



# Faith Life Together

Faith Lutheran Church - Volume 3, Issue 3 - March, 2019

## *March 2019 – Adventures of Faith!*

Our adventures continue!

**Mission Sunday is March 3** – We will welcome Pastor Tim and Bev Nappe from Reaching the Unreached in Africa. Pastor Tim will give the message and lead the adult forum after worship. We look forward to learning how God is using this organization to gain workers in His kingdom!

**Lent begins March 6 with Ash Wednesday.** That evening there will be no meal. We will worship at 6:30 pm. The remaining 5 weeks in Lent include a Wednesday evening potluck meal at 5:30 pm with worship beginning at 6:30 pm. This year we hear a message from church members at these services. Be sure to join us each Wednesday.

Spring is in the air! No? All the snowbanks cause us to feel otherwise. However, Spring will come! Our days are getting longer. The sun shines stronger. And, **the clocks spring forward on March 10.** Our worship service on March 10 will also include **2019 Council installation.**

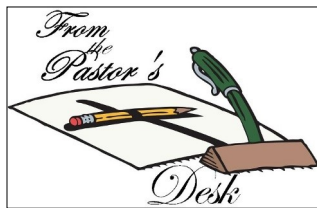
The International Mission Trip Team is going to Mexico City in July. They are gearing up with several fundraisers. One fundraiser is a **pancake feed after worship on March 17.** Plan to stay to enjoy a pancake (or many) and delight in the first official use of our new griddle! Read more about fundraising plans on page 10.

The month ends on Sunday, March 31 and includes new member orientation. Look for details in future bulletins.

Our church adventures move us forward!

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# *The Shepherd's Voice*

David, the shepherd boy who became king, writes a short, profound confession of faith, "The LORD is my Shepherd." It paints a huge contrast of power and intimacy. The Biblical story tells us that when God told Moses to go to Egypt to set His people free and lead them to the Promised Land, Moses asked, "Who should I say sent me?" God said, "I AM who I AM. Tell them I AM sent you." The Hebrew name is Yahweh. God is beyond description or understanding. God is the great I AM.

This is the same God who broke the stubborn will of Pharaoh in Egypt through 10 Plagues, then defeated Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea. This is the same God who provided for His people through daily manna in the wilderness and water from the rock. This is the same God who healed His people's plague and rebellion in the wilderness, by instructing Moses to place a bronze serpent on a staff. One repentant look at the bronze serpent healed His people. This is the same God who empowered victory after victory, as Israel took possession of the Promised Land.

"I AM who I AM." God will be whoever we need Him to be. Moment by moment, through God's power, grace, and victories, the LORD reveals Himself as the great I AM.

So when David says, "The LORD is my shepherd!" he speaks a mouthful! It is a beautiful statement of personal faith. As an individual, David is saying that the great God of Israel, is his personal, intimate shepherd of life. He describes a relationship of trust which looks daily to our all-powerful God to be his personal guide, protector, and provider.

This intimate relationship of trust leads my thoughts to the words of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. In John 10, Jesus says, "My sheep hear My voice; I know them, and they follow Me." Jesus also says, "I AM the Good Shepherd, and the Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep." That is amazing love!

Jesus is the revelation of God as the great I AM. On the cross, He breaks the power of our bondage to sin. He rescues us, wherever we have wandered. He forgives our sins. He is raised to give us new life! He is our LORD, the great I AM.

So, as believers in today's culture, how do we follow Jesus? We listen for His voice.

Every basketball athlete or wrestler knows the experience of playing in a packed gym echoing with loud noise. Yet, the athlete learns to listen for their coach's voice as they play or as they wrestle. As we walk the journey of life, many voices and noises compete to drown out the voice of Jesus, our Shepherd. But, we learn in faith to tune into His voice, to listen, and to obey. We cherish His guidance and cling to His promises.

Remember, dear believer, to listen for the Shepherd's voice. Then we will know the joy of following faithfully. He knows each one of us by name. And we will join David in confessing, "The LORD is my Shepherd!"

*Pastor Lee*

Pastor Lee Laaveg



# The Welcome Circle

**When:** 2nd Thursday and Saturday of the month  
(Choose one session/month.)  
Thursday, 7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 8:00-9:30 a.m.

**Where:** The Way Station  
NE Corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Grand,  
Downtown Spencer (use side door)

**Who:** ALL are welcome

The Welcome Circle is a monthly gathering of people for spiritual reflection, silence, and dialogue. The aim is to make space in yourself and in the group for greater communion with God. Consider it a "mini-retreat" as well as deeper connection with others in a setting where God is welcomed, and God welcomes you to be your authentic self. This is an ecumenical gathering in every sense, so your understanding of God is welcome along with you. Sessions are

not consecutive, so come any time. Certified spiritual director Rev. Deb Mechler will lead the group along with other facilitators.

In general, sessions will include:

- Gathering in silence.
- Listening to a reading that reflects different ways of growing into communion with God and with each other.
- Practicing *lectio divina* together - a contemplative practice that includes hearing a Scripture passage a few times, meditating on what it is saying to you, and prayerful attention to what God is inviting you to do.
- Spending time in silent, personal reflection.
- Sharing in small groups about how God is acting in your life. Confidentiality will be maintained, and grace will be extended to every individual.
- Large group reflection and a blessing.

Contact Deb Mechler with your questions at [dsmechler@gmail.com](mailto:dsmechler@gmail.com) or 712-260-3286.

Welcome to a new experience in your spiritual life!

## Birthdays

March 1	Steve Oleson Aaron Stykel Jean Willey
March 3	Chris Christofferson
March 4	Laura Yungbluth
March 5	Leah Heikens
March 6	Doris Andersen Mark Vreeman
March 8	Joe Loring
March 11	Luke Ketcham
March 12	Kim Rye
March 14	Duane Harris Sierra Ruhs
March 15	Austin Klett
March 16	Stu Christians Mark Heilman Lee Ketcham

March 18	Nancy Newgard
March 20	Jim Carpenter
March 21	Nola Gafkjen
March 22	Jean Oleson Kinley Voit
March 23	Christin Lee Sarah Ruhs
March 24	William Bailey Emily Campbell
March 28	Nathan McKenney
March 29	Korrie Anderson Bill Frederick
March 30	Lisa Buchan Arlene Fairchild

## Anniversaries

March 2	Tom and Jean Willey
March 10	Kevin and Heidi Skadeland



# Faith Lutheran's Missions

## Mission Partner: Pastor Tim and Bev Nappe and Reaching the Unreached, West Africa

Pastor Tim & Bev Nappe of Milford have made 19 trips to Ghana. They have had the opportunity to share the Gospel with the people in Ghana, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Benin.

*Reaching the Unreached* has dozens of disciples who are helping to evangelize and lead worship throughout the villages and churches in West Africa. New churches have been planted, helping to spread the Gospel message to many, resulting in many hearts being transformed.

They are working to reach the Fulani tribe, a difficult tribe to reach. The Fulani have been traditionally Muslim. They would appreciate our prayers and continued financial support.



## Mission Sunday: March 3 Guest speaker: Pastor Nappe

### Mission Partners for 2019:

- ♦ General Council of Assembly of God
- ♦ Atlas of Spencer
- ♦ Grand Avenue Community Outreach
- ♦ The Multi-Church Community Assistance Fund
- ♦ Shepherd's Canyon Retreat
- ♦ LifeKids Scholarship Program
- ♦ International Missions Team
- ♦ The Church of Damascus Road – Rockwell City Prison Worship
- ♦ World Mission Prayer League
- ♦ Wycliffe Bible Translators
- ♦ Laborers with Christ
- ♦ The Gospel Mission
- ♦ International Messengers – Josh & Whitney Smith
- ♦ Operation Serve International
- ♦ China Venture Services
- ♦ LCMC



## A Thank you to ...

### *Faith Lutheran Church -*

Thank you so much for your love, prayers and financial support. It will go towards our monthly expenses of moving to Uganda. It's a blessing to be able to move forward in what God has called our family to do, and have a team of supporters to join our ministry. Your faith and confidence you have placed in our family has made a huge impact on us.

*God Bless!*

*Josh, Whitney, Jordyn, Jayda, Jonah Smith*

## Item of the Month



**Dark-colored bath-size towel,  
light or medium weight,  
(between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27")**



**Thank you for your generosity!**

Please place the dark colored bath towels in the yellow Mission box by the front door.



## Mission Work Day | Tuesday, March 26 | 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We invite you to join us as we work on quilts, baby and personal care kits and other items. At noon, we have a potluck lunch with the main dish provided. **Please join us!**

# Properties:

## We ARE Faith Lutheran

Properties  
and  
Buildings



The offices are moving a little slower this month, we are waiting for electricians to come in and finish hooking things up then we can move forward again. In the mean time with the Fire Marshall coming in to inspect us for the LifeKids program we are taking down old wiring no longer being used and insuring all junction boxes are closed up properly. We have taken down the two furnaces north of the worship wall as they no longer worked and was going to cost too much for repairs to get them going again. Future plans still include a major cleaning day, everything up in the air needs to be washed, heat ducts, sprinkler system, beams and more. This will be a big project and could use a good crew to come in to help. We will get a date set in the near future for that.

Paul Behrens, Properties team leader

## *Faith Friends and Family*

*Dear Faith Family,*

We wish to thank you so much for all that you did for Chris' memorial service. The fellowship time after the service was wonderful with yummy desserts. You made it comfortable for us to stay as long as we needed. He loved being a part of the Faith Family!



We hold on to the promise that one day we will be reunited with Chris! God bless you all!

*Thank you from the family of Chris Kyle*

Jesus, you promise to hear our prayers and answer us in our time of need. Touch the lives of those who are sick, hospitalized, battling a long-term illness, or grieving the loss of a loved one.

Bless Alice Nielsen, Lair Paulsen, Chris Susie,  
Patrick and Katie Morrow and their boys, Keith Dannatt,  
Kathy Petersen, Belinda Nelson, Larry Pounds, Peggy Olson,  
Ken Meyer, Jack Greene, Gerry Ferguson, Steve DePauw, and  
John and Cinda Tracey and their daughter.



Also, bless those who are battling addictions and depression. With your power, restore them to wholeness and give them your joy. Amen.

## Did you get your invitation?

Every Friday the church is sending out RightNow MEDIA sign-up invitations.

**The invitation comes from [insider@rightnow.org](mailto:insider@rightnow.org)**

Check the bulletin each week to see who will be getting their invitation next!

Please check your e-mail (or your junk/spam e-mail) for your invitation!  
If you didn't receive your invitation, please contact the church office - 712-580-4316.







## **Faith Lutheran Annual Congregation Meeting January 27, 2019 | 10:30 a.m.**

Call to Order: President Matt Essick called the meeting to order and led the congregation in prayer.

Outgoing President Matt Essick reviewed 2018 congregational accomplishments and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve. He introduced Kyle Rouse as 2019 Council President. New members nominated to serve on the Council are: Korrie Anderson – Children's Ministry; Kent Heazlett – Missions; Kirby Fueston – Evangelism; and LaVonne Clark – Worship/Leaders. They will replace members with expiring terms. All were included on the written ballot and elected to serve unanimously. Non-voting members appointed by the Council to serve were: Pete Crew as 2019 Vice President; Cindy Tigges – Leadership Support; and Kay Iversen – Technology.

Pastor's Report reflected on 2018 at Faith and is included in the 2019 Annual Report.

Eric Tigges was called upon to report status of the upcoming Mission Trip.

Kyle Rouse reported on the status of LifeKids as it prepares to extend from one day to five days per week in the Fall of 2019.

A motion for Communications Team to be removed from the Constitution was made by LaVonne Clark and seconded by Ann Lear. The motion was included on the written ballot. Results were unanimous, motion carried.

A motion for 2019 Nominating Committee were to include Dennis and Jan Larson and Ann Lear as outgoing Council members. A motion to accept these nominees was made by Kevin Swancutt and seconded by Eric Tigges. Shirley Kooker and Cole Milbrath were nominated from the congregation to serve. Motion to accept these additional members was made by Jean Oleson and seconded by Karen Brandt. The two motions were included on the written ballot. Results were unanimous, motion carried.

Larry Wigen presented the Review of the 2018 Budget. Motion to accept the report was made by Dave Simington and seconded by Troy Rosendahl. A verbal vote was taken. This motion was approved unanimously.

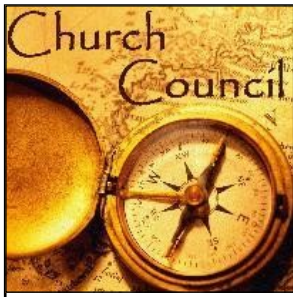
Minutes from 2018 Annual Meeting were moved to be accepted by Dennis Larson and seconded by Courtney Schwartz.. A verbal vote was taken and passed unanimously.

Larry Wigen presented the 2019 Budget as approved by the Council. A motion to accept the budget was made by Greg Lear and seconded by Randy Enge. The motion was included on the written ballot. Results were 90 votes yes, 3 votes no.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Greg Lear and seconded by Justin Spieker. All were in favor.

President Kyle Rouse closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Enge, Council Secretary



## Faith Lutheran Council Meeting February 13, 2019 | 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Radina Jansen, Paul Behrens, Kent Heazlett, Kirby Fueston, LaVonne Clark, Al Vanderberg, Kyle Rouse, Pete Crew, Pastor Lee, Lori Krei, Cindy Tigges, Kay Iversen and Barb Enge

President Kyle Rouse called the meeting to order. Pete Crew opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

We did not have a quorum therefore; no motions were able to be made or voted on.

Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed with one correction noted. Corrected minutes will be presented at the March meeting.

Statement of Financial Activities and Financial Position were available. Financial reports will be presented again at the March meeting for motion to accept.

Pastor Lee highlighted his report and it is attached. Kyle Rouse read the President's Report and it is attached.

Lori Krei was present and spoke to the Council concerning several items of interest for the new Council members.

Pete Crew highlighted advances made with Life Kids planning.

Kyle Rouse reports that the Call Committee has narrowed down the applicants and is preparing to begin the interview process.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Al Vanderberg announced that the Caring Ministry Team is planning a Public Servants Lunch. This will include several teams. April 14<sup>th</sup> is the date for this event. Pete Crew is checking on musical entertainment and a member has volunteered to donate the food necessary for this event.

Signatures were obtained for Pastor's housing form and returned to the office. We were unable to update check signers without a quorum to motion and vote. This will be addressed at the March meeting.

Al Vanderberg shared an idea from a church he visited. Visitors were greeted following the service and presented a magnet with the church's upcoming schedule printed on it. This gives an opportunity to greet visitors before and after the service. No action was taken at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barb Enge – Council Secretary

### **Council Meeting Devotion Schedule:**

March – LaVonne Clark	April – Paul Behrens
May – Al Vanderberg	June – Kay Iversen
July – Stu Christians	Aug. – Kent Heazlett
Sept. – Radina Jansen	Oct. – Cindy Tigges
Nov. – Kirby Fueston	Dec. – Korrie Anderson
Jan. 2020 – Jim Unrau	

### **A Note To Council Members!**

Please submit all team reports  
to the Church Office by  
Monday, March 11.

### **A Note To All Council Members!**

All Council members - new  
members as well as current  
members - will be installed on  
Sunday, March 10 at the  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service.

## Amended Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes January 9, 2018 | 7:00 p.m.

The following paragraph from the January 9 Council Minutes was amended as follows:

Original Paragraph:

[Call committee](#) members were not selected at this meeting. Two outgoing council members and three members of the congregation make up the [Call committee](#) for next year. It was decided to contact the outgoing council members individually to find volunteers. Three additional members from the congregation will be voted in at the congregational meeting.

Amended Paragraph:

[Nominating Committee](#) members were not selected at this meeting. Two outgoing council members and three members of the congregation make up the [Nominating Committee](#) for next year. It was decided to contact the outgoing council members individually to find volunteers. Three additional members from the congregation will be voted in at the congregational meeting.

### Meet Your 2019 Faith Lutheran Council Teams and Members

The Church Council consists of President Kyle Rouse, Vice President Pete Crew, Treasurer Becky Simons, Council Secretary Barb Enge, Pastor Lee and the team leaders. Members of the Council meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



**Kyle Rouse, President - [president@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:president@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

**Pete Crew, Vice President - [vicepresident@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:vicepresident@faithlutheranspencer.com)**



**Caring Ministry - Al and Carla Vanderberg, team leaders  
[caringministry@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:caringministry@faithlutheranspencer.com)**



Members of the Caring Ministry Team have developed and are implementing a comprehensive strategy for loving and caring for each member of the congregation.

**Children's Ministry - Korrie Anderson, team leader -  
[childrensministry@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:childrensministry@faithlutheranspencer.com)**



Members of the Children's Ministry Team have a comprehensive overview of all children's ministries at Faith Lutheran like Sunday School VBS, First Communion and the Nursery.

**Discipleship - Stu and Lori Christians, team leaders  
[discipleship@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:discipleship@faithlutheranspencer.com)**



Members of the Discipleship Team have a comprehensive overview of all learning and growing of each congregational member's faith, the knowledge of God's Word and all aspects of merging faith and life.

**Evangelism - Kirby Fueston, team leader - [evangelism@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:evangelism@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Members of the Evangelism Team lift up the opening phrase of Faith Lutheran's mission statement - "Inviting all to Faith ..." so that the congregation's members learn this as our central purpose as followers of Jesus.



**Fellowship - Jim and Joan Unrau, team leaders - [fellowship@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:fellowship@faithlutheranspencer.com)**



Members of the Fellowship Team cultivate friendship and deepening of relationships each time the congregation gathers for worship or other events through the sharing of food, coffee and other refreshments.



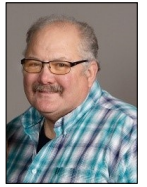


**Finance - Larry Wigen, team leader - [finance@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:finance@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Members of the Finance Team are concerned with all matters of finance for the congregation, working with Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

**Missions - Kent Heazlett, team leader - [missions@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:missions@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Members of the Missions Team oversee and plan national and international mission trips. They annually select and recommend a list of "mission partners" for Council's approval (who and how much) and then the congregation's approval intrinsic in our annual fiscal budget.



**Music and Creative Arts - Radina Jansen, team leader - [music@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:music@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Members of the Music and Creative Arts Team have a comprehensive overview of all music for Faith Lutheran's worship life, seeking for thematic, Biblical worship services which honor God and engage people.

**Property - Paul Behrens, team leader - [property@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:property@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Members of the Property Team work hard with the development of our facility for all aspects of congregational life.



**Stewardship - Del and Lois Christman, team leaders  
[stewardship@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:stewardship@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Members of the Stewardship Team promote a Biblical vision of stewardship within the congregation.

**Worship - LaVonne Clark, team leader - [worship@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:worship@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Members of the Worship Team have a comprehensive overview of all of Faith Lutheran's worship life, working with Pastor and Denise to plan worship true to our Lutheran identity, both Biblically and with sacraments, and offering a variety of styles



**Youth Ministry - Courtney Schwartz, team leader - [youth@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:youth@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Members of the Youth Ministry Team has a comprehensive overview of all aspects of ministry to the youth of Faith Lutheran in grades 6 through 12.

**Standing Task Teams - leaders are appointed by Council.**

**Council Secretary - Barb Enge - [councilminutes@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:councilminutes@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

The primary responsibility of the Council Secretary is to take the minutes of the monthly Council meetings in addition to any congregational meetings.



**Leadership Support - Cindy Tigges, team leader - [leadership@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:leadership@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Members of the Leadership Support Team support, encourage and sustain all paid staff, Council and other volunteer leaders of the congregation.

**Technology - Kay Iversen, team leader - [technology@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:technology@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

Members of the Technology Team oversee the operation, maintenance and acquisition of all technology. This includes the sound system, computers, office, cameras and video equipment.



**Becky Simons, Treasurer - [treasurer@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:treasurer@faithlutheranspencer.com)**

**Faith Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13,  
at 7:00 p.m.  
Discipleship Room**

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 bulletin board near Pastor Lee's office.



**CAPITAL  
CAMPAIGN**

As of February 22, 2019

Year To Date: \$ 9,215.00

Total Giving: \$323,207.50

Pledged  
Remaining: \$ 76,792.50



**GENERAL OFFERING AND  
ATTENDANCE**

**2019 BUDGET: 397,708.38**

**JAN. 1 - FEB. 22, 2019**

**YEAR TO DATE \$ 46,817.01**

**BALANCE  
REMAINING \$405,639.00**

**AVG. ATTENDANCE 153**

**THANK YOU FOR GENEROUSLY  
GIVING IN 2019!**



**International  
Mission  
Trip**

The International Mission Trip Team has been hard at work planning events to raise monies for the Mexico City Mission Trip in July.

1. **Sunday, March 10** – 8:00 a.m. – Mission Trip team meeting
2. **Sunday, March 17** – Pancake feed - Immediately following Worship Service
3. Mother's Day Basket Silent Auction
  - a. April 26-28: Baskets delivered to Faith Lutheran
  - b. Sunday, April 28: Bidding begins**
  - c. Saturday, May 11: Basket pay and pick up 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
4. **Saturday, June 1**
  - a. 5:30 p.m. Spaghetti Feed
  - b. 7:00 p.m. Talent Show
5. **Sunday, June 9** – Father's Day Pie Auction: Immediately following Worship Service
6. Saturday, July 20 through Saturday, July 27: Mission Trip to Mexico City



**It's Crafting Time!  
Spring Crafting Retreat | March 1-3**

**Early arrival on Thursday is available.**

**Bring a friend! \$99 per person.**

**For more information or to register, please contact  
Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp at 1-800-656-2654 or  
email them at registrar@okoboji.org.**

**Calling Our Discipleship Pastor**

Please pray daily for our Call Committee and for the candidate God knows will accept the call to serve at Faith Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran.

**Committee members are:** Karen Brandt, Bill Nitzel, Kris Behrens, Jolynne Eilts, Greg Lear, Darrel Heckathorn, Beth Brockshus, Laura Heikens, Ashley Vreeman, Sophie Behrens, and Matt Essick - Chairperson.

# Lent = Amazing Love

**Lenten Devotionals:** A selection of Lenten devotionals is available at the back of the church.

The theme for the Lenten season is "Amazing Love." It is derived from the popular Christian song, "Amazing love, how can it be, that you my king would die for me ..."

## Lenten Schedule:

On **March 6<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday**, Pastor Lee will be speaking on "Jesus, Friend of Sinners," using Luke 5:27-32. Worship will include the offer of imposition of ashes, and holy communion.

Each of the ensuing weeks, we have five lay speakers. These services will be about 40 minutes long. Speakers are:

March 13 Steve Quattlebaum  
March 20 Jim Unrau  
March 27 Radina Jansen  
April 3 Karol Gafkjen  
April 10 Del Brockshus

During Holy Week, on **Maundy Thursday**, Rev. Roger Godfredsen to share the message. It will also be a service of First Communion for those having completed the course with Eric Patten.

On **Good Friday**, we will enjoy a series of soliloquies of different characters of the Passion Story.

**Easter** morning, we will have:

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Worship  
8:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. Easter Worship



Go therefore  
and make  
disciples of all  
nations ...

— Matthew 28:19

## Discipleship: What's your next step?

## Discipleship, Family Devotions, and Faith Friendships

Our congregational strategic plan includes the desire for all Faith's members to grow toward maturity spiritually as the disciples of Jesus Christ. We continually provide opportunities for all to grow spiritually through knowledge of the Word of God, through prayer, through mutual support, and through fellowship.

Especially this year, the Discipleship Ministry Team wants a higher percentage of members to participate in journey teams and faith friendships. Journey teams are small groups gathering regularly to study the Word together, watch well-known Christian teachers' videos and discuss their lectures, and gather to pray for one another. Faith friendships encourage the natural friendships we all enjoy to make a conscious commitment to deepen one another's faith. Both journey teams and faith friendships are tools for faith discipleship growth. Are you a part of one or both?

The season of Lent is a perfect time to begin the essential rhythm of daily devotions for faith growth. At the back of the worship area at Faith we have a table set up with multiple options for devotional books. This material is free for anyone to take home. In your faith journey, make a conscious commitment to the Lord to meet with Him daily to feed your faith and talk with Him in prayer!

If your family makes a commitment to begin daily devotions, or regular devotions, your nuclear family is actually a journey team. If a married couple begins to have daily devotions, your marriage has actually become a "faith friendship."

Jesus invites you to hear His voice and follow Him in faith each day. Start today to consciously grow as His disciple!

For those who are divorced, in the process of, separated, or have ended a long-term relationship.  
*You do not have to go through this alone.*

# DIVORCE Care®

Sundays  
February 17 – May 12, 2019  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. @ Hope Church  
919 Grand Avenue, Spencer, Iowa

**DIVORCE CARE** is a 13-week non-denominational divorce recovery series addressing a new topic or emotion each week.

REGISTRATION FEE: \$17 includes study book (scholarships available)  
PRE-REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED. Call Alesia at 515-890-1465.  
Please leave your name & phone number if no answer.





# Stewardship at Faith

## *Question: "How can I become a more cheerful giver?"*

**Answer:** We can learn to be a cheerful giver by studying the greatest giver this world has ever known: Jesus Christ. Leaving behind the riches and glory of His heavenly kingdom, He came to Earth and willingly gave His life so that we could keep ours. God desires us to be conformed to the likeness of His Son (Romans 8:29), there can be no better way to emulate Jesus Christ than by giving selflessly the way He did. Our Savior Himself told us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Quite simply, then, our greatest motivation for cheerful and generous giving should be that it pleases the Lord Jesus and reflects His gift of salvation to us.

The second letter to the Corinthians reveals a number of inspiring truths that should help us become more cheerful givers. As Paul wisely admonished the Corinthians, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously" (2 Corinthians 9:6). This indelible truth was also stated by Solomon a thousand years earlier: "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing" (Proverbs 3:9-10). And Christ Himself told us, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap" (Luke 6:38). Indeed, "Good will come to him who is generous" (Psalm 112:5).

This principle is unfailingly clear - we cannot out-give our gracious Creator. The more we give in service to the Lord, the more we will get in return. In fact, the only place in the Bible where God invites us to test Him is Malachi 3:10 where He is talking about our offerings made unto Him: "Test me in this, says the LORD Almighty and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." Once more, the words of Solomon echo this: "One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed" (Proverbs 11:24-25).

As Paul stated, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Cheerful giving, therefore, should be a way of life for the Christian who understands the grace of God. When we give generously and with a willing heart, God assures us He will watch over us and provide for us (Isaiah 58:9; Psalm 41:1-3; Proverbs 22:9; 2 Corinthians 9:8, 11). And we need to remember that it's not just our treasure that we are to cheerfully give back to God. As King David pointed out, everything we have is from God (1 Chronicles 29:14), and this includes our talents and our time as well. As our days are numbered (Psalm 139:16), our time indeed belongs to God. And any gifts we have are also from Him; therefore, "each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

For God so loved the world that He gave. We would do well to remember that we are saved because our God so generously gave (John 3:16). As His children, we are called to be "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). When we trust God and honor Him by generously giving our time, treasure, and talent, we are truly letting our light shine before men, and our goodness will reflect radiantly on our Father in heaven.



# Stewardship at Faith



## *STEWARD OF THE MONTH: Becky Faulkner*

We are most grateful for Becky's willingness to be our WoW! meal cook for 2018 and 2019.

Each Wednesday, she makes time to help the church be a light to others.

Her Wednesday activities include: purchasing the meal supplies, cooking the meal, serving the meal, and cleaning up!

Her ever present smile and hard work are truly appreciated each week!

*WELL DONE! GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!*

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

There are more than 35,000 organizations participating in Thriven Choice Dollars to choose from including Faith Lutheran Church! You can direct your Choice Dollars **online** or by **phone**.

### TO DIRECT YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS BY PHONE:

1. Call **1-800-847-4836** and when prompted, say "**Thrivent Choice**".
2. **Press 1** to direct Choice Dollars or **press 2** to hear Thrivent Choice program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
3. A representative will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

### TO DIRECT YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS ONLINE:

1. Visit **Thrivent.com/thriventchoice**
2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, click "**Get started now**".
3. Log in. Enter your user ID and password, and answer your security question. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "**Register for account access**".)
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct.
5. Locate the organization you want:
  - a. To direct to a previous organization:
    - Click "Direct Now" next to the organization's name, or
    - Click on the "View activity history" link, scroll down and click on the "Name of the desired organization."
  - b. To direct to a new organization, "enter Keyword(s)" like organization name, zip code, cause, etc. Click "Search".
6. Chose "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now". Follow the prompts on the confirmation page to direct Choice Dollars.

You are also welcome to contact your local Thrivent agent.

## ONLINE GIVING

Sending your Tithes and Offerings to Faith Lutheran is as easy as clicking your mouse! Visit our church website  
**[www.faithlutheranspencer.com/on-line-giving/](http://www.faithlutheranspencer.com/on-line-giving/)**

Click the SimpleChurch Giving button, follow the instructions.  
Questions? Contact the church office at 712.580.4316

Online giving provides the ability to donate on our website. After creating an account, you're able to give a donation or schedule a series of donations directly from your checking or savings account or by using your debit or credit card.



Ingham Okobojo Lutheran Bible Camp offers the following recharges, retreats, and Outreach night in March, 2019:

#### INTERGENERATIONAL RETREATS

March 1-3: Spring Crafting Retreat

#### YOUTH RECHARGES

March 29-31: Senior High (grades 9-12) Recharge

April 5-7 and April 12-14: Junior High (grades 6-9) Recharge

#### OUTREACH NIGHT

March 3: Hoonting  
Cost is \$3 (covers pizza meal)

**4:15 p.m. meet at Faith Lutheran,**

carpool to Camp,  
8:30 p.m. Parent pick-up at Faith Lutheran

**Faith Youth are encouraged to RSVP Eric Patten (712-229-1340) by 2:00 p.m.**

For more information on any event, please call IOLBC at 1-800-656-2654 or email them at registrar@okobojo.org  
Check out their website at [www.okobojo.org](http://www.okobojo.org)



Have you ever noticed how much children like to play? Whether it is having a playful tea party, building a fort, having an epic nerf war, dressing up dolls, turning their fork or spoon into battle ships, or pushing the outdoor farm cat around in a baby stroller, all children like to play. Why is that? What is so much fun about playing? Wouldn't they rather sit and have a peaceful conversation over a \$5.00 coffee from Starbucks, or spend four hours doing a construction project? Wouldn't they rather make sure all the weeds are out of the garden?



#### ***Why are kids so inherently tuned into play?***

#### ***What is the importance of playtime in a child's life?***

There was a week in February where I thought about that question. We took the children outside to play on the snow hill during LifeKids. The children has a blast! Some went sledding, some built forts, and some wanted to have a snowball fight. Regardless of what it was, the children were having fun playing!

Play is extremely important for children's development. Children learn through playing, and practice mimicking adults through play. A little girl takes care of a doll, because she watches mothers **nurture** their own babies. A boy displays the concepts of **right, wrong, and justice** and he sets up the parameters of the nerf war and how someone gets "out." A child learns **large motor movements** as they go sledding down the hill and climb back to the top, building strength as their growing body develops. By playing with others in a game, a child learns **social interaction**, how to have **conversations**, and **teamwork**. Playing with others can also give rise to the **emotional awareness** of others. **Creativity** and **imagination** are given the freedom to grow through play.

***Overall, the cognitive, emotional, and physical development of a child are positively impacted by the activity of playing.***

How can we as adults encourage our children to engage in a variety of healthy playtime activities to help them grow in different skills and abilities? What opportunities can we give them that promote healthy play to help them grow in all different areas of development? How can we help kids grow stronger in their skills

and passions by turning everyday tasks into a game, making the activity lively and fun?

#### **LifeKids Task Team**

Members of the Task Team are:

Pete Crew,  
Matt Essick,  
Eric Patten, Ann Lear,  
Courtney Schwartz,  
Kyle and Jamie Rouse,  
Pastor Lee and Lori Krei.



***And finally, let us see the importance of something that every child also needs ... for us as adults to join our children for play time.***

*Eric Patten*  
Eric Patten



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!</b> For more up-to-date information, go to "Events" on our website <a href="http://www.faithlutheranspencer.com">www.faithlutheranspencer.com</a>			<b>March 1</b>	<b>March 2</b> 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:00 a.m. Mt. Kato Ski Trip 9:30 a.m. Altar Prep mtg. Girls Journey Team 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Homeschool Evening Event
<b>March 3 - Mission Sunday</b> 8:00 a.m. Worship Musicians Rehearsal 8:15 a.m. Prayer time 9:00 a.m. Worship - Rev. Nappe 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:50 a.m. 1st Communion class 4:15 p.m. Outreach Night 6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening	<b>March 4</b>	<b>March 5</b> 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting 5:30 p.m. Private Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Discipleship Team mtg.	<b>March 6</b> 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Christian Counseling 12:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:15 p.m. Properties Team mtg. 5:30 p.m. Executive Team mtg. 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:30 p.m. Worship Vocalist Reh.	<b>March 7</b> 8:30 a.m. Coffee Group 1:00 p.m. Loopy Ladies	<b>March 8</b> 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Women of Vision Conference	<b>March 9</b> 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. <i>Wrapped In Love</i> Workday 9:30 a.m. Girls Journey Team
<b>March 10 - Council Installation</b> 8:00 a.m. Worship Rehearsal Intl Mission Trip mtg. 8:15 a.m. Prayer time 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Endowment Team mtg 10:50 a.m. 1st Communion class 6:00 p.m. Journey Team	<b>March 11</b>	<b>March 12</b> 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting 1:30 p.m. Women's Small Group Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Private Bible Study	<b>March 13</b> 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Christian Counseling 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Lenten potluck supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship No Apologies 7:00 p.m. Worship Vocalist Reh. High School Youth Council meeting	<b>March 14</b> 8:30 a.m. Coffee Group	<b>March 15</b>	<b>March 16</b> 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Girls Journey Team
<b>March 17 - PANCAKE FEED</b> 8:00 a.m. Worship Musicians Rehearsal 8:15 a.m. Prayer time 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:50 a.m. 1st Communion class 6:00 p.m. Journey Team	<b>March 18</b>	<b>March 19</b> 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting 5:30 p.m. Private Bible Study	<b>March 20</b> 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Christian Counseling 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Lenten potluck supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Worship Vocalist Reh. High School Youth	<b>March 21</b> 8:30 a.m. Coffee Group 1:00 p.m. Loopy Ladies	<b>March 22</b>	<b>March 23</b> 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Girls Journey Team
<b>March 24   March 31</b> 8:00 a.m. Worship Musicians Rehearsal 8:15 a.m. Prayer time 9:00 a.m. Worship 9:45 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. <b>New Member Orientation</b> 10:50 a.m. 1st Communion class 6:00 p.m. Journey Team	<b>March 25</b>	<b>March 26</b> 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Mission Work Day 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting 5:30 p.m. Private Bible Study	<b>March 27</b> 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Christian Counseling 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Lenten potluck supper 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Worship Vocalist Reh. High School Youth	<b>March 28</b> 8:30 a.m. Coffee Group 6:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Team mtg.	<b>March 29</b>	<b>March 30</b> 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Girls Journey Team

## Faith Lutheran Church

2912 Highway Blvd  
Spencer, IA 51301

### FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEBRUARY, 2019

**Births:** None

**Baptisms:** None

**Marriages:** None.

**Deaths:** Chris Kyle - January 31, 2019

**New Members:** None

**First Communions:** None

**Confirmations:** None

### Faith Lutheran Church Staff:

**Pastor:** Lee Laaveg  
pastor@faithlutheranspencer.com

**Custodian:** Rich Stueven  
custodian@faithlutheranspencer.com

**Technology Director:** Lori Krei  
techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

**Office Assistant:** Cheryl Stueven  
office@faithlutheranspencer.com

**Director of Children & Youth:** Eric Patten  
cymdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

**Worship Director:** Denise Laaveg  
worshipdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

**Church Administrator:** Lori Krei  
churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com

Email us at: faithlutheran@smunet.net  
www.faithlutheranspencer.com

Like us on  Facebook!

Follow us at:  @flcspencer

Faith Lutheran Church LCMC

Watch us on SMU:

Mondays @ 8:30 p.m. | Tuesdays @ 11:00 a.m.