 Eric & Sheila Weeks  
Aug. 18 Al & Kim Rye  
Aug. 19 Dennis & Jan Larson  
Aug. 24 Bill & Nancy McCarroll  
Aug. 25 Jim & Joan Unrau  
Aug. 26 Rod & Cryss Quanbeck  
Aug. 28 Justin & Laura Heikens  
Aug. 29 Larry & Tracy Coleman Wigen  
Aug. 31 Craig & Lindsay Neiderheiser



## Meet Your Missions: Lutheran Asian Ministries

Lutheran Asian Ministries is the Faith Lutheran Mission Partner we are spotlighting this month. We are pleased to partner with them and here is why. Lutheran Vietnamese Ministries (LVM) began in 2003 out of Lutheran Church of the Cross in Altoona. In 2013 LVM joined the work being done by Pastor Tom LoVan of Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City. It was then that Lutheran Asian Ministries (LAM) was formed.

The work began primarily in Vietnam and Cambodia. In the last few years they have expanded their mission and are currently working in five countries - Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar - with the approximate population of 1.5 million people. Three of these countries are in the top 30 countries persecuting Christians. LAM is a recognized ministry partner with Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC).

LAM exists to share the news of Jesus and the love of God with the people of these Southeast Asian countries. They cooperate with the governments of Laos, Vietnam and Myanmar to help in the development of religious, educational and well-water objectives. LAM funds staffing projects in Southeast Asia that partner with others to help people in need.

LAM is based in the countries of Siam Reap, Cambodia, Yangon, Myanmar and the capital city of Vientiane, Laos. They work throughout all of the Southeast Asian nations to help the poor, share the good news of the Gospel and strive to improve their lives.

For more information contact Rev. Mark Vander Tuig, Lutheran Asian Ministries Ministry Coordinator, working out of Morningside Lutheran Church, 700 S. Martha St., Sioux City, IA. 51106, 712-276-2511, [mark6275vt@gmail.com](mailto:mark6275vt@gmail.com), or visit the LAM website at [lutheranasianministries.com](http://lutheranasianministries.com)



## Lutheran World Relief

### ***Hands-On Mission Day | Aug. 3 | 9:00 a.m. to Noon***

#### **Items of the Month:**

#### **School kit supplies!**

(70 count, spiral bound notebooks; 16 or 24 ct. box of crayons; pencil sharpener; blunt scissors; unsharpened No. 2 pencils; black or blue ball point pens (no gel); 2 1/2-inch eraser and 12-in/30-cm ruler)



#### **Watch for sales on these items in August!**

Items can be donated by placing them in the yellow Missions box inside the church near the front doors.

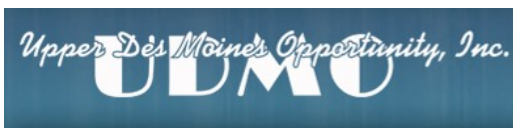


## Upper Des Moines Opportunity

Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry is in need of items for our community.

They suggest:

**Mac & Cheese, Canned Veggies, Tuna**



# Mission Emphasis: Mental Health Conditions

MENTAL

HEALTH

## Grace-filled Aging in God's Kingdom

For those who have attained a "certain" age, we realize the wonders of youthfulness wane. Some may try unsuccessfully to mask the inevitable passage of time. As believers in Christ, we know His grace provides us with His lasting gifts of self-acceptance, wisdom, and experience to use in our advancing years to His glory.

As we age, we know our abilities change yet as Isaiah 40:29 reminds us, *"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak."* As we all age, triggers like alcohol or substance abuse, dementia, illness or loss of a loved one, chronic pain, medication interactions, physical disability, poor diet or malnutrition, or loss of mobility can be difficult to cope with. God is always near as Isaiah 46:3 promises us: *"Even to your old age and gray hairs, I am He who will sustain you."* When challenged by life, we are encouraged to use our voice and enlist the help of a loved one, a pastor, or a counselor to take steps toward wellness in spite of illness.

Paul inspires us in 2 Corinthians 4:16 to *"Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly, we are wasting away, yet inwardly, we are being renewed day by day."* Are we, as members of Faith, being renewed as we walk together? What does renewal look like?

We know that learning through experience has value to better identify possibilities that can shape more positive outcomes. We are renewed when we take lessons learned and apply this wisdom to our present and future.

Job 32:7 confirms to us that *"age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom."* Fortunately, Faith Lutheran has many mentors that given the opportunity, can share their legacy when we choose to listen. As the Psalmist states in Psalm 71:18 *"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, My God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come."* May we be faithful to God's will.

To God be the Glory!

TEAM

Restoration  
Ministries

CHRIST CENTERED

## TEAM Restoration Ministries

TEAM Restoration Ministries has a God-driven commitment and passion for facilitating the healing and strengthening of marriages, families and individuals through the blood of Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

TEAM Restoration Ministries offers many different types of mental health counseling for children, adolescents and adults.

Erika Adolph, a counselor with TEAM Restoration Ministries, is working out of Faith.



**For more information about TEAM Restoration Ministries or to schedule an appointment, please call 515-238-9010 or [www.team-restoration.org](http://www.team-restoration.org)**

Thank  
You

Thank you to our wonderful family of faith for the prayers and the meals! Your thoughtfulness and generosity are truly appreciated.

God bless each of you!  
Jim, Joyce, Justin  
and Brittany Spieker



## WORSHIP, MUSIC AND CREATIVE ARTS

Isn't it cool how God makes Himself known in all circumstances? On the way to Sioux Falls for my recent surgery, a beautiful double rainbow lit up the sky. It was a reminder that God always keeps his promises. Upon arriving at the hospital, I was escorted to my room. A beautiful mural with the words, "Do not be afraid for I am with you." (Isaiah 41:10) was painted on the wall.

I have had several surgeries in the last few years, but I am still not good at the recovery process. I like to be on the go and busy! I love my job. I love to attend my kids' activities. It's crazy but I like to do laundry. I like to take care of my family. It's hard for me to be on the receiving end of the care. I have had a lot of down time recently and the song that continually comes to mind is "Be Still My Soul."

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.  
Leave to thy God to order and provide,  
who through all changes faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend  
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

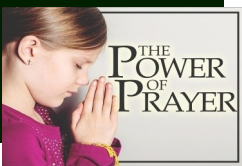
It is a prayer to patiently put our trust in the LORD even in the day of adversity. It shows us that no matter what we go through ultimately there is a joyful end to our sufferings. May this be the prayer of everyone else, be still, my soul, the LORD is on thy side. That ought to give us a blessed assurance that no matter what God is on our side. He always has been and He always will be.

Jolynne Eilts,  
Music & Creative Arts Team Co-Leader

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## Prayer and Praise Corner

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### **Lift Up in Prayer...**

- Pray for Faith as we meet on August 7 to make decisions about the Constitution and SON Room.
- Pray for our students as many transition to a new school.
- Pray for our Children's Ministry, Confirmation and Youth Ministry as we recruit volunteers and finalize plans for the new school year.
- Pray for Gloria McKenney as she comes home to Faith, as our Worship and Communications Director.
- Pray for us as we seek God's follow-up to Lori Krei in Administration and Technology.
- Installation of a new sign by the highway.
- Healing for Tracy Bengtson, Jerome Christianson, Betty Ricklefs, Jim and Joyce Spieker and all those we name in our hearts.
- Comfort for the family of Bernard Fairchild

### **Reasons for Praise!**

- Thanks for able leadership as Worship Director with Leah Kreutner and Gloria McKenney.
- Thanks for a donation to provide heating and air conditioning in the Son Room.
- Thanks for a decline of the COVID-19 virus.

**LifeKids Director Radina Jansen**

**[www.lifekidsspencer.com](http://www.lifekidsspencer.com)**



## ***Year 3 of Expanded LifeKids***

### **Thank you for making the LifeKids Pasquale's pizza fundraiser a success:**

\$1,264.00 was raised through pizza sales. A big LifeKids "THANK YOU" ...

to everyone who purchased pizzas!

to Courtney Schwartz for making the needed contacts and helping with the pizza pick up!

to Barb Enge for developing the order forms.

We are hoping to sell Pasquale's Pizzas again in October. Look for more information to come!



### **Great News:**

**Transportation** – The Spencer Community Schools bus will transport children to Faith Lutheran after school again this year! I am grateful to the Spencer Community Schools for their willingness to provide this service!

**Radon testing** – The Department of Human Services required radon testing was completed in June. The results were within the acceptable range and there is no intervention required. Testing is required every 2 years.

**In-service days** – Eric will continue to work with the LifeKids program once a month on Spencer Schools in-service days. He will drive us on field trips using the church bus and meet the Department of Human Services requirement of an additional staff person when on field trips! The kids and I love Eric's energy and we look forward to seeing him around the church and on in-service days!

Stay up to date on the LifeKids adventures at the end of each month with the Monthly Wrap-Up. You will see some new faces as we've welcomed some new children this fall!

## ***Register your children for LifeKids!***

Monday - Friday LifeKids from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

LifeKids begins in the fall when  
Spencer Community Schools starts the new year.

To register your child/children,  
please visit the online registration form: <https://bit.ly/3w5hSxy>



If you have a prayer request for the **Prayer Chain**,  
please direct it to the Prayer Team Leaders  
Linda and Dave Susie at [djslrs74@yahoo.com](mailto:djslrs74@yahoo.com) or  
Doreen Scribner at [doreenscribner@outlook.com](mailto:doreenscribner@outlook.com)

If you would like to be included on **Sunday's Prayers of the Church**,  
please contact the church office at 712-580-4316 or  
[office@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranspencer.com)

# Faith has a new mailing address!

Please note the new mailing address for Faith Lutheran:

Faith Lutheran Church

**P.O. Box 1322**

Spencer, IA 51301



## Faith Lutheran Church Photo Directory

### Share your family picture with Faith!

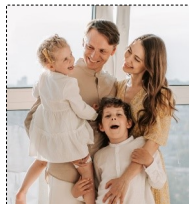
As you enjoy the summer, consider taking a photo to share with Faith Lutheran for the directory.

Please keep in mind:

1. The size of the group in the picture you want to send. Someone may get cut off.
2. Keep the group close yet giving a bit of space to get individual head shots.
3. You can send an updated photo at any time!

Use the online form or QR code below to upload your picture. We'll add it to your record!

If you need help, please call the church office: 712-580-4316!



Actual size of how the family will show in the directory.



Actual size of how the family will show in individual records.



Size received by the office

Send pictures via this link:

<https://bit.ly/3Nbqs6d>

or



or

Church Office: [office@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranspencer.com)



How individual members will show in their individual records.



In this family photo, some members are cut off in both the directory family photo (the square photo) and the family photo (the circle photo) in our Simple Church individual records.



# Faith Worship and Fun Day

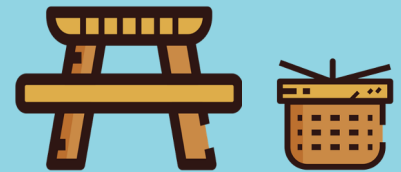
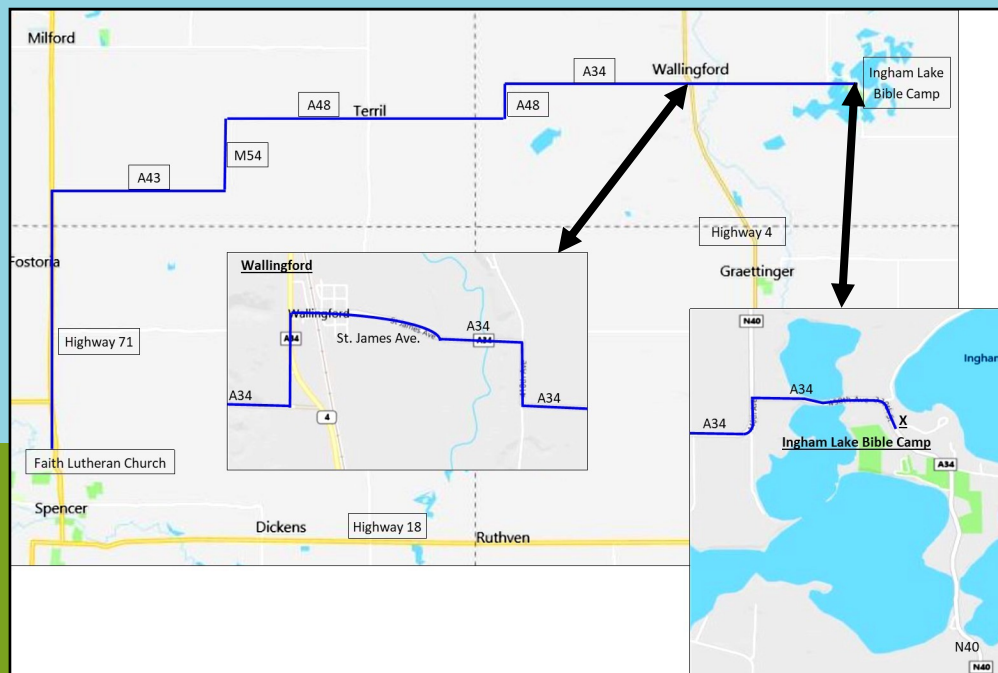
**Sunday, August 14**

**Worship: 9:00 a.m. at Faith Lutheran | 10:30 a.m. at Ingham Lake**

Pastor Mark Vander Tuig is joining us at both locations!

**11:30 a.m. Potluck Lunch - Meat and buns provided**

**12:30 p.m. Lakeside Activities** – Bring your lawn chairs, swim suit, baseball & bat, lawn darts or whatever game you would like to play. Be active or relax with good fellowship!



**Ingham Lake  
Bible Camp**

**2258 450th Ave.,  
Wallingford, IA 51365**

**IOWA STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
Extension and Outreach

Iowa State University Extension in Clay County is offering a caregiver course this fall. Faith Lutheran Caring Ministries Team is gathering interest at this time. If you, or someone you know, is interested in such a course to please share that with the church office (712-580-4316 | [office@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranspencer.com)) or Laura Heikens (712-260-7373). Check out this video to learn more about what the course covers: <https://vimeo.com/707081484>

Online giving provides the ability to donate to Faith Lutheran even when you are on the go for the summer!

1. Go to <http://bit.ly/33RXUbH> or scan the QR code located bottom right
2. Text “give” to 712-214-4317. You will receive a link.
  - a. First time: click “Sign in”
  - b. Click “register for an account” - follow prompts to receive your secure PIN
  - c. Select fund - enter donation amount - enter payment information
  - d. Tap “save payment” to use for future gifts
3. Questions: Call the church office at 712-580-4316!

**Give  
Online**



# Stewardship ... Staff Spotlight: Lori Krei and Radina Jansen

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The Stewardship Team reflected on wanting to take the time to feature the staff God has blessed us with because we appreciate their leadership and teaming up for the ministry of Faith. We know they don't take the place of our lay people, but they do help us all be better stewards. Here's a reminder over the next few months of the great staff God has blessed us with.

## **Lori Krei, Church Administrator and Technology Director**



There is not a hat throughout the building that Lori has not worn at some point in her volunteer years (from 2010-2014) and paid staff years (2014-present) at Faith Lutheran. In general, she assists members and guests with anything and everything they need; a Jack of all trades! She does the bookkeeping portion of our finances: receiving and processing offering along with receiving and paying the bills. She maintains our computers, all licenses, and domain names. She is our ultimate tech guru of every aspect with worship every Sunday, rehearsals on Wednesdays and any special event. Sounds pretty normal ... but when I asked her for more details, this is what came out. Lori has 50-70 bills every single month to send off checks to, or pay online. As for computers, we have 9 in use at the

moment, and she is preparing 3 more to replace the relics of our computers in use. We have close to 20 licenses and online subscriptions that Lori stays on top of, along with 2 domain names currently in use and other shorter domain names she's reserved for future use. Are you tired just reading about all of that? That's quite the detail our beloved Administrator oversees ... and we're not done yet!

On Sunday mornings, to get all the tech up and ready, Lori unlocks the doors at least 2 hours before worship even begins. She gets equipment warmed up and ready for rehearsal at 8:00 a.m., and once that is over it's time to prepare to stream the service live so we can touch souls for Jesus through the internet! And once worship is over, she doesn't get to turn it all off and go home. She has to download the live video just recorded, Once she heads back to her office to count offering and such, she can hopefully eat dinner by noon ... but that might be pushing it a bit. Ok, that just about sums it up ... for Sunday alone, not to mention the other six days of the week!

That's the detail of her position, but what she really favors about her job is visiting with members and guests, assisting both with any request they have. Ultimately her technology knowledge, and streamlining processes at Faith, is another joy of hers in this position.

When asking her more about her personal interests, she reminded me that she likes to keep to herself and doesn't think she has any hidden talents to share. I classified that as more of the humble servant God has blessed us with in Lori Krei. She is a gem and we really are going to miss having her on staff! She did let me know that she enjoys sewing (not quilting) clothes, tote bags, pillowcases, stuffed animals, games for kids, or anything interesting that catches her eye. She also really enjoys genealogy and really enjoys using technology to make life easier and more organized. Above it all, spending time with her grandsons is her all-time favorite and the icing on the cake!

But the heart of it all is where she's seen God at work during her time at Faith Lutheran. She reflected on how the worship services televised on SMU and YouTube are the greatest places she's seen God at work, and even more so now with live-streaming, our church reaches people in real time. Lori said, "The world needs Jesus, and this is one way to share His word and love." She also reflected on other God-moments at Faith saying, "God is most definitely working through LifeKids. If only people had the opportunity to daily see how these children learn about life and are blessed by the LifeKids program!"

Lori, saying thank you is not enough for all you have done and all you do for us. The 4 years of volunteer work and 8 years on paid staff have been wonderful years you've shared with Faith Lutheran, and we couldn't have been blessed with anyone as talented, passionate, and skilled as you are for our Administrator position. Well done, good and faithful servant, for all the help you've been

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## Stewardship ... Staff Spotlight – continued

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and putting Faith Lutheran on-line at a time that people could only be reached that way. Blessings to you for all you've done and the retirement you're about to enjoy!

### **Radina Jansen: Director of LifeKids**

LifeKids began as our mid-week children's ministry on Wednesday evenings, but God turned it into something bigger than we expected; He turned it into a Monday-Friday after school program. LifeKids is beginning its 3rd year this fall, and Radina Jansen has been the director of the after-school program since it's blossoming in 2020.



Radina is one gifted and passionate woman when it comes to children. Before coming to Faith, she taught special education to K-6th graders for 20 years and was in the classroom for 3 years with 1st graders in the Fort Dodge area. After leaving the classroom, Radina worked for Prairie Lakes AEA as a special education consultant working with teachers, both general and special education teachers, along with children and parents covering all ages preschool through 12th grade. Again, a very passionate woman for the education of children, and even more so now when she can teach her faith and God's love for us to the kids every day.

When LifeKids came up, she was all about it. Radina decided to apply for the director job when she heard God's voice telling her to take a leave from the AEA. She's had many new challenges from learning Department of Human Services procedures, to 501c3 development, developing a parent and staff handbook, and taking classes to be a director. For Radina, it's all about God! When you ask her what she does, it's not about directing, it's about the opportunity she has to teach children about God's love for them and the Bible every day. If you haven't had a chance to get to know Radina, she's the one with the love of Christ exuding from her ... and the kids are pretty drawn to that as well. In Radina's switch to directing LifeKids, her calling to make a difference, she gets to plan, prepare, and present every aspect of the program instead of the limited time she got to work with children through the AEA.

In her own personal time, she loves to read, scrap book, travel and spend plenty of time with her grandchildren. You might not know that she also enjoys growing houseplants and flowers outside in her flower gardens, especially petunias because it reminds her of her grandmother who is her role model. Her grandmother taught Sunday School to 4-year-olds for 40 years, which sounds to me like Radina is following in her grandmother's legacy; what a gift! But what's something deeper Radina wants you to know? When asked, she's always pointing back to her faith. Radina said, "God has never left my side during the ups and downs in my life. I love children, enjoy their excitement in ordinary things, and want all children to know that they can overcome yucky stuff." God's got Radina in just the right place for His plan! More than that, she's also a vocalist for us on Sundays, on the Music and Creative Arts Team as well as preparing and leading Children's Messages. She's also filled in the daily custodian role when there wasn't one for LifeKids this past winter and spring.

Radina continued talking about the kiddos, that God has blessed us with, at LifeKids when I asked about where God is working. She stated, "I see him working in the lives of the children that attend LifeKids. They have such great insight, ask thought provoking questions and try to use what they've learned about the Bible at school and home. Each year they have become more compassionate towards others and not so consumed by their wants. They get excited about helping others through the service projects."

All the updates you prepare for us monthly, Radina, really showcase exactly what you're talking about. Compassion and more focused on what others want before themselves is definitely God at work in these young lives...and I would go further to say God at work in their families as well. Well done, good and faithful servant, Radina! Thank you for saying "yes" to directing such an important ministry God has given us at Faith so we can reach out to the community for the younger ages all to share the light and love of Christ. Blessings on many more years to come through LifeKids and Faith Lutheran!

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# Stewardship of Your Whole Life by Rev. Robert Blezard

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Before you read further, stop and list the top five things you value most in life? Then rank them by importance. Go!

All done? If you're like most people, your top-five list includes family, health, time, God, friends, job, home or community. Does money even show up? For many of us, it doesn't, and yet most of church talk about "stewardship" involves how we use our gifts of money.

Yes, we are "stewards," or caretakers of the material wealth with which God has blessed us, but we are also responsible for nourishing and cherishing all the OTHER blessings that God has put into our lives. That goes especially for the things we value most.

Now refer back to your top-five list. For each, consider these questions:

- Why is this item in the top five?
- How well am I caring for this?
- Am I treating it as one of the most valuable items in my life? Why or why not?
- How could I care even more for this item?
- How would God want me to care for this, and why?
- How would my life change if I really cherished and nourished this gift?

When we are good stewards of all the blessings and opportunities God gives us, we open our lives to the full joy and potential that God intends for us. How can you be a better steward of what God has given you?

**Rev. Rob Blezard**

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## Children's Ministry News of the Month

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I know last month I talked about VBS but wanted to again thank all those that volunteered for this community outreach endeavor that our church undertakes. Vacation Bible School went very well! The counselors (including our own Connor Tigges) were wonderful, and we had approximately 35 children that heard the Gospel of Jesus!! Special thanks to our amazing director Ann Lear.

A survey was sent out to all council members and those members and regular attendees with children in age group of PK – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. It asked preferences, times, wishes. We received 26 responses. Of those applicable, 66% wanted after service and 33% wanted during service after children's message. We will continue with after service but will start immediately after service has concluded at approximately 10:15 am and run until 11:00 am, as 45 minute length, was overwhelmingly preferred.

We are still looking for members to step up to serve as Sunday school teachers this fall. We will need to have 12 solid teachers that would rotate 6 and 6 every other week in 3 classrooms. Our classrooms will split 3 ways: PK-K, 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We also will need several substitute teachers that we could call upon. I'd love to visit with you and we could meet and go over curriculum, etc. Please contact me if interested at 712-260-1867 (text is preferred) or [dpellsworth13@gmail.com](mailto:dpellsworth13@gmail.com). Let me know, our future church leaders NEED YOU!! We need ONE MORE TEACHER and a couple substitutes.

Please someone – STEP UP!

We will, again, be blessing our Sunday school children and youth, PK – 12<sup>th</sup> grade on the Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, just before school begins. Please encourage your children to bring their backpacks and come forward at this event during our church service.

Blessings Faith Church!

Patty Ellsworth, Children's Ministry Team Leader

# Special Congregational Forum Minutes

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The meeting was opened with prayer at 10:14 AM by President Paul Behrens.

An anonymous donation was given to the church to install a new HVAC system into the SON room. A vote will be taken at the August 7 meeting on this. No questions were asked regarding this. THANK YOU to the donors for this wonderful gift.

Paul explained the differences between the Articles, By-Laws and Continuing Resolutions. Our Constitution should be designed to keep consistency.

The team worked hard to incorporate the By-laws and Articles together into this Constitution.

David Susie asked about Article 4-Bylaw 1-section c regarding voting members and how those are tracked. He also asked about Article 6 – Discipline of Members and if this was really needed.

Dave Simington commented about the handling of Bylaws vs. Articles and how they are different and if we should keep them separate. In combining the 2, we are hoping to make things easier to find.

David Susie commented on Article 9-section A9.03 & A9.04 regarding how they searched for a pastoral candidate and if a church vote is required to obtain an interim pastor. He also discussed the count of 9 members on the call team and maybe increase that to 15 as you don't always have all members active on the call team. We just need to make sure the 9 we have are committed. Dave also discussed the 7-9 votes to present the candidate vs. a unanimous vote.

Becky Simons explained how the revision committee was comprised of people from the different groups of prior Constitution committees and current council members (voting & non-voting).

Rachel Simington asked for clarification on A9.03 as well & Pastor Ben answered her concern.

Dave Simington commented on Article 13-A13.02 regarding an Executive Team. Dave brought up examples of other churches that had a very controlling Executive Team that was detrimental to those churches. Paul explained our Executive Team's purpose and that they really don't have much "power" and their purpose is to help guide the Council. Pastor Ben explained that our Executive Team has no voting rights so they really can't do anything other than support the Council. Our President is limited to a one year term as well which makes it difficult to be "controlling". David Susie suggested a checks & balances to the Team. Karen Brandt spoke to the Executive Board having the ability to come up with recommendations to run by the Council and believe they have a little bit of influence but that the Council has the ultimate vote on things. Patty Ellsworth commented about adding people and that there shouldn't be family members both on these Teams. Kay Iverson commented that it was set up to have a small group of people on the Executive Team to address items that would require immediate attention.

**July 10, 2022**

**Special  
Congregational  
Forum to discuss  
the proposed  
revisions to the  
Constitution and  
Bylaws and the  
HVAC system for  
the SON room**

# Special Congregational Forum Minutes – continued

Paul addressed A13.17 and if there should be an increase in the amount of projects. Dave Simington asked the question about if this is included in an interim pastor situation. Discussion on having the Council appoint an interim pastor and not presenting to the Congregation. Ross Brockshus discussed some clarification of the Call Committee search for a pastor and an intentional interim and their role.



Becky noted that Article 14 was completed by contacting each team and that as the Teams change, they have moved items to the Continuing Resolutions out of the Bylaws to help make these changes without changing the whole Constitution.

The Proposed Continuing Resolutions have the Bylaws for each team along with the Teams. Becky suggested changing the Bylaw naming to CR for Continuing Resolution and that was agreed upon by the Congregation.

Article 20 sections refer to Congregation Council so may want to change the verbiage on that to just Council.

Paul recommended changing Standing Task Team verbiage by adding Standing to A14.13, 14 & 15.

Leah Kreutner asked if there was a cap or limit of how many teams or ways any one member can serve as not to overload them or control issues. There is nothing in place at this time. Discussion on getting new members involved and ASK them how they would like to serve.

Paul commended the team that has reviewed the Constitution, Bylaws & Continuing Resolutions: Barb Enge, Matt Essick, Becky Simons, Kay Iverson.

Paul closed the meeting at 11:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jolene K. Hansen, Council Secretary

## Congregational Meetings and Live Streaming

Beginning August 2022, congregational meetings will no longer be live streamed.

Please note that worship will continue to be live streamed.

Council meetings will continue to be available via Zoom.

Questions? Please contact Council President, Paul Behrens



## Financial Peace University

The Stewardship Team is offering the Financial Peace University class beginning in September. It is a 9-lesson course that teaches you the step-by-step plan to getting out of debt and winning with money.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the 9-week class, please get in touch with Kevin or Heidi Skadeland (Kevin: 712-229-7980 | Heidi: 712-221-9098) or Greg Lear (712-260-7675) or Karen Brandt (712-240-5967)

**See you in September!**

# Faith Lutheran Council Minutes - July 13, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Paul Behrens.

Members present were: Mark Speidel via Zoom, Roger Godfredsen via Zoom, Becky Simons via Zoom, Paul Behrens, Kevin & Heidi Skadeland, Joe Simington, Laura Heikens, Brittany Spieker, Patty Ellsworth & Pastor Ben Unseth.

Devotions were given by Mark Speidel. The meeting was opened with prayer by Mark.

Minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed. We didn't have enough voting members so we weren't able to approve but reviewed and no changes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Becky Simons)** – General giving is a little behind but not bad. Some designated giving came in last month. Administrative expenses are up a little. Some dedicated expenses were paid as well as a check for the Hoppe's. In comparing the giving to prior years, this time of year is typically lower than others. No action could be taken on the report.

**PASTOR BEN'S REPORT** – Pastor is doing premarital counseling with a couple whose wedding is scheduled for October. Pastor has spent quite a bit of time at youth sports/extracurricular activities. Missionary that was scheduled to speak had to postpone to this fall. Everything else is in the report.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Paul Behrens)** – Gloria will be starting on August 22. All other information is in the report.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

- \* **Evangelism (Eric Tigges)** – Fall new member orientation planning going on.
- \* **Missions (Pam Harris)** – No report.
- \* **Worship (Andrea Crew)** – No report.
- \* **Stewardship (Skadeland's)** – Nothing in addition to the report.
- \* **Discipleship (Randy Enge)** – No report.
- \* **Children's Ministry (Patty Ellsworth)** – Patty has been working on getting some Sunday school teachers. She met with Pastor Ben & Paul and have a list. She was able to get 3 more teachers and a sub today. Planning on splitting the classrooms up into 3 sections: PreK-K, 1-2, 3-5. Patty will meet with the teachers in August. After reviewing the survey, Sunday school would remain after church for 45 minutes and run between 10:15-11. Sunday School will begin October 2.
- \* **Youth Ministry (Britt Spieker)** – Nothing in addition to the report.
- \* **Caring Ministries (Laura Heikens)** – Meal train for Jim Spieker is still going on. Brittany indicated that this can be discontinued. There is also a meal train for Arlene Fairchild that Laura is calling up people vs. using the online sign up. No progress with RIDES transporting elderly. Pursuing caregivers' class and gauging interest in that.
- \* **Fellowship (Godfredsen's)** – Nothing to report.
- \* **Music & Creative Arts (Eilts')** – Report included in the packet.

July 13, 2022

Monthly  
Council  
Meeting

# Council Minutes - July 13, continued

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- \* **Properties (Mark Speidel)** – Nothing in addition to the report. Donation for 4 cameras outside of the building. Working on our options for cameras & monitoring. Working with Chad out of Sioux City on this and they are running into some supply chain issues. Hoping to have some answers this week and thinking that maybe this will happen in August but not sure.
- \* **Technology (Kay Iverson)** – No report.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Outdoor digital sign – See Properties report above.
2. Constitution – Discipline of members was discussed. The congregation didn't say we needed to remove but expressed some concerns. The Call Team portion was also discussed. The number of people on the Call Team may be changed or we need to make sure that the members are committed. Suggested to change it to 9 members. Also discussed having the Congregation approve an intentional interim pastor. Discussion on the Executive Team having too much power to guide the Council. It was reiterated that the Executive Team is a team and is only there to present ideas and not to push an individual's idea through the Council. The Continuing Resolutions were well received by the Congregation. Two new members spoke up at the forum Sunday. Suggested to not have another forum but to put it out there to ask Paul or committee members if anyone has questions on it.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. LCMC Annual Gathering
  - a. 2 voting delegates allowed
  - b. Reimburse expenses for voting delegates? Suggested the Church will pay for the 2 delegates & Pastor (mileage, some meals, rooms, registration). More can go if they wish but will be at their own expense. Will have to vote next month.
2. SON Room HVAC – Donation received to install HVAC system. This will be voted on August 7.
3. Sunday School time – nothing additional (see above).
4. Church Administrator position – Offered the job to someone but they turned it down. Still searching for Lori's replacement. It was decided to get advertising in place along with the job description. Pastor has a lead on the tech part of Lori's position. Discussed keeping the ad simple and can discuss the details with any of the candidates that would apply. Heidi to draw up an ad. Mark suggested radio. Facebook, Instagram, LCMC site, LinkedIn are all other options to share this with. Salary to be determined based on qualifications and amount of duties.
5. Semi-annual financial update – This would be something new and talking about using the spreadsheet that Becky provides to the Council to the Congregation on a semi-annual basis.
6. Summer worship & picnic at Ingham Lake – Looking at August 14 for this date. Will need to talk to Rod about this. We would have a 20-30 minute service at the church at 9 and then encourage everyone to Ingham for this service/picnic. Pastor checked with Renee at Camp and we are scheduled for August 14 at 10 at Camp.
7. Worship service time change – Do we want to change the time of the services with the season or change it to a later time? It was discussed that it would impact our Fellowship time as well. Heidi said in her previous church, Sunday School was before the 9:30 service at 8:30. Laura feels that maybe changing it to later in the winter wouldn't be a bad idea but later in the summer we would probably see a decrease in attendance. We will discuss more at the next meeting.
8. Time & Talents sheets – Stewardship met and discussed these with Pastor Ben & Lori. Heidi & Kevin went through their TEAM attributes and changed them to make them fit and appeal to more of the Congregation. They are asking each TEAM leader to look through their Team's Time & Talent section to add/remove/change any of those items. Heidi requested that the Leaders bring

## Council Minutes - July 13, continued

back their updated list to the August meeting. Would also like to talk to the Youth of the Church to possibly step up and use their time & talents within the Church. Brittany suggested visiting with Lori regarding what your team duties are because some things Lori does but they really should be the responsibility of the Team.

9. Nomination team – LaVonne Clark, Stephanie Essick, Barb Solberg, Larry Wigen, Larry Peterson

Expiring terms:

- a. Discipleship
- b. Music & Creative Arts
- c. Finance
- d. Properties
- e. Youth Ministry
- f. Leadership Support (added) will need to add this as a rotating position within the

Constitution.

Paul asked the Team leaders if there is a need for help in writing reports for the monthly meetings. Joe suggested submitting reports every other month or maybe even quarterly. Paul said it doesn't have to be lengthy. Will keep it monthly for now with the understanding that some months, teams may not have anything to report and other teams will have a report every month.

### Concerns and/or Celebrations

**Closing Prayer** was given by Pastor Ben.

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM by Paul Behrens.

Respectfully submitted, Jolene K. Hansen, Church Council Secretary

**Next Council Meeting is  
August 10 | 7:00 p.m.**

**In person and Zoom**

**Council Members:** Please submit your team reports to the office by Monday, August 8, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

### GENERAL OFFERING

January 1 through July 24, 2022

2022 Budget: \$389,684.00

Year to Date: \$205,251.55

Thank you for generously giving  
in 2022!



## 2022 LCMC Annual Gathering & Convention

October 2-5 | Hosanna Church, Lakeville, MN | Registration deadline: Sept. 28

Theme: "Discipleship: Following Christ in a Complicated World"

For more information or to register to attend, please go to [lcmc.net](https://lcmc.net) then click on "Events".

If you would like to attend as a representative for Faith, please contact the church office.

# Walk Through the Bible One Chapter a Day!

We will read one chapter a day and understand the whole Bible from beginning to end. We will read chapters that can be understood on their own and from the Old Testament that tell the story of God's work among his people and chapters that point us to Jesus - the Messiah and Savior.

## Through the Bible in 2022 – One Chapter a Day

Month	Date	Day	Book	Ch.	Chapter Summary
August	1	Monday	Nehemiah	4	Nehemiah Starts Wall around Jerusalem
August	2	Tuesday	Nehemiah	6	Nehemiah Finishes wall around Jerusalem
August	3	Wednesday	Nehemiah	8	Nehemiah Gathers Jews to Hear Scriptures
August	4	Thursday	Nehemiah	9	Jews Confess Sin and Commit Themselves to God
August	5	Friday	Job	1	Job Loses Children and Property
August	6	Saturday	Job	2	Job Loses Health
<b>August</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2 Corinthians</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>God's Grace Is Made Perfect in Human Weakness</b>
August	8	Monday	Job	3	Job Laments
August	9	Tuesday	Job	18	Job's Friend Bildad Condemns Him
August	10	Wednesday	Job	19	Job Yearns to Die and Meet His Redeemer
August	11	Thursday	Job	28	The Search for Wisdom
August	12	Friday	Job	38	God Questions Job
August	13	Saturday	Job	40	Job Submits to God
<b>August</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Job</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>God Blesses Job</b>
August	15	Monday	Luke	3	John the Baptist Forecasts Jesus
August	16	Tuesday	Luke	4	Jesus Tempted and Rejected
August	17	Wednesday	Luke	5	Jesus Calls His First Disciples
August	18	Thursday	Luke	6	Jesus Chooses 12 Apostles
August	19	Friday	Luke	7	Jesus Confirms He Is Messiah
August	20	Saturday	Luke	8	Jesus Overrules a Storm, Sickness, Demons & Death
<b>August</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Jesus Predicts His Death a 2nd Time</b>
August	22	Monday	Luke	10	Jesus Teaches: Love Your Neighbor
August	23	Tuesday	Luke	11	Jesus Teaches How to Pray
August	24	Wednesday	Luke	12	Jesus Talks About Wealth
August	25	Thursday	Luke	13	Jesus Heals on the Sabbath
August	26	Friday	Luke	14	Jesus Heals on the Sabbath Again
August	27	Saturday	Luke	15	Jesus Tells 3 Stories About Lost and Found
<b>August</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Luke</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Jesus Teaches About Heaven and Hell</b>
August	29	Monday	Luke	17	Jesus Teaches and Heals
August	30	Tuesday	Luke	18	Jesus Predicts His Death a 3rd Time
August	31	Wednesday	Luke	19	Jesus Enters Jerusalem As King

# The Project Tree

While these named projects need support, please know that other teams may appreciate support as well. Check out the Project Tree and let God inspire you to support in a way that works for you.

## Properties Team

- Finish top moulding office: \$400
- Sheetrock back of Worship wall: \$3,000 - \$3,500
- Resurface North/South exterior walls to match front: \$37,000 per side or \$75,000 for both
- Repaint & sandblast North/South exterior walls: \$18,250
  - Repaint & sandblast East exterior wall: \$11,200
- Floor covering (hard surface or carpet): in the Worship area: Estimate \$55,000 - \$60,000 (\$550 received)
  - Paint remaining duct work in Worship area: \$3,000
- Shelves in storage area: \$500 - \$700
- Furnace for the SON Room - \$12,500

- Repair duct work to Pastor Ben and Eric's offices and General Maintenance - \$5,000

## Technology Team

- New projectors and system in worship area - \$150,000 (\$3,900 received)

## Youth Ministry

- Gift Cards for meals (like Taco Bell, McDonalds, Burger King, any pizza establishment) - Typically the youth are coming from sporting or school activities and have not eaten.
- Money for snacks for Confirmation youth
- Cabin cost at IOLBC for a youth weekend trip
  - Paint ball costs at IOLBC

## Events at Okoboji

- **August 5:** Scandinavian Feast & Glenn Henriksen Concert
- **August 6:** 5K Fun Run & Quilt Auction Live & Online
- **Aug. 7-12:** Family Camp #6 – Speaker: Rev. Dr. Kyle Fever
  - **August 20:** Golf Classic

Please see the brochures on the Welcome Center or the posters on the bulletin board for more details.

Pre-registration may be required for some events. Please check the IOLBC website:

[www.okoboji.org](http://www.okoboji.org)

or call

1-800-656-2654 (Okoboji Camp) or  
712-867-4170 (Ingham Camp).

**Ingham  
Okoboji**  
Lutheran Bible Camps

INGHAM LAKE BIBLE CAMP

## HOG ROAST PIE AUCTION

**SUNDAY, AUG. 28**  
4:00-6:00 PM  
PIE AUCTION 6 PM  
FREE WILL DONATION

SPONSORED BY THE  
INGHAM AUXILIARY

THANKS TO DAN YONKER FAMILY FOR  
PROVIDING THE ROASTING THE DELICIOUS PORK.

INGHAM LAKE BIBLE CAMP IS LOCATED 5 MILES  
EAST OF WALLINGFORD, IA OFF COUNTY RD A34  
2258 450TH AVE, WALLINGFORD, IA

[WWW.OKOBOJI.ORG/HOGROAST](http://WWW.OKOBOJI.ORG/HOGROAST) | 712-867-4170

**Ingham  
Okoboji**  
Lutheran Bible Camps

**Information and happenings  
with Faith Lutheran Youth  
can be found at ...**



♦ **Instagram Youth Page:**  
**spencerfaithlutheranyouth**

♦ **Facebook Youth Page:**  
**Faith Lutheran Church Youth**

## Faith Lutheran Church

2912 Highway Blvd  
Spencer, IA 51301

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## Faith Lutheran Church - July, 2022

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**Baptisms | Births | Confirmed**  
**Deaths:** July 4, Bernard Fairchild | **Marriages | New Members**

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## Faith Lutheran Church - Staff

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**Pastor: Ben Unseth**  
**[pastor@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:pastor@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Technology Director: Lori Krei  
[techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com)

Interim Worship Director: Leah Kreutner  
[leah@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:leah@faithlutheranspencer.com)

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven  
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LifeKids Director: Radina Jansen  
[director@lifekidsspencer.com](mailto:director@lifekidsspencer.com)

Church Administrator: Lori Krei  
[churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com)

Stephen Ministry and Visitation Director  
Lay Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Ruthven:  
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Custodian: Rich Stueven  
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[www.faithlutheranspencer.com](http://www.faithlutheranspencer.com)  
Like us on Facebook  
Faith Lutheran Church LCMC  
Watch us on SMU:  
Monday @ 8:30 p.m. | Tuesday @ 11:00 a.m.