

February 2023

GOD'S  
UNFAILING  
LOVE

# Faith Life Together

Volume 7 | Issue 2

**Pastor:** Ben Unseth

**Council President:**  
Joe Simington

**YouTube:**

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



2912 Highway Blvd.  
P.O. Box 1322  
Spencer, IA 51301  
712.580.4316

**Website**

[www.faithlutheran  
spencer.com](http://www.faithlutheran-spencer.com)

**Social Media**

Facebook: Faith  
Lutheran Church LCMC  
Instagram: @flcspencer



## Welcome to February!

February is a great month for us as Christians to renew our commitment to love and show kindness to all around us. Not only is Valentine's Day celebrated on February 14, but just a few days later on February 17 is National Random Acts of Kindness Day! Of course, we want to act as Jesus did in showing love and kindness on *every* day, as it says in Colossians 3:12-14, "as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." May this be a reminder for each of us to show love wherever we go!

Council will meet **Wednesday, Feb. 8, at 7:00 p.m.** Anyone is welcome to attend council meetings, or if you have a topic you would like Council members to discuss, you may also bring it up to one of our council members. This is the first council meeting for many of the new members of council, so be sure to thank them for stepping up into their new role - and also thank those that are stepping down after a time of service. We appreciate everyone who has or is serving both God and our congregation!

**Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6:30 p.m.,** we will have our **Ash Wednesday service**. This service is a solemn opportunity for us to reflect on our sinful nature and God's redemptive work for us on the cross. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, where we spend the next 40 days remembering the journey Jesus took from His time on Earth until He went to the cross. We invite you to join us for our Ash Wednesday service, and also the services throughout Lent, as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's defeat of sin and resurrection from the grave.

As we journey through this next month together, think of areas you can encourage others in their walk of faith. We were not meant to walk this life alone! God places some people in our lives to support and encourage us, and others God has placed for us to support and encourage. Prayerfully consider who God wants you to encourage, and who you can rely on for support. Thank you for being such a loving family of God!



## PASTOR BEN UNSETH

### ***Knowing vs Knowing About***

I grew up loving the Minnesota Vikings. I could tell you all their starting players year after year. I knew who the players were who held NFL records. I knew tons of their statistics. I knew the Minnesota Vikings!

But I didn't know any of the Vikings.

My friend Debbie knew the Pro Bowl quarterback, Tommy Kramer. She loves his family. My friend Sam knows the Pro Bowl wide receiver, Adam Thielen. They have bled and sweated together.

If Debbie, Sam and I tried to sneak into a Vikings ceremony honoring the team's Pro Bowl players, Debbie could tell the guard, "Call Tommy. I know him. He will vouch for me." Sam could say, "Call Adam. I know him. He'll invite me in."

What could I say? "I challenge you to a quiz on Vikings trivia!"

There is a big difference between *knowing about* someone and *knowing* someone. I think that the Apostle Paul is talking this way when he writes, "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through **the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**. His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through **our knowledge of him** who called us by his own glory and goodness" (2 Peter 1:2-3).

At the gate of heaven there will *not* be a trivia quiz. There will *not* be an essay test on theology. Jesus will declare, "I never knew you" (Matthew 7:23), or "Come and share your master's happiness" (Matthew 25:23). Some will enter, never having had the privilege of holding a Bible or entering a church building—but they trust the good news of Jesus that was told to them. They have called on his name every day and loved him and served him. They know Jesus!

On Ash Wednesday, February 22, we start our pilgrimage to Easter. We will begin "The 18-Inch Journey" – the journey from your head to your heart. You know so many things about Jesus! We will open ourselves for God to transform facts into faith, to shift from knowing about to personal knowing, from explanation to trust.

I am praying with Peter that together, we will experience "**the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**." What will the outcome be? It sounds too good to be true, but you have God's pledge: "He has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them **you may participate in the divine nature**" (2 Peter 1:4).

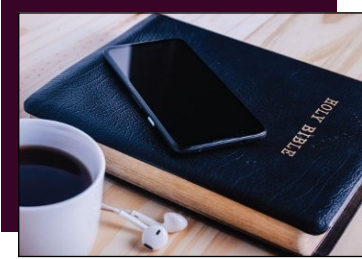
Join us in taking *The 18-Inch Journey*!

In Christ,  
Ben Unseth

---

## Women's Bible Study: A Study of Luke

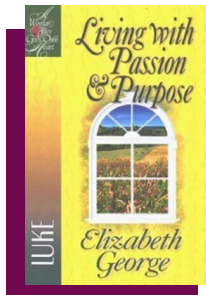
---



### ***Bible Study:*** ***“Living with Passion & Purpose”***

***Tuesday, Feb. 14***

***1:30 p.m. | SON Room***



We continue our study of Luke. In Luke 3 we see John and Jesus begin their ministries after 30 years of preparation by God. What ministry has God been preparing us for? Are we seeing the opportunities He puts before us to use the talents He has given us in service to the body of Christ? We will also discuss the significance of Jesus' baptism and why are we baptized?

***Come! Join in the discussion! All are welcome!***

---

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

---

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

Feb. 1 Cassie Simcox  
Anna Quanbeck  
Craig Neiderheiser

Feb. 3 Jan Hopkins

Feb. 4 Lisa Carpenter

Feb. 5 Linda Trierweiler  
Sheila Weeks

Feb. 6 Janell Holstad

Feb. 7 Trista Jorgensen  
Angie Friedrich

Feb. 9 Barb Solberg

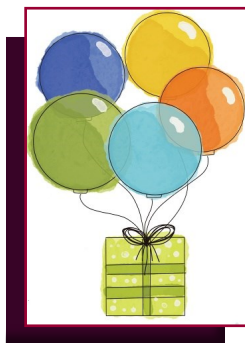
Feb. 10 Kirby Fueston  
Brady Vanderberg

Feb. 13 Michael Johnikin

Feb. 18 Jamie Rouse  
Cindy Tigges

Feb. 19 Colleen Rouse  
Anne Rosendahl  
Gary Jenkins

Feb. 20 Kameron Carlson  
Bill Kersting



Feb. 21 Sharon Anderson  
Eric Patten  
Roydal Woodford  
Neal Drefke

Feb. 26 Darrel Heckathorn  
Feb. 27 Eldren Holstad



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

Feb. 3 Mike & Linda Trierweiler

Feb. 13 Dave & Sharon Simington

Feb. 16 Joe & Rachel Simington

Feb. 20 Dan & Patty Ellsworth

Feb. 27 Gary & Connie Jenkins



---

# Meet Your Missions: Falls Community Church

---

Falls Community Church is a sister church to Faith Lutheran. When Pastor Julius Badigo was asked how their church began, he stated that God had a purpose for them to expand His territory in North America as they came as refugees from different countries in Africa and met in Sioux Falls, South Dakota (the coldest state in America). They had no idea how cold the state was but by His grace they are trying and thriving.

In 2001, the congregation met under the name of Sudanese Congregations at St. Mark's Lutheran Church ELCA. Due to the break up in the ELCA church in 2009, they moved out of St. Mark's and held their worship services in several different churches in Sioux Falls. In 2010, they registered their new church under the current name of Falls Community Church and became members of LCMC in 2011.

The congregation purchased the church where they are currently located in 2014 and finished the payment for the church in 2018.

This is the first South Sudanese church in North America. They are so proud and excited to have their building. "We give God the honor and the Glory for His wonderful work for us as refugees came to Sioux Falls, South Dakota and it became our home so that we can preach and teach the Words of God to our children at large. We also thank God for Faith Lutheran Church for our sister church to recognize us." Their mission is to win souls for Christ right here on Earth. The Faith Lutheran Missions Team discussed getting a Mission Project together to help Falls Community Church with their vision in improving their church. (Watch for more news to come.)



---

Lutheran World Relief 

---

***Hands-On Mission Day | Wednesday, Feb. 1  
9:00 a.m. to Noon***

**Item of the Month ~  
Nail Clippers**

The item of the month for Lutheran World Relief is nail clippers. They are used in both the personal care kits and the baby 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

---



### ***Rejoice and Be Glad to Love One Another***

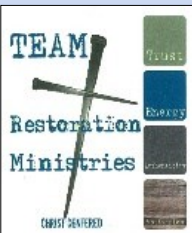
Do you know your true calling? Each and every one of us, as Christians, has a unique place in God's Kingdom. When we seek to love and serve the Lord, our God, with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, (Luke 10:27) we are closest to our Creator and His plan for us. Unfortunately, the world and the Enemy find ways to distract us from our mission and sow seeds of discontent, powerlessness, and "less than" negative thoughts and subsequent unhealthy behaviors that rob us of our joy.

Within our daily life, we are attacked by the Enemy to doubt ourselves that in turn reduces our peace of mind. Our moods can and do affect our motivation and readiness in our service to God and to others. Our commitment to rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118:24) wanes, may sap our energy, minimize our talents in our own eyes, that compromises our confidence to do His work.

When an individual manages a mental health condition, loosening the bondage to low self-worth, helplessness, hopelessness may require more effort. With God's help, temporary trials can be transformed into life-giving blessings with eternal benefits. Through our daily prayerful pleas, we can gain a new mindset to ignite our readiness to accept and trust His Word and His intentions for us.

We take steps in this direction by resolving to "be content in all things" (Philippians 4:12-13). This thought process can empower us, with God's strength, to push through our sense of inadequacy to know and live out our calling. Our actions, especially when loving our neighbors through service, can provide purpose and hope in us which can result that gives glory to God. Let us seek to obey God and His plans for us in what we think, say, and do.

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](http://www.team-restoration.org)**

---

## Upper Des Moines Opportunity

---



Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry is in need of the following items for our community:

**Cereal, tuna and canned fruit**



## GLORIA MCKENNEY WORSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

As a worship director, I spend a lot of time planning for and leading our worship services. This position has so many blessings that go with it, and perhaps the most obvious is the purpose of my job revolves around praising God - how amazing is that! However, because I am always up front leading worship, I don't often get the opportunity to fully worship God myself with others around me. What I can do, however, is worship God on my own. When I'm alone in my apartment, I'll put on a Spotify playlist and sing along, or just listen, and let the words and melody bring refreshment to my soul.

The summer of 2021, I discovered a song by Jon Guerra that I fell in love with. It's called 'Kingdom of God' and I would encourage you to listen to it if you get a chance. The song beautifully weaves together 2 main Scripture passages, starting with the Beatitudes from Matthew 5, and then the 23rd Psalm a bit later in the song. I've included the chorus for you to read:

*"Blessed are the poor who have nothing to own  
Blessed are the mourners who are crying alone  
Blessed are the guilty who have nowhere to go*

*For their hearts have a road to the kingdom of God  
And their souls are the songs of the kingdom of God  
And they will find a refuge for theirs is the kingdom of God"*

*- Jon Guerra, 'Kingdom of God'*

The way Jon rephrases the words of the Beatitudes allows God to speak to me in a way that resonates with my spirit, not just my brain. I can feel the heart of God toward those who are mourning, or poor, or hungering for righteousness. As I listen to the words, I realize sometimes I can fit in one or more of those categories. And God's response to me is the same as it is to all the others Jesus mentioned: the Kingdom of God is ours. The Kingdom of God is where we will find peace. The Kingdom of God allows us to feel safe. The Kingdom of God is where we can live with God, so close that we breathe the same air and live in the very presence of God.

Worship here on earth can give us a taste of heaven- how our souls will be filled, and we will feel the most at home that we ever have. Worship allows us to experience the Kingdom of God - and we can also experience the Kingdom of God when we act as Jesus' hands and feet, doing His work for God's glory. We are all welcome in God's Kingdom. If you find yourself feeling empty and in need of something more, that is exactly when God can place His Kingdom in your spirit. May you be blessed, friends. The Kingdom of God is ours.





---

## Reverse Advent Calendar

---

A huge “THANK YOU” for your tremendous response to our first “Reverse Advent Calendar.” It was truly a “God thing” as we called so many unbelievable happenings when we first started Faith Lutheran 12 years ago. And, your response shows that it continues today. Thank You!

We collected 596 items that included a great variety of non-perishable foods as well as other items like toilet paper and toothbrushes. These were shared with special people as well as with Upper Des Moines Opportunity and Grand Avenue Community Outreach.

Thanks, again, for sharing God’s love with those in our community!

Alice Nielsen, Faith’s Mission Team

---

## Thank You Confirmation Kids

---



Thank you to the Confirmation kids for the lovely cards and gifts!  
We are so thankful for all the prayers. God bless you all!

Betty Ricklefs, Donna Fredrick, Luella Unseth  
Gerald Hanson, Stan Andersen

---

## LifeKids March Madness

---



**LifeKids March Madness**

**Spaghetti and Games Fundraiser**

**Saturday, March 4, 2023**

**5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.**

**Freewill donation**

---

## Check Out This Movie!

---



***Coming to theaters on February 24: Jesus Revolution***

From the creators of *I Can Only Imagine*, Lionsgate presents *Jesus Revolution*, a true story about God’s radical love. In the 1970s, young Greg Laurie (Joel Courtney) is searching for all the right things in all the wrong places: until he meets Lonnie Frisbee (Jonathan Roumie), a charismatic hippie-street-preacher. Together with Pastor Chuck Smith (Kelsey Grammer), they open the doors of Smith’s languishing church to an unexpected revival of radical and newfound love, leading to what *TIME Magazine* dubbed a **JESUS REVOLUTION**.

Go to <https://jesusrevolution.movie> to learn more!



## January's Highlights by Radina Jansen

Romans 12:2: *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing, and perfect will."*

We began a new lesson unit for Wednesdays, "The Armor of God!" The introduction lesson was a scavenger hunt that took us all around the church, even outside! Each card had a poem that introduced each piece of God's armor, along with a clue to the next card. They worked as a group to read the cards and figure out where the next clue would be. They had so much fun as they neared the end, they all said they didn't want it to end! Funny that the next card they found stated: "Keep it up, don't quit, the hunt is almost done. But don't be sad, learning about the Armor of God has just begun." I look forward to helping carry that enthusiasm throughout the lessons and activities over the next couple of months.



We were very busy on our January 16 full day of LifeKids.  
They designed snowflakes, no two are alike!



Time spent together playing made the morning go by quickly!





We all were so happy that the all-day rain did not turn to ice on our full day of LifeKids. We were able to travel to the Bedell YMCA in Spirit Lake. The children were divided into 2 groups. While one group climbed the rock tower, the other group swam. The groups switched after 50 minutes.

A big LifeKids "Thank you!" goes out to Andy Wolf, Sr. Director of Facilities and Programs. Andy went through the rules with the kids, put on and secured the harnesses, hooked them up to the ropes, gave encouragement, gave suggestions for hand and foot placement, and unhooked them. All the children attempted to climb multiple paths on the tower as some of the paths were more difficult. They'd climb, take a rest so others could have their turn and then go back at it. Ring-a-ling! Both Josh and Sydney scaled to the top and rang the bell! It was great to see all the enthusiasm and everyone's willingness to be challenged!



The children loved the pool. They told me it was not cold! The pool was a zero-entry pool so it was great for our younger LifeKids. A big LifeKids "Thank you!" goes out to Eric for hanging out in the pool with both groups! Group 2 shared the pool with some of the Y Kids, but Group 1 had the pool all to themselves. A great time was had by all!



The impending storm on Wednesday Jan. 18, affected the number of children we had for our dessert baking day for Grand Ave. Community Outreach. We started with 6 children and 3 children finished mixing, spreading, and baking the brownies. Before mixing the brownies, we read through the recipe as a group, making sure they understood what a whisk was and how to use it, and how to be at eye level when measuring the milk. I demonstrated how they needed to gently glide over the batter with a spoon to spread it to the edges, otherwise the batter wouldn't stay in place due to the spray we put on the parchment paper. Since there were only 3 children when the brownies were ready to be baked, they got to lick the brownie batter off the utensils they used! A big LifeKids "Thank You!" goes out to Gloria for helping with our once-a-month community service baking project for Grand Avenue Community Outreach!





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

- As we begin our Lenten pilgrimage, let us come together to seek Christ.
- Pray about attending Family Camp this summer.
- Pray for our new and continuing Council members as they guide us in Inviting all people to faith in Christ, "Come and worship, Go and serve."
- Pray for new staff members as they continue to master their work.
- Pray for discernment in joining a small group.
- Pray that our government leaders will seek to uphold righteousness and justice, always consider the downtrodden, and humble themselves before God (see Micah 6:8).
- Pray for safety for those who struggle with housing through bitter winter.
- Pray for Pastor Ben as he serves on LCMC's Iowa District Council.
- Healing for those who are sick, hospitalized, battling a long-term illness or are grieving: Steve Quattlebaum; Norma Johnson; Peggy Olson; Jim Spieker; Jaya Fever; Jalyce Storley's father, Jim Rusk; Keith Van Kleek's mother, Phyllis Van Kleek; Dennis & Jan Larson's son-in-law, Eli Kleszczelski; and Roger Godfredsen's relatives, Lynne Neimeyer and Marie Godfredsen.

### ***Reasons for Praise!***

- Thanks for no serious injuries with Spencer's downtown fire on Sunday, January 22.
- Thanks for congregational unity in our Annual Meeting.
- Thanks for generous givers who helped us finish well in 2022.
- Thanks for new Council members and ministry volunteers.

### ***Faith Lutheran's Prayer Chain and Sunday Morning 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](mailto:djslrs74@yahoo.com) or Doreen Scribner at [doreenscribner@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@faithlutheranspencer.com)



## ***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](https://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!







## Thrivent Choice®

Ready to give back? Make a personal donation or direct some of Thrivent's charitable funds to a favorite nonprofit organization or cause. The choice is yours.

### **Thrivent Members ...**

### ***Be thinking of where you want your Choice Dollars® to go!***

Eligible Thrivent members can recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds. These recommendations are shared by directing Choice Dollars to enrolled non-profit organizations, including Faith Lutheran!

A designated minimum of 25 Choice Dollars or a maximum of 5,000 Choice Dollars is available for the period of Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2022.

**Choice Dollars can be directed until March 31, 2023.**

For more information on directing your Choice Dollars, please call your Thrivent representative.

You can also go online to your Thrivent account to choose a recipient and make your donation: [www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice](http://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice)

### ***What does Thrivent Choice mean for your organization?***

The Thrivent Choice charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients and Thrivent Member Networks by providing grants to support their favorite churches, nonprofit organizations and causes.

Your organization receives the support of Thrivent's financial advisors, engagement leaders and volunteers. You also have access to resources that:

- Provides a platform for online donations and Thrivent pays the processing fees.
- Give you greater visibility by placing your organization in an online catalog.
- Possibly provide repeat funds, as Choice Dollars are directed to your organization.

### ***Browse our catalog***

When you click on the link above, you can view the online catalog. Our online catalog enables organizations to receive charitable contributions, as well as benefit from greater visibility. Search the catalog to see if the organization you're looking for is already enrolled. Choose from more than 45,000 churches and nonprofits.



**Faith Lutheran's mailing address:**  
P.O. Box 1322, Spencer, Iowa 51301



**Faith Lutheran's office hours:**  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Monday – Friday



**Free WiFi Connection: Network: FAITH\_Guest | Password: 7125804316**

---

## Stewardship ... Steward of the Month: Rod & Cryss Quanbeck

---

To celebrate the month of February, let's love on another couple from Faith that aren't shy to the call of ministry, Rod and Cryss Quanbeck.

Rod and Cryss, who met in Seattle when Rod was recruiting staff for a camp in North Dakota, join us regularly from the beautiful community of Wahpeton to our north. Rod, executive director of Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp and on the road a lot promoting camp, is always energetic and joy-filled when he greets you with a smile. When he can be with us, you will find him leading worship, singing in the Pop-up choir or from the seats praising the Lord with the beautiful voice God has given him. Rod is also one who will approach anyone he sees to make them feel welcomed and loved by God. He will also send camp staff our way or be an advocate for the ministries at camp we can all connect with, utilizing so many gifts God has equipped him with. Rod is a huge resource that we are so blessed to call brother and member!



Cryss, bookkeeper at Ingham Okoboji and excellent with numbers and all things accounting, is also a substitute teacher in the Okoboji School System. She is fantastic with names, and uses that gift when reading prayers of the church on Sunday mornings. Cryss also uses her calming and steady voice reading scripture, leading worship, and assisting with communion as well. You can also find Cryss following up with friends, listening with her caring heart and supporting members through prayer and genuine follow-up.

The Quanbecks have also served Faith well as they have represented us at LCMC gatherings from time to time, and returning with updates as to what the LCMC is up to. In an even more intimate role, the Quanbecks are huge resources, supporters, volunteers, and everything else with Via de Cristo. Rod and Cryss, well done good and faithful servants, as there are so many avenues you both are gifted on and serve well through our own ministries and so many ministries we are connected to. Thank you for all you give to us and our congregation in so many ways. Blessings to you and your family as God continues to use you at Faith and so far beyond!

---

## Ash Wednesday's Wake-up Call by Rev. Robert Blezard

---

*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

With these words from Genesis 3:19 and the swipe of a dirty thumb across our foreheads, Ash Wednesday propels us into Lent with the proper context to understand our lives as stewards of all that God entrusts to us.

Ash Wednesday, which falls on Feb. 22, teaches us that we are mortals, after all. It crushes our ego, dispels our pretensions and drives us deep into God's mysteries: Why are we here? What are our lives all about? What's really important? Pray over these questions and profound insights emerge.

### **We are dust.**

Yes, but we are God's dust. Our body consists of trillions of atoms, each a speck of "dust" created by God billions of years ago. God put us together from the stuff of the universe.

- Therefore, we are quite literally "earthy" beings, made of the same material as air, water, soil and stone. As part of creation, we work to preserve, protect and sustain creation.
- Therefore, we have reverence for our bodies, expressed through healthy living.



# Ash Wednesday's Wake-up Call - Continued

## We are breath

We are “dust” into which God has “breathed the Holy breath of life” (Genesis 2:7).

- Therefore, every breath we take is holy, reminding us of God’s life force in us.
- Therefore, we look to God to align our lives with God’s holy realities of peace, love, joy, justice and truth.

## Our time is brief

Our “dust” will return to the earth someday. We are mortal.

- Therefore, every hour, every second is sacred. We spend our time wisely, carefully, prayerfully.
- Therefore, we do not cling to possessions, knowing that we hold onto them only for a little while.
- Therefore, we fill our lives with treasures of lasting value – friendships, trust, love, joy, service, generosity and harmony.

This Lent, spend time in prayer, with openness and honesty. See how God will turn your heart and mind, transforming you into the person you were created to be. Reflect each day as on Ash Wednesday. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

-Rob Blezard

Copyright © Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org) and serves as pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD.

**WAYS**  
to  
**GIVE**  
at  
**Faith Lutheran**



### In Person

- ♦ **Use the Blessing Box in back at service time!**
- ♦ **Offering envelopes - 2023 envelopes are available on the Welcome Center.**

### 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





## Children's Ministry News of the Month

Hello Faith!! With my retirement just around the corner, I am stepping back from my position as Children's Ministry Team leader BUT our replacement is even more awesome than Patty Awesome!! Kirby Fueston is taking over for me to fill the remainder of my term. Kirby is no stranger to helping with the young of our church and she will do such a great job for y'all. I will continue to help out where I can, and where Kirby wants me until I find my new home in Florida. My expectations were curbed, due to hurricane Ian destroying the community we were looking at so now I am looking at next fall for my leave from Iowa.

Thank you to everyone who has helped me in this past year. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget. Thank you for trusting me and sharing your children with me. I'm kind of a different type of gal and I'm not everyone's cup of tea but I mean well and I love the Lord. I have enjoyed getting to know the kids and hope that Sunday School is on the right track since we are well past covid and back into the classrooms.

Sunday school will have started, as you read this, with our first Sunday being January 29<sup>th</sup>. We have a full slate of teachers and will be continuing to teach the children the books of the Bible as our main focus.

I appreciate the compassion and the love this church has given me, but most of all, I appreciate your understanding of my humor. I love to laugh and I love to make others laugh. It's good for the soul.

Until we meet again,  
Patty 'Awesome' Ellsworth

## LCMC Iowa District Leadership Gathering

On Saturday, Feb. 18, Pastor Ben will attend the Iowa LCMC Leadership Gathering at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Buffalo Center. Theme for the event is "You Are Not Alone."

You are not alone. This will be a day full of a variety of resources to strengthen pastors and leaders in their ministry to their congregation and community. Pastor Chris Fiske wears many hats, including Army National Guard Chaplain and Registered Investment Advisor. With his breadth of knowledge, Chris will be speaking on suicide intervention and prevention, how to structure pastoral salary packages for maximum benefit, and discussions of unique ways to ensure financial sustainability for your congregations.



### WAYS

to

### GIVE

at

**Faith  
Lutheran**



### Online Giving

Go to: <http://bit.ly/33RXUbH> please follow instructions!

### Drop Off

- ◆ Use our drop box located on the wall by the south-facing entry doors
- ◆ Drop it off inside at the Blessings Box.





# Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

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

Members present were: Paul Behrens, Eric Tigges, Kevin & Heidi Skadeland, Patty Ellsworth, Pam Harris, Kay Iversen, Becky Simons (via Zoom), Mark Speidel (via Zoom), Joe Simington, Brett & Jolynne Eilts, & Randy Enge (via Zoom).

Devotions were given by Eric Tigges. The meeting was opened with prayer by Eric.

Minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Eric Tigges. Kevin Skadeland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT (Becky Simons)** – Our budgeted giving amount was exceeded for 2022 by \$32,473.67. God is good! See report for details. Motion was made by Brett Eilts to approve; seconded by Eric Tigges. Motion carried.

**PASTOR BEN'S REPORT** – Pastor Ben is in Canada teaching. Refer to his report. Suggestion was made to see if Eric Patten could turn in a monthly report. We think he turns one in each month but we will see if that can be supplied to Council for our meetings.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Paul Behrens)** – Nothing to add to his report.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

- \***Evangelism (Eric Tigges)** –
- \***Missions (Pam Harris)** –
- \***Worship (Andrea Crew)** –
- \***Stewardship (Skadeland's)** –
- \***Discipleship (Randy Enge)** –
- \***Children's Ministry (Patty Ellsworth)** –
- \***Youth Ministry (Brittany Spieker)** –
- \***Caring Ministries (Laura Heikens)** –
- \***Fellowship (Godfredsens)** –
- \***Music & Creative Arts (Eilts')** –
- \***Properties (Mark Speidel)** –
- \***Technology (Kay Iversen)** –

## OLD BUSINESS

- a. Church Admin position – Becky Fear-Hatting is interested in this position and is willing to start when needed. Hours would be Monday-Wednesday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. Paul & Pastor have met with her and feel that she would be a wonderful fit for this position. With our new office hours of 9 AM – 3 PM, this will leave the 1-3 PM slot unattended but we would have Cheryl and/or Gloria here Tuesday-Friday. Radina would also be here to help if needed. We will need to rotate offices to accommodate the staff set up/hours. There is a meeting Monday night with LifeKids so will work this out with Radina at that time.

## NEW BUSINESS

- a. Office Changes – Church Admin will be in the front office inside the door. Move Jacob to the Narnia room? Other changes will occur after the meeting with LifeKids on Monday. Locks & phones will be needed in some of the rooms in the back (north) for offices.

January 11,  
2023

Council  
Meeting  
Minutes

---

# January Council Minutes - continued

---

- b. Team for church policy on facility use/rent -
- c. Team Leader Andrea Crew stepped down – Pete to take this position over for her.
- d. “Narnia” Sunday School room clean out – Patty, Radina, Joe & Paul to clean out this room possibly for Radina.
- e. Mezzanine storage clean out – a lot of stuff needs to be cleaned out of this area. Many Hands possibly take some of it?? Eli is working on an exterminator for some mice in this area. Organize the clean up on Monday night (1/16) at 6:00 PM and then have the youth help on Wednesday night. Several small desks are up there that are not being used.
- f. Lenten service meals – there would be 5 weeks of Lenten services. We want to talk to Roger before making a definite decision. We will need to make a decision in February for sure. Planning on doing it the same as the Advent meals at this point.
- g. 2023 Nominating Committee members from Council – 2 from off-going Council, 3 from the floor. Brittany, Mark, Randy & Brett/Jolynne Eilts are going off. Randy was nominated & will be one of them. Brett said that he would also be on the Nominating Committee. We will need to find 3 people from the floor before the Annual meeting on January 22 to get them on the ballot.
- h. Vote on Vice President & Leadership Support (action item) – Pam Hanson has agreed to be Vice President. Motion was made by Eric Tigges. Brett Eilts seconded. Motion carried. Greg Lear is currently on Leadership Support and Dave Susie has agreed to take that position over. Motion was made by Kevin Skadeland & seconded by Brett Eilts. Motion carried.

Pending congregational approval at the Annual Meeting:

Barb Solberg will be taking over for Randy Enge in Discipleship.

Jared Hansen will be taking over for Brett & Jolynne Eilts in Music & Creative Arts.

Eli Franker will be taking over for Mark Speidel in Properties.

Kirby Fueston will be taking over for Patty Ellsworth in Children’s Ministry.

Matt & Stephanie Essick will be taking over for Brittany Spieker in Youth.

## **Concerns and/or Celebrations**

**Closing Prayer** was given by Paul Behrens.

**Adjournment** – Patty Ellsworth made the motion to adjourn. Brett Eilts seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene K. Hansen, Church Council Secretary

---

### GENERAL OFFERING

January 1 through January 22, 2023

2023 Budget: \$413,959.25

Year to Date: \$35,048.50

Thank you for generously giving  
in 2023!

**Next Council Meeting is**

**March 8 | 7:00 p.m.**

**In person and Zoom**

**Council Members:** Please submit your team reports to the office by Monday, March 6, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

# Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

President Paul Behrens opened the meeting with prayer at 10:05 a.m.

Dave Simington moved to approve the minutes from the 2022 Annual meeting. Randy Enge seconded. Motion carried.

Justin Spieker moved to approve the minutes from the August 7, 2022 special meeting. Larry Wigen seconded. Motion carried.

## 2022 in Review

The undesignated giving YTD amount on the Statement of Activities is overstated by \$25,000. Our actual is \$391,473.66. Motion to amend this made by Gary Klett. Seconded by Kevin Skadeland. Motion carried. Motion to approve the report was made by Gary Klett. Seconded by Wayne Burnham. Motion carried.

The President's report is in the packet for your review. Paul noted the incredible changes that have happened in the past year. He thanked our Council members for everything that they do.

Pastor Ben's report is in the packet also. He expressed his thanks to the members for living out our motto: Come and worship, go and work. He encouraged us to continue to pray for him and for each other.

## NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Kevin Swancutt to adopt the Revised Constitution. Lavonne Clark seconded. Vote was passed 107 – 1.

Nominations report - Lavonne spoke on behalf of the Nominating Committee. She encouraged everyone to find out about our different teams and get to know our other members by working on a team.

Recognition of our team leaders that have fulfilled their terms: Mark Speidel-Properties; Brett & Jolynne Eilts-Music & Creative Arts; Brittany Spieker-Youth Ministry; Randy Enge-Discipleship. Greg Lear is our out-going Leadership Support Leader being replaced by David Susie. The new Vice President will be Pam Hanson. Paul passed the torch of Church President on to Joe Simington.

President Joe Simington asked for votes on the nominations for the new Council members: Discipleship – Barb Solberg; Properties – Eli Franker; Music & Creative Arts – Jared Hansen; Youth Ministry – Matt & Steph Essick. Pete Crew will be taking over to fulfill Andrea's remaining 2 year term on the Worship Team. Kirby Fueston will be fulfilling Patty Ellsworth's remaining 2 year term in Children's Ministry. They were passed 102-14 by the Congregation.

The Council appointed Brett Eilts & Randy Enge to the Nominating Committee. Jim Unrau, Ross Brockshus & Karen Brandt were nominated from the congregation. Verbal vote was taken to approve the Nominating Committee.

The 2023 Budget was reviewed and voted on. Vote passed 125-0.

Joe encouraged members to get involved and get others involved. He looks forward to serving as our President in 2023.

Joe closed the meeting in prayer at 10:37 AM. Motion made by Barb Solberg & seconded by Justin Spieker to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jolene K. Hansen, Council Secretary



## ***Through the Bible in 2023 – One Chapter a Day***

As we read one chapter a day, we will understand the whole Bible from beginning to end. We will read chapters that can be understood on their own. We will read chapters from the Old Testament that tell the story of God's work among His people and chapters that point us to Jesus – the Messiah and Savior. As we read key chapters from the Old Testament, our Sunday readings will be weekly visits to the New Testament.

Month	Date	Day	Bk Title	Ch	Chapter Summary
February	1	Wednesday	Genesis	35	Jacob Returns to His Altar
February	2	Thursday	Genesis	37	Joseph Is Sold into Slavery
February	3	Friday	Genesis	39	Joseph Is Sent to Prison
February	4	Saturday	Genesis	40	Joseph Interprets Two Dreams
<b>February</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Philippians</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>To Live Is Christ, to Die Is Gain</b>
February	6	Monday	Genesis	41	Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dream
February	7	Tuesday	Genesis	42	Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt
February	8	Wednesday	Genesis	43	Joseph's Brother's Return to Egypt
February	9	Thursday	Genesis	44	Joseph Tricks His Brothers
February	10	Friday	Genesis	45	Joseph Makes Himself Known
February	11	Saturday	Genesis	46	Jacob Goes to Egypt
<b>February</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Psalms</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>Children Are an Heritage from the Lord</b>
February	13	Monday	Genesis	47	Joseph's Family Settles in Egypt
February	14	Tuesday	Genesis	50	Joseph Mourns Jacob and Dies
February	15	Wednesday	Exodus	1	Pharaoh Enslaves the Israelites
February	16	Thursday	Exodus	2	Moses Is Born and Flees Egypt
February	17	Friday	Exodus	3	Moses and the Burning Bush
February	18	Saturday	Exodus	4	Moses Returns to Egypt
<b>February</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2 Corinthians</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>We Have This Treasure in Jars of Clay</b>
February	20	Monday	Exodus	5	Pharaoh Intensifies Oppression
February	21	Tuesday	Exodus	6	God Promises to Free Israelites
February	22	Wednesday	Isaiah	58	God's Chosen Fast
February	23	Thursday	Exodus	7	The Plagues Begin
February	24	Friday	Exodus	8	The Plagues Continue
February	25	Saturday	Exodus	12	Pharaoh Frees the Israelites
<b>February</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Revelation</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Worship in Every Language</b>
February	27	Monday	Exodus	14	Jews Escape Through the Red Sea
February	28	Tuesday	Exodus	16	God Sends Manna and Quail



# 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

### Outreach Night

**Sunday, Feb. 19: Hoonting**

Who: 6th - 12th grades | When: 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Cost: \$5  
RSVP to Rachel Simington by noon on Thursday, Feb. 16

**February 3-5: Winter Crafting Retreat**

**February 10-12: Okoboji Marriage Retreat "More to This Life"**

Guest speakers Pastors Jonathan and Jana Swenson

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

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

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

or call

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

712-867-4170 (Ingham Camp).

**Ingham  
Okoboji**  
Lutheran Bible Camps

**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 - January, 2023

---

**Baptisms | Births**  
**Confirmed | Deaths | Marriages | New Members**

---

## Faith Lutheran Church - Staff

---

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

Worship & Communications Director: Gloria McKenney  
[worshipdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:worshipdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com)  
[media@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:media@faithlutheranspencer.com)

Custodian: Rich Stueven  
[custodian@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:custodian@faithlutheranspencer.com)

Technology Coordinator: Jacob Weeks  
[techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com)

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven  
[office@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranspencer.com)

Church Administrator & Finance Coordinator:  
Nicki Lange  
[churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com)  
[finance@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:finance@faithlutheranspencer.com)

LifeKids Director: Radina Jansen  
[director@LifeKidsspencer.com](mailto:director@LifeKidsspencer.com)

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

Email us at:  
[office@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranspencer.com)

Find us online at:  
[www.faithlutheranspencer.com](http://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.