

March 2023

Faith Life Together

Volume 7 | Issue 3

Pastor: Ben Unseth

Council President:
Joe Simington

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



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Rest and Renewal

We have now entered into the next church season: Lent. Lent is a time for reflection, recognition, and repentance. We realize we are mortal, make mistakes, and need God's mercy. You may have decided how you want to commemorate Lent - perhaps using one of the ideas from '40 Lenten Resolutions'. However your life looks during Lent, may we each draw closer to Jesus and understand more of who He is during this time.

The rescheduled **Ash Wednesday service** will be **March 1 at 6:30 p.m.** For both that Wednesday and each following **Wednesday during March**, we will have a **potluck at 5:30 p.m.**, followed by a **service at 6:30 p.m.** These evenings are wonderful times of fellowship and learning, and we will have several great speakers for each Lenten service. Confirmation will continue after the service from 7:00-8:00 p.m., and worship vocalist rehearsal will also happen at 7:00 p.m. Thank you to the many dedicated volunteers who are involved with one or both of these functions!



Mark your calendars for the first Saturday in March! LifeKids is hosting **March Madness**, a spaghetti and games fundraiser, on **Saturday, March 4, from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** There will be a delicious dinner followed by games for the kids to participate in. This event is a freewill donation, and all proceeds go to support Spencer's LifeKids After School Program.

The next council meeting will be on **March 8 at 7:00 p.m.** Thank you to our council members who diligently lead our congregation and seek to follow God's way! If you have any questions or concerns you would like to have brought up at the next council meeting, see one of the council members, or you are also welcome to attend the meeting on the 15th.

Winter will not last forever. Just as the long winter days give way to sunshine and warmth, Lent leads up to Easter and the resurrection of Jesus from the grave. Thank you God that Jesus is our living hope!



PASTOR BEN UNSETH

The 18-Inch Journey

Phil was mad!

His friends backed him up. Owen had cheated him and run away. Owen had stolen Phil's valuable property!

Where did Owen run off to? That is where the story gets interesting. Owen did not disappear as I would expect. He could have gone anywhere, but he didn't. He went to see Pastor Paul. The pastor welcomed him, and Owen decided to stay and help.

As time went by, Owen told Pastor all about the theft. This put Pastor Paul in a difficult position. Owen had become his good friend, and Phil was his good friend too.

Pastor Paul knew that Phil needed to make the 18-Inch Journey. Phil was a devout Christian. He hosted the whole church in his house every week. Phil had community support on his side. Cultural leaders all backed Phil. The law agreed with Phil 100 percent. The Bible, however, also supported Owen. What could Pastor Paul do?

Friends laugh together. They show up when asked to help. They also show up when they are not asked to help. Friends show up, intervene, when there's a problem. As ads remind us, "Friends don't let friends drive drunk." Or, as the Pizza Ranch shirt says, "Friends don't let friends eat pizza from a gas station." (Apologies to Casey's and its delicious pizza.)

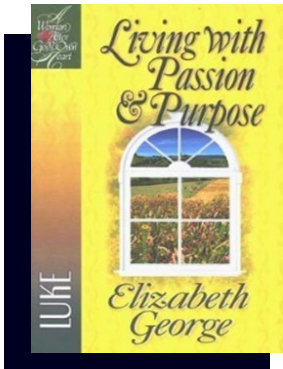
Pastor Paul wrote a letter to Phil. You can read it, in under 500 words, because it is a book in the New Testament. Paul wrote to Phil/Philemon about his runaway slave, Owen/Onesimus. Paul commends Phil for his "love," "faith" and "partnership."

Paul invites Phil to make the 18-Inch Journey, to move biblical truth from his head into his heart. Yes, Phil has the right to reclaim Owen as property. Yet Paul asks Phil to consider "what you ought to do... for my son" Owen.... "Who is my very heart." Owen was created in the image of God. Paul encourages Phil to "have him back forever – no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother."

The best part – the scariest part for Owen – Paul sends him to deliver this letter to Phil. Can you imagine the pull inside Owen to run away and not look back. The devil whispered: *People don't change. Religion is for show. Phil will lock you up. Run!*

Phil must have been delighted to see his runaway slave at his door. God had returned his property. Then Phil read the letter from Paul. Or, maybe God had helped Phil complete the 18-Inch Journey before Owen showed up with the letter. In heaven, I want to listen to Phil and Owen tell their shared story.

As we walk together through Lent on Sundays and Wednesdays, I'm asking God, "What is my 18-Inch Journey? What truth do you want to move from my head to my heart?" Let's journey together.



Bible Study:
“Living with Passion & Purpose”
Tuesday, March 14
1:30 p.m. | SON Room

This month we discuss Luke 4. This chapter is when Jesus is tempted by the devil and then begins his ministry of teaching and healing. He knows His purpose and that affects what He does. Do you yet know your purpose? Hmmm.

What can we learn from Jesus about handling temptation? We see how Jesus was tempted and handled the temptation, and then went on in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was always busy, yet He gives us an example on what to do when life gets so busy.

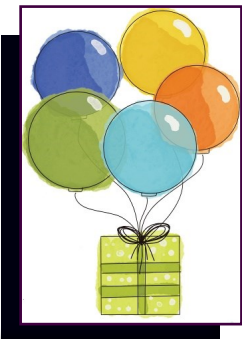
Come! Join in the discussion! All are welcome!

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday 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 Daxton Simcox
March 13	Shawn Meislahn Tanya Manwarren
March 14	Sierra Ruhs
March 15	Kenzie Hoppe
March 16	Mark Heilman Lee Ketcham
March 18	Nancy Newgard
March 20	Jim Carpenter Linda Conlon Jesse Rustad

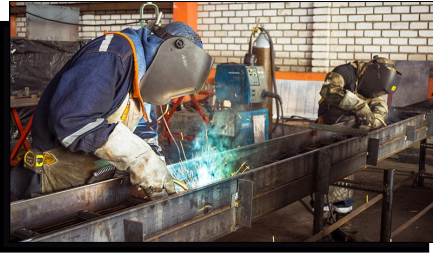
March 22	Jean Oleson
March 23	Christin Lee Sarah Ruhs
March 24	Emily Campbell
March 27	Owen Kreutner
March 28	Jericho Gray
March 30	Lisa Buchan Arlene Fairchild Mary Speidel Isaiah Gray



Happy Anniversary Wishes to ...

March 10	Kevin & Heidi Skadeland
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Meet Your Missions: Friends of Madagascar Missions



Madagascar is the world's fourth largest island and is located just east of the African continent. In 1866, Norwegian missionaries founded a Lutheran church there which grew over the years to become the Malagasy Lutheran Church. Friends of Madagascar Missions (FOMM) raises funds and works with this church federation to identify projects needing support to spread the gospel of Jesus and help people in poverty. Current projects that FOMM is supporting are a Bible school for evangelists, a hospital nutrition feeding center, a prison ministry, and a drip irrigation project.

During the month of March and the season of Lent, FOMM challenges Christians to give water to the people of southern Madagascar instead of giving up something for Lent. The challenge is to drink eight glasses of water every day. As the water flows out, let prayers flow to the Lord to help these people and donate at least \$25 dollars to FOMM for their "Living Water" program. It costs \$20,000 to dig a new well through the rock in southern Madagascar. The people are in desperate need of clean drinking water and water to use for drip irrigation for their food crops. Please donate any amount and see the video and downloadable resources on the website (www.madagascarmission.org).

On December 23, 20,000 Tandroy Bibles and 50,000 hymnals were delivered to FOMM at the Ehoala port in southern Madagascar. They were shipped via a freighter ship and it was a difficult task to complete all of the paper work involved with taxes and duty, but they were able to get the container cleared from the port and now the Bibles are quickly being distributed by Steve Lellelid to the Tandroy people who are hungry to read the Word of God in their own language.

FOMM is currently preparing to start a welding training program for prisoners as well as for people in the general public. In discussion with contacts in Madagascar, welding has been identified as skill that would provide outstanding opportunities to build a strong economic future for prisoners in their local communities on release. Welding has been called the most in-demand trade skill worldwide. FOMM's vision to set up a welding school for both public (fee-paying) and prisoners (free training) aligns with the vision of locals for attaining high-value workplace skills. This training represents the most audacious vision for a vocational project in FOMM's Village Redemption Strategy. Potential partners and stakeholders are currently being sought with a view to collaborating on developing this project, which could cost \$1-2 million to establish.

Lutheran World Relief 

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

**Item of the Month ~
Pencil Sharpeners**

The item of the month for Lutheran World Relief are pencil sharpeners. They are used in the school 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



Overcoming Grief and Loss

Loss comes in many forms throughout our mortal life. Death of a loved one, a change in our life's circumstances due to health challenges for ourselves or our loved ones, interpersonal relationships struggling or ending, employment and/or financial loss, political, cultural, and social unrest, and a host of other experiences may trigger grieving.

When these events happen, we travel our unique path of grief over time as we come to terms with a new normal. Some of us may not speak about our sorrow, as putting our pain into words is difficult to do. In contrast, some may display emotions freely and feel out of control, embarrassed, or confused.

During these times of heartache, we may experience fear, anger, emptiness, and powerlessness. Some of us may be tempted to gain temporary relief through unhealthy habits, including the use of substances, like alcohol and drugs, to dull the pain. Instead of fleeing this discomfort, there are benefits to owning our feelings and intentionally creating and using positive coping skills to rebalance our life. We can gain solace also when we reach out to a trusted family member or friend, our pastor, our family doctor, or a counselor, to share our thoughts and navigate these difficult times with their support.

As Christians, we can regain our peace when we focus on the hope of our loving Savior, who transcends our human suffering when we ask for His saving grace. Looking to God's word in Psalm 34:18, we find, *"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."* In John 14:27, Jesus implores us to *"not let your hearts be troubled neither let them be afraid."* Joshua 1:9 also encourages us to be *"strong and courageous ... for the Lord, Your God, is with you wherever you go."* Strength can return to us through God's Word and God's people helping us heal.

To God be the Glory!



TEAM Restoration Ministries

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

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



For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 515-238-9010 or www.team-restoration.org

Upper Des Moines Opportunity

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.
UDMO

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

Boxed potatoes, cereal and canned fruit



GLORIA MCKENNEY WORSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

"By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near. Your enemy You've made Your friend."
Jesus Thank You - Sovereign Grace Music

A common word heard around the time of Lent is *sacrifice* – "I'm *sacrificing* chocolate this year for Lent." "We can be brought near to God because of Jesus' *sacrifice* on the cross." "In the Old Testament, the Israelites had to *sacrifice* a lamb to pay for their sins." The idea of sacrificing something for Lent so that we can better appreciate Jesus's sacrifice for us is a common theme around Lent. If we're not careful, however, the season of Lent can very quickly become about us and what we are going to do differently, rather than on Jesus and what He already did for us. An easy metric to decide if your resolution for Lent is self-focused or Jesus-focused is to ask yourself, 'what is the purpose of this resolution?' If it's to make yourself a better person or to improve something about yourself, chances are it's self-focused. But if the purpose is to become more aware of what Jesus has done for you, or to encourage others in their journey with Christ – now that's a resolution worth taking on for Lent. Perhaps the best way to describe Lent is using the words of John the Baptist: "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). If giving up chocolate allows you to think of yourself less and Jesus more, then way to go!

Another way to think about this is to consider what your reaction is to completing your goal. If you come to the end of Lent and congratulate yourself on developing more self-restraint, but haven't drawn closer to God - what a missed opportunity! After all, Jesus already did all the work on the cross. We don't need to improve ourselves or do anything to be granted salvation. All that's left to do is be thankful for what God has done and respond by living for God. I love the bridge of the song "Jesus Thank You" by Sovereign Grace. The whole song is an outpouring of thankfulness to Jesus for His work on the cross - and then we get to the bridge and see our response: "*Lover of my soul, I want to live for You.*" Maybe your Lenten resolution is finding one more small way to live for Jesus and praise His name.

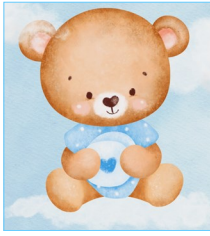
Let's not live for ourselves this Lent, friends. Let's pour out our souls in thankfulness and respond by dedicating each day to our Savior, Redeemer, and Friend.

Pop-Up Choir to sing "Living Hope"

We will be performing "*Living Hope*" by Phil Wickham for the Easter Sunday service on April 9. Music can be picked up from Gloria on Sundays or at any of the rehearsals. Rehearsals will be Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. starting Sunday, March 19.

You can sign up several ways: Scan the QR code to the right; go to <https://bit.ly/3INslWY> ; or the sheet on the Welcome Center.





Welcome Baby! Kaleb Kenneth William Skadeland was born Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 7:25 a.m. to Heidi and Kevin Skadeland.

He weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Kaleb is welcomed home by big sisters Lydia and Rachel.



Properties Team

We are looking to do a concrete project this summer. If anyone would like to donate to the project by volunteering your time or financially, please see Eli Franker (712-260-8841).



Prayer Chain & Sunday Prayers of the Church

If you have a prayer request for the **Prayer Chain**, please direct it to the Prayer Team Leaders Linda and Dave Susie at djslrs74@yahoo.com or Doreen Scribner at doreenscribner@outlook.com

If you would like to be included on **Sunday Morning Prayers of the Church**, please contact the church office at 712-580-4316 or office@faithlutheranspencer.com

The 18-Inch Journey

5:30 p.m. Lenten meal | 6:30 p.m. Lenten Worship

Join us each Wednesday as we fellowship and worship together.
Main dish is provided. Please bring a side dish to share!

♥ March 1 – Meal – 5:30 p.m.: Fried Chicken
Postponed Ash Wednesday Worship Service – 6:30 p.m.

♥ March 8
Guest Speaker: Steve Quattlebaum

♥ March 15
Guest Speaker: Cryss Quanbeck

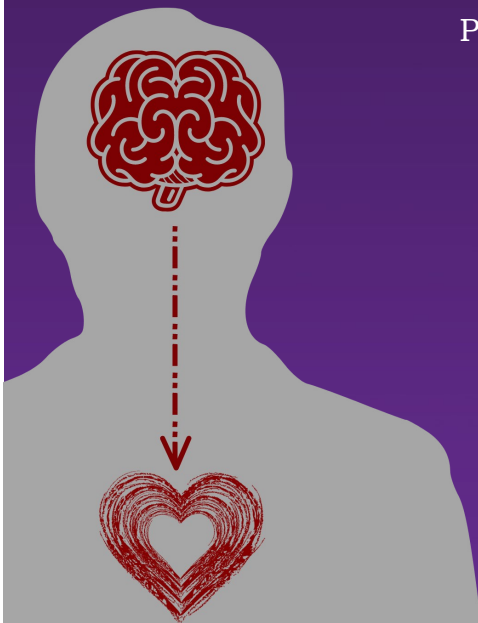
♥ March 22
Guest Speaker: Jim Paulsen

♥ March 29
Guest Speaker: Whitney Gray

♥ Maundy Thursday Worship, April 6 – 6:30 p.m.

♥ Good Friday Worship, April 7 – 6:30 p.m.

♥ Easter Sunday Worship, April 9 – 9:00 p.m.



February's Highlights by Radina Jansen



There are two upcoming ways to help support Faith Lutheran's outreach, LifeKids. One way is by attending the **March Madness Fundraiser** on **Saturday, March 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

Menu: Pasta (choice of red or white sauce), garlic bread, lettuce salad, water, coffee, lemonade, and dessert. Serving of a spaghetti supper will run from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Games for children will begin as the children finish eating.

There will be a free-will offering.

The second way to support LifeKids is by ordering Pasquale's Pizzas. Ordering of pizzas will begin Saturday, March 4, at the Spaghetti and Games Fundraiser. Ordering will take place from March 4 to March 19. Pickup will be April 11 at McCreary's Creative Catering. FYI – Pizzas for the fundraisers are made fresh when we turn in our orders and then frozen for delivery.



"Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths" ~ Psalms 25:4

During the Lenten season, the LifeKids will be on a Lenten journey with Jesus through daily lessons using a Lenten devotional "Footsteps to the Cross".

We had our monthly baking day for Grand Avenue Community Outreach on Wednesday February 15th. The children made Cocoa Surprise Cookies. They practiced following a recipe, measuring and leveling off the cups so that the measurements were accurate. The 3rd – 5th graders used the hand mixers as they were tall enough to reach into the sink to do the mixing. FYI – the sink catches lots of flying cookie dough! They all shaped the cookies into balls and then poked 2 frozen marshmallows into each cookie. The multi-aged group can be a challenge. The groups worked together to make sure everyone had a job.



On our full day of LifeKids on February 20 we kept very busy. They played one of their favorite games, Balloon Challenge. For each challenge, they must hit their balloon with the designated body part. Each challenge is 1 minute in length. They try to keep their balloon in the air, counting the number of times it hits the floor. They used their hand(s), elbow, foot, nose and their shoe on their hand!



The weather couldn't have been better for our field trip to ice fish at Scharnberg. We were armed with hand and toe warmers and the hope that some fish would be caught. This was our first try at ice fishing! We have gone fishing at Scharnberg two other times but were unsuccessful! A big LifeKids, "Thank you!" goes out to Brianne Blom, Naturalist at Clay County Conservation Board for arranging for the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club to provide ice shacks for our fishing adventure! A big LifeKids, "Thank you!" goes out to the six members of the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club that shared their passion for the sport of ice fishing! We were so grateful for the heated shacks, the seats to sit on, their knowledge of ice fishing and the excitement generated when a fish was caught! We caught a grand total of 13 rainbow trout! The trickiest part was getting to the ice shacks across the slippery, bumpy ice.



The children tied 8 fleece blankets for Lutheran Services in Iowa. The blankets will be given to children that leave their family to go into Foster Care. While they were tying the blankets, we were talking about why we were making the blankets and giving them away. The children began talking about how making fleece blankets and giving them away was like what the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club had done for them when they helped them ice fishing and they didn't get any money for it. They continued to say that when you make others happy, that's like getting paid! Doing Community Service projects has helped them reflect on who they can help and who has helped them. I'm so proud of the connections they continue to make about why we do what we do at LifeKids!



2023 Faith Lutheran Council

The Council meets the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



**Joe Simington,
President**



**Pam Hanson,
Vice President**



**Laura Heikens,
Caring Ministry**



**Kirby Fueston,
Children's Ministry**



**Barb Solberg,
Discipleship**



**Eric Tigges,
Evangelism**



**Vickie & Roger
Godfredsen,
Fellowship**



**Becky Simons,
Finance &
Treasurer**



**Pam Harris
Missions**



**Jared Hansen
Music &
Creative Arts**



**Eli Franker
Properties**



**Kevin & Heidi
Skadeland**



**Pete Crew
Worship**



**Matt & Steph Essick
Youth Ministry**



**Jolene Hansen
Council Secretary**



**Dave Susie
Leadership
Support**



**Kay Iversen
Technology**

Joe Simington, President – The president presides over the Church Council meetings.

Pam Hanson, Vice President – The vice president presides over church council meetings in the absence of the president.

Laura Heikens – Caring Ministry – Members of the Caring Ministry Team, in their own ways, strive to love and care for each member of the congregation.

Kirby Fueston – Children’s Ministry – Members of the Children’s Ministry Team work with all children’s ministries at Faith Lutheran including Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, First Communion, and the Nursery.

Barb Enge – Discipleship – Members of the Discipleship Team focus on adult members to help grow faith, and share the knowledge of God’s Word.

Eric Tigges – Evangelism – Members of the Evangelism Team welcome guests and encourage all people to walk with Jesus at Faith.

Vickie & Roger Godfredsen – Fellowship – 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.

Becky Simons – Finance – Members of the Finance Team, working with the Treasurer and Finance Team Leader, are concerned with all matters of finance for the congregation.

Pam Harris – Missions – Members of the Missions Team annually select and recommend a list of “mission partners” to support. This mission outlook is intrinsic in our annual fiscal budget.

Jared Hansen – Music and Creative Arts – 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.

Eli Franker – Properties – Members of the Property Team work to improve and maintain our facility for all aspects of congregational life.

Kevin & Heidi Skadeland – Stewardship – Members of the Stewardship Team promote a Biblical vision of stewardship within the congregation.

Pete Crew – Worship – Members of the Worship Team cover Faith Lutheran’s worship life, working with the pastor to plan worship true to our Lutheran identity, both Biblically and with sacraments, and offering a variety of worship styles.

Matt & Steph Essick – Youth Ministry – Members of the Youth Ministry Team cover all aspects of ministry to the youth of Faith Lutheran in grades 6 through 12.

Standing Task Teams - leaders are appointed by the Council

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

Becky Simons – Treasurer – The treasurer is appointed by the church council. The treasurer works with the finance team to help receive, record, and maintain the records for the income received from contributing members and other sources.

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

Kay Iversen – Technology – Members of the Technology Team oversee the acquisition, maintenance, and operation of all technology equipment at Faith.

Stewardship ... Steward of the Month: Jared & Nickie Hansen

As we enter the month of March and get closer to spring, we celebrate a joyful and full of life couple as our stewards, Jared and Nickie Hansen.

Nickie, who is a processing worker that makes vaccines for the chicken lines at Hy-Line North America LLC [hatchery], is a huge supporter of Faith. Before her membership at Faith, she had been a Sunday School teacher. At Faith, her involvement has been behind the scenes as she has cared for their four wonderful kiddos: Bennet, Norah, Grayson, and Audrey. As she has been called to their family and cares for the kiddos during worship and after, that has given Jared some time for involvement in front of the congregation.



After many years of doing massage, Jared started his own business over a year ago, Jared Hansen Massage & Wellness. Jared's involvement at Faith has included many dramas and skits over the past years. He is involved in the Pop-Up Choir utilizing his vocal cords for Jesus, but even more so uses his talent of rhythm with the Worship Team numerous Sundays and has played drums most every week before another member recently started rotating in on the drums.

Call Committees are a huge commitment in most churches because in order to move forward with candidates, meetings are frequent and take dedication to be there on a regular basis. Jared was one of those members when God led us to Pastor Ben and was an excellent input as well through that process. Jared has also been involved with the Children's Ministry from time to time by helping with Sunday School. Currently he is in the 3rd-5th grade classroom and is a wonderful male presence always sharing his Biblical knowledge and encouraging the kids in growing their knowledge and faith. Most recently Jared became the Music & Creative Arts Team leader and joined council.

Jared and Nickie, well done good and faithful servants! Thank you for all you do and all you add to our congregation through your involvement and support of so many ministries. May God's blessings be upon you both and your beautiful family, always!

Consider Percentage-Basis Giving by Rev. Robert Blezard

No matter how or what amount you give to your congregation, thank you! Your offerings sustain important ministries, and there is no such thing as an inappropriate or inadequate offering. But if you are among the many who give regularly on a "lump sum" basis, consider giving on a percentage basis instead.

The "lump sum" basis is when donors give a fixed amount – say, \$50 a week – to the church, regardless of what percentage it represents in their annual income. The advantage of lump sum giving is that it's simple to calculate and keep track of. But lump sum giving reveals little about the generosity behind the gift. For a poorer family, \$50 a week may be significant, whereas it could be a pittance for a wealthy family.

Since the Bible lifts up the principles of sacrificial giving as well as tithing, giving by percentage provides a better measure for giving. Once a family has calculated their gift as a percentage of income, it's easier to track it and, over time, build up to a tithe. Here's how to get started with percentage giving: 1) Calculate your regular offering over the course of the year; 2) Divide the total yearly offering by your total annual income. This will give you a figure; and 3) Multiply that figure by 100 to determine your percentage giving. When planning your offering, consider increasing it by 1 percent a year. If you do, in less than 10 years you will be tithing. However you give, thank you for supporting God's ministries and may you see His blessings you as you continue to give.

40 Lenten Resolutions: Have a Christ-filled Lent!

"Come near to God, and he will come near to you. Cleanse your hands...and purify your hearts."

~ James 4:8

1. Spend time every day, thanking God for sending his Son.
2. Ask for the graces you lack, daily.
3. Spend time discovering more about a hero's faith through a biography or their writings.
4. Give up any unhealthy habit that keeps you from becoming closer to Christ.
5. Get more involved in the congregation; find out where help is needed and become that help.
6. Call or write to a friend with whom you have lost touch, thanking the person for being a blessing in your life.
7. Resolve to sing loudly, even if not well, at services with joy and reverence.
8. Host someone for a meal. Discuss your faith.
9. Write a letter to a political leader about a faith-related issue.
10. Give a financial gift to someone you know is in need.
11. Contribute to a Christian ministry.
12. Comfort the mourning with food, presence and prayer.
13. Clear out the closets of excessive clothes or toys that can be donated to charity.
14. Invite someone to worship with you, and to share a meal afterward.
15. Plan meatless meals.
16. Give up a time fritterer – surfing the net, shopping, television, social media.
17. Pray about and seek reconciliation with estranged family and friends.
18. Reach out to those who helped build your faith and thank them for their impact on your life.
19. Visit the sick, the elderly, or the imprisoned.
20. Fast from your cell phone or computer for scheduled time windows.
21. Fast from certain television/entertainment screens or programming.
22. Match extra spending in charitable giving.
23. Refresh yourself in the Catechism.
24. Adopt a daily examination of conscience and confession.
25. Offer up the most hated chore you have to God, performing it with a cheerful heart.
26. Say "I love you" daily to each person in your family.
27. Replace unpleasant or snarky comments (even those in your head) with statements filled with encouragement and grace.
28. Spend time in prayer during your daily commute. Pray for the people you see as you drive.
29. Go to the gym or exercise regularly as an offering.
30. Write to a friend about your faith.
31. Volunteer for Meals on Wheels or some other service activity.
32. Add a new prayer time to your daily schedule.
33. Read through a devotional or other Christian literature from the church library.
34. Fast from fast food or a particular food.
35. Share a Bible verse, devotional thought, or spiritual question daily with a friend or family member.
36. Read one Psalm per day.
37. Fast from using credit cards.
38. Read one chapter from a Gospel per day. (You will finish two Gospels by Easter.)
39. Fast from caffeine.
40. Go to Lenten Worship weekly.

Adapted from <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/antonetti/40-lenten-resolutions>

Prayer and Praise Corner



Lift Up in Prayer...

- As we begin our Lenten pilgrimage, pray that God will unveil for each of us, our 18-Inch Journey.
- Pray for wisdom for our fellow members who will speak in our Lenten Services: Steve Quattlebaum, Cryss Quanbeck, Jim Paulsen and Whitney Gray.
- 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 for the renters and business owners affected by Spencer's downtown fire in January.
- Pray about helping out with a ministry team.
- Healing for Norma Johnson, Peggy Olson, Garold Becker, Jim Spieker, Jim Rusk, Phyllis Van Kleeck, Eli Kleszczelski, Lynne Neimeyer, Marie Godfredsen, Barbara Greene, Jaya Fever, Cole Hanson and all those we name in our hearts.
- Comfort for the family of Gene Berkland.

Reasons for Praise!

- Thanks for volunteers in our tech booth.
- Thanks for volunteers in Confirmation and Youth Ministry.
- Thanks for volunteers in the fellowship ministry.
- Thanks for new Council members and ministry volunteers.



Easter Garden Order Form



Easter Lily – \$17.50 _____

Blue Hydrangea – \$35.00 _____

Pink Calla Lily - \$27.00 _____

Pink Hydrangea - \$35.00 _____

Yellow Calla Lily - \$27.00 _____

Hyacinth - \$15.50 _____

Pansy - \$8.00 _____

Total Dollars _____

There is no color choice for the hyacinths or pansies. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran, earmark them "Easter Garden." Flowers are in 6-inch pots, however, pansies are in 4-inch pots. Turn in your order form, with payment, to the green box on the Welcome Center.

Name _____

Phone _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

**Orders are due to the church office by Sunday, March 19.
Plants may be picked up after worship on Easter Sunday, April 2.**



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

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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. – 2:00 p.m. | Monday – Friday



Free WiFi Connection: Network: FAITH_Guest | Password: 7125804316

Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Joe Simington at 7:03 PM.

Members present were: Kirby Fueston, Eli Franker, Pam Hanson, Barb Solberg, Kay Iversen, Joe Simington, Steph Essick, Pastor Ben Unseth, Pam Harris, Dave Susie, Becky Simons, Heidi & Kevin & Kaleb Skadeland (via Zoom), Laura Heikens & Vickie Godfredsen.

Devotions were given by Joe Simington. Joe noted that we were all given a book to read "The Lost Art of Disciple Making." He would like us to read a chapter each month. The meeting was opened with prayer by Joe Simington.

New members present were Kirby Fueston for Children's Ministry, Steph Essick for Youth Ministry, Barb Solberg for Discipleship, Dave Susie as Leadership Support, & Pam Hanson as Vice President. Jared Hansen with Music & Creative Arts was not present but a new Council member.

Minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Steph Essick. Kirby Fueston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Becky Simons) – Becky reports a good first month as giving exceeded last January. Administrative expenses are a little higher but with inflation, that is to be expected. Overall, a very good month for financials. Motion to approve made by Pam Harris. Second made by Steph Essick. Motion carried.

PASTOR BEN'S REPORT – Thanked Joe Simington for guest preaching in January. He will be on vacation starting tomorrow and back on Tuesday (2/14). Pastor encouraged attending Ash Wednesday and the Lenten services on Wednesdays.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Joe Simington) – Joe encouraged all of us, over time, to try to build the teams we have. Kevin & Heidi are working on the time & talent sheets to hopefully recruit some new volunteers for all teams. Pastor stated at the staff meeting today that they can help support a ministry fair if that's something we would want to do.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Evangelism (Eric Tigges) – no report given.

Missions (Pam Harris) – Pastor was contacted by World Mission Prayer League with a weekend up at Bible camp & those attending want to come visit our church the weekend of March 31.

Worship (Pete Crew) – no report given.

Stewardship (Skadeland's) – report in the packet.

Discipleship (Barb Solberg) – Barb is looking for some team members. In February, they will be working on the Gospel messages in Bible study and then into Lenten items.

Children's Ministry (Kirby Fueston) – no report given.

Youth Ministry (Matt & Steph Essick) – No report but had 17 kids last Wednesday. Just getting their feet wet. The kids didn't seem to want to do a ski trip but might go bowling or to a movie.

Caring Ministries (Laura Heikens) – no report given.

Fellowship (Godfredsen's) – no report given.

Music & Creative Arts (Jared Hansen) – no report given.

February 8,
2023

Council
Meeting
Minutes

February Council Minutes - continued

Properties (Eli Franker) – no report given.

Emails on meetings will be coming from Becky Fear-Hatting but she just got her computer today so they will be coming from her next month & going forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Office moves – Becky (admin) is in the 1st office, Nicki (finance) in the 2nd office, Radina moved to an office by the Discipleship room (Narnia). Jacob is in the office to the east of Narnia. Becky & Nicki's responsibilities are still being nailed down getting the roles distributed to the appropriate people will just take time as we go through the processes.

NEW BUSINESS

Mission Team – met on Tuesday night. Discussed doing a trip to Sioux Falls to Falls Community Church to help with repairs and/or additional things they want done. Pastor sent a letter (posted on the Mission board). Looking at doing some painting or maybe cutting down some pews as their current pews are too large. They also need their parking lot paved, windows & doors updated and updating their kitchen. Looking at getting some Thrivent dollars to help fund this & possibly getting the youth involved. May also need to get the Properties team involved to look at these projects ahead of time.

Endowment Appointments – there is 2 members on this board (Christin Lee & Jolynne Eilts) and we need to appoint 3 others to this board that oversees the endowment fund. Send any names of members to Joe if you have anyone in mind.

Lenten meals – Vickie stated that they would prefer that we have the groups each take a Wednesday. There are 5 Wednesdays so we can tag team the groups. Meals are at 5:30 and there are 5 Wednesdays. March 1 – Becky Simons, March 8 – Eli Franker, March 15 – Steph Essick & Laura Heikens, March 22 – Barb Solberg & Kirby Fueston, March 29 - . Joe is going to check with the other teams to fill the remaining slots.

Office hours – we changed these from 9-3 but Cheryl is done at 2 PM so after that, there may not be anyone available to answer the phone. The church will still be open but there may not be staff available. Laura Heikens made the motion to change the hours to 9 AM-2 PM. Kirby Fueston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Concerns and/or Celebrations

Feature in the March Newsletter will be all of the Council members. If you want a new photo to use for this, please email a new photo to the office by February 17.

Closing Prayer was given by Joe Simington.

Adjournment – Kirby Fueston made the motion to adjourn. Eli Franker seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene K. Hansen, Church Council Secretary

GENERAL OFFERING

January 1 through February 19, 2023

2023 Budget: \$413,959.25

Year to Date: \$64,096.16

***Thank you for generously
giving in 2023!***

Next Council Meeting is

April 12 | 7:00 p.m.

In person and Zoom

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

Through the Bible in 2023 – One Chapter a Day

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

Month	Date	Day	Bk Title	Ch	Chapter Summary
March	1	Wednesday	Joel	2	The Day of the Lord Is Great and Dreadful
March	2	Thursday	Exodus	17	Moses Brings Water from a Rock
March	3	Friday	Exodus	19	God Comes Down to Mount Sinai
March	4	Saturday	Exodus	20	God Gives the Ten Commandments
March	5	Sunday	Romans	7	Sin Living in the Christian
March	6	Monday	Exodus	32	Jews Worship a Golden Calf
March	7	Tuesday	Exodus	34	God Makes Moses Radiant
March	8	Wednesday	Amos	8	God Will Punish Israel
March	9	Thursday	Exodus	40	God's Glory Fills the Tabernacle
March	10	Friday	Leviticus	1	The Burnt Offering
March	11	Saturday	Matthew	3	John Baptizes Jesus
March	12	Sunday	Matthew	4	Jesus Is Tempted and Begins to Preach
March	13	Monday	Matthew	5	Sermon on the Mount
March	14	Tuesday	Matthew	6	Secret Religion and God's Treasures
March	15	Wednesday	Obadiah	1	The Day of the Lord
March	16	Thursday	Matthew	7	The Golden Rule
March	17	Friday	Matthew	8	Miracles Over Sickness, Nature, Demons
March	18	Saturday	Matthew	9	Jesus Raises the Dead
March	19	Sunday	Matthew	10	Jesus Chooses and Sends Out the 12
March	20	Monday	Matthew	11	Jesus Is Son of Man and Son of God
March	21	Tuesday	Matthew	12	Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath
March	22	Wednesday	Micah	6	What Does God Require from You?
March	23	Thursday	Matthew	13	Jesus Teaches in Parables
March	24	Friday	Matthew	14	Jesus Feeds 5,000 and Walks on Water
March	25	Saturday	Matthew	15	Faith and Miracles
March	26	Sunday	Matthew	16	Peter Declares Jesus as Messiah
March	27	Monday	Matthew	17	Jesus Is Transfigured
March	28	Tuesday	Matthew	18	Sin and Forgiveness
March	29	Wednesday	Habakkuk	3	Habakkuk Stands in Awe of God
March	30	Thursday	Matthew	19	Jesus Teaches on Divorce, Status and Money
March	31	Friday	Matthew	20	Jesus Predicts His Death a 3rd Time

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, March 12 - Gargoyles!

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

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

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

April 21-23: 6th-9th Grades

April 28-30: Spring Crafting Retreat

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

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

www.okoboji.org

or call

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

712-867-4170 (Ingham Camp).

**Ingham
Okoboji**
Lutheran Bible Camps



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



Faith Lutheran Church

2912 Highway Blvd.

P.O. Box 1322

Spencer, IA 51301

Faith Lutheran Church - January, 2023

Baptisms | Births: Feb. 9 - Kaleb Kenneth William Skadeland
Confirmed | Deaths | Marriages | New Members

Faith Lutheran Church - Staff

Pastor: Ben Unseth
pastor@faithlutheranspencer.com

Custodian: Rich Stueven
custodian@faithlutheranspencer.com

Technology Coordinator: Jacob Weeks
techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven
office@faithlutheranspencer.com

Church Administrator & Finance Coordinator:
Nicki Lange
churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com
finance@faithlutheranspencer.com

LifeKids Director: Radina Jansen
director@LifeKidsspencer.com

Worship & Communications Director: Gloria McKenney
worshipdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com
media@faithlutheranspencer.com

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

Email us at: office@faithlutheranspencer.com

Find us online at: www.faithlutheranspencer.com

Like us on Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church LCMC

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

Watch us on SMU:

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