

October 2022

Faith Life Together

Volume 6 | Issue 10

Pastor: Ben Unseth

Council President:
Paul Behrens

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[www.youtube.com/
user/faithlutheran
spencer](https://www.youtube.com/user/faithlutheran-spencer)



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Autumn Activities Abound!

School has started, the Clay County Fair has come and gone, and seemingly out of nowhere October has made its appearance. Wherever this fall finds you, may you find assurance that though the seasons change, our God never will.

Here at Faith we are looking forward to several events in October. On Saturday, **October 8th**, we will be having a **Spaghetti Dinner and Trivia Night** to fundraise for the mission trip to Mexico City. Come ready for some good food and great fun, knowing that your support will equip and encourage those preparing to be God's hands and feet in Mexico!

On **October 9th** is **New Member Sunday** as we welcome new members into our congregation. These individuals participated in the New Member Discovery Classes with Pastor Ben, and believe God is calling them to Faith. Be sure to give them a hearty Faith welcome and support them as they join our community.

Also on **October 9th** we will have a **congregational forum**. If you have questions or concerns about the happenings at Faith, be sure to bring them up at this time. Council members will meet on Wednesday, October 12th, so you may also speak to a council member if you have thoughts to share. We want everyone's voice to be heard.

Toward the end of October, we will have a **pop-up choir** enhancing our worship on Sunday, **October 23rd**. If you are interested in joining us for this fun experience, talk to Gloria to get a copy of the music and receive more details. If you're not musically inclined, we hope listening to the pop-up choir will enrich your worship experience.

As the work of harvest continues and fall settles in, may you each be showered in God's blessings and find God's grace sufficient for each day. We look forward to seeing you throughout this October!



PASTOR BEN UNSETH

The Problem with Faith Lutheran Church

I love Faith Lutheran Church. I am not saying that I adore the building at 2912 Highway Boulevard on the north end of Spencer, Iowa.

I love our congregation. I love gathering with you.

So what is the problem with Faith Lutheran Church? There are hundreds of people who gather here regularly, and *you cannot be close friends with each of them!* We do not have too many people here. Our friends and neighbors include thousands of people who need a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We want to welcome lots of them into our fellowship and share the good news of Jesus with them.

And as new people join us at Faith, they need to connect with friends here too. Donuts and coffee help. Serving together on a team is a great way to get acquainted with a few people.

The very best way to build strong relationships here at Faith is to *join a Small Group*. Over the next couple weeks, you will see sign-up sheets inviting you to try out a Small Group. It is an incredibly valuable investment that you should make for your future.

I am writing this invitation at the last minute to get it into the newsletter. I have delayed because when I think about Small Groups, I bawl my eyes out. I joined a Small Group at the happiest time of my life. I was thriving in my job. I had moved from an apartment into a townhouse. And a baby was on the way!

A few months later, I walked upstairs to pick up my baby boy from a nap, and his body was completely still. When he died, I died.

Over the following days and months, my Small Group cared for me and carried me. They were God's regular transfusion of love and hope into my withered soul.

If God overwhelms you with blessings in this coming year, God can use you to strengthen other members in your Small Group. For others, this coming year will blindsides you with a crisis. A Small Group can be your lifeboat to carry you through any storm!

Your Small Group will be a lifeboat crew for someone. Join your lifeboat now! God will bless you above and beyond what you can imagine.

Ben Unseth

Women's Bible Study: A Study of Luke



Bible Study: “Living with Passion & Purpose”

Tuesday, Oct. 11

1:30 p.m. | SON Room

As we begin a study of Luke, “Living with Passion and Purpose”, Luke will take us from the birth of John the Baptist to the death and resurrection of Jesus. We will witness great passion in those who were involved in some way and think about living with passion and ponder what our purpose or reason for being is.

Come and join us – All are welcome!

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday Blessings to ...

Oct. 4 Sharon Simington
Oct. 5 Noah Spieker
Oct. 6 Gary Arndt
Joan Unrau
Roger Godfredsen
Oct. 7 Bill Neiderheiser
Oct. 8 Ross Brockshus
Vickie Godfredsen
Elliot Stykel
Marlene Thorson
Oct. 9 Bennet Hansen
Jayda Smith
Rod Quanbeck
Oct. 10 Arlie Neiderheiser
Oct. 12 Blake Kooker
Andy Yungbluth
Oct. 14 Trisha Rohmiller
Oct. 15 Joan Loring
Oct. 16 Doug Schwartz
Oct. 19 Dave Susie
Oct. 21 Jim Paulsen
Pat Swancutt
Oct. 22 Dan Anderson
Shirley Lowe

Oct. 24 Stephanie Hines

Oct. 27 Baylie Stykel

Oct. 28 Jodene Jongma
Emily Quanbeck

Oct. 31 Kevin Lee

Happy Anniversary Wishes to ...

Oct. 1 Jerome & Kristine
Christianson

Oct. 5 Dick & Diane Allen

Oct. 8 Paul & Christina Caton

Oct. 10 David & Terry Frerichs

Oct. 12 Bill & Emily Kersting

Oct. 14 Andy & Laura Yungbluth
Mike & Bev Hummel

Oct. 15 Jim & Joyce Spieker

Oct. 19 Mark & Mary Speidel

Oct. 22 Dave & Barb Solberg
Justin & Brittany Spieker

Oct. 24 Steve & Lora Johnson

Oct. 28 Dale & Karen Brandt

Oct. 30 Joshua & Whitney Smith



Meet Your Missions: Operation Serve International



Operation Serve® International (OSI) is a non-profit, non-denominational organization. OSI was established in 1983 with a passion to extend the Kingdom of God on earth through serving the poor and needy, as well as train indigenous pastors & leaders.

As a Kingdom-minded ministry, OSI deploys short-term mission teams from a wide range of Christian denominations and affiliations to encourage and support our national ministries. Hundreds of Great Commission minded Christians join the ministry of OSI annually.

Travel to other countries, help the helpless, and change the world. That is what you can expect from a trip with this organization. OSI provides physical and spiritual aid to the poor and destitute living in Mexico and Egypt. Christ who made the ultimate sacrifice said: *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you"* John 15:12. Go on an OSI mission trip and spread God's love through word and deed.

The focus of OSI is to bring people to Christ through word and deed. By meeting physical needs through medical, optical, dental, and personal hygiene, OSI is able to open the doors to meeting the spiritual needs as well. People just like you who keep their eyes fixed on the Lord accomplish the focus of OSI.

The mission of Operation Serve International is to motivate and mobilize concerned Christians to assist in the work of God among the poor and destitute in underserved and unreached places. OSI seeks to strengthen existing ministries in their presentation of the Gospel of Christ by communicating the love of God in both Word and Deed.

Who can go? Anyone with a servant's heart, has the blessing of the Pastor and is wanting to put their faith into action is welcome to apply for an OSI team. That person can join OSI individually or as a part of a group.



Lutheran World Relief

Hands-On Mission Day | Wednesday, Oct. 5 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Item of the Month – Bath-sized Bars of Soap

The bars of soap are used in the personal care kits and baby care kits.



Thank you for donating, sewing, assembling, and praying! Because of your efforts Faith Lutheran was able to send God's love to those in need!

**We sent 900 lbs. of items to Lutheran World Relief in August:
44 quilts | 56 baby care kits | 82 school kits | 158 personal care kits**

And now we begin again! Let's have more to send a year from now! Watch the bulletin for items needed and place them in the yellow box.

Thanks! and God's blessings to you!



Donated items can be put in the yellow Missions box near the front doors.

Mission Emphasis: Mental Health Conditions



Mental Illness Awareness Week October 2-8

We, as Christians, all know the challenges we are presented as we walk our path in this world. For some, there may be a physical illness, resulting from an accident, an injury, a birth defect, or an unexplained cause requiring medical intervention. Mental illness is also a medical

condition that requires attention, treatment, support, and compassion to regain strength and improved well-being.

Although mental illness may not be as obvious to see as a physical illness, its presence can be as debilitating, robbing us of peace in our mind while impacting our sleep, appetite, enjoyment of life, concentration, thought processes and memory, our physical health, giving us overwhelming sadness and emotional pain that may be hard to bear.

For those of us or our loved ones who struggle with physical and/or mental illness, please know you are dearly loved and seen by God and fellow believers in Christ. We are all overcomers in some way who cling to our Lord's promise in Jeremiah 29:11: *"For I know the plans I have for, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."*

We know, as a child of God, we are worthy of His blessings and the hope He gives. Psalm 18:19 reminds us: *"He brought me out into a broad place: he rescued me, because He delighted in me."* Even though the challenges associated with serious and persistent mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, debilitating anxiety, post-traumatic stress, or borderline personality disorder, can be overwhelming and isolating, we know God will rescue us through His grace. He also can bring professionals into our lives who can relieve some of the anguish symptoms cause. Likewise, He can place supportive people in our lives to help us cope. It's up to us to open our hearts and accept His gifts of healing and hope.

As God's children, we, at Faith, extend an offer to help. Reach out and let us know how we can assist you. To God be the Glory!



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.

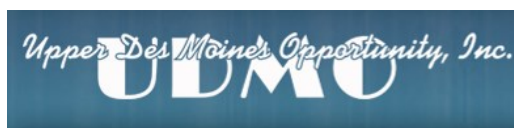
TEAM Restoration Ministries offers many different types of mental health counseling for children, adolescents and adults.

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**



Upper Des Moines Opportunity



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

**Soup (any kind), canned vegetables
and rice**



GLORIA MCKENNEY WORSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

"Going through a storm but I won't go down. I hear Your voice, carried in the rhythm of the wind to call me out. You would cross an ocean so I wouldn't drown. You've never been closer than You are right now. You are Jireh, You are enough." ~ "Jireh" by Elevation Worship and Maverick City Music

In the past month, I've gone through a lot of transitions. I ended my last summer working at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp after 6 summers of ministry. Following the close of that chapter, I packed my belongings and moved into an apartment in Spencer, eagerly anticipating the start of my new position here at Faith as Worship and Communications Director. A week after moving into my apartment, I officially began my new role and have been gradually learning the ins and outs of being on staff at Faith.

During the week I took to move into my apartment, I made several trips to Walmart, local thrift stores, and even a few garage sales in search of supplies. I needed groceries to not only feed myself, but also start stocking the pantry for future meals. I bought cleaning supplies, furniture pieces, kitchen items, and organizational materials. I selected a shower curtain, matching hand towels, and wall decorations. My radar was continually searching for what else I needed in my new space.

At the same time, I was struggling with feeling inadequate. Would I really be successful in my new job? Could I fulfill everyone's expectations? What if I failed? These and similar questions swirled around my brain as I drove to make yet another stop for supplies. While I was driving, however, the song "*Jireh*" by Elevation Worship and Maverick City Music came on the radio. The song revolves around one of the names of God, Jireh. When God provided the ram in place of Abraham's son Isaac, Abraham named the mountain "Jehovah-Jireh," which is Hebrew for "The Lord Will Provide." Through the words of the song, God spoke right to my heart. He assured me that He would be with me through my transition to Faith and beyond. He would provide for all my needs and carry me through the storms of life. God also reminded me of the truth in 2 Corinthians 12:9, where God told Paul that "My grace is sufficient for you."

What a relief that is! I may still struggle with feelings of inadequacy or not being enough, but in those moments I can turn from focusing on how I fall short, and instead focus on how Jehovah-Jireh is more than enough. When I focus less on myself, and more on our ultimate Provider, I find the peace that comes from trusting in God's grace.

If you ever find yourself in a frantic mindset, where you are too wrapped up in the details and your own deficiencies, turn your focus on God's provision for all our needs. Perhaps you spend a few minutes in your Bible refocusing, or even put on the song "*Jireh*" for your listening pleasure. However it works best for you to redirect your attention back to God and rest in His grace, I pray that you find peace and God will meet all your needs.

Baby Bottle Campaign



The Baby Bottle Campaign is one of Cherish Center's longest-running fund-raising campaigns. This event successfully raises a huge amount of funds and awareness to the Cherish Center. *Thank you* for taking an empty baby bottle to collect change, cash and checks to support Cherish House and Cherish Center!

Please return bottles to Faith Lutheran by Sunday, Nov. 6.

Resources and services offered at Cherish House:

- ♦ A unique thrift store located in Milford that supports the work of the Cherish Center. Good, clean furniture, household and baby/children items. Shop, donate or volunteer!
- ♦ An individual to come alongside, because parenting can be difficult! Mentors are available at no cost to parents with children of all ages. Meet to develop a plan that will enhance parenting skills.
- ♦ A place to connect with other parents as you navigate the journey of parenting. A family meal and childcare are provided at every meeting.
- ♦ A place to find guidance and insight into relationships, emotions, transitions and the ups and downs of life. Low-cost sessions available. Appointments subject to availability.

1004 22nd St., Milford, IA 51351 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1003, Okoboji, IA 51355
712-338-3333 | email: info@cherishcenter.org | website: www.cherishcenter.org

Prayer and Praise Corner



Lift Up in Prayer...

- Pray for discernment in joining a Small Group.
- Pray for wisdom as we prepare to vote.
- Pray for our Children's Ministry, Confirmation and Youth Ministry as we begin a new year.
- Pray for our Discovery Class as new friends explore membership with Faith Lutheran Church.
- Pray for Gloria McKenney, our new Worship and Communications Director.
- Pray for Jacob Weeks, our new Technology Coordinator.
- Pray for us as we seek God's follow-up to Lori Krei in Administration and Finance.
- Installation of a new sign by the highway.
- Healing for Tracy Bengtson, Jerome Christianson, Shirley Kooker, Jim and Joyce Spieker, Drew Stuhrenberg and all those we name in our hearts.
- Comfort for the families of Ruth Vail and Ken Rickles.

Reasons for Praise!

- Thanks for heating and cooling in the SON Room.
- Thanks for Sunday School, Confirmation and Youth volunteers.
- Thanks for God's guidance in recruiting new staff members.
- Thanks for a decline of the COVID-19 virus.



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 or Doreen Scribner at 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

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!

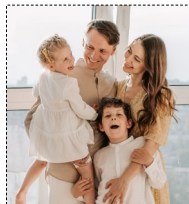
As you enjoy the summer, consider taking a photo to share with Faith Lutheran for the directory.

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



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.





Help Support the Faith
Lutheran Mission Trip

Spaghetti Dinner and Trivia Night

Spaghetti dinner is a free will donation.
Trivia night is \$80.00 per table (8)
or come individually ~ do 1 or both!

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022
Dinner 5:00-6:30 PM
Trivia Night 7:00 PM

All proceeds benefiting the
Mission Trip to Mexico City



Treat yourself and your family to a
delicious dinner and fun trivia
while supporting a great cause!

Questions? Go to Faith Lutheran
Mission Trip on Facebook or email
ectigges@hotmail.com

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: Pastor Ben Unseth | Eric Patten

As we continue to focus on what our staff does for us, we have been intentional about featuring Pastor Ben and Eric during October as it is Pastor Appreciation Month. Granted, we really hope you let them both know how much they bless our congregation and Ruthven's congregation with the gifts God has blessed them with, but we also hope you let all our staff know how much they are a blessing to us all.

We begin our blessing of Pastor Ben Unseth who is quickly approaching his one-year anniversary with us, but if you ask me, it certainly doesn't seem like God has had Pastor Ben with us for a year already...and yet it also seems like it has been longer than a year because of how quickly we have gotten to know him and how well everything rolls with him in leadership at Faith. And since we have gotten to know him so well through his sermons, his intent to connect with every family/member in the congregation through meals or our own activities that he so willingly and faithfully supports, and personal interactions, you won't be surprised that his answers were a bit more outside of the box.



If we would like a complicated version of what Pastor Ben does, he would describe it this way, "I am a conservator and catalyst for this dynamic multi-congregation collaboration. I oversee employees and volunteers to serve the local communities and the global community." But in short, Pastor Ben prays, listens, talks, weeps, laughs, plays, asks questions, eats and hugs as part of his position. In all reality we know he does more than this, but summed up we have seen all that comes from our pastor that God has blessed us with.

When asked what he would like us all to know more about him outside of his position, he responded, "I already talk about myself a lot in our newsletter, from the platform and over coffee. What I would really like is to know our members and visitors better." So if you haven't taken him up on the opportunity to have him over to your home so he can get to know you or your family better, see that his heart is all about building relationships with every one of us. And if you want any entertainment while you're with him, grab an orange and ask him to peel it for you to see his hidden talent! Beyond that on a personal level, he really enjoys exercise (as we've heard about his biking experience in previous sermons) and he like to play with words ... as we also see during sermons! Beyond that, he's been fishing recently for the first time in many years!

On a professional level, Pastor Ben's excitement excels at Faith when he is able to see the joy in people as they discover hope, salvation and vision. His excitement continues when people share they are volunteering in a new role, or listening to the Psalms daily, or beginning a Bible study. As Pastor Ben goes around our community, he discovers people from Faith volunteering their service all over. When he introduces himself, people will share with him about someone they know from Faith who is kind to them and others. What a community of believers we have at Faith that can't be contained by four walls as God bursts us into the world around ourselves.

We do that because of our faith in God and all the love He pours into us that we can't help but share with others because he gives us so much ... and that's all by how we are fed through small groups, Bible Studies, involvement on teams, and through worship together led by Pastor Ben. Pastor Ben, thanks for encouraging us in our faith and challenging us in every way to pour out those automatic doors each week and share with others. We are blessed by having you and having you be involved so much in the community around us. Well done, good and faithful servant, Ben! Thanks for leading our herd and shepherding us by speaking truth in love that grows our faith so much that we have to share it with others.

Stewardship ... Staff Spotlight – continued

Another role we have at Faith is Eric Patten, part-time Director of Visitation and Stephen Ministry at Faith and part-time Lay Pastor at Zion Lutheran in Ruthven. Eric has been around Faith for 7 years now in various roles. He started as Children and Youth Director, continued to Evangelism and Discipleship, began LifeKids that became our afterschool program, and now does Stephen Ministry and Visitation along with the site Lay Pastor through partnership at Zion Lutheran.



Eric really enjoys visiting with our members in their homes, whether home-bound or not. He enjoys reaching out to them and being that connection as Christ's hands and feet so especially our homebound members still feel connected to the church. He is excited with things going on at Zion and has been challenged there too, but really enjoys ministering to people of every age through all of life's major events, preaching weekly, and giving vision to the church as it grows and makes disciples.

On a personal level, Eric's wife Syndee and their kiddos Gavin and Isabelle are the greatest gift he's been given, after the gift of salvation through Jesus.

Eric believes one of the greatest ways that Christ molds us into His image is through the love and sacrifice one grows through in marriage and also with children. He enjoys waking up early before the rest of house to have a cup of coffee, and driving on gravel roads to see the countryside, finding a new path to a destination. Physical activities are also a joy, like running and baling small square bales, and the season of fall as it brings about harvest, cross country meets, warm soup, and the holiday season of giving thanks to God. Even though Eric hasn't done it in a while, he really enjoys drawing pictures, and driving our church bus brings much excitement for him. In his spare time, Syndee and he will go for a walk with their kids to a local park to play, or watch the cartoons of "Bluey" or "Peppa Pig", which have become family staples. His newest activity is watching his son play football who sacked the quarterback at his last game. Way to go, Gavin!

All in all, Eric loves to see God working through this ministry God has placed him in. When reflecting on God's work, Eric shared, "One of the joys I get to see is how God is personally working in people's lives as I have one-on-one conversations. I get to hear how God touches hearts, moves His providential hand through lives, answers prayer, gives help in struggling times, fills people with His joy and love, speaks through a sermon or the simplicity of a child, or brings someone close to His heart through a song. I get to hear God-stories, and watch people grow as Christ's disciples. It continues to be one of the reasons I love working in ministry ... to see what God is doing to bring His kingdom here amongst us and in our hearts."

Eric, we too love seeing how God uses all your gifts in the lives of our congregation and our partner congregation. Well done, good and faithful servant, for all the years you've put into ministry at Faith, how your ministry has evolved, and we have enjoyed witnessing it all. It's been fun to see God bring you and Syndee together to form the family He has for you both. May blessings continue to abound always through your life and service to Christ.

***October is
Pastor Appreciation Month!
Thank you to Pastor Ben!***



Cultivating Our Life's Harvest

by Rev. Robert Blezard

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." – John 10:10

Fall harvest provides a wonderful analogy for how, as stewards of our lives, we are responsible for making the most of our time on earth.

Farmers plant, water, fertilize and harvest, but they do not actually *create* the life that produces crops. Life comes only from God. Farmers only *manage and optimize* the properties and processes of life that God engineered into their plants.

Smart farmers know what soil is best, what fertilizer, and how much water to give each particular plant. By nurturing their plants with care and attention, farmers generate the best and most productive harvests (or they rely on God for the rain needed to generate the harvest God will bless us with.)

So it is with us! God created and engineered us to thrive! Our task is to manage and optimize our lives so that we can experience the abundant life that Jesus talks about in John 10:10. We have the rich soil of family, friends and church community relationships. We have the water of God's Word, love, forgiveness, salvation and grace. We have the fertilizer of wholesome, nourishing food.

How can we cultivate our lives? We can:

- Water our faith through prayer, worship, scripture, generosity, love and service.
- Tend the soil of relationships by loving our families, neighbors and church community.
- Optimize our physical health by eating right, exercising and getting enough sleep.
- Nourish our intelligence and wisdom through education, reading, exploring and continually learning.

Farmers reap plentiful harvests by caring for plants in ways that God ordained would provide the best growth. By caring for ourselves in ways that God designed for us, we can enjoy that life abundant that Jesus promises.

Rob Blezard

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Amazon Shoppers Consider Supporting Faith!

Faith Lutheran has always made a point to shop local whenever possible and encourages all church members to do the same. We take pride in our community and want to support our businesses! Still, there are times when we look to online vendors like Amazon for particular items. If you are an Amazon shopper, please consider supporting Faith Lutheran.

- ♦ Log on to smile.amazon.com using your current login information.
 - ♦ Choose a charity to support – Faith Lutheran Spencer
 - ♦ Shop as normal.
 - ♦ Up to 0.5% of each qualified purchase is sent to Faith!



Children's Ministry News of the Month



We have a full slate of teachers! I cannot begin to tell you how excited I am to see this. We have a great group and they all seem very willing. Our children will be blessed this year and it all begins October 2nd!

We had a great response of kids coming up front for the annual blessing prior to the start of the school year. I had to probe a bit for the older kids to step up front but they were troopers. It all went very well and we even had a bit of laughter. Each child was given a bracelet with a Bible verse to give them a tangible reminder that Jesus is with them, ALWAYS! We have such great kids in our congregation and a wonderful congregation that will pray for these children all year long.

We passed out Bibles to those children in PK, Kindergarten and 2nd grade on Sunday, September 25th. We also asked the Sunday school teachers and helpers to come up front for installation and blessing. It was a good day to see the kids getting the "Word" and the wonderful members that will be leading them this year!!

September 25th we also had a great day of celebration with our 'rally day' prior to the beginning of the Sunday school year. We had corn hole, ladder ball and the bouncy house. The mission team held a yummy fundraising breakfast and we had extra treats for the kids. Can't have a kid gathering without treats, right? So much happening for our fantastic congregation. This is community, this is Christ's "church."

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Ellsworth

Saint John's Invites Faith Lutheran to Celebration

St. John's Lutheran Church of Depew is celebrating 150 years and they are inviting Faith Lutheran to be a part of the festivities!

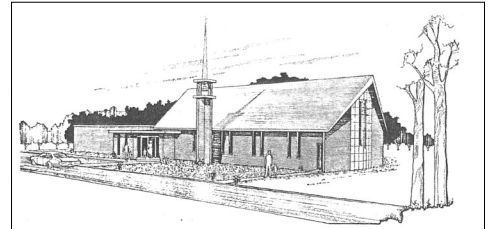
Sunday, Nov. 6 | 9:00 a.m. food and fellowship

10:30 a.m. Worship

Noon: Catered meal in the Parish Hall

Pastor Lee Laaveg will give the message and
Denise Laaveg will play special music.

If you plan to attend, please contact St. John's Congregational President,
Tim Naig at 712-298-0986 or tjnaig@ncn.net



Can You Lend a Helping Hand?



Do you look for a little fellowship and purpose in your life and have an hour plus of free time on Wednesday nights? We could use some volunteers to help serve supper and clean up for the Confirmation kids on Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. – or so. Even if you can only help occasionally, it would help the team so much!

If you love to cook, some families would appreciate a little help cooking for their designated Wednesdays. They would even pay for the food. This could be just something you do once. We serve about 35. If this is a way to use your spiritual gifts and you are willing, even just to help with a main dish or you love to bake desserts, please talk to Rachel Simington at 712-363-0663.

Wrapped In Love

Wrapped in Love! What is it? First of all, it's God's protecting love for us that gives us a feeling of peace, comfort and rest. But, for a group of us here at Faith, it's also the name given to a weighted blanket. It also gives peace, comfort and rest for people of all ages who may have fears, ADHD, anxiety, autism, dementia or other needs.

Our weighted blanket is made of 2 yards of a quality, cotton fabric for the front and 2 yards of coordinating fabric for the back. The seams are sewn both vertically and horizontally to make 104 pockets that are filled with about a total of 7 pounds of very small plastic pellets.



First and second grade teachers at Fairview School

The blanket can be machine washed in cold water and hung to dry – not in the dryer as that would melt the pellets.

We also make lap pillows that offer a sense of touch and security especially to help restless children. These are also made of a quality cotton for the front and the back. Each measures about 18"x 20". There are 12 pockets that are also filled with the plastic pellets. The lap pillows can also be machine washed in cold water and hung to dry, just like the blankets.

These blankets and lap pillows were started in January of 2018. So far, we have made 148 weighted blankets and 38 weighted lap pillows. We have given them free of charge to:

Faith family

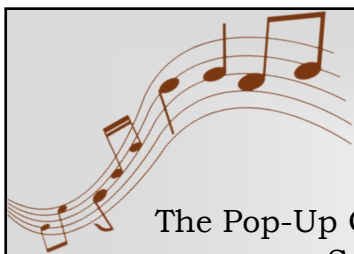
Department of Human Services

Eric Becker's cottage family in Ft. Dodge

Autumn's Center in Spencer

First and second grades at Fairview School

If there is anyone who has a need for a weighted blanket or a weighted lap pillow, we would love to have you "wrapped in love!" Please contact Alice Nielsen at 712-363-1380. Also if this project is something you would like to help with, please call Alice.



POP-UP CHOIR SIGN-UP!

The Pop-Up Choir will present "Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)" on Sunday, Oct. 23, during the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

Practice is set for Sunday, Oct. 9 and 16, immediately following worship.

A sign-up sheet is available on the Welcome Center. Please indicate your singing voice and if you are available for Wednesday practices.

For questions or more information, please contact Gloria McKenney at 712-580-4316 or worshipdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com



Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Paul Behrens at 7:00 PM.

Members present were: Roger Godfredsen, Becky Simons, Pam Harris, Kay Iversen, Patty Ellsworth, Greg Lear, Joe Simington, Brett & Jolynne Eilts, Mark Speidel, Randy Enge, Paul Behrens, Pastor Ben Unseth, Andrea Crew & Brittany Spieker.

Devotions were given by Roger Godfredsen. The meeting was opened with prayer by Roger.

Minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Patty Ellsworth. Roger Godfredsen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Becky Simons) – Designated giving has a large amount from the Bernard Fairchild family and we are waiting for direction on how they would like us to use it. Administrative expenses and teams are under budget so everyone is doing very well. Randy Enge motioned to approve the report and Joe Simington seconded.

PASTOR BEN'S REPORT – Working with Eric for several months coaching him on preaching and theology. Cheryl Stueven is setting up visits for Eric to go see people. Pastor went out to visit people in August that haven't been here since COVID started. Pastor assisted with the Ruth Vail funeral at Bethany. Pastor has put members in small groups onto a spreadsheet to see if we can get members to meet. He is identifying some people that he is asking to lead these groups. He is looking for suggestions for the curriculum and has thought it would be a digging deeper into the Sunday scripture.

Pastor presented the different creeds that are used by churches (Apostle's, Athanasian & Nicene). He has been using different affirmations of faith to get members to stop and think about what they are saying. Discussion regarding the use of the different affirmations of faith took place. It was brought up that if we are going to use these periodically, that we explain this to our members and give them the background of these.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Paul Behrens) – Roger & Vickie went above and beyond to take care of a funeral this past week and ran back from Eastern Iowa to cover this. THANK YOU!

COUNCIL REPORTS

* **Evangelism (Eric Tigges)** –

* **Missions (Pam Harris)** – October 2 is Mental Health Sunday with

September 22,
2022

Council
Meeting
Minutes

Council Minutes - September 22, continued

some special things happening that Sunday. Our sister church is planning to come to do the service here hopefully sometime in October. Donating \$500 quarterly to Grand Avenue Outreach for shortages. Also \$500 quarterly to UDMO to the food pantry. Kim Wilson from the GACO board let us know that there is a shortage of blankets. Meetings will be the 4th Tuesday of the month beginning in November.

- * **Worship (Andrea Crew)** – Nothing to add.
- * **Stewardship (Skadeland's)** –
- * **Discipleship (Randy Enge)** – Cancelled a couple Sundays of class and not going to start back up until October 2.
- * **Children's Ministry (Patty Ellsworth)** – Nothing to add.
- * **Youth Ministry (Brittany Spieker)** – Youth starting back up in October. Joe & Rachel along with Pastor are working on confirmation. Some churches have reached out to do some community youth events. The softball night was a success with about 60 people attending.
- * **Caring Ministries (Laura Heikens)** –
- * **Fellowship (Godfredsen's)** – Nothing to add.
- * **Music & Creative Arts (Eilts')** – Nothing to add.
- * **Properties (Mark Speidel)** – No sign update. Supply chain issues are preventing us from getting lights as well as the sign. The furnace is installed and came in \$1,800 less than what we had thought. We need to keep the door to the SON Room closed because of the different heat sources. Cameras are installed.
- * **Technology (Kay Iverson)** – Nothing to add.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion

Current worship services – Patty suggested passing the elements vs. everyone going up to the front. Jolynne asked if there was any feedback for starting the service 5 minutes earlier for announcements. Pastor has had people say they really like it. Paul suggested putting the announcements on the screen prior to service.

Current church operations –

Church Administrator position – still looking for someone for this.

Finance position – the person that was interested pulled her application but meeting with someone else tomorrow night. Looking for permission from Council to hire this person if they feel this is a good fit. Permission was granted.

Nominating committee – LaVonne Clark, Stephanie Essick, Barb Solberg, Larry Wigen & Larry Peterson. Please get in touch with LaVonne if anyone has someone in mind to lead these groups.

Council Minutes - September 22, continued

Expiring terms:

- Discipleship
- Music & Creative Arts
- Finance
- Properties
- Youth Ministry
- Leadership Support

International Mission Trip fundraisers

2nd pancake feed September 25 – the trip has been postponed until June because Mexico City is under a mask mandate. The team relies on facial expressions so having a mask on would make this trip difficult. The team is planning on sending Christmas presents with some of the funds raised so they will continue to fundraise.

October 8 – Spaghetti & Trivia night

SYC (Special Youth Challenge) Fundraising Event – November 19

NEW BUSINESS

Small groups – see Pastor's report section

Affirmation of faith – see Pastor's report section

Lori's retirement –

Concerns and/or Celebrations

LifeKids hasn't been meeting this week because Radina is out with her son. Next week is questionable at this point.

Closing Prayer was given by Pastor Ben.

Adjournment – Patty Ellsworth made the motion to adjourn. Roger seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jolene K. Hansen, Church Council Secretary

**Next Council Meeting is
October 12 | 7:00 p.m.
In person and Zoom**

Council Members: Please submit your team reports to the office by Monday, October 10, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

GENERAL OFFERING
January 1 through September 18, 2022
2022 Budget: \$389,684.00
Year to Date: \$251,072.42
Thank you for generously giving
in 2022!

Walk Through the Bible in 2022 – One Chapter a Day

Month	Date	Day	Book	Ch.	Chapter Summary
October	1	Saturday	Esther	6	Xerxes honors Mordecai
October	2	Sunday	Psalms	137	The Hopelessness of Exile
October	3	Monday	Esther	7	Esther's Second Banquet for Xerxes and Haman
October	4	Tuesday	Esther	8	Xerxes Authorizes Jews to Destroy Enemies
October	5	Wednesday	Psalms	126	Those Who Sow in Tears Will Reap in Joy
October	6	Thursday	Acts	19	Paul Teaches Two Years in Ephesus
October	7	Friday	Acts	21	Paul Is Arrested in Jerusalem
October	8	Saturday	Acts	22	Paul, an Angry Crowd and a Roman Commander
October	9	Sunday	Psalms	51	Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God
October	10	Monday	Acts	23	Paul Tried and Sent to Caesarea
October	11	Tuesday	Acts	24	Paul Waits in Caesarean Jail for Two Years
October	12	Wednesday	Acts	25	Paul Appeals to Caesar
October	13	Thursday	Acts	26	Paul Asks King Agrippa for His Freedom
October	14	Friday	Acts	27	Paul Sails for Rome and Survives Shipwreck
October	15	Saturday	Acts	28	Paul Is Under House Arrest in Rome for Two Years
October	16	Sunday	Psalms	1	The Blessed Life
October	17	Monday	Romans	1	Paul's Letter to Rome Before He Goes There
October	18	Tuesday	Romans	3	Jews and Gentiles Are All Unrighteous
October	19	Wednesday	Romans	5	Death Through Sin, Life Through Christ
October	20	Thursday	Romans	6	Slaves to Sin or Slaves to Righteousness?
October	21	Friday	Romans	7	Sin Living in the Christian
October	22	Saturday	Romans	8	Redemption of Creation and Humans
October	23	Sunday	Song of Songs	8	Love Is as Strong as Death
October	24	Monday	1 Corinthians	5	Sexual Immorality in the Church
October	25	Tuesday	1 Corinthians	6	Lawsuits Disallowed within Church
October	26	Wednesday	1 Corinthians	7	Marriage and Singleness
October	27	Thursday	1 Corinthians	10	Whatever You Do, Do It All for the Glory of God
October	28	Friday	1 Corinthians	13	Love Is the Greatest
October	29	Saturday	2 Corinthians	1	Paul's Message and Ministry
October	30	Sunday	Psalms	23	The Lord Is My Shepherd
October	31	Monday	2 Corinthians	4	We Have This Treasure in Jars of Clay

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

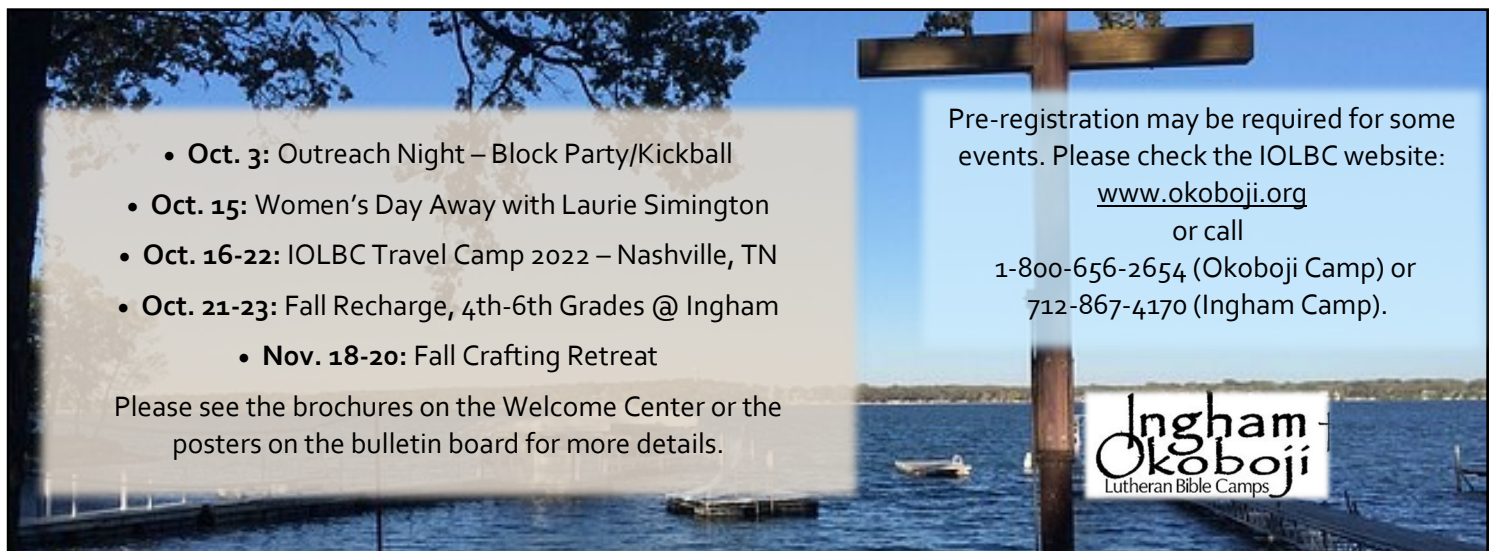
- Repair duct work to Pastor Ben and Eric's offices and General Maintenance - \$5,000

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



• **Oct. 3:** Outreach Night – Block Party/Kickball

• **Oct. 15:** Women's Day Away with Laurie Simington

• **Oct. 16-22:** IOLBC Travel Camp 2022 – Nashville, TN

• **Oct. 21-23:** Fall Recharge, 4th-6th Grades @ Ingham

• **Nov. 18-20:** Fall Crafting Retreat

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.okobojo.org or call 1-800-656-2654 (Okobojo Camp) or 712-867-4170 (Ingham Camp).

Ingham Okobojo
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.

P.O. Box 1322

Spencer, IA 51301

Faith Lutheran Church - September, 2022

Baptisms | Births | Confirmed

Deaths: Ruth Ann Vail, Sept. 7 | Kenneth Duane Ricklefs, Sept. 11 | **Marriages | New Members**

Faith Lutheran Church - Staff

Pastor: Ben Unseth
pastor@faithlutheranspencer.com

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven
office@faithlutheranspencer.com

LifeKids Director: Radina Jansen
director@lifekidsspencer.com

Church Administrator: Lori Krei
churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com

Stephen Ministry and Visitation Director
Lay Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Ruthven:
Eric Patten - eric@faithlutheranspencer.com

Custodian: Rich Stueven
custodian@faithlutheranspencer.com

Technology Coordinator: Jacob Weeks
techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

Worship & Communications Director: Gloria McKenney
worshipdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

Email us at: office@faithlutheranspencer.com

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.