

March, 2022



# Faith Life Together

## *The Journey Begins ...*

March at Faith begins with **Ash Wednesday** on March 2 at 6:30 p.m. There will be no evening meal. This evening will be a time of gathering and reflection on the footsteps and sacrifices of our Lord and Savior these next few weeks.

**Lenten devotionals** are available on the Welcome Center, bulletin tables, and in the Devotionals Box outside. This year, the devotional booklet, "in view of God's Mercy", is written by theology professor David Boyd.

**Mid-week Lent meals** begin on March 9. The meal is provided. A free-will offering will help defray meal expenses. The Fellowship Team requests to hear from those who wish to attend the meals. See the information on page 5 to communicate your desire to attend. Be sure to stay after the meal to worship and enjoy a message by a guest speaker.

March 13 marks another step to spring with **Daylight Saving Time**. Remember to set your clocks forward one hour!

**First Communion** is an important time in a child's life. Classes at Faith begin on Sunday, March 20 during the Sunday School hour. Please see the article on page 17 for further information.

Teacher in-service day at Spencer Schools means **all-day LifeKids** at Faith. Radina plans a fun and full day for the children. The church is abuzz with activity, and it is heartening to know the children are in a safe place learning about Jesus and gaining life skills.

For Ash Wednesday - and throughout the 40 days of Lent - ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: *"O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."*

God Bless.

Volume 6 | Issue 3

**Pastor:** Ben Unseth

**Council President:**  
Paul Behrens

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



2912 Highway Blvd.  
Spencer, IA 51301  
712.580.4316

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

**Social Media**  
[@FaithLuthSpencer](http://www.facebook.com/FaithLuthSpencer)  
[@flcspencer](https://www.facebook.com/FaithLuthSpencer)



PASTOR BEN UNSETH

## ***40 Lenten Resolutions: Have a Joy-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 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 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, telephone.
17. Pray about and seek reconciliation with estranged family and friends.
18. Pray daily for people who are suffering.
19. Visit the sick, the elderly or the imprisoned.
20. Fast from the 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. Refrain from unpleasant, catty or snarky comments—even in your head.
28. Abstain from a favorite activity like Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, or Twitter.
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. Begin reading the Bible or a devotional.
34. Fast from fast food or a particular food.
35. Share a Bible verse, a devotional thought or a spiritual question daily with a friend or with your family.
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>*

*Ben Unseth*

---

# Women's Bible Study: *Experiencing God's Peace*

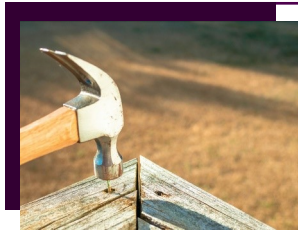
---



## ***Tuesday, March 8*** ***1:30 p.m. in the SON Room***

We continue to learn from Paul how to experience God's peace by studying Philippians. In Philippians 3, Paul talks about his goal (and the goal for all Christians) and how he keeps his focus on that goal - forgetting things in the past, reaching forward, and pressing on. What hinders us in focusing on what God has for us to do?

**Come and join in on the discussion as we learn from God's word.**  
**All are welcome!**



---

## Properties Team

---

The new ceiling fans have been installed.

A fan has been installed in the SON Room to push heat to the room.

We have received new and more favorable bids on the digital sign. Spencer Municipal Utilities (SMU) has agreed to bore the electrical line needed and

Toft Electric will install a sub panel from the storage room in the northwest corner.

Bids total \$11,000.00 and the sign was quoted at around \$25,000.00. We have donations of \$11,350.00 which is the cost of infrastructure. We may get that part done and await new donations before sign is ordered.

Thanking you!

Mark Speidel, Properties Team leader

---

## March Birthdays and Anniversaries

---

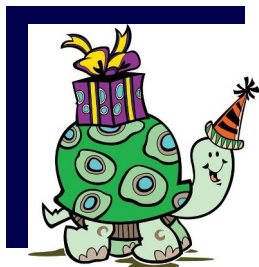
### ***Birthday Blessings***

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 11	Luke Ketcham
March 12	Kim Rye Daxton Simcox
March 13	Shawn Meislahn Tanya Manwarren
March 14	Sierra Ruhs
March 15	Kenzi Hoppe

March 16	Mark Heilman Lee Ketcham
March 18	Nancy Newgard
March 20	Jim Carpenter
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 Wishes***

March 10	Kevin & Heidi Skadeland
----------	----------------------------





---

# 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.

Evangelism is at the heart of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. Currently 41% of the country's population is Christian, 7% is Muslim and 52% is animist (natural religion, ancestors/spirits control their daily life). The evangelists are responsible for reaching out to areas where the people have not yet heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The evangelist works in remote areas where there may not be any Christians and witnesses to the Faith through teaching and preaching. The evangelists are eager to begin their ministry in the small villages after completing their two years of study at a Bible School. They visit many villages in the surrounding area where they live. They teach, preach and even teach the villagers in many cases how to read. In three months they visited 1,979 families to share the Gospel with them, which resulted in 608 children and 300 adults being baptized.

Financial support is needed for the evangelists and their families because of the poverty in the region. In addition the evangelists are working in villages that have no believing community and so there are no Christians to provide their financial support. Currently FOMM supports 54 evangelists and prays that will grow to 60 evangelists by year's end. The cost for this is \$700 a year per evangelist. Not everyone in Madagascar can afford to seek out health care. When the average income is \$300 a year, any expense for health care is more than they can afford. So FOMM began a program to provide the evangelists and their families with an insurance coverage of \$100 a year that is adequate in most situations.

Of course donors can also choose to support any of the FOMM programs such as the Bible schools or hospital feeding centers. In the last two months, two hurricanes have hit the island. There is great need also for relief funds to help those without food and shelter. If you would like more information about this ministry, check their web site at [www.madagascarmission.org](http://www.madagascarmission.org) or ask one of Faith's mission team members.

---

Lutheran World Relief 

***Hands-On Mission Day | March 2 | 9:00 a.m. to Noon***



**We are in need of bars of soap to make  
personal and baby care kits!**

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



---

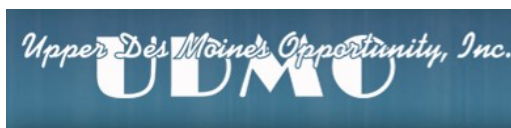
## Upper Des Moines Opportunity

---

Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry  
is in need of items for our community.

They suggest:

**Fruit Cocktail, Canned Pears, Oatmeal!**



# Mission Emphasis: Mental Health Conditions

MENTAL  
HEALTH

Life can be hard to manage. As sinners in a fallen world, no one is exempt from the need for God's grace and deliverance. Sometimes, when life is particularly intense, an escape from the emotional rollercoaster may seem to be in order. Sorting through the diversions that may belittle, condemn, spread doubt, or despair over our life call for Christ-centered discernment.

Could it be easier, however, to immerse ourselves in less than healthy activities that help us forget or attempt to ease our pain? It's common for our culture to encourage use of alcohol and other substances (legal and illegal) to provide relief. Life, unfortunately, can get more complicated if we have mental health conditions and choose to use legal or illegal substances to counteract negative symptoms. According to research, 37.9% who use substances have mental illness and 18.2 % with a mental health condition have a substance abuse disorder (nida.nih 2018).

The toll of mental health conditions along with substance abuse, can weaken our resolve to handle stressors God's way. We are told in Isaiah 41:10, *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

With God's help, we can intentionally identify and use effective, positive coping skills to manage stress in our lives. Seeking treatment for co-occurring challenges (Mental Health and Substance Use) can give additional insights, suggestions, reassurance, and support. It takes courage to step out and move away from old habits. Counseling (such as offered by Team Restoration Ministries here at church) can help confidentially process situations with a professional who knows how to ask the right questions to help one decide how to build a better future.

As Christians, we must remember that we have the ultimate panacea for our plight. In John 16:33, Jesus tells us, *"I have told you these things, so that in Me, you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble but take heart! I have overcome the world."*

To God Be the Glory!

## Lent Meals – Wednesdays

WEDNESDAY  
LENTEN  
Suppers

March 9 - April 6

**Will you join us?** If you will join us for Lent meals this spring the Fellowship team would like to know! Just this one time, please share how many people in your family will enjoy Lent meals with us. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome Center, at the kitchen window, or online at this link

<https://bit.ly/3Hlk0WG>



Thank you!

## TEAM Restoration Ministries

TEAM Restoration Ministries has a God-driven commitment

and a 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, a counselor with TEAM Restoration Ministries, is working out of Faith Lutheran.

**For more information about TEAM Restoration Ministries or to schedule an appointment with Erika, please call 515-238-9010 or [www.team-restoration.org](http://www.team-restoration.org)**



- ◆ Atlas of Spencer
- ◆ Falls Community Church
- ◆ Friends of Madagascar Missions
- ◆ Grand Ave. Community Outreach
- ◆ International Messengers
- ◆ LCMC
- ◆ LifeKids
- ◆ Lutheran Asian Ministries



## Mission Partners

- ◆ Multi-Church Community Assistance Fund
- ◆ Operation Serve International
- ◆ World Mission Prayer League



## WORSHIP, MUSIC AND CREATIVE ARTS

“I’ll bring you more than a song, for a song in itself  
is not what you have required...” (*Heart of Worship*, Matt Redman)

What’s the first thing that comes to mind when you hear or see the word “worship”? Is it Sunday mornings at church? KLOVE? Bowing down to something or someone? For me, I generally think of worship as music- songs sung to praise, glorify, and connect with God. All of the examples I listed *are* forms of worship, but I think there’s a bigger picture we often miss.

I’m a runner. A few months ago, I ran my first marathon, and I’m training for a second one this spring. Imagine if I went on only one run per week. On every other day of the week, I don’t take time to exercise, I don’t care about my nutrition, and really just put my marathon training in the back of my mind, not giving it much attention. Let me tell you, that race isn’t going to go very well with this approach. I could probably do it, but it would be painful and challenging and I wouldn’t progress very much in my fitness.

This is often how we approach worship. We spend one hour a week, or maybe two, within the walls of the church building, sing a few songs, pray a few prayers, and call it good for the week. We did our spiritual duty. We got our “fill.” And then we go back to our routines and our responsibilities, letting God slide to the back burner of our minds until next Sunday’s worship service. We think of worship as a “time and place” sort of thing. But I think God wants our worship to be much broader than that. I believe He desires for us to treat worship as our lifestyle.

Matt Redman’s song *Heart of Worship* starts out, “When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come.” **When the music fades.** That’s convicting for me. I love connecting with God through music, and it’s not that God doesn’t love to hear our sung praises to Him... it’s just that worship is more inclusive than that. Worship is anything that brings God glory. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.” We can worship God in anything and everything we do, and we should. The chorus of the song repeats, “it’s all about you, Jesus.” Every aspect of our lives is designed to be all about Him.

Everything I do during the week should be moving me forward in my marathon training: what I eat, how much I sleep, the amount of water I drink, how much I exercise, and so on. I can tell when I have made a choice that doesn’t push me toward my goals, and I don’t feel as good. In a similar way, everything we do during the week should be a form of worship such that our Sunday mornings are not solely what we are dependent on to sustain our relationship with our Heavenly Father, who is worthy of our every breath. I challenge and encourage you this week to worship God every day, practicing giving Him glory in everything you do.

Marlee Nicholson,  
Interim Worship Director

### ***Pop-Up Choir Schedule!***

*Thank you for signing up to be part of the  
pop-up choirs this Spring! I am looking  
forward to making great music with you.*

*- Marlee Nicholson*

The performance of “I Am”  
by Mark Schultz will be on  
Sunday, March 20

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?  
v=PLNb06O4br8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLNb06O4br8)

Rehearsals:

- Sunday, March 13, after  
the worship service
- Wednesday, March 16, at 7:00 p.m.



## Worship Team

Hello Faith Lutheran!

As a new Worship Team Leader I would like to thank and continue to invite current worship volunteers and invite ALL to join. From Worship leaders to greeters, children's message presenters to altar prep, prayer intercessors to Scripture readers, we need you! Please consider participating actively in worshiping our Lord! Contact Andrea Crew or the church office if you would be willing to volunteer for any portion of our services. Joyfully serve alongside us!

Andrea Crew, Worship Team leader

## Thank You!

### THANK YOU FAITH FAMILY!

I am greatly appreciative for my Faith Family. For the prayers, texts, phone calls, cards, visits and food during my recovery from my accident.

*Thank you!*  
Carolyn Christofferson

### OVERWHELMING GENEROSITY

We want to extend a HUGE thank you to our Faith Family over the last four months! We have been overwhelmed with your generosity whether it be meals, prayers, financial assistance or kind words and friendship. The journey continues as Emily finishes her last two rounds of chemo and we begin the next steps of planning. We are blessed to be part of such a wonderful church!"

*Thank you!*  
Beau and Emily Hoppe

## Prayer and Praise Corner

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

- The search for a long-term Worship Director.
- Healing for Keith Van Kleek, Julie Fisher, Jim Smith, Lee and Luke Ketcham, Tracy Bengtson, Emily Hoppe, Bernard Fairchild, Gene Lovitt, Christopher Enge, Amy Enge Edlow and all those we name in our hearts.

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

- Thanks for Marlee Nicholson, Faith's interim Worship Director.
- Generosity of Confirmation parents to provide supper for everyone participating in WoW! (Worship on Wednesday).



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

If you would like to be included on **Sunday's Prayers of the Church**, please contact the church office at [office@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranspencer.com)



# ***2022 Faith Lutheran Council***

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



**Paul Behrens,  
President**



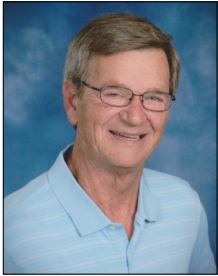
**Joe Simington,  
Vice President**



**Laura Heikens,  
Caring Ministry**



**Patty Ellsworth,  
Children's Ministry**



**Randy Enge,  
Discipleship**



**Eric Tigges,  
Evangelism**



**Vickie & Roger  
Godfredsen,  
Fellowship**



**Becky Simons,  
Finance &  
Treasurer**



**Pam Harris  
Missions**



**Jolynne & Brett Eilts  
Music &  
Creative Arts**



**Mark Speidel  
Properties**



**Kevin & Heidi  
Skadeland  
Stewardship**



**Andrea Crew  
Worship**



**Brittany Spieker  
Youth Ministry**



**Jolene Hansen  
Council Secretary**



**Greg Lear  
Leadership  
Support**



**Kay Iversen  
Technology**



**Paul Behrens, President** - The president presides over the Church Council meetings.

**Joe Simington, 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.

**Patty Ellsworth - Children's Ministry** - Members of the Children's Ministry Team work with all children's ministries at Faith Lutheran including Sunday School, VBS, First Communion, and the Nursery.

**Randy 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.

**Jolynne & Brett Eilts - 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.

**Mark Speidel - Property** - 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.

**Andrea 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.

**Brittany Spieker - 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.

**Greg Lear - 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.

## *My Heart Overflows ...*

*"Don't forget to do good and to share what you have because God is pleased with these kinds of sacrifices."* - Hebrews 13:16

I was so grateful when my prayers were answered regarding after school transportation from the elementary schools to Faith Lutheran Church! I thank God every day when I see the yellow school bus pull up. Unreliable vehicles has presented an obstacle this year. How do some families get their child/children home once they're at the church? One family is having to borrow a vehicle in order to pick up their children from the church, because their car no longer runs. If no arrangements can be made, the children can't attend on those days. Another family has a car that hasn't worked consistently since November. If the schedules of working family members doesn't allow them to be home at 5:30, the child cannot attend. A third family has two cars without heat. There are younger siblings at home, so when it's too cold, this child cannot attend.

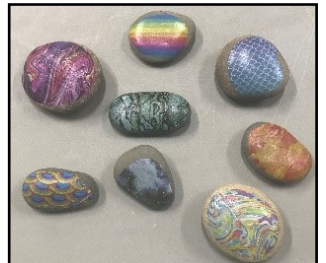
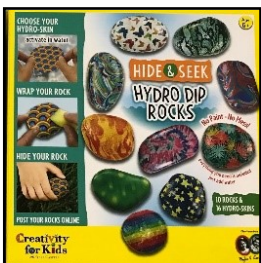
I would like to thank Randy and Barb Enge for being so kind and giving of their time! Randy takes one of the LifeKids home every day after he gets off work. The little girl wanted to go to Sunday School, so Barb and Randy bring her to church on Sunday and take her home after Sunday school!

If you would like to assist in driving a child or 2 siblings home from LifeKids on an as needed basis, let me know and I will put you in touch with the family.

Escape room teamwork! The children have finished 2 out of the 4 mystery puzzles. It's been inspiring to watch the children work together in groups. They are reminding each other of facts related to Moses and the 10 plagues that they have learned. There are 2 groups and they have used different strategies to crack the code to solve each mystery puzzle. It's been difficult for me not to jump in and assist, but I've refrained and it's so rewarding to observe their problem-solving skills!



A big LifeKids, "Thank you!" goes out to Lori Krei for the use of her Thrivent Action Team card. In October, when we stopped in Sheldon after our field trip to a pumpkin patch, the children found rocks hidden in the park. One of the children suggested that we make others smile by painting rocks and then hiding them. We started working on the rocks on our full day on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Unique rock kits were purchased. The Hydro Dip Rocks were a real hit as some children are hesitant to paint.



A big LifeKids, "Thank you!" goes out to Bry at the Dickinson County Conservation Center for being so flexible! Bry and I began communicating at 6:14 the morning of our field trip. There had been freezing drizzle the night before. We decided to move our morning field trip to the afternoon, keeping an eye on the weather. We safely arrived and enjoyed our time learning and exploring!

They got to meet Sy the salamander and Steven the bearded dragon. They had an opportunity to touch each of them if they chose to. They compared and contrasted Sy and Steven. They learned that Sy is an amphibian, a carnivore (only eats meat) and that Steven is a reptile, an omnivore (eats both plants and meat).

They also got to meet a Madagascar hissing cockroach. Let's just say they were more interested in the salamander and bearded dragon!

When we were at the pumpkin patch in October, we touched a little bit on the need for pollination. There were beehives near the pumpkin patch. Bry did a lesson which included a pollination activity in which the children were pollinators. They each had a bucket (the flower) and pompoms of assorted colors and sizes, (the pollen). They were to move to one flower, take out one pollen, return to their flower and put the pollen in their flower. They were given directions as how to move, (fly, hop, skip, shuffle, crawl, etc). This got them moving and they had lots of fun. After collecting pollen, they talked about how much pollen they had started with in their flower and how much was in their flower at the end of their gathering. Brycen only had one pompom left and discovered that that could mean that his flower was very well liked. Bryatt had a lot of pompoms and that could mean that he was a very busy pollinator.

Bry read them a story about the reason for a flower. They then matched pollinators to flowers by reading the description of what kind of flower each pollinator likes. We were surprised to learn that ants and bats are pollinators!

After the learning activities, the children had an opportunity to continue to learn through free play.



My heart overflows when:

- One of the LifeKids children prays
- The children use social skills that we've worked on
- A connection is made with the Bible lessons we've done
- The children trust the group enough to try something new

*Radina Jansen*





## Stewardship ... Stewards of the Month: Gary and Marcia Klett

Let's celebrate our March Stewards of the Month, a beautiful couple with similar hearts for not only stewardship but also evangelism, music and Jesus, Gary & Marcia Klett. Gary and Marcia stepped up from the very beginning of Faith Lutheran to share their talents of music and leadership, along with their passion of sharing their faith and joy with others while inviting them to a beautiful new congregation.

Gary, a farmer for the land who takes pride in his operation, was very willing to step up wherever needed as Faith was getting off the ground, especially leading worship. Gary also serves communion, reads scripture, leads prayers of the church, and has been a worship vocalist. He was also very helpful with construction in our current building. Gary has also served our council well as being one of our past presidents. His leadership doesn't stop there as he also helps a local funeral home out during the slower seasons of farming and is a ref for youth sports in the community. When Faith participated in the Flagfest parade for a couple years, Gary also participated in that.

Marcia, a seeker for talent and giving people a place to use their talents, began the first choir at Faith. She, who always has a smile on her face, led worship with her own gift of tickling the ivories (otherwise known as playing the piano) that always adds a special touch in any worship setting. Marcia, a teacher at heart, led choirs on occasion over the years while Gary was also involved with his beautiful voice. The combination of these two together kept everything lively and full of joy. Marcia has also shared joy and the Body of Christ as one of our communion servers.

If you've been blessed with the chance to chat with this couple, you've been gifted with their smiles and the joy of Christ exuding from them. Keep an eye out this spring as this couple will be involved in the pop up choir once again. Gary and Marcia, servants and stewards of Christ, well done and thank you for everything you've inspired at Faith from your own faith.

---

## Ash Wednesday Stewardship by Rev. Robert Blezard

---

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

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

The essential teaching of Ash Wednesday – that we are just mortals, after all – crushes our ego, dispels our pretensions, and drives us deep into God's mysteries. Why are we here? What are our lives all about? What's really important? Pray over these questions as profound insights emerge.

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

- Therefore, we are quite literally "earthy" beings, made of the same material as air, water, soil and stone. Part of creation, we work to preserve and sustain God's creation for future generations.
- Therefore, we revere and care for our bodies through healthy living.

**We are breath.** We are not only dust. Genesis 2:7 describes us as "dust" into which God has

---

# Ash Wednesday Stewardship by Rev. Robert Blezard

## (continued)

---

“breathed the Holy breath of life.” Our lives are the breath of God in our dust.

- Therefore, every breath we take is holy, a prayer that whispers God’s praise.
- Therefore, we look to God to align our lives with God’s holy reality that arcs towards peace, love, joy, justice, and truth.

**Our time is brief.** The “dust” that is us will return to the earth. We have a finite number of minutes.

- Therefore, every hour, every second is sacred. There is not a single moment to waste. We spend our time wisely, carefully, prayerfully.
- Therefore, we do not cling to our possessions, knowing that we will leave it all behind.
- Therefore, we nourish our lives with lasting treasures – relationships, trust, love, joy, service, generosity, and harmony.

This Lent spend time in prayer, with openness and honesty. See how God will transform you into the person you were created to be. Reflect each day like it is Ash Wednesday. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Rob Blezard

*Copyright © 2018, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Rev. Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church and as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org).*

---

## thrivent® Choice Dollars

---

***Ready to give back? The choice is yours.***

**2021 Choice Dollars must be designated by March 31, 2022!**

Giving back is important to many Thrivent clients. It’s part of what makes them truly unique. From meeting unmet needs in your community, to giving back to causes you care about, Thrivent give you the tools and resources to take action – and create impact. Donations of any size, when added together, make a tremendous impact.

By making a personal donation or directing Thrivent Choice Dollars® you can maximize your impact!

A financial gift has the potential to be life changing. Anyone can make a personal donation to enrolled organizations through Thrivent’s online giving platform. Thrivent pays the processing fees so your entire gift goes to the organization you choose – making the most of your gift.

As an organization enrolled in Thrivent Choice, here’s what the program has to offer.

- Is easy to administer.
- Provides an online platform for donors to make donations.
- Can provide your organization with monthly electronic grants, as eligible clients direct Choice Dollars to your organization.
- Gives you greater visibility by placing your organization in an online catalog.

Search the Thrivent Choice catalog to see if the charitable organization you’re looking for is already enrolled. More than 40,000 organizations participate in the Thrivent Choice program. The following can be found in the 51301 zip code:

**Faith Lutheran, LifeKids Spencer,** Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School, First English Church and/or Preschool, Trinity Lutheran and/or Preschool & Daycare, Bethany Lutheran, Christ the King, St Luke Homes Services, YMCA, Hope Reformed, Michael Rohan Memorial Fund, Atlas of Spencer, First Congregational, Grace United Methodist, Foundation Church, Grand Avenue Community Outreach, Shayla-Bee, Sacred Heart, People for Pets, Clay County Council on Aging, First Baptist.

**For more information, please contact your Thrivent representative or go to [www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html](http://www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/generosity/thrivent-choice.html)**

## Faith Lutheran Council Minutes

February 9,  
2022

Vice President Paul Behrens called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Members present were: Paul Behrens, Greg Lear, Kevin & Heidi Skadeland, Roger Godfredsen, LaVonne Clark, Kay Iversen, Randy Enge, Andrea Crew, Brittany Spieker, Patty Ellsworth, Kirby Fueston, Laura Heikens, Pam Harris, Larry Wigen (via Zoom), Becky Simons (via Zoom), Mark Speidel (via Zoom).

Brittany opened the meeting with prayer.

January meeting minutes were approved by Patty & seconded by Kirby.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Until the budget is approved, we will see zero dollars in the Budget columns. Becky reviewed the Zion line item & LifeKids items to bring new team members up to speed. Advertising is up due to advertising for worship director. January giving is up compared to last year and our overall assets are up almost \$90,000. Since we don't have an approved budget, we aren't able to approve the financials.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

We are currently focusing on the book of John. Three days of prayer were in January. Lenten guest preachers are going to be a good group. Pastor reported attending several sporting events to watch our MS & HS youth. Hosted Spencer Ministerial Fellowship.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thank you to those who have served & going off the council.

### TEAM REPORTS

Reviewed the team reports. Randy noted the Ten Commandments will be gone through at the adult Bible study starting Sunday. Laura said they are talking about starting a care-givers group. Patty mentioned that we have the nursery back open. We are struggling to find Sunday School teachers. We are currently putting all preschool-5<sup>th</sup> graders into one large group. We have 8-16 kids that attend Sunday School. Team teaching was discussed as an option so teachers wouldn't be obligated to an entire year of teaching.

### Old Business:

Mortgage discussion – The mortgage is paid but we currently don't have the deed due to the line of credit being open. Do we want to close out the line of credit? Motion made by Roger to close out the mortgage, get the deed and wait to get a line of credit at a later date if needed. Kirby seconded. Vote was taken & motion passed.

Team reports will now go in packets at the Welcome Center and available to the congregation.

Current worship services: Discussion on passing offering plates. See also the adult noisy jar topic in New Business section.

Current church operations: None.

### New Business:

Church office & tech support – Lori talked about keeping the office in the loop of any upcoming events that they can put on the online calendar or items that you would want in the Monthly Newsletter. Email both Lori & Cheryl. Lori takes care of snacks & drinks for the council meetings (THANK YOU!). Council packets available on the bulletin table & Welcome Center. Each team was given a list of people from the time & talent sheets. Let Lori know of any changes that need to

## *Did You Know ...*

... A list of your Council members are on the bulletin board near Pastor Ben's office.

... Council members are also found on the church's website under the "Team" button.

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



# Faith Lutheran Council

## Faith Lutheran Council Minutes

**February 9,  
2022**

**Continued**

### GENERAL OFFERING

January 1 -  
February 20, 2022

2022 Budget:  
\$389,684.00

Year to Date:  
\$55,184.91

Thank you for  
generously giving  
in 2022!

**Next Council  
Meeting is  
March 9  
7:00 p.m.  
In person  
and Zoom**

**Council**  
**Members:** Please  
submit your  
team reports to  
the office  
(office@faithlutheran  
spencer.com)  
by Monday,  
March. 7, at  
12:00 p.m.  
(noon).

be made to the lists. Lori to put out Council packet/minutes the 2 Sundays after Council meeting for the congregation. Reimbursement forms available either electronically or in paper form. Log in to Simple Church access available from Lori.

Tables for outside sales before/after worship – Discussed whether or not we would allow sales of items at church by entities other than the church itself. Kids that are members of the church are free to approach other church members if doing a fundraiser. This would be if they would want to set up a table and/or other outside entities wanting to sell goods/services. Heidi made a motion to not allow outside entities to set up a table without prior Council approval. Seconded by Laura. Motion carried.

Pastor Ben's housing allowance - \$11,000 for 2022 Kirby motioned to approve. Roger seconded.

Forum dates for 2022 – April, July & October

Wednesday evening Lent meals – meals are at 5:30, church service at 6:30 (1/2 hour services) Council meeting will start immediately after the service in March. Roger still doing the main course; Paul informed us of 150 buns that can be used.

Church cleaning – Have someone come in daily just to do a once-over due to LifeKids being here and potential of DHS coming in. Searching for someone to come in and do that or any other ideas.

Mouse problem – glue boards to be used; go through the kitchen and make sure perishables are in sealed containers.

Noisy jar for adults – Discussion about putting a jar out on the offering plate table or as you go up for communion for pocket change.

Brittany mentioned she would like to do a Trivia Night in March for a fundraiser for the Hoppe's. She has been in contact with Beau and they want to keep it light-hearted and fun.

Patty suggested doing an inter-generational night to mix the younger members with the more-seasoned members. Randy has been working on doing something like this. She also suggested that we get new members on a committee to get them involved in the church right away and get them plugged in. Roger talked about having new members have a sponsor member within the church to take them around and introduce them to people, the church and the committees within the church.

Roger motioned to adjourn with Kevin seconding.

Pastor Ben closed the meeting with prayer.

Next meeting will be March 9 immediately after the Lenten service. Should be around 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Jolene K. Hansen

## **Faith Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting - February 13, 2022**

Opening prayer given by Larry Wigen. Meeting was called to order at 10:12 AM by President Larry Wigen.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Motion by Randy Enge to approve last year's minutes & 2nd by Pete Crew. Motion carried (121-0).

Larry opened it up to the congregation for any questions regarding the 2021 financials. Dennis Larson motioned to approve & 2nd by Justin Spieker to approve the 2021 financials. Motion carried (121-0).

### **\*PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Larry gave the President's report for 2021, noting the Son room extension and the Call Team finding Pastor Ben & his current work. Thank you to the Council members that have served and welcome to the new Council members. Council packets will be available to the congregation a week or two after every meeting on the table in the back.

### **\*PASTOR'S REPORT**

Pastor Ben expressed his appreciation for being a part of this congregation. He encourages members to welcome people to Faith, to come and worship and to go and work whether that's within the community and/or within the church.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Nominations report from Justin Spieker:

#### **2022 Council Nominations & Election:**

Worship – Andrea Crew

Children's Ministry – Patty Ellsworth

Evangelism – Eric Tigges

Vice President - Joe Simington

Dennis Larson motioned nominations cease & cast a unanimous vote. Justin Spieker 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried & all were appointed to their respective teams (121-0).

### **2022 Nominating Committee:**

From Council: Larry Wigen

Lavonne Clark

From congregation: Stephanie Essick

Larry Peterson

Barb Solberg

Motion by Dave Simington to approve & Karen Brandt 2nd. Motion carried (121-0).

**2022 Budget** – Paul Behrens thanked Larry for his year of service as President. Del Brockshus opened up discussion for raises for the staff due to the current inflation that we are all experiencing. Giving bonuses was discussed as an option vs. a wage increase based on congregational giving. Motion made by Lavonne Clark to approve the 2022 Budget & 2nd by Heidi Skadeland.

# Faith Lutheran Council

---

## Faith Lutheran

## Annual Congregational Meeting minutes

**February 13,  
2022**

## continued

Gifts were presented to Kirby Fueston, Lavonne Clark & Larry Wigen for their service on council.

Justin motioned for nominations to cease for the Ingham/Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp & Pete Crew 2nd. Greg Lear moved nominations cease for the Council positions with Justin Spieker 2nd. Motion made to amend the budget back to January by Troy Rosendahl & Lisa Buchan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried (121-0). Dave Simington motioned to approve the amendment & Justin Spieker 2nd. Motion carried (121-0).

Everything was approved unanimously with the exception of the 2022 Budget passing with a 112-2 vote.

Closing prayer given by Paul Behrens. Del Brockshus motioned to adjourn with Randy Enge 2nd.



---

## Children's Ministry News of the Month

---

Sunday School is in progress BUT, we could sure use some volunteers to teach or assist with doing a craft or playing a game.

We are called to assist in raising up the next generation of believers. We, as members of the church, will want to step up and be a living part of this, won't we? I know none of us want to stand before the Lord and say, 'I did my turn when my children were young' or 'I didn't have time' or 'I'm not very good at something like that'. This family of ours at Faith Lutheran is welcoming. We are obedient to Christ's call. Please be in prayer about this and truly seek God's guidance. These are our children, the future of the Lord's church. Please contact me if you can assist in any way. It will be much appreciated and most of all, it will help our children. They are the future of our church. We should all help to build up this program to attract young families with children.

A reminder that First Communion classes that will begin on March 20 with Pastor Ben teaching the class and asking parents to attend on the first date. There will be 4 classes, ending on Palm Sunday. Our team will host a banquet, again this year, that will be sometime on that same day/evening.

The 'busy bags' have been cleaned and updated. Please let your little ones enjoy them.

The nursery is open. We would love to have your infants up to 4 years old come and enjoy this during church service. There is a sign-up sheet on the welcome center if you have an interest in manning our wonderful nursery.

Reminder that VBS is scheduled for week of June 20. The plan is to have it 12:30 pm to 5 pm. We have contracted with Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp again this year but will need volunteers to help. Ann Lear has agreed to be the local director this year. If you can help in any way, please let Ann Lear or Patty Ellsworth know.

Blessings Abound

Patty Ellsworth, Children's Ministry Team leader



# Walk Through the Bible One Chapter a Day!

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

<i>Through the Bible in 2022 – One Chapter a Day</i>					
Month	Date	Day	Book	Ch.	Chapter Summary
March	1	Tuesday	Exodus	19	God Comes Down to Mount Sinai
March	2	Wednesday	Isaiah	58	God's Chosen Fast
March	3	Thursday	Exodus	20	God Gives the Ten Commandments
March	4	Friday	Exodus	32	Jews Worship a Golden Calf
March	5	Saturday	Exodus	34	God Makes Moses Radiant
<b>March</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2 Corinthians</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>The Holy Spirit Gives Life</b>
March	7	Monday	Exodus	40	God's Glory Fills the Tabernacle
March	8	Tuesday	Leviticus	1	The Burnt Offering
March	9	Wednesday	Joel	2	The Day of the Lord Is Great and Dreadful
March	10	Thursday	Leviticus	16	The Day of Atonement
March	11	Friday	Leviticus	23	The Appointed Festivals
March	12	Saturday	Leviticus	25	The Sabbath and Jubilee Years
<b>March</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Galatians</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Abraham's Children - Redeemed by Christ</b>
March	14	Monday	Numbers	9	God Guides Jews with a Cloud
March	15	Tuesday	Numbers	13	Twelve Spies Explore Canaan
March	16	Wednesday	Amos	8	God Will Punish Israel
March	17	Thursday	Numbers	14	Jews Refuse to Go to Canaan
March	18	Friday	Numbers	20	Moses Again Brings Water from a Rock
March	19	Saturday	Deuteronomy	6	The Greatest Commandment
<b>March</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Ephesians</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Be Strong in the Lord and in His Mighty Power</b>
March	21	Monday	Deuteronomy	28	God's Blessings and Curses
March	22	Tuesday	Deuteronomy	30	God Offers Life or Death
March	23	Wednesday	Obadiah	1	The Day of the Lord
March	24	Thursday	Joshua	1	Joshua Succeeds Moses
March	25	Friday	Joshua	2	Rahab Hides the Spies
March	26	Saturday	Joshua	3	The Jews Cross the Jordan River
<b>March</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Jesus' First Miracle</b>
March	28	Monday	John	3	Jesus Teaches a Jewish Leader
March	29	Tuesday	John	4	Jesus Talks to a Samaritan Woman
March	30	Wednesday	Micah	6	What Does God Require from You?
March	31	Thursday	John	5	Jesus Declares His Authority

# 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
- New ceiling fans in the Worship area: \$3,500 - \$4,000 (\$3,100 received)
- 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 (\$100 received)
  - Paint remaining duct work in Worship area: \$3,000
  - New digital sign - \$30,000-35,000 (\$11,330 received)
  - Shelves in storage area: \$500 - \$700

- Repair duct work to Pastor Ben and Eric's offices and General Maintenance - \$5,000
- Furnace for the SON Room - \$12,500

## Technology Team

- New projectors and system in worship area - \$150,000 (\$2,500 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

**For youth in 6th-12th grades | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. | \$4.00 per person for food costs**  
**RSVP by 4:00 p.m. the Thursday before the Outreach Night**  
March 20 - Gargoyles

**Pre-registration is required for some events. Please check their website: [www.okoboji.org](http://www.okoboji.org)**  
**Or call 1-800-656-2654 (Okoboji Camp) or 712-867-4170**

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



♦ **Instagram Youth Page:**  
**spencerfaithlutheranyouth**

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

## Faith Lutheran Church

2912 Highway Blvd  
Spencer, IA 51301

---

## Faith Lutheran Church - February, 2022

---

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

---

## Faith Lutheran Church - Staff

---

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

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

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

Church Administrator: Lori Krei  
[churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com)

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

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

Worship Pianist: Leah Kreutner  
[leah@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:leah@faithlutheranspencer.com)

Technology Director: Lori Krei  
[techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com)

Interim Worship Director: Marlee Nicholson  
[marlee@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:marlee@faithlutheranspencer.com)

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

Like us on Facebook

Follow us at: [@flcspencer](https://www.facebook.com/flcspencer)

Faith Lutheran Church LCMC

Watch us on SMU:

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