

April 2023

Behold,
I make all things new. Revelation 21:5

Faith Life Together

Volume 7 | Issue 4

Pastor: Ben Unseth

Council President:
Joe Simington

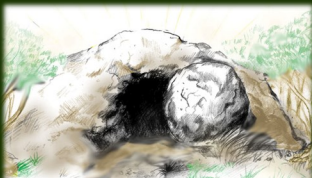
YouTube:
[www.youtube.com/
user/faithlutheran
spencer](https://www.youtube.com/user/faithlutheran-spencer)



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Growth in April!

The month of April covers in a month most of what is foundational to the Christian faith. On Good Friday when God places the punishment of our sins on the shoulders of His Son, we see the proof that God is good. Easter Sunday when Christ rises from the tomb, we see the proof that Jesus is God. And on Confirmation Sunday, we are reminded of our desire to live with Christ as Lord as we witness this year's confirmands confirm their faith. April holds so many opportunities to grow in our faith and invite others to grow in theirs!

Sunday, April 2, is Palm Sunday when we celebrate Jesus' arrival to Jerusalem. We will also get to hear from and celebrate with Nijhar Ekka from World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) as she brings the message and shares updates on the work going on through WMPL.

Later that week, **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday** services will be held at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, and Friday, April 7**, respectively. Come be reminded of what our Lord experienced the final few days before His death on the cross and reflect on what length Jesus went to redeem our lives. Then come celebrate with us on **Easter Sunday, April 9, at 9:00 a.m.** the resurrection of Jesus Christ! We will have a wonderful Pop-Up Choir helping to enhance our worship service as we rejoice in Christ's power over the grave.

April continues to be a busy month, as this year's confirmands will be confirmed on **Sunday, April 16, at 9:00 a.m.** We are excited to watch these 6 young women proclaim their faith in front of the congregation. They will have a **Confirmation Banquet** held in their honor for their family and mentors to celebrate with them on **April 26 at 6:30 p.m.**

On **April 23 and 30**, Pastor Ben will be holding the **Discovery Class** for anyone interested in joining Faith as members. The class will be during the Sunday School hour over the 2 Sundays, with **New Member Sunday** on **May 7**. If you or someone you know is interested in this class, please contact Pastor Ben for more information.



PASTOR BEN UNSETH

Life in Balance

In Confirmation this week, I talked with our brilliant middle schoolers about a balanced Christian life. This wheel shows us four basics, four fundamentals, for a satisfying, joyful life: God's Word and Prayer, Fellowship and Witness. Let's

think about each of them briefly.

Fellowship and God's Word

Lenten suppers and services offer a great opportunity for growing in Fellowship and God's Word. Sunday mornings are essential for my heart and for staying connected with you, but Lenten suppers and services offer something beyond. After a long day at work, sitting down for this meal with encouraging, faith-filled friends refills my heart. Each Wednesday service, receiving God's Word from a fellow member is a sweet feast. We have one more evening to come together like this, March 29. Then, we will have two unique services as we head to Easter – **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday**, April 6 and 7.

Witness

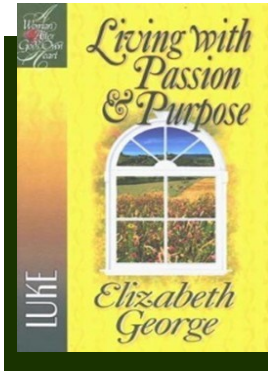
We will not shortchange you with opportunities for Witness and Prayer. You and I know people who have given up on God or church. They wish they had something deeper in their life, but they have not found it. **Easter** is an ideal time to invite someone to visit our worship service and encounter our Living God. Better yet, invite them for Easter dinner. Break your family tradition by including an outsider.

Prayer

Our nation has big struggles, and the church is part of the problem. We are called to be salt and light, and to pray. We have not fulfilled our calling. God told his people, "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and **pray** and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14).

As our nation more and more squeezes the Bible and religious observance out of the public square, we still observe **National Day of Prayer**. On Thursday, May 4, Christians across America will call on God to change us, to forgive us and to make us one nation under God. Here at Faith, we invite you to participate in our prayer vigil that day. We will have a sign-up sheet out for you to reserve half an hour to intercede for our church, our communities, our state, our nation and the world. We will also have prayer request cards so that you can ask us to join you in prayer about a personal concern.





Bible Study:
“Living with Passion & Purpose”
Tuesday, April 11
1:30 p.m. | SON Room

This month we discuss Luke 5.

We meet Jesus' first disciples. What were they doing before Jesus came into their lives? How did they respond once Jesus called them? What difference does it make to us that Jesus has come into our lives? We see how a leper, paralytic and his friends, and a tax collector also encounter Jesus and reveal their faith in Him. How about you? How is your faith in Christ revealed in your life or how do you share your faith in Jesus with others?

Come and join in the discussion! All are welcome!

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

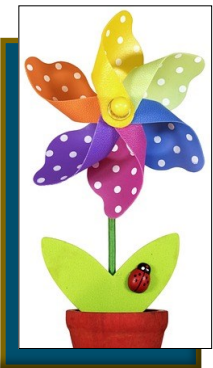
Happy Birthday Blessings to ...

April 1	Hannah Campbell LaVonne Clark
April 3	Sara Franker Heidi Skadeland
April 4	Kevin Swancutt
April 5	Sara DeWitt
April 6	Lucy Simington
April 7	Beth Brockshus
April 9	Steve Doran
April 10	Eldon Larsen Dawn Willey Wyatt Griffin
April 13	Lindsay Neiderheiser Annie Rouse
April 14	Kaden Gilley/Harrington Mike Wilson
April 15	Paul Behrens Austin Crew
April 18	Brett Eilts Ruby Nitzel Earrian Kelly

April 19	Lois Christman Kolton Yungbluth
April 20	Whitney Smith
April 24	Riley Simcox
April 26	Alice Nielsen
April 29	Penelope Hoppe
April 30	Otto Maaland

Happy Anniversary Wishes to ...

April 3	Steve & Theone Quattlebaum Neal & Cindy Drefke
April 10	Robert J. & Sarah Wassom
April 15	Kent & Carol Heazlett
April 20	Carl & Becky Simons
April 21	Garold & Lisa Becker
April 29	Roger & Vickie Godfredsen



Meet Your Missions: Grand Avenue Community Outreach



Our monthly mission spotlight features Grand Avenue Community Outreach (GACO), a private, non-profit, volunteer driven, ecumenical organization located at 605 Grand Avenue in Spencer. Within its walls are several ministries.

The Community Kitchen serves bi-weekly meals on Mondays and Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. Many volunteers cook and serve nutritious and tasty blessings to hungry patrons, using discounted food purchased by the Food Bank of Iowa, rescued food from Fareway, HyVee, and Walmart along with donated food from the community both on site and through home-delivered meals to shut-ins.

Likewise, the His Hands Extended Free Food and Clothing Outreach offers food from similar sources and donated clothing each 2nd and 4th Thursday from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Over 3,600 visited this ministry in 2022 to get some relief from the challenges of feeding and clothing themselves and/or their families.

The Free Clinics of Iowa has a medical clinic, which offers free services the 3rd Thursday of each month, with registration from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. and patients seen on a first-come, first-serve basis until 8:00 p.m. Dental referrals are made to local network dental providers until staff is recruited to offer the free Dental Clinic again.

In addition, the GACO building hosts seven tenants, who offer a wide assortment of social services to individuals and families in Clay County and NW IA. They include: AARP Senior Employment Program, All Those Yesterdays (mental health and substance abuse treatment), Birthright, Family Crisis Centers, Lutheran Services of Iowa, Red Cross, and United Way

Many thanks to the members of Faith Lutheran Church who continue to bless this ministry through designated mission dollars as well as time, talents, and their individual financial donations. These gifts help GACO make a difference locally in our community. Please consider joining the mission by volunteering to serve our Lord and aid God's children in need.

Lutheran World Relief 

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

We will be sewing school bags and assembling school and personal care kits and also tying quilts. The truck will be coming the first part of May to take what we have finished to the warehouse in St. Paul, MN.

Let's gather together to finish up what we can so it can be on its way to those in need!

Item of the Month ~ Bath-sized Bars of Soap



The item of the month for Lutheran World Relief are bars of soap. They are used in the personal care kits.

Donated items for both Lutheran World Relief and Upper Des Moines Opportunity can be put in the yellow Missions box near the front doors.



Mission Emphasis: Mental Health Conditions



Volunteer Recognition Month

April is Volunteer Recognition month, established in 1974 here in the U.S. as a tradition to “inspire, equip, and mobilize people to take actions that change the world.” Beyond the idea of making the world a better place, it’s also important to identify the benefits Christian service provides to us, the giver.

Here at Faith Lutheran, we share the command to “Go and Work” which exemplifies our Savior’s words in Matthew 5 to *“let our light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:14-16) When we volunteer, it gives us opportunities to praise God and serve His people here on earth.

Did you know that volunteering can give us eight ways to reflect our faith while helping others? Volunteering puts us in situations to make new friends, which in turn, builds our network of contacts that can enrich our lives in many ways. Volunteer work puts us in networks to know our neighbors better and participate in worthwhile pursuits with them.

Volunteering can also increase our confidence by sharing life with others. We cultivate a deeper sense of purpose and tend to experience more emotional stability when we are not so isolated. When we socialize, it makes us happier which, in turn, helps us enjoy better overall health and wellness.

Why not explore something new, develop interests, and challenge yourself to learn skills and expand your God-given gifts? Start here at Faith by serving on a team of your choice to spread God’s love. Broaden your scope and find simple ways to share God’s blessings. After all, we are reminded to *“Give, and it will be given to you”* (Luke 6). It pleases our Father in heaven to see us use our time and talents in volunteer service to others.

To God be the Glory!



TEAM Restoration Ministries

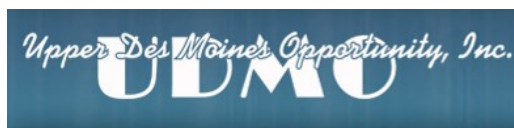
TEAM Restoration Ministries has a God-driven commitment and passion for facilitating the healing and strengthening of marriages, families and individuals, both children and adults. They offer many different types of counseling.

Erika Adolph is a counselor working out of Faith Lutheran. She completed both her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and her Master of Arts degree in Professional Counseling at Liberty University (Lynchburg, VA). Erika is also certified through EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) to provide Equine Assisted Psychotherapy which uses horses to assist clients in an experiential therapy to work through challenges, relationships, and reach therapy goals.



For more information 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 the following items for our community:

Tuna, canned fruit, cereal



GLORIA MCKENNEY WORSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

*“So let it be today we shout the hymn of Heaven
With angels and the saints, we raise a mighty roar
Glory to our God who gave us life beyond the grave
Holy, holy is the Lord”*
Phil Wickham, ‘Hymn of Heaven’

Can you imagine what it would sound like if all followers of Jesus simultaneously lifted up their voices and praised God with all they have? What a wonderful sound that would be to join with our brothers and sisters in unfiltered worship. My heart longs for the day where this will be our eternal reality – to forever praise the name of Jesus and cry ‘Holy, holy, holy!’

Although we can’t experience the full worship experience until we arrive either in heaven or Jesus comes back, there is no reason that we can’t start now. Think of it like practice for eternity. When we spend a few minutes of each day praising God in worship, our spirits grow closer to our Maker. Our hearts are filled with joy. We are reminded that our God is worthy of honor and glory and praise. And as a result, when we are focused on worship, we don’t have the space to think about ourselves. All may not be right with the world, but when we are in the presence of the Most High, the troubles of the world and noisy voices are momentarily quieted. And by taking a few minutes to make God the center of our life, we have a fresh perspective and find our burdens lightened. In choosing to worship, we find the healing and refreshment that only comes when we aspire to please God.

The magical thing about worship is it’s not just singing. It doesn’t have to involve hymns or more contemporary songs. It doesn’t even have to be at church. In Romans 12:1 we read, *“I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship.”* Not once does this verse associate worship with singing, or even church. Instead, true worship is all about being a living sacrifice – spending our time wholly dedicated to God. When we offer kindness to that person we run into at the grocery store, or when we bring meals to a neighbor, or seek to bless someone through our work – that is true worship. Because worship isn’t saying with our mouth that Jesus is Lord. Worship is saying with our actions that Jesus is revealed in everything we do – that our life is focused on giving God praise.

This month, in whatever activities you find yourself, challenge yourself to form that activity into something you can use to worship our God. Look at life through Jesus’s eyes, aim to spread mercy and grace to those around you – for this is our true and proper worship.

Thank you!

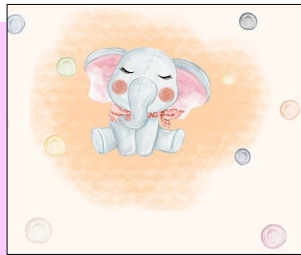


Dearest Members of Faith!

I wish to thank each of you for the well wishes, calls, and cards! Thank you also for the recognition during service as well. I have truly enjoyed serving Faith as your treasurer! At 70, I want to spread my volunteer wings at Faith for areas not so intense. Don't get me wrong I love accounting and always will, but accounting is a time-consuming process and requires much analysis and time. During these years I have worked with many of you in some capacity and that I will miss. BUT I will be involved in other areas at Faith and work hand in hand there to serving God. I look forward to spreading my "volunteer" wings!

*If I can help in any capacity, I am only a phone call away. Again, thank you for the privilege of being your treasurer.
Becky Simons*

IT'S A GIRL!!! Happy Birthday, Evelyn!



Evelyn Mae Patten was born at 7:15 a.m. on Thursday, March 23, to Eric and Syndee Patten.

She weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Evelyn is welcomed home by big brother Gavin and big sister Isabelle.

Positions Available at Faith

Treasurer & Finance Coordinator

Becky Simons, Treasurer, and Nicki Lange, Finance Coordinator have given their resignations. Their last day will be Friday, March 31. The Treasurer position is a volunteer position. The Finance Coordinator position is a paid position. For more information or questions, please contact Joe Simington, Council President, at 712-346-7834 or president@faithlutheranspencer.com

LifeKids Director

LifeKids Spencer is hiring a director for a Monday – Friday Christian after school program housed at Faith Lutheran. This is a full-time paid position with flexible scheduling during the 2023-24 school year. Start date to be determined prior to the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

For more information, please contact: Courtney Schwartz, LifeKids Spencer Board President, at 712-298-0417.



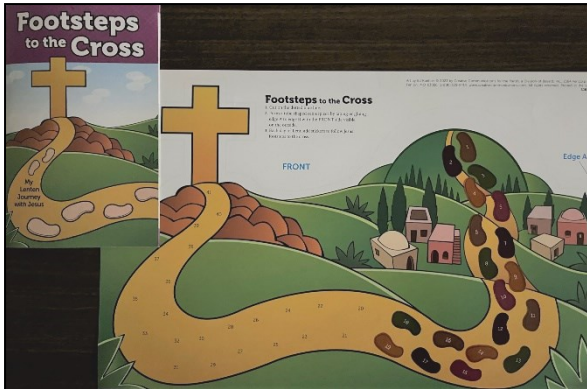
Prayer Chain & Sunday Prayers of the Church

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 Morning Prayers of the Church**, please contact the church office at 712-580-4316 or office@faithlutheranspencer.com

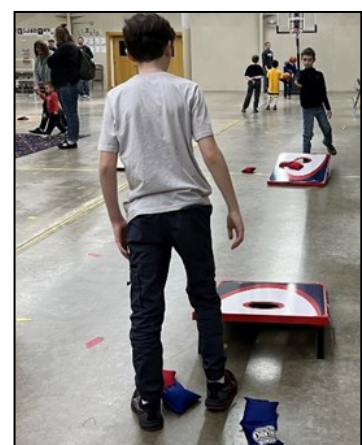
Hallelujah! He has risen!

The LifeKids have been learning about Jesus' life and death using the daily Lenten devotionals.



Each day of Lent is like a step along a path, a path that leads to Easter. Each day a special passage from the Bible and a daily devotional are read aloud by the children. They love to volunteer to read the devotional and the Bible. Each lesson draws us closer to Jesus. Remember, even the longest journey begins with a single step.

A big LifeKids, "Thank you!" goes out to everyone that helped with and or attended the LifeKids spaghetti and games fundraiser. The food was delicious, the children had a fun time playing the games and \$1,100 was raised!



Grand Avenue Community Outreach Baking Day – Peanut Butter Chocolate Brownies

Lessons learned: Sweet and condensed milk is really sticky and melted chocolate chips don't stay melted forever!



March full day of LifeKids - Our last full day of LifeKids for the 2022-2023 school year was March 20th. We are sad that the April in-service day is being used as a snow make-up day.

We kept busy with lots of games, our daily Lenten lesson, Easter Bingo, and tying 5 fleece blankets.



A big LifeKids, "Thank you!" goes out to Jenna Steffen from the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Jenna presented a 2-hour Slimy, Goopy, and Gross program with the kids. They learned about germs and made booger slime and bubble gum slime.



Stewardship ... Steward of the Month: Ross and Beth Brockshus



April is here, spring is here, and we will soon be celebrating that Christ is risen, is risen indeed, so let's also celebrate wonderful stewards at Faith, Ross and Beth Brockshus.

The very talented and gifted couple, Ross and Beth, have been at Faith from the very beginning. Before our building, along with Del, they provided meeting space at Del's Garden Center for meetings and retreats. As the building came, they helped with picking out fabric color and style of the chairs in our worship area. Again working alongside his dad, Del, Ross designed and provided the altars used in our worship

area. Ross also took the lead while Properties Team leader to get the iconic cross from our sanctuary enlarged and on display outside for passersby to admire, but also to profess our faith in Christ.

A lot of times, you will see this couple serving together in many ways across the church. You maybe have seen a drama that Ross and Beth acted in. Maybe you've seen them singing in the Pop-Up Choir or using their harmonious voices as praise singers, or even Beth's talent on the piano filling in for us as needed. They help serve communion, have led worship ... though not at the same time, have given some of our children's sermons, and led the Caring Ministry Team in the past which also includes serving on Council. As a resource for beautiful flowers and plants, Ross and Beth provide access to such high-quality flowers to decorate our worship space with for Christmas, Easter and Pentecost services.

There are other areas of service as well including Ross's time on the search team that sought God's direction in leading us to Pastor Ben. Currently Ross is serving on the Nominating Team, and the most recent news is that he will be giving the sermon on Sunday, March 26. Beth has also helped technology by coordinating videos needed for past anniversary celebrations at Faith, along with other videos in the past that we have needed for worship services.

As grandkids have entered Ross and Beth's family and we don't get to see them as much as usual, rightly so, you have read that much of their stewardship is behind the scenes. So many helpful things in such a short time as Faith establishes, so thank you, good and faithful stewards. We really appreciate all the details you've been part of and all the talents you've shared.

Many blessings to you both!

Thank God for Our Food by Rev. Robert Blezard

God said [to Adam and Eve], 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. - Genesis 1:29

There's an old joke about the first-grade teacher who asks her class, "Where do apples come from?" Little Ian speaks up: "From the supermarket!"

We laugh, but the sad truth is that many of us are so far removed from farms that we forget that our food – every bite – comes from life, life that God alone created. Yes, farmers sow seeds and care for the plants and trees, but it's God's miracle of life that makes them grow.

As stewards and disciples, we desire to cultivate in ourselves and our communities a deep appreciation for all God provides us, particularly what we need to live. With every mouthful at every meal, we thank God for our daily bread, and for the soil, air and water that sustains life.

Thank God for Our Food - Continued

Easter and springtime are perfect occasions to celebrate God's miracle of life that gives us fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, fish and dairy foods. Here are some ideas:

- Mealtime grace, thank God not only for food, but also for the cycles of seedtime, growth and harvest; for life-nourishing soil, water and air.
- While eating, discuss the origins of the variety of food on your plate. How and where are the plants grown? How do they get to your kitchen?
- As a church or family, celebrate Earth Day (Saturday, April 22) by learning about food production and how climate change, pollution and economics impact our food.
- Celebrate Earth Day by planting a garden in your yard or community garden on church grounds.
- Learn about nutrition – what foods are the best and worst for us, and why. Promote healthy eating.
- Learn about food waste in our culture and take steps to reduce it in your home.
- At church, reserve a Sunday for a service highlighting creation and food. Maybe "Blessing of the Seeds," or the ancient "Rogation Sunday" ritual.

We live in a culture where food is all around us all the time. As steward-disciples, we want to be sure not to take even a mouthful for granted.

~Rob Blezard

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Prayer and Praise Corner

Lift Up in Prayer...

- Friends, family members, and neighbors who are thinking about visiting church this Easter.
- Pray about signing up for our prayer vigil on National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 4.
- Pray for couples preparing for marriage: Austin Crew and Madison Miller; Gene Englin and Patty Schaney.
- Pray about attending Family Camp this summer.
- Pray for Ingham Okobojo Bible Camps as they recruit staff members for this summer.
- Pray for God to guide us regarding Treasurer, Finance Team and Finance Coordinator.
- Pray for God to guide us regarding Church Administrator.
- Pray about helping out with a ministry team.
- Jesus, gracious healer, please bless Norma Johnson, Peggy Olson, Chad Johnson, Keith Van Kleek, Garold Becker, Darrel Heckathorn, Dave Frerichs, Beckett Morrow, Jaya Fever, Robert Wassom Senior, Barbara Greene, Marie Godfredsen, Cole Hanson, Ely Kleszczelski and all those we name in our hearts.

Reasons for Praise!

- Thank God for volunteer musicians who serve every Sunday morning, and for our choir members.
- Thank God for volunteers who teach Sunday School.
- Thank God for volunteers on the Properties Team.
- Thank God for volunteers who faithfully prepare Communion for us.



Faith Lutheran's mailing address:

P.O. Box 1322, Spencer, Iowa 51301



Faith Lutheran's office hours:

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Monday – Friday



Free WiFi Connection: Network: FAITH_Guest | Password: 7125804316

Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President, Joe Simington at 7:08 PM.

Members present were: Joe Simington, Eli Franker, Jared Hansen, Kay Iversen, Stephanie Essick, Laura Heikens, Barb Solberg, Kirby Fueston, Pam Hanson, Dave Susie, Pete Crew, Heidi Skadeland (via Zoom) & Becky Simons (via Zoom).

The meeting was opened with prayer by Joe Simington. Joe & the group discussed Chapter 1 of the book, "The Lost Art of Disciple Making".

March 8,
2023

Council Meeting Minutes

LAST MONTH'S MINUTES – Motion to approve made by Barb Solberg. Pete Crew seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Becky Simons) – Some things have changed due to staffing changes and snow removal. We are ahead of last year's giving so things look good. Stephanie Essick motioned to approve. Pete Crew seconded the motion. Joe thanked Becky for her service over the past 10 years.

PASTOR BEN'S REPORT – Pastor is excited to hear from all of the featured speakers during Lent. Kirby & Pastor met with the First Communion group prior to tonight's meeting and had 7-8 kids for this. Pastor mentioned how he loves to see the partnership between our church and Trinity.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Joe Simington) – Becky will be retiring her finance/treasurer position the end of March so we will be looking for someone to step into this position. Encouraged the members to keep working on building their teams.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- * **Evangelism (Eric Tigges)** –
- * **Missions (Pam Harris)** –
- * **Worship (Pete Crew)** –
- * **Stewardship (Skadeland's)** – Working on the time & talent sheets and is hoping to get the new information printed off Sunday & get them to the team leaders. Leaders may have to go through their lists to do some "clean up" & recruit.
- * **Discipleship (Barb Solberg)** – Barb got a new member for her team!!
- * **Children's Ministry (Kirby Fueston)** –
- * **Youth Ministry (Matt & Steph Essick)** –
- * **Caring Ministries (Laura Heikens)** –
- * **Fellowship (Godfredsen's)** –
- * **Music & Creative Arts (Jared Hansen)** –
- * **Properties (Eli Franker)** –
- * **Technology (Kay Iversen)** –

GENERAL OFFERING

January 1
through March
19, 2023

2023 Budget:

\$413,959.25

Year to Date:

\$87,497.71

*Thank you for
generously
giving in 2023!*

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

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

March Council Minutes – continued

OLD BUSINESS

Endowment – looking for more people to serve on this committee. Currently have Jolynne Eilts & Christin Lee on this committee. Please give any potential members to Joe.

Lenten meals: teams for March 29 – Pete Crew

NEW BUSINESS

1. Computers – new computers were bought in 2019 for the Sunday school (one in each room). COVID hit and the computers have been around for 4 years. Some are currently being utilized by other staff/council members. If Council approves, they are looking to sell one or two. We could also donate to the Camp possibly & keep one for a back up.
2. Church rental – Eli is going to talk with Roger & Vickie as well as Becky. The group is to think about this over the next month and come back next month with any ideas and discussion regarding renting the church. We would like to form a policy and/or contract for this if we allow the rental of our facility to either members and/or non-members.
3. Team reporting for expenses – Joe is looking for ideas for stream-lining this process. Joe suggested submitting the form along with the receipt to Nicki after the leader has signed off on the purchase. This can be done via email if that works best.
4. Church forum – next month we will be having a forum (date to be determined). If teams have anything to bring up, please let Joe know. Looking at the later part of April??
5. Team positions – see President's report regarding Becky Simon's stepping down.

Concerns and/or Celebrations

The “Jesus Revolution” is playing through the weekend at both Milford and Spencer.

Closing Prayer was given by Joe Simington.

Adjournment – Pete Crew made the motion to adjourn. Barb Solberg seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jolene K. Hansen, Church Council Secretary

National Day of Prayer – May 4



The National Day of Prayer stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us a people.

Faith Lutheran will hold a prayer vigil that day. Look on the welcome center after Easter for the sign-up sheet. There will also be a prayer box there for you to put prayer requests for our church, community, nation or personal. These prayers will be in the prayer chapel on May 4 for us to bring before God. (A space will be created to prepare a prayer chapel for the day.)

Let's encourage each other to participate by signing up and getting the word out to the whole Faith Family to take a time slot. Let's cover each hour of the day in prayer. Time alone with God is a powerful thing.

We would like to invite you to join the millions of men and women of faith who will pause, reflect, and cry out to our Heavenly Father, clinging to the truth found in James 5:16, that *“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”*

Through the Bible in 2023 – One Chapter a Day

Our goal at Faith is to read one chapter from the Bible each day, and in so doing understand the whole Bible from beginning to end. If you haven't read all of the chapters from January until now, don't worry! Each chapter can be understood on its own. We will read chapters from the Bible that tell the story of God's work among His people and chapters that point us to Jesus.

Month	Date	Day	Bk Title	Ch	Chapter Summary
April	1	Friday	John	6	Jesus Says: I Am the Bread of Life
April	2	Saturday	John	7	Jewish Leaders Try to Arrest Jesus
April	3	Sunday	John	8	Jesus Says: I Am the Light of the World
April	4	Monday	John	9	Jesus Physical and Spiritual Blindness
April	5	Tuesday	John	10	Jesus Says: I Am the Good Shepherd
April	6	Wednesday	Habakkuk	3	Habakkuk Stands in Awe of God
April	7	Thursday	John	11	Jesus Raises Lazarus from Death
April	8	Friday	John	12	Jesus Anointed for Death, Enters Jerusalem as King
April	9	Saturday	John	13	Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet
April	10	Sunday	John	14	Jesus Says: I Am the Way, Truth, Life
April	11	Monday	John	15	Jesus Says: I Am the True Vine
April	12	Tuesday	John	16	Jesus Predicts His Death & Resurrection
April	13	Wednesday	John	17	Jesus Prays That His Followers Will Be One
April	14	Thursday	John	18	Jesus Is Arrested and Questioned
April	15	Friday	John	19	Jesus Is Crucified and Buried
April	16	Saturday	1 Corinthians	15	Of First Importance: Christ Died and Was Raised
April	17	Sunday	John	20	Jesus Rises and Appears to Followers
April	18	Monday	Joshua	6	The Jews Build an Altar
April	19	Tuesday	Joshua	24	The Jews Renew God's Covenant
April	20	Wednesday	Judges	4	Deborah Frees the Jews
April	21	Thursday	Judges	6	God Calls Gideon
April	22	Friday	Judges	7	Gideon Frees the Jews
April	23	Saturday	Ruth	1	Ruth Commits Herself to Naomi
April	24	Sunday	John	21	Jesus Reinstates Peter
April	25	Monday	Ruth	2	Ruth Meets Boaz
April	26	Tuesday	Ruth	4	Ruth Marries Boaz
April	27	Wednesday	1 Samuel	1	Hannah Dedicates Samuel to God
April	28	Thursday	1 Samuel	3	God Calls Samuel
April	29	Friday	1 Samuel	9	Samuel Anoints Saul as King
April	30	Saturday	1 Samuel	10	Israel Coronates King Saul

IOLBC Annual Meeting & Dedication

Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps (IOLBC) Annual Meeting & Beach House Dedication

Saturday, April 29, at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp



The new Beach House is nearly complete, and we want to invite you to come and celebrate with us as we dedicate this beautiful building for God's glory. We give thanks to the Lord for so many who were part of preparing this place for people to meet with God.

Schedule for the Day-April 29: Annual Meeting-11 am (chapel) | Lunch-12 pm
Beach House Dedication-1 pm (Beach House/Beach Front)

Please help us plan for the day! RSVP www.okoboji.org/bhd by April 24th for one or all of the events of the day. Any questions, please call Chris Baugh, IOLBC Retreat Coordinator, at 712-337-3306.

2 Outreach Nights in April!

Sunday, April 2 – Church vs. Church Dodgeball

Sunday, April 30 – Capture the Flag

Who: 6th – 12th grades | When: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Cost: \$5

RSVP to Rachel Simington by noon on Thursday, Feb. 16

Spring Recharge Dates (all at the Okoboji Bible Camp site):

April 14-16: 6th-9th Grades & 9th-12th Grades

April 21-23: 6th-9th Grades

April 28-30: Spring 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.okoboji.org

or call

1-800-656-2654 (Okoboji Camp) or

712-867-4170 (Ingham Camp).

**Ingham
Okoboji**
Lutheran Bible Camps

Mail-In



Mail your offering: Faith Lutheran, P.O. Box 1322, Spencer, IA 51301



Text Giving

- ◆ Text “give” to 712-214-4317. You will receive a link.
- ◆ First time: click “sign in”
- ◆ Click “register for an account” – follow prompts to receive your secure PIN
- ◆ Select fund – enter donation amount – enter payment information. Tap “save payment” to use for future gifts

**WAYS to
GIVE**
at Faith Lutheran

**Information and happenings with
Faith Lutheran Youth can be found on the
Facebook youth page:
Faith Youth of Spencer**



Faith Lutheran Church

2912 Highway Blvd.

P.O. Box 1322

Spencer, IA 51301

Faith Lutheran Church – March, 2023

Baptisms | Births: March 23, Evelyn Mae Patten | **Confirmed**

Deaths: March 4, Jim Spieker | **Marriages | New Members**

Faith Lutheran Church – Staff

Pastor: Ben Unseth

pastor@faithlutheranspencer.com

Technology Coordinator: Jacob Weeks

techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven

office@faithlutheranspencer.com

Church Administrator & Finance Coordinator:

(Accepting applications)

churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com

finance@faithlutheranspencer.com

LifeKids Director: Radina Jansen

director@LifeKidsspencer.com

Worship & Communications Director:

Gloria McKenney

worshipdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

media@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

Email us at: office@faithlutheranspencer.com

Find us online at: www.faithlutheranspencer.com

Like us on Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church LCMC

Follow us on Instagram: [@flcspencer](https://www.instagram.com/flcspencer)

Watch us on SMU:

Monday @ 8:30 p.m. | Tuesday @ 11:00 a.m.