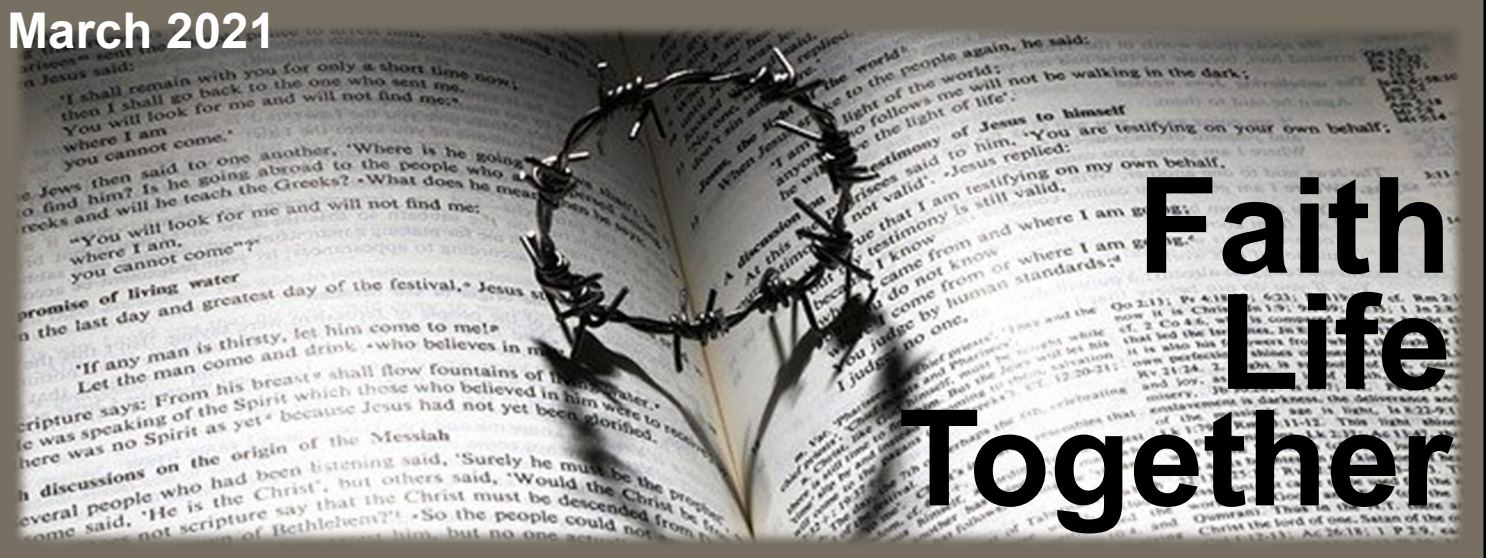


March 2021



Lent - A Time of Reflection

Volume 5 | Issue 3

Pastor: Lee Laaveg

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March – The weather hints spring is around the corner. It is a great time for renewal. This year the entire month is a time of Lenten worship and reflection. Our Lord knew what was going to happen to him. It must have been difficult to work through His days knowing each day was closer to a difficult death. Yes, Lent is a good time to reflect and remember our Lord.

Each Wednesday we are gathering for a Lenten meal and worship. The 5:30 p.m. meals are prepared and shared as a fundraiser opportunity. After the meal, at 6:30 p.m., is a 30-minute worship service. The theme of our Lenten worship is “Hearts Like Jesus”. Each week we will hear a message from Pastor Lee, Eric Patten, or Evan Nielsen. Look for each week’s meal, fundraiser, and message title in the bulletin.

A group of young students and their parents are participating in a First Communion class each Sunday through March. Justin Spieker is teaching the course in the Discipleship Room each Sunday morning. The students will take their first communion on Maundy Thursday during worship. This is an important time in a person’s life as they begin to understand the gift of our Lord to them.

The Call Team is working diligently to move us forward to a new pastor. The Transition Team is a subset team of the Call Team. They are working to help identify what we as a congregation are looking for in a new pastor. They mailed out surveys at the end of February. Please thoughtfully consider the questions and answers to share. Then return the survey by mail or in the box at the church by March 21.

This year our Easter Garden includes 4 different plants. The order form is in the bulletin each week and in this newsletter. All orders must be made by Sunday, March 21. All the plants in the worship area will create an extra beautiful scene on Easter Sunday!

Palm Sunday is the last Sunday in March. Palm branches are ordered, and preparations are being made to celebrate our Lord’s entrance into Jerusalem that day. This begins a week of celebration, anguish, and rejoicing.

Peace to you during the Lenten season!



Pastor Lee Laaveg

Dear Faith family,

When I was a preacher's boy, in Belmond, Iowa, I did not appreciate the season of Lent, because it meant sitting beside my mother in the front pew in church twice a week instead of once a week. Please forgive my boyish irreverence!

But, one year during Lent, each Wednesday my Dad focused on different objects connected to the suffering of Jesus on His way to the cross. We talked through riding a donkey over palm branches; to torches held by soldiers who came to arrest Him; to purple robes, blindfolds, and a crown of thorns as the soldiers mocked Jesus and beat Him. The rooster crowed when Peter denied even knowing Him. The sound and force of the crack of a whip powerfully told how His back was wounded as He was whipped. A boy's imagination knew that long spikes driven through hands and feet would be very painful.

Even in my boyhood journey, I knew that all of Jesus' sufferings were in part because of my naughty, disobedient moments, my selfish attitudes, my rebellion. Even as a boy, I knew I was a sinner. Even as a boy, I knew that I caused the sufferings of Jesus. He received the punishment I deserved. He went to the cross in my place out of love.

I hope that through this Lenten season, you hear Christ's whispers of love spoken to you. I pray that you hear Him calling you closer. I pray that your faith and hope are renewed. Jesus suffered for us. He went to the cross for us, not only so that we could avoid punishment. His death on the cross opens the door for us to live in His love as part of God's family.

Journey with me yet again to the foot of the cross. Consider again all that Jesus has done for us. Worship faithfully, and reaffirm the faith we hold precious. Jesus is still the 'man of sorrows' who understands us. He is still the friend of sinners. What a Savior!

Together in His love,

Pastor Lee

Reasons for Praise!

- A wonderful gift from a generous donor for purchasing a second camera for our worship live streaming!
- Council leaders of Faith and all those serving on our ministry teams – for their time, creativity, and leadership to carry out all the various aspects of our congregation's life together.
- Call Team members willing to dedicate their time and abilities to oversee the process and seek Faith's next pastor.
- Lenten worship services which enable us to consider again the heart of Jesus, and the significance of Christ's death on the cross for us.
- The heart of our God and Father, who promises to hear our prayers.
- For King Jesus who still humbly rides into our lives to reign in love.

Prayer concerns –

- Wisdom and direction for the Call Team in the search process for Faith's next pastor.
- For the Holy Spirit to bless and lead the pastor who will hear and answer the call to be Faith's next spiritual leader and shepherd.
- First communion class students and the teachers assisting them to prepare to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.
- An end to the COVID-19 Pandemic, especially for those who are ill with the virus now.
- For the unity of the Spirit within Faith as we pivot toward the future of ministry together.
- Pat Swancutt; Peggy Olson; Becky Simons; Linda Bennett; Dan and Josh Vos; Gary Kilpatrick; Luke Ketcham; Joy Kelsch and family; Sarah Pope: Barb Goettle; Darrel & Nancy Heckathorn's brother, John, and niece, Doris; Andre and Rachel Enge's 2-month-old son, Kehanu; Barb Solberg's dad, Gordie Tonerum; Dave Solberg's mom, Marge Solberg

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

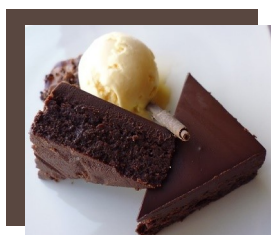
Blessings to ...

March 1	Steve Oleson Jean Willey Aaron Stykel
March 3	Chris Christofferson
March 4	Laura Yungbluth
March 5	Leah Heikens Audrey Hansen
March 6	Mark Vreeman
March 8	Joseph Loring
March 11	Luke Ketcham
March 12	Kim Rye
March 13	Shawn Meislahn Tanya Manwarren
March 14	Sierra Ruhs

March 16	Mark Heilman Lee Ketcham
March 18	Nancy Newgard
March 20	Jim Carpenter
March 21	Nola Gafkjen
March 22	Jean Oleson
March 23	Christin Lee Sarah Ruhs
March 24	Emily Campbell
March 29	Korrie Anderson
March 30	Lisa Buchan Arlene Fairchild Mary Speidel

Anniversary Blessings to ...

March 10	Kevin and Heidi Skadeland
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Multi-Church Community Assistance Fund

The Multi-Church Community Assistance Fund is administered through Upper Des Moines Opportunities Unlimited.



Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO) is one of 18 community action agencies in the state of Iowa.

Through UDMO, the Multi-Church Community Assistance Fund is a non-profit organization consisting of area community churches created to fight poverty at the local level. Community action agencies are often the primary source of support for millions of people living in the United States.

UDMO delivers a wide range of high quality services to individuals, families, and our “working poor,” who are earning low wages or living without health insurance and other benefits.

UDMO provides a helping hand during times of crisis, aiding families as they get back on their feet. They offer to help with utility bills, rent, food and other ways to support them while encouraging them to achieve self-sufficiency.

Lutheran World Relief

**For use in Personal and Baby Care Kits:
Dark Hand Towels**

Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry

Requested items include:

Any kind of cereal, peanut butter, oatmeal



Items can be donated by placing them in the yellow Missions box inside the church near the front doors.



- ♦ World Mission Prayer League
- ♦ Lutheran Asian Ministries
- ♦ The Multi-Church Community Assistance Fund
- ♦ LCMC
- ♦ Friends of Madagascar Missions
- ♦ Falls Community Church
- ♦ LifeKids
- ♦ Operation Serve International
- ♦ Wycliffe Bible Translators

Mission Team Members



Pam Harris,
Mission Team leader

Members:
Tracy and Donna Bengtson

Tracy Coleman Wigen
Kay Iversen
Joan Loring
Brittany Spieker
Julie Williams



Stephen Ministry Director Eric Patten

The Power of Prayer

"Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven." Psalm 107:28-30

Have you and a friend ever cried out to the Lord when you were in trouble and in need of help? How did God answer your prayer?

I remember when we held a prayer vigil at Faith for Austin Crew, as he was at the hospital having troubles with his heart. People from the community gathered at Faith to intercede for Austin, as his life was in critical condition at that very moment. The group of 50-60 people circled, and we prayed for Austin to be healed. It was a powerful moment of prayer. Austin's condition did improve, and we have been blessed to still have him in our lives.

Weeks later I talked to Austin's mom, Andrea, about the prayer vigil and Austin's stay in the hospital. She voiced to me that at the very hour we prayed, the same hour when Austin was in critical condition fighting for his life, he miraculously began to improve. The doctors voiced to her and Pete that they couldn't explain how or why Austin improved. I believe God answered the heartfelt cries of prayer from all those that love Austin. God heard prayers rising up to heaven, and answered them with a miracle.

We have a God that stills the storm to a whisper, and hushes the waves of the sea. We have a God that guides us and saves us in our time of need. We have a God in Heaven that hears us when we call upon Him, when we cry out to Him in our troubles.

Are you in need of prayer? Would you like a Christian friend to meet and pray with you? Would you like to see the hand of God move as you cry out to Him? If so, contact me, and I will match you with a Stephen Minister who will walk alongside you and pray with you. We all need someone to grow spiritually with. Maybe a Stephen Minister is exactly what you need!

Eric Patten

The Project Tree is on the bulletin board!

What is it? The Project Tree is a new way for Faith's ministry teams to share unbudgeted projects in 2021. Take a look! Grab a list of projects! Take an envelope to use to include a gift to support the project that speaks to you.

Youth Ministry Projects:

- Help with Youth Camp Getaway on March 14 & 15

Technology Projects:

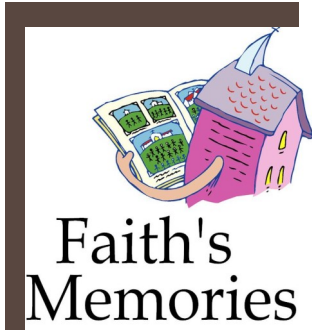
- Second camera to enhance the live stream broadcast.

Properties Projects:

- Blinds in SON Room
- Finish top moulding area by offices
- Finish base in mezzanine & below
- Landscaping around cross
- Door on SE storage area
- New ceiling fans in worship area
- New sheetrock and paint back of worship area
- Resurface north and south exterior walls
- Floor covering in worship area



10th Anniversary ... Faith Remembers Through the Year



Watch for articles in the newsletter, the bulletin, and for videos in our worship together of Faith people sharing special memories of Faith's first ten years! Many of you have cool stories to tell about how God's Spirit assisted in the birth and early years of our congregation's life. Maybe it's about our building, a special memory or event at our church, your involvement as a leader, or a unique relationship with a special person. Would you be willing to write out your special memory, or your treasured event from our life of Faith together? Write your story or memory and send it to Lori Krei in the office at churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com. Help us tell our story please! We will be remembering and celebrating these reflections and videos all year.

Faith's Mission Project ... Past and Present

Three things come to mind when I think back to the beginning of Faith Lutheran and the many conversations we had about what is important to us in a church. We will begin having some of these same conversations as we prepare to begin the next chapter of Faith's life.

The first thing we felt was important is that we would be Bible based – meaning, the Sunday message would be from the Bible and we would encourage all members, both young and old, to read their Bibles and to join a study group to learn more about God and the message He has for us.

The second thing is fellowship. Getting to know each other, caring for one another, and praying for each other. During those early days of cleaning walls and pipes, painting and construction, there was much conversation, laughter and sharing that happened. Working together for a common goal helped us to get to know each other's joys and struggles. We were fortunate to have coffees and lunches made and provided by some members during those workdays. Sharing a meal has been a common theme at Faith with many potlucks. I have missed these fellowship times this past year.

The third thing is missions. As previous speakers have said, missions have been important to us from the beginning. Not only giving money to missions but also hands-on missions. A group was started that makes quilts and various kits for Lutheran World Relief. Many of our members so involved at the beginning are no longer with us or unable to come anymore. Iris Hansen and Betty Ricklefs had a passion for using donated materials to make quilts. Marcene Brist's passion was baby care kits. Jim and Sharon Anderson went to many estate sales and bought items to make school kits and help with the sewing of them as well. Many hands have helped since then, but we are in need of people who would like to carry on this mission. Do you like to sew? Would you like to join a group to assemble kits and tie quilts once a month? Would you help gather materials and setup for personal care kits and tie quilts as a congregation? Please let me know.

Hands-on missions we've done in the past are, benefit suppers for someone going through a tough time, participating in Love Spencer, and sewing pillowcases for children cancer patients and their siblings - organized by Jean Berkland's granddaughter, Makenzie. Current hands-on missions are sewing weighted blankets and giving those to our members and community, knitting or crocheting prayer shawls for those who need to be wrapped in prayer and donating items to Upper Des Moines Opportunity. All these hands-on missions give us a chance to fellowship while doing God's work. So far, we have donated 271 quilts, 832 school kits, 1,259 personal care kits, and 519 baby care kits to Lutheran World Relief. We have also given away 96 weighted blankets and 67 prayer shawls. Each month I call Upper Des Moines Opportunity to find out what they are most in need of. And I also take stock of materials needed to complete the Lutheran World Relief kits. Then I list these items of the month in the newsletter and the bulletins. I hope as you are shopping for yourself, you will add an item or two to your cart and drop them off here at the church in the yellow mission box by the door.

My prayer is Faith will continue to have fellowship while working together to carry out God's work in our church, community, and the world. Watch the bulletin for opportunities for hands-on missions and, if you have an idea for one let Pam Harris and the missions team know.

Linda Susie



Discipleship ... Are You a Disciple of Jesus?



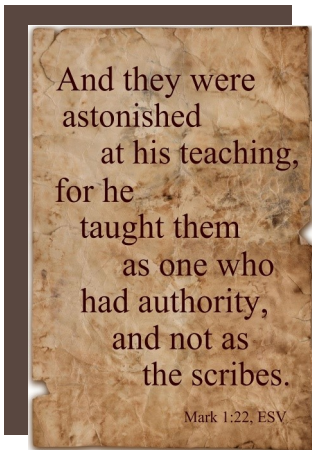
Discipleship is not a second stage of spiritual devotion for the believer, where one would think that first a person converts to faith in Jesus Christ, then when really committed, the person becomes a disciple. In Acts 11:26 we read, "The disciples were first called Christians at Antioch." Every believer is a disciple. Every believer is a Christian. Every Christian is a disciple.

Perhaps a more relevant question is, "Are you growing spiritually as a disciple of Jesus?" And, "How does a person keep growing as a disciple?"

I think of our lives as disciples of Jesus in six ways:

First, we are **followers** of Jesus as our Lord. When Jesus called His first disciples, He simply said, "Follow Me!" And they left everything to follow Him. How do we follow Jesus each day? We listen and we seek. In Hebrews 12, we find the answer, "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross ... and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Also, Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27). Disciples follow Jesus.

Second, we **trust** Jesus as Savior and God. By His death on the cross and His resurrection He finished the work of our salvation. He offers this salvation to every person as a gift, and we gladly receive it by faith in Him. We trust what He has done for us, and we trust in Him as our living Lord God. Disciples trust Jesus.



Third, we **learn** from Jesus as our Master Teacher. He is the embodiment of Truth, Wisdom, and Knowledge. He is omniscient, all-knowing. He is the Creator and Designer of all the Cosmos. With intentionality, we open our minds and hearts to learn from Him about life, about God, about the kingdom of God, about the promises of God, about the Word of God and worship, and all about His will and mission in the world. Disciples learn from Jesus.

Fourth, we **partner** with Jesus in His mission in the world. God "desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:4). So, as Christ's partners we are apostles, sent in the authority of His name to share the message. We are "ambassadors for Christ," pleading with all people to "be reconciled to God." (2 Corinthians 5:20). We invite people to faith. Disciples partner with Jesus in His mission.

Fifth, we **witness** to our faith and love for Jesus and share the gospel. In Acts 14:21 we read, "They preached the Gospel . . . and made many disciples." It is our calling to witness for Christ and share the message of the Gospel. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to create faith within them. The Gospel calls them to follow, to trust, to learn, and to partner. Disciples seek to reproduce.

Sixth, we are **set apart to belong** to Jesus and live for Jesus' sake in all aspects of life. Because of our faith, and because of our love and gratitude, our lives belong to Christ always. Jesus is the central purpose for our lives. Disciples are set apart for Jesus.

Discipling others is an important part of any believer's journey of faith. Many examples in the Word and in the church show us different dynamics of discipling others in our relationships in the body of Christ. Often, older believers disciple the younger. Spiritually mature believers mentor those whose faith is new. Parents teach their children. We are always stronger together.

Regardless of age, or the length of time since faith came alive, friends mutually encourage friends to keep growing spiritually. It is essential that we keep growing. We need to be lifetime learners, and learners for life. We should grow together in the knowledge of God's Word, in our worship, and in our faith relationship with Jesus, so that our character becomes more and more like Jesus.



Worship Director Denise Laaveg

"He was despised and rejected - a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief."

- Isaiah 53

This year during Lent our theme is "Jesus Understands". Jesus fully understands how we feel because He has felt it, too. He was 'a man of sorrows' because He lived, suffered, and died for each one of us.

Our theme song for Lent is "Man of Sorrows" by Matt Crocker and Brooke Ligertwood.

*"Silent as He stood accused,
Beaten, mocked and scorned.
Bowing to the Father's will
He took a crown of thorns.*

*Oh, that rugged cross, my salvation,
Where Your love poured over me
Now my soul cries out, Hallelujah,
Praise and honour unto Thee."*

Jesus Christ leaving heaven and entering the human race as a man, suffering all that humanity suffers, and then bearing our sins is unfathomable. And so we choose to follow Him. We are never alone. He understands.

A nineteenth-century hymn writer Philip Paul Bliss, an American gospel song writer, also wrote a hymn titled, "Man of Sorrows, What A Name". He ends each of five stanzas with the following. We rejoice as we remember together:

"Hallelujah! What a Savior!"

Denise Laaveg

5:30 p.m. Lenten meal

Fundraisers for A Ministry Team



6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship

(live-streamed on YouTube)



♥ March 3 - Focused Hearts

♥ March 10 - Spirit-filled Hearts

♥ March 17 - Worshipful Hearts

♥ March 24 - Forgiving Hearts

♥ Maundy Thursday with First Communion, April 1 - Pure Hearts

♥ Good Friday, April 2 - Sacrificial Hearts

Wednesdays
at Faith

**Hearts
Like
Jesus**



A Day in the Shoes of a LifeKids Child

Eric leaves the church at 3:43 p.m. and heads to the Spencer Middle School with the gray church bus. As the children arrive at the transfer point from Johnson, Fairview and Lincoln, they meet at the large evergreen tree.

The children chose to have assigned seats on the bus about a month ago. They felt there was a problem with the same person always sitting in the front seat, so during snacks one afternoon, the children came up with a solution. Two people will sit in the front seat and the names will change daily so everyone has an opportunity to sit in the front. (All the children enjoy chatting with Eric on the way to the church.)

Once the children enter the church, they use hand sanitizer, have their temperatures taken, and head over to the tables for snacks. The children decided during their problem-solving discussion whoever sits in the front seat gets their temperature taken first and gets to choose which table they will sit before the others. Healthy snacks are prepared by Radina. Evan helps hand out the snacks on Monday and Thursday. On Wednesdays Kirby Fueston helps prepare, hand out and clean up the tables after snacks. This group is extremely social, so snack time takes about 20 minutes. The children volunteer to pray prior to eating their snack.

After the snack, Eric and/or Evan take the children either outside when the weather is nice or to the north end of the church for a group game while Radina cleans and sanitizes the kitchen and tables. Some of their favorite games include scooter tag, line tag, Gaga ball, and dodge ball.

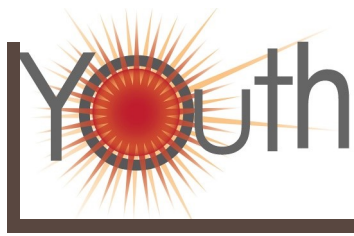
After the game on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, the children spend time reading silently. The younger students are read to by an adult, or older child. The adults listen to students read and assist with figuring out unknown words and asking comprehension questions. The children had the idea that they wanted to read to the group, so they have practiced reading their books and then reading out loud to the group!

After free reading, the children are engaged in activities that may connect with the Bible story that they have learned about, a holiday/seasonal activity, writing thank you notes to presenters that have spoken either at the church or during our field trips, working on service projects such as making Valentine's cards for residents in a nursing home, filling gift bags and tying gift tags on the bags for the fire department, the police department and sheriff's department, and currently reading and talking about daily devotions throughout Lent.

From 5:15-5:30 p.m. the children have free time. They enjoy shooting hoops, kicking the soccer ball, jumping rope, using Chinese jump rope, playing Flikkit, working with playdough, building with Legos, and coloring.

How does LifeKids impact those that attend? After our unit where they learned about prayer and practiced praying, all the children feel more comfortable and have volunteered to pray at snack time. One little girl had a rough day (yelling, being sassy, being unkind to others). She was willing to have an adult pray with her asking for God's help in lessening her frustration. A parent that does not attend church reached out for help in choosing a Bible for her son for Christmas. A Bible was on his Christmas list. When we had a visiting missionary, the children shared that, "We can be missionaries right here in Spencer. Miracles are all around us if we remember to have our eyes and hearts open."

Radina Jansen



Overcoming Obstacles

The Hall of Fame football coach of the Green Bay Packers once said, "Once a man has made a commitment to a way of life, he puts the greatest strength in the world behind him. It's something we call heart power. Once a man has made this commitment, nothing will stop him short of success." Many times I have looked at overwhelming obstacles in my life and have felt like there was no chance of victory. However, I have learned that no matter how big an obstacle is, I serve a God who gives me victory in spite of overwhelming odds. Caleb and Joshua wanted to conquer the people of Jericho when the rest of Israel was afraid. The men of Israel stated, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." The men of Israel looked at the circumstances and were fearful, but Joshua and Caleb looked at the circumstances and faced the situation by trusting in the power of God.

John Henry Newman said, "Fear not that your life shall come to an end, but rather that it shall never have a beginning." Athletes are constantly faced with obstacles. Sometimes the obstacle is facing a team with an undefeated record and sometimes the obstacle is doing the last repetition in a long workout.

As Christian leaders, we have committed to a way of life, and the greatest strength in the world is empowering us. The power to live in victory is given to us by Christ Jesus. When planning events for youth it can be challenging, but planning events in a pandemic in a tristate area is just plain difficult. It would be easy to say that these events simply cannot happen, but what good does that do? Overcoming our obstacles has been something of the norm especially this last year, and with faith and hope and knowledge that God is giving us victory despite all the odds is exciting and it's worth it! We are talking to our youth about dependence on God, it's a hard thing to do for any child of God, but depending and relying on him gives us a strength that is indescribable and it is so fun and such a blessing to watch that strength grow in our youth!

As spring approaches we are excited to have our calendars start to fill up with church activities! We had around 30 skiers and tubers joining to tackle Great Bear Ski Valley in Sioux Falls. With Confirmation and Easter activities quickly approaching, we welcome the challenges and obstacles of scheduling events because indeed the outcome is so worth it!

Continue to pray for our amazing youth of Faith! We are so very blessed!

***Information and happenings
with Faith Lutheran Youth
can be found at ...***



♦ **Instagram Youth Page:**
spencerfaithlutheranyouth
♦ **Facebook Youth Page:**
Faith Lutheran Church Youth

Outreach Night: March 21 - Bible Knowledge Bowl
RSVP to Brittany Spieker at 712-260-4273 by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 18
COVID-19 guidelines will be in place at the Camp.

For more information or to register for an event, please go to www.okoboji.org





Faith's Easter Garden

Easter Lily - \$15/plant: _____

Tulips - \$19/plant: _____

Calla Lily - \$27/plant: _____

Hydrangea - \$36/plant: _____

Total \$ _____



Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church and earmark them
"Easter Garden!"

All plants will have the pots wrapped in foil.

Turn in your order form with payment to the green box on the
Welcome Center, offering bowls, or in the Donations Box located
on the front of the building.

Name _____

Phone _____

In memory of _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In honor of _____

Orders are due to the church office by Sunday, March 1.

**Plants can be picked up after
the 1:00 p.m. Worship Service on Easter Sunday, April 4.**



Lenten devotionals, **for adults and children**,
are available at the Welcome Center and in the
Devotional Box outside.

Please take one home with you today!

Stewardship ... Steward of the Month

Paul Wire



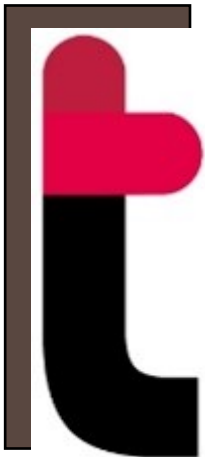
During March, we are celebrating Paul Wire as our Steward of the Month. If you have been worshipping through Faith's YouTube channel, Paul has been one of those camera operators that has kept us connected by scanning the congregation before and after worship so those at home can see our Faith Family and still feel part of the church body. He even has zoomed in on the youngest of the congregation so it can be seen how they are growing.

Beyond being extra eyes behind the camera and part of the Tech Team, Paul is also a very skilled carpenter that has worked on doorways in our building, baseboards in the SON Room, and moulding in the new offices. This benefits the Property Team so what a blessing that he also gives of his time to be part of that team as well.

If all of that wasn't enough, Paul has also just stepped up for a new project to hang canvas photos on our walls to commemorate and celebrate Faith's 10-year anniversary. Beyond everything he can do with his skilled hands, may the obvious be stated that he has a willing heart and a mindset that only a servant can have. Paul is a devoted believer of Christ, knows the Word of God, and is part of our Journey Teams small groups. Thankfully Paul lives out the definition of stewardship by taking care of what God has given him by giving back generously and blessing us all in many ways we were unaware.

Paul, for going above and beyond in small things that many of us see as huge things, we thank you and applaud you. Well done, good and faithful servant!

Stewardship ... Thrivent Choice Dollars



Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have been designated Choice Dollars, have until March 31, 2021, to direct any remaining 2020 Choice Dollars.

Help support the organization of your choice, including Faith Lutheran, by going to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more and find program terms and conditions.

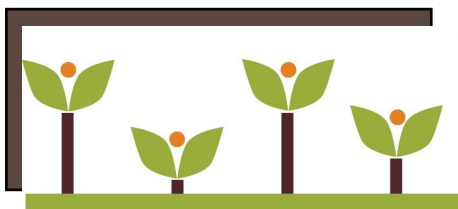
Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Ways to direct Choice Dollars:

- ♦ Log in to your Thrivent account
- ♦ Call Thrivent Financial at 1-800-847-4836
- ♦ Contact your Thrivent representative

If you prefer your Thrivent Choice Dollars to support a team or LifeKids, please direct the dollars to Faith. Then contact the church office (712-580-4316) or email (office@faithlutheranspencer.com) to designate the amount and where your dollars should be directed. It's easy!

Stewardship ... Meet the Skadelands!



It's that time of year when the leadership at Faith has a few new faces on council, and this year that includes God calling Kevin and Heidi Skadeland to lead the Stewardship Team.

In case you don't know them, Kevin and Heidi live east of Larrabee on a farm with their two daughters, Lydia and Rachel. They farm corn and beans, have livestock that includes hogs, beef, and honey bees! While at Faith, Kevin is usually more recognizable with a bass guitar in his hands and Heidi is new to Stephen's Ministry. They are excited to be part of Stewardship because it's really the foundation of our faith.

Stewardship is usually thought of in strictly a financial way, but it really is taking care of all that God has given us and God blesses us with more than just our finances. He blesses us with time, our families, possessions, resources, our jobs, our education, and so much more. So how do we steward all of that? That's what we will be looking at during our time on this team.



Faith is leaps and bounds ahead of this! The lay leadership in our congregation is what drew Kevin and I to Faith to begin with, along with the enthusiasm to serve our Lord. 2020 was a bummer of year in many ways, but if you haven't heard, Faith had the highest level of regular giving and gifts that really reduced our mortgage, encouraged LifeKids, and helped complete our "Building Faith, Loving People" capital campaign! Along with giving, we are one blessed congregation because we've been good stewards of our resources. We are connected as a congregation through Faith's YouTube channel, multiple worship services, Pastor Lee on the radio, email, and our website...and sadly not every congregation has had all of these connections through the pandemic. Kuddos to our leadership, both paid and volunteer, that has profusely tried to make every effort to connect us all during this difficult time.

As we strive to be good stewards, be aware of new things. The Project Tree is a new addition to our bulletin board to help teams at Faith with unbudgeted projects. This is one way to bring us all together for different needs around the building, for our youth and all ministries with unbudgeted needs. If you have the desire to give, or better yet, to use your Choice Dollars through Thrivent or your Thrivent Action Team Cards, great ideas will be on the Project Tree. If you need help with Thrivent Choice Dollars or Thrivent Action Team Cards, contact your Thrivent rep or the Thrivent Financial office, or even our Stewardship team so we can all come together and be great stewards to help our congregation thrive for the good of the Kingdom.

Do you have an idea that can be added to the Project Tree? Connect with the church office or any team that your idea could impact. Furthermore, if anything in this article excited you, think about joining the Stewardship Team or any team where your passion could be used!



Faith Lutheran Council

Minutes
February
10, 2021
7:00 p.m.
Zoom

**Next
Council
Meeting
March 10
7:00 p.m.**

Zoom

**Council
Members:**

Please
submit your
March team
reports to
the church
office (office@
faithlutheran
spencer.com)
by Monday,
March 8,
at noon.

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Wigen. A devotion and prayers were said. Motion by Roger Godfredsen, second by Mark Speidel to accept the January 13th minutes. Voted, all ayes.

Motion Mark Speidel, second Heidi Skadeland to accept the January 2020 financial report. Voted, all ayes.

Reports were given. Worship services and communion were addressed, Paul Behrens asked about communion. Pastor Laaveg said the Worship team and the Music and Creative Arts team had met, it was decided that for the time being, services will remain the same and will be revisited monthly.

It was agreed on that the church office would email letters to council members, to be returned to the office via email, approving or denying the Pastor's housing allowance.

Motion Roger Godfredsen, second Brett Eilts to remove from the signature card at the Farmers Savings Bank in Fostoria, IA the name of former president Pete Crew, and approving the signatures of Larry Wigen, Paul Behrens, Becky Simons, and Lori Krei. Voted, all ayes.

Lori Krei expressed an interest in organizing a retirement party for Pastor Lee and Denise. The party is scheduled to be held the last week of July. Volunteers are being sought to help Lori.

Brittany Spieker gave an update on the Call Team. Joe Simington has agreed to head the call team. The team will be meeting at least once a month.

The proposed revised budget for Faith Lutheran was explained in depth by Becky Simons. A motion was made by Brittany Spieker, seconded by Brett Eilts approving the 7/8 and 1/8 split of the honorarium from Zion, with the lay pastor receiving 7/8 and the Pastor receiving 1/8. Voted, all ayes.

Motion Brett Eilts, second Kevin Skadeland to have a congregational forum on February 21st after the church service. Voted, all ayes.

A motion was made by Lavonne Clark, seconded by Mark Speidel to approve the revised 2021 budget to be presented to the Faith Lutheran congregation for a vote on February 28, 2021. Voted, all ayes.

Future forum dates are as follows: April 11, 2021, Jul 11, 2021 and October 10, 2021.

The Fellowship committee is asking for help with the Lenten meals, this would be a great opportunity for fundraising.

Paul Behrens made the suggestion that we help and encourage new members to become involved in the church. The new member sponsors are encouraged to keep in contact with these people.

Motion Brittany Spieker, second Mark Speidel to close the meeting. Voted, all ayes.

Pastor Lee closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Vickie Godfredsen

**GENERAL
OFFERING**

January 1 - February 21, 2021 | Year to Date: \$51,969.50

Thank you for generously giving in 2021!

**Council
Members**

President - Larry Wigen
Vice President - Paul Behrens
Council Secretary - Vickie Godfredsen
Caring Ministry - Laura Heikens
Children's Ministry - Korrie Anderson
Discipleship - Randy Enge
Evangelism - Kirby Fueston
Fellowship - Roger & Vickie Godfredsen
Finance - Becky Simons

Leadership Support - Greg Lear
Missions - Pam Harris
Music and Creative Arts - Brett & Jolynne Eilts
Properties - Mark Speidel
Stewardship - Kevin & Heidi Skadeland
Technology - Kay Iversen
Treasurer - Becky Simons
Worship - LaVonne Clark
Youth Ministry - Brittany Spieker

Call Team

Minutes February 4, 2021



Present: Autumn, Ann, Cheryl, Cindy, Patty, David, Troy, Kyle, Joe, Brittany, Larry.

Not Present: Barb, Ross, Jared, Seth and Molly

The group voted on a chair and Joe Simington is now the chair, Barb has offered to be secretary. Troy has volunteered to be the lead for the transition team. Cheryl and Dave will also serve on the transition team. Cindy has offered to help with surveys for this task team. It was also discussed that a correspondent secretary could be decided on at a later date.

The group had a good discussion on timing of hiring a new pastor. The group agreed to try and resolve the challenges before we hire on a new pastor. The group also discussed the possibility of doing a church wide assessment. Brittany and Cindy will research firms and bring the information back to the group.

It was also discussed to develop a survey to the church about the challenges. The transition team will come up with the questions and Cindy will help get this out to the church members. It was agreed to try and complete this within 2 weeks.

Larry shared with the team that there is a \$10,000 budget for the pastoral process if the congregation approved this at the next quorum. The assessment can run about \$1,500-\$3,000 for an outside firm to do per Pastor Perry.

The team discussed developing a communication plan for the council and church. Larry mentioned there were to be quorums in April, July and October the 2nd or 3rd Sunday. He was going to double check the dates. Brittany is the council representative on this committee.

Larry ended the meeting with a prayer and Joe mentioned he would send out a date to meet again next month.

2021 Call Team - Joe Simington, Call Team Leader

Troy Rosendahl	Autumn Erdman	Dave Susie	Jared Hansen	Cheryl Hessenius
Ann Lear	Barb Solberg	Ross Brockshus	Patty Ellsworth	Council Rep: Brittany Spieker
Molly Crew	Cindy Tigges	Seth Knoer	Kyle Rouse	

Transition Team

Troy Rosendahl
712-260-1944

David Susie
712-262-6621

Cheryl Hessenius
712-363-1156

As a member of Faith Lutheran we need your help. Please watch for, complete, and return the surveys that were mailed on February 26. Return envelopes are provided. Your comments, encouragement, concerns and prayers are appreciated as we work our way through the Call process.

Surveys need to be returned by March 21, either mailed or left in the box on the Welcome Center. Information will then be tabulated and used to give us direction, and solutions at improving the growth of our Faith Family, and the characteristics we seek in a new Pastor moving forward. All information is kept confidential. You are welcome to reach out to one of the Transition Team members listed at the right.

Faith Lutheran Church

2912 Highway Blvd
Spencer, IA 51301

Faith Lutheran Church - February, 2021

Births | Baptisms | Marriages | Deaths | First Communion | Confirmed | New Members

Faith Lutheran Church - Staff

Pastor: Lee Laaveg
pastor@faithlutheranspencer.com

Worship Director: Denise Laaveg
worshipdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

Church Administrator: Lori Krei
churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com

Custodian: Rich Stueven
custodian@faithlutheranspencer.com

Technology Director: Lori Krei
techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven
office@faithlutheranspencer.com

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

LifeKids Director: Radina Jansen
director@lifekidsspencer.com

Email us at: office@faithlutheranspencer.com
www.faithlutheranspencer.com

Like us on Facebook

Follow us at: @flcspencer

Faith Lutheran Church LCMC

Watch us on SMU:

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