

DIVINE TURNAROUND: GOD'S SURPRISING COMEBACK PLAN

4-0

A soccer ball is shown hitting a goal net, with the net's strings visible. The background is a blurred green field.

*Zero Loose
Ends and
4 Promises*

WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Inviting all People to Faith ... Come and Worship – Go and Work

Pastor – Ben Unseth | Ministers – All

Phone: 712-580-4316 | 2912 Highway Blvd, P.O. Box 1322, Spencer, Iowa 51301

October 29, 2023 | Reformation Sunday

Prelude

Welcome

Prayer

Opening Song – “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

*Invocation

We meet in the strong name of our God;
We praise You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Litany (*Genesis 1:27; John 3:16; 1 Peter 1:18; Romans 6:4; Luke 1:68*)

When we say the word “Reformation,” we may think “try again!”
When we say “reform,” we think of changes we need to make.

Remind us, God, that we have it backwards.
Salvation is *Your* work. *You* are the Savior.

We did not create ourselves.
You created us in Your own image.

We did not invite Jesus into the world.
You loved the world so much that You sent Your one and only Son.

We did not fund a downpayment for our sins.
You redeemed us with the precious blood of Christ.

We did not raise Jesus from the dead.
Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
Because He has come to His people and redeemed them!

*Prayer of the Day

Dear God, You promise to provide for our every need. But we get anxious. We want to play it safe rather than trust You fully. Unblind our vision through Your Word that we will bow to You in reverence and trust You with our whole lives – no matter what. Through Christ’s name we come before You. Amen.

Song – “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

Video – Stepping up for Stewardship

Old Testament Lesson – Ruth 4:1-11

New Testament Lesson – Ephesians 2:11-13, 19-20

Children’s Message

Song – “Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor”

*Gospel – Matthew 15:21-28

Sermon – “Zero Loose Ends and Four Promises”

Song – “The God Who Stays”

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostle’s Creed

Prayers of the Church

Sharing of the Peace

*Lord’s Prayer

*Blessing

*Closing Song – “My Redeemer Lives”

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Please stand if you are able.

Welcome to Faith Lutheran!

Live Stream: youtube.com/@flcspencer | Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday - Friday | 712-580-4316 | office@flcspencer.org

www.flcspencer.org | Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church LCMC | Instagram: @flcspencer

Watch us on SMU: Monday @ 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday @ 11:00 a.m.

Text your giving to Faith at 712-214-4317

Old Testament Lesson – Ruth 4:1-11

¹ Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, “Come over here, my friend, and sit down.” So he went over and sat down. ² Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, “Sit here,” and they did so. ³ Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, “Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. ⁴ I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.” “I will redeem it,” he said. ⁵ Then Boaz said, “On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.” ⁶ At this, the guardian-redeemer said, “Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.” ⁷ (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalizing transactions in Israel.) ⁸ So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, “Buy it yourself.” And he removed his sandal. ⁹ Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, “Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon’s widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown. Today you are witnesses!” ¹¹ Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, “We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.

New Testament Lesson – Ephesians 2:11-13, 19-20

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) – ¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of His household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone.

Gospel – Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to Him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

²³ Jesus did not answer a word. So His disciples came to Him and urged Him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” ²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” ²⁵ The woman came and knelt before Him. “Lord, help me!” she said. ²⁶ He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” ²⁷ “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” ²⁸ Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.



Mission Team’s November Collection

Through out the month of November, the Missions Team will be collecting food, paper items and household cleaning supplies for Upper Des Moines Opportunity’s Food Pantry. The need to help our community is as great as ever. Please place your items in the baskets in the fall display on the corner of the worship platform.

Stewardship’s Ministry Fair and Time & Talent Sheets

Stewardship packets are available for pickup on the Welcome Center. We need every individual member to fill out their own sheet.

Keep in mind the Video Ministry Fair and seek God's leading when you're signing up for the areas you enjoy, or a new area God is calling you to. If you missed a Sunday or would like to hear the video again, check out church's social media accounts to watch past videos.

Pay attention to the new elements included, and turn in your sheet as soon as you can, even as early as today!

Today is the last day to order Pasquale’s Pizzas

Proceeds from this LifeKids fundraiser help pay for field trips, snacks & supplies for projects.

All pizzas are 12-inch & \$12 each.

**Sausage | Special | Pepperoni
All Meat | 3-Cheese | Breakfast**

Please see Bill Neiderheiser to order & pay for your pizzas.

**Orders must be placed before
7:00 p.m. today!**

**Pick up your pizzas from at
McCreary’s Creative Catering,
1900 Grand Ave. (Northgate Mall–
Use outside entry #4–south side of building)
Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 20-21,
from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

Questions: Contact Cheryl Jackson,
by calling 712-580-4316

Cherish House's Baby Bottle Campaign ***Today is the last day to pick up a baby bottle***



With compassion as its cornerstone, Cherish House is a group maternity home in the Iowa Great Lakes area for pregnant teens and young women who desire to make the most of their lives. Each girl has the opportunity for personal growth through life skills training in finance, nutrition, homemaking, parent training; personal counseling and adoption assistance (when needed); spiritual support; and learning to care for one another.

Pick up a baby bottle from the table by the front doors. Fill it with spare change, cash or a check. Return to the church office before Sunday, Nov. 5



Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting **Wednesday, Nov. 8 | 7:00 p.m. | SON Room & Zoom**

All church members are welcome to attend the council meeting. Topics may also be shared with any council member for discussion at the council meeting. Please find a list of your Council Members on the church website at

www.flcspencer.org/get-involved/

Council Members! Please submit all team reports to the Church Office by next Monday, Nov. 6, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

Hands-on Mission Team ***Work Day*** ***Wednesday, Nov. 1*** ***9:00 a.m. to noon***

Help us with sewing, tying quilts and assembling kits.

Please join us!



Cleaning out the Refrigerators!

If anyone – or team – has left food in the refrigerators or freezer, please make sure your name is on the item(s).

On Saturday, Nov. 4, at 10:00 a.m. the Fellowship Team will be cleaning out and disposing of any unclaimed items.

NEW WEBSITE AND EMAILS!!

Visit our new website at www.flcspencer.org

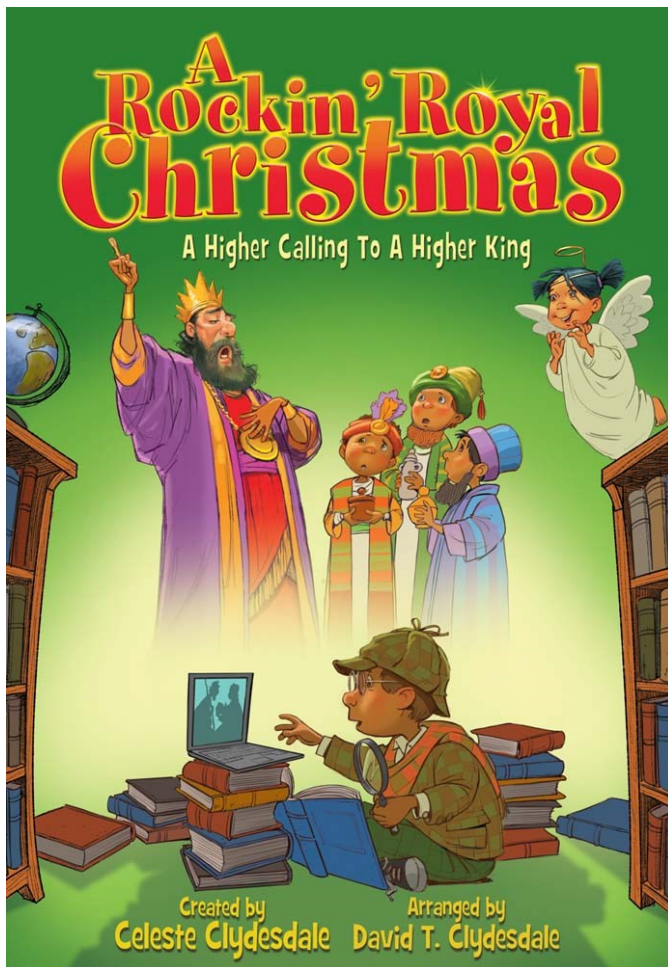
New Staff email addresses: (for a complete listing see page 11)

Pastor Ben Unseth - pastor@flcspencer.org | Eric Patten - eric@flcspencer.org

Becky Fear-Hatting - admin@flcspencer.org | Carolyn Dundas - finance@flcspencer.org

Gloria McKenney - worship@flcspencer.org or media@flcspencer.org

Cheryl Stueven - office@flcspencer.org | Cheryl Jackson - director@lifekidsspencer.com



Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 10,
at 9:00 a.m.

"A Rockin' Royal Christmas"

Full Christmas program
rehearsals are Sundays from
October 29-December 3 at
10:20 a.m.

Dress Rehearsal is
Saturday, Dec. 9,
at 3:00 p.m.

Birthday blessings to ...

Oct. 31	<i>Kevin Lee</i>
Nov. 2	<i>Jeffrey Franker, David Hopkins</i>
Nov. 3	<i>Haley Eilts, Ann Lear</i>

Anniversary wishes to ...

Oct. 30	<i>Joshua & Whitney Smith</i>
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*Meal Train for Dean Vos and parents,
Jake & Tanya Vos.*

<https://mealtrain.com/ekgdel>
gives ways you can help!

Reminder

Nov. 4

***Fall back
1 hour***



Reverse Advent Calendar

Welcome to Faith's 2nd Annual Reverse Advent Calendar! This project is organized by Faith Lutheran's Mission Team. It's a fun and caring project where anyone who wishes can take part. It is called a Reverse Advent Calendar because we are "giving" rather than "receiving".

Each day from December 1 through December 24, each person, group, or family that decides to participate will set aside a non-perishable food item, for 24 items all together. No home canned products, please, due to health and safety concerns.

You may choose to collect the food items day by day and bring them to church each week. Or, you may choose to collect all 24 items before bringing them to church – whatever works best for you. There will be a special area for the food items on the east side of the worship area by a Christmas tree.

We will give these items to Upper Des Moines Opportunity and Grand Avenue Community Outreach food pantries. If there is someone in our Faith family that could use these food items, we would be very happy to share with you as well.

During October, Pastor Ben based his messages on the book of Ruth. In chapter 2, we learned how Boaz was a "kinsman redeemer" and he provided grain for Ruth and Naomi who needed food. Let's be "friend redeemers" as we provide food for those around us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Alice Nielsen at 712-363-1380. Thanks for being a part of our 2nd Annual Reverse Advent Calendar. The following is a suggested list of items to include, or you can choose your own items!

December 1	Cereal	December 13	Kidney beans
December 2	Peanut butter	December 14	Crackers
December 3	Jelly	December 15	Rice
December 4	Boxed potatoes	December 16	Muffin mix
December 5	Macaroni & cheese	December 17	Pasta
December 6	Canned fruit	December 18	Pasta sauce
December 7	Canned tomatoes	December 19	Soup
December 8	Canned tuna	December 20	Canned corn
December 9	Cake mix	December 21	Canned green beans
December 10	Canned frosting	December 22	Catsup or mustard
December 11	Pancake mix	December 23	Hamburger helper
December 12	Syrup	December 24	Ravioli or SpaghettiOs

Poinsettias for Christmas!

If you would like to help decorate the altar with poinsettias, and then enjoy them at home for Christmas, please fill out the order form below!

Leave the order form – with payment – in the red Christmas box on the Welcome Center.

Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church and earmark them "Poinsettia."

Orders need to be turned in to the church office by Sunday, Nov. 19.

Choices are: Red, White, Pink & Speckled. Each 6-inch green covered pot is \$22.00. ***Due to supply constraints, white poinsettias must be ordered by Sunday, Nov. 12.***



Red



White



Pink



Speckled

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Red _____ **# White:** _____ **# Pink:** _____ **# Speckled:** _____

Total \$ _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

For All the Saints ...

Next Sunday, Nov. 5, is All Saints' Sunday.

We will remember ...

***Dixie Sebastian, John Miller,
Marlene Bruce, Terry Letscher,
Jim Spieker, Wayne Burnham,
Marvin Somers***

A Friendly Reminder ...

*... to turn out the lights
when you leave a room.
Help us be good stewards
of our building!*

~ Thank you!

Thank you to today's worship partners ...

Altar Prep: Lora Johnson, Denise Lovitt

Children's Message: Jalyce Storley

Counters: Greg Lear, Larry Wigen

Fellowship: Lee & Nancy Ketcham

Set up: Linda Susie

Greeters/Ushers:

Joe & Rachel Simington

Instrumentalists: Jolynne Eilts,

Gloria McKenney, Jared Hansen,

Anna Quanbeck

Message: Gloria McKenney

Prayers of the Church: Linda Susie

Scripture Reader: Barb Enge

Camera: Cindy Tigges

Computer: Kent Heazlett

Sound: Cheryl Stueven

Lead Tech: Jacob Weeks

Vocalists: Brett Eilts, Lacey Johnson,
Whitney Gray

Worship Leader: Dennis Larson

Worship partners for Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Sunday

Altar Prep: Shirley Nelson,

Susie Brinkley

Children's Message: Dodo & Emu

Communion Servers:

Chris Christofferson, Al Vanderberg

Counters: Barb Solberg, Becky Simons

Fellowship & Set-up:

Greeters/Ushers: Paul & Kris Behrens

Instrumentalists: Leah Kreutner,

Gloria McKenney, Evan Storley,

Anna Quanbeck

Message: Pastor Ben Unseth

Prayer Intercessors:

Keith & Diane Van Kleeck,

Justin Spieker, Joe Simington

Prayers of the Church: Barb Solberg

Scripture Reader: Cindy Essick

Camera: Cindy Tigges

Computer: Becky Simons

Sound: Brett Eilts

Lead Tech: Jacob Weeks

Vocalists: Jim & Joan Unrau,
Kirby Fueston

Worship Leader: Greg Lear



Prayer Chain



Please send your
prayer request to Linda & Dave Susie
at 712-363-1130 or djslrs74@yahoo.com
or to **Doreen Scribner** at 712-262-3488
or doreenscribner@outlook.com

To be placed on the Sunday morning
Prayers of the Church, please contact
the church office at 712-580-4316.

Item of the Month ~

Bath-sized Bars of Soap



Personal care kits are
specifically designed to help
people coping with poverty,
disaster, conflict and more.

Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO)

Food Pantry is in need of the
following items for our community:

Oatmeal, soup, egg noodles

Soap & UDMO food items can be
put in the yellow Missions box
near the front doors.



NETWORK
FAITH_Guest

PASSWORD
7125804316



meet **our** STAFF

Pastor Ben Unseth **pastor@flcspencer.org**

Finance Coordinator: Carolyn Dundas
finance@flcspencer.org

Worship & Communications Director:
Gloria McKenney
worship@flcspencer.org
media@flcspencer.org

Custodian: Rich Stueven
custodian@flcspencer.org

Stephen Ministry and Visitation Director &
Lay Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church,
Ruthven: Eric Patten, eric@flcspencer.org

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven
office@flcspencer.org

LifeKids Director: Cheryl Jackson
director@lifekidsspencer.com

Technology Coordinator: Jacob Weeks
tech@flcspencer.org

Church Administrator: Becky Fear-Hatting
admin@flcspencer.org

Guest Connection Card

Dear Visitors,

We are glad you are worshiping with us today! We'd love to connect with you. Please share your contact information, and a member of Faith will be in touch with you soon.

Please put this form in the offering kiosk at the back of the church. – Thank you!

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

I'd like to ...

- ☐ Visit with the Pastor.
- ☐ Learn about becoming a member.
- ☐ Hear more about opportunities at Faith.
- ☐ Hear about joining a small group.

Thanks for worshiping with us!

2023 GENERAL OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE **BUDGET: \$413,959.25**

	FELLOWSHIP*	GENERAL GIVING	YEAR TO DATE**	ATTENDANCE
SEPTEMBER	\$254.50	\$22,679.14	\$256,122.89	129
OCT. 1	\$110.00	\$ 9,145.00	\$264,022.89	152
OCT. 2-8	\$ 38.00	\$ 5,462.00	\$268,755.87	167
OCT. 9-15	\$ 51.00	\$ 5,483.00	\$275,036.89	195
OCT. 16-22	\$103.00	\$ 2,695.00	\$278,072.33	134

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22: YOUTUBE LIVE-STREAMING COMPUTERS – 21

*INCLUDED IN THE YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL. EACH SUNDAY, HY-VEE CHARGES \$90.00 FOR DONUTS.

** YEAR TO DATE TOTAL INCLUDES ALL UNDESIGNATED GIVING.

Thank you for generously supporting Faith Lutheran in 2023!

This Week at Faith!

Today – October 29 - Reformation Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Musician Rehearsal
- 9:00 a.m. Worship with Gloria McKenney
- 10:15 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:20 a.m. Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

Monday, October 30

- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program

Tuesday, October 31

- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program
- 5:00-8:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling – 515-238-9010

Wednesday, November 1

- 9:00 a.m.-Noon Hands-On Mission Team Work Day
- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program
- 5:30 p.m. Executive Team meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Worship Vocalist Rehearsal
- Supper for the Confirmation Students
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation
- 7:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

Thursday, November 2

- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling – 515-238-9010
- 9:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Coffee Fellowship
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program

Friday, November 3

- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling – 515-238-9010
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program

Saturday, November 4

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Refrigerator/Freezer Clean Out

Upcoming Events!

November 5 – All Saints Sunday | Baptism of Fallon Marie Pratt

November 19 – Thanks for Giving Sunday and meal

Please contact the church office (712-580-4316) for a current calendar of events.
Or, check the online calendar at www.flcspencer.org/our-calendar/