



Faith Life Together

Give Thanks

Faith Lutheran Church - Volume 4, Issue 11 - November, 2020

The home fires are burning. Can you feel them? The church is alive with people and activity. It feels good to celebrate so many events this time of year brings. So, what is happening at Faith in November?

All Saints Sunday is November 1. We remember those who have passed before us and give thanks to God for their lives.

Confirmation is also on November 1. Faith will celebrate the gift of two youth who will publicly declare their belief in God. They have studied with their peers and are now ready to become full members at Faith.



On November 15, we will celebrate our **Thanks for Giving Sunday**. This day we celebrate all those gifts from our members as God has blessed them. We also prepare for the new year by pledging our gifts and talents to God and Faith Lutheran.

The annual Council Leadership Retreat will be held on November 15 after worship and into the afternoon. This day the council leaders and their teams assemble to evaluate the current year and plan for the next year.

We will **worship at Faith on Thanksgiving Eve**,

November 25 at 6:30 p.m. Plan to worship together as we thank God for our blessings. This year our Thanksgiving offering will support Falls Community Church in Sioux Falls. This Sudanese congregation needs assistance to be a light to those in their community.



Advent begins on November 29. We look forward to the beginning of the story of our Lord when He was a tiny baby just entering this world in human form. Think of all the preparations His parents made as they anticipated His birth!



Faith Lutheran Church is celebrating many good events in November. We look forward to being home with our Faith family as these events unfold.

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Dear Faith family,

Blessings in the name of Jesus! May your month be filled with reasons for joy and thanksgiving!

I start this election month with a question, "Should Christian faith influence how we vote?" As I write this, I am well aware that

many of us have already voted, even though Election Day is November 3rd. Perhaps to wrestle with this question, it is helpful to remember Martin Luther's theology of a "right" and "left" kingdom.

God rules the right-hand spiritual kingdom through the gospel and grace, through Christ's church. Only the right hand kingdom can give life. The left-hand secular kingdom rules through law and the sword. Through civil law, police, and the armed forces, the left hand kingdom needs to keep order, and to protect the innocent and the vulnerable from exploitation and injustice.

So, what about faith and the political candidates? While Luther recognized that an earthly prince did not necessarily have to be a Christian, he also saw an advantage in the prince being a Christian. When the government "wields the sword properly" -which means solely for the purpose of restraining the wicked and protecting the good - it preserves peace on earth and is a great benefit to all, Christian and non-Christian alike. When the sword is used wrongly, to "make the prince powerful or rich," everyone suffers. Unfortunately, says Luther, "the power for the sword proves a great temptation for most mortals." In 'On the Secular Authority,' Luther wrote that most princes are of the latter kind, selfish and corrupt. Selfless princes are a "miracle... not impossible, but quite unusual."

Jesus is neither Democrat nor Republican. His kingdom transcends all. Only Jesus can give us life and hope for the future. Yet, as believers, we need to be good citizens, examining all candidates on the basis of all issues, seeking to know what they will do in their office of power if elected. A secular candidate might support policies and values that would make them very competent in the office. So, our faith informs the way we evaluate, but is not aligned with one party over another.

The Christian church was birthed by the Holy Spirit during the Roman Empire, which with great political hostility persecuted those who professed faith in Jesus as Son of God and Lord. Regardless of what political philosophy rules the country in which we dwell, we are called to be the faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

So, I hope you use your privilege of voting in our dear America. And, I hope that your faith informs you as you cast your votes. Whoever is our group of elected candidates, God holds us into the future He has in mind.

With a grateful heart,

Pastor Lee

Pastor Lee

The Pastor's Pen ***by*** ***Pastor Lee Laaveg***



Happy 10th Anniversary, Faith!

Pastor Dan Taylor distributes
Communion at
Compass Pointe on Sunday,
Sept. 19, 2010.



Properties

The Properties Team is looking forward to other projects still in need of funding. Estimates will be put together over the next few months. They would be 2021 projects and beyond.

Projects we are looking at: Resurfacing of north and south walls; landscape the area below the cross; lighting on existing overhang; doors on southeast storage area; new commercial ceiling fans; sheetrock on back of worship wall; finish the molding above offices; finish base in mezzanine and below; blinds in SON Room; flooring in main worship area - hard surface or carpet.

Maintaining all 30,000 square feet has been a huge challenge to the Properties Team due to COVID-19 this past year. We all pray for a better and safer 2021.

Thanking You,
Mark Speidel, Properties Team leader



Cross Generational Family Event!
**Faith families to serve the evening meal at
Grand Avenue Community Outreach Soup Kitchen
Monday, Nov. 16**

For more information or to help, please contact Brittany Spieker at 712-260-4273!

Birthdays

November 2	Jeffrey Franker Orville Helland David Hopkins
November 3	Haley Eilts Ann Lear
November 6	Justin Simcox
November 7	Sophie Behrens Theone Quattlebaum
November 8	Wayne Burnham
November 9	Pam Doran
November 10	Drew Campbell Cole Milbrath
November 11	Carolyn Christofferson Jolynne Eilts Mathew Heilman Allison Piercy
November 15	Colton Christianson
November 16	Norma Johnson
November 17	Karen Jacobson
November 18	Barb Burnham

November 19	Easton Carlson Gayle Simons
November 21	Hannah Milbrath
November 23	Kris Behrens
November 24	Brionna Sembach Norah Hansen
November 25	Brooke Erdman Rich Stueven
November 26	Leo Wigen
November 27	Diane Jamtgaard Kevin Skadeland
November 28	Bernard Fairchild
November 30	Colton Vreeman

Anniversaries

November 10	Aaron & Becca Stykel
November 22	Del & Lois Christman
November 23	Aaron & Hannah Dibble
November 24	Doug & Courtney Schwartz
November 26	Eldren & Janelle Holstad
November 30	Ken & Betty Ricklefs

Operation Serve International

In December of 2016 and July of 2019, Faith Lutheran's mission trips to Mexico City partnered with Operation Serve International (OSI). The teams were very impressed with the individuals of OSI and their mission and their work.

OSI is a non-profit, non-denominational 501(c)3 humanitarian organization. It was established in 1983 with a passion to extend the Kingdom of God on earth through serving the poor and needy, as well as train indigenous pastors & leaders. As a Kingdom-minded ministry, OSI deploys short-term mission teams from a wide range of Christian denominations and affiliations to encourage and support ministries. Hundreds of Great Commission-minded Christians join the ministry of OSI annually.

We are all called to serve others and OSI offers an opportunity to answer that call. Anyone can join the family of OSI and everyone can find a program that fits their desire. OSI offers one-week missions, internships (one month), field assistant program (3 months) and teaching English as a second language (2 weeks-2 months).

Give sight to the blind, save lives through medications, heal a broken heart, hug a child, show the Love of Christ through your deeds. These one week missions are a great way for anyone to get involved. There is always a mix of beginner and skilled missionaries for every trip. The great thing about Mercy Missions is that OSI has them year round, so you can start the process now and be in the field in just a few months.

No matter what your experience, OSI invites you to search out your God-given talents and unite with them to serve the underprivileged. For more information, visit the OSI website - www.operationserve.org



Amazon Shoppers - Consider Supporting Faith!

Faith Lutheran has always made a point to shop local whenever possible and

encourages all church members to do the same. We take pride in our community and want to support our businesses!

Still, there are times when we look to online vendors like Amazon for particular items. If you are an Amazon shopper, please consider supporting Faith Lutheran.

**Try it
today!**

Logon to smile.amazon.com using your current login information.

Choose a charity to support – Faith Lutheran Spencer Shop as normal. Up to 0.5% of each qualified purchase is sent to Faith!

Missions Team

Mission Partners for 2020:

- ♦ General Council of Assembly of God
- ♦ ATLAS of Spencer
- ♦ Grand Avenue Community Outreach
- ♦ The Multi-Church Community Assistance Fund
- ♦ LifeKids Tuition Fund
- ♦ World Mission Prayer League
- ♦ Wycliffe Bible Translators
- ♦ Laborers with Christ
- ♦ International Messengers
- ♦ Operation Serve International
- ♦ Friends of Madagascar Missions
- ♦ Reaching the Unreached, West Africa
- ♦ Faith Lutheran Mission Trips
- ♦ LCMC

Items of the Month:

Support of the UDMO Food Pantry

AND

Towels, toothbrushes, nail clippers for LWR Kits

Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO)

is in need of soup, oatmeal, peanut butter and boxed potatoes as well as other non-perishable food and personal supplies.

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care

Kits: Bath-size, dark color towels, adult-sized toothbrushes, metal nail clippers.

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

The Harvest Is In

As October comes to the end, we now see empty fields where crops once stood. The harvest has come to a close in our area. Though field work continues to prep the soil for next year's planting, all the farmers can breathe with a sigh of relief that the crops have been harvested. Another year and another season comes to a close. Praise God for the harvest!

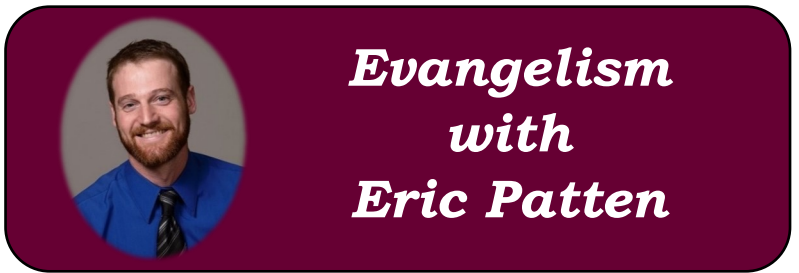
One of the kids in LifeKids told me, "If I was a farmer, I wouldn't harvest the crops, I would leave them in the field so they could keep growing each year." This began a lesson about corn and soybean plants, and how the plant dies each fall, but by its death, it produces a harvest. In other words, by giving its life the seed produces more seeds, that they may have life.

Jesus said in John 12:23-26, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."

People of God, know this, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few (Matthew 9:37)." The Lord needs workers, because the harvest is ripe and ready. The kingdom of God is at hand. May you serve God, and give your life for him. May you die to Christ, so that you may live in Him. Give your life for Christ, so that others may also have life in Christ, and find salvation in Him alone. Amen.

Eric Patten Eric Patten, Outreach and Stephen Ministry Director

*We give thanks to God for the new name tags
and for the new Name Home.*



Keeping Them In Our Prayers ...

Jesus, gracious healer, you promise to hear our prayers and answer us in our time of need.

Please bless those who are battling addictions and depression. With your power, restore them to wholeness and give them your joy. And Lord, please touch the lives of those who are sick, hospitalized, grieving or battling a long term illness.

Please bless Shirley Kooker, Becky Simons, Peggy Olson, John Tracey, Rexanne Brink, Robert and Rose Wassom, Pat Swancutt, Ken Ricklefs and all those we name in our hearts.

Emily Renee Quanbeck

Daughter of Rod and Cryss Quanbeck

Baptized: November 6, 2005

Favorite scripture verse: Song of Solomon 4:7

*"You are altogether beautiful, my darling;
there is no flaw in you."*

Favorite Bible Story: The Parable of the Sower

Character: Esther

Favorite Confirmation Experience or Memory:

Recharge at Ingham Okobojo Lutheran Bible Camp

Person/People who have helped in my faith development:

My parents, grandparents and counselors from camp.



Drew Maurice Sandven

Son of Kent and Marci Sandven

Baptized: July 22, 2006

Favorite scripture verse: Isaiah 6:8

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,
"Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"
Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Favorite Bible Character: David

Favorite Confirmation Experience or Memory:

7th Grade Ingham Lake Bible Camp

Person/People who have helped in my faith development:

My parents, relatives and my peers.



First Communion Celebration

During the October 18 worship service the following youth
took part in their First Communion:

**Katie Eilts, Kiersten Campbell, Corbin Maaland,
Drew Piercy and Josh Vos.**

Following worship, a brunch was held for the
students, their families and teachers.



Stephen Ministry



Let's be Disciples Together

When Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples experienced the storm together, and sought Jesus' help together. When many people left after Jesus said, "I am the bread of life," the disciples stuck together and stayed by Jesus' side. When Jesus taught God's word and it was hard to understand, the disciples asked Jesus questions together to understand what he meant. They grew, they learned, they ate, they kept company, and they followed Jesus together. When Jesus was crucified, and the disciples lost their leader and Messiah, they continued to meet together and walk with one another to figure out what to do next. And when Jesus rose from the dead, he appeared to them and commissioned them to take

the Gospel to the whole world.

Just as the disciples had one another, maybe you need a disciple of Christ to walk with you as you follow Jesus. Maybe a Stephen Minister is exactly what you need. For more information about Stephen Ministry, connect with the church office, call Eric Patten at 712-229-1340, or send him an email at eric@faithlutheranspencer.com. He can discuss with you if Stephen Ministry is right for you.

Eric Patten Eric Patten, Outreach and Stephen Ministry Director



10th Anniversary of Faith Celebrates all year long!

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

Thank you for the Bells!

Faith Lutheran's Music and Creative Arts Team received the following letter ...

Dear Denise,

I have sent the memorial money (for Tom Willey) to Lori with an explanation of it being directed to you and your department. We liked your ideas very much but if you come up with something else you are needing or wishing for, I'm sure it will be fine.

Thank you so much for your help and your wonderful music!

God bless,
Jean Willey and Dawn White

The amount comes to \$450.00. The memorial money was used to purchase a rolling dollie for the clavinova and bells for the children in Sunday School, WoW! Worship and LifeKids.

*Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices.*

This month I would like to share the true story about a familiar German hymn often sung at Thanksgiving. I pray for a thankful heart in all circumstances.

“Now Thank We All Our God” was written by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649), a Lutheran pastor in the little village of Eilenberg, Saxony. He grew up as the son of a poor coppersmith, felt called to the ministry, and after his theological training began his pastoral work just as the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648) was raging through Germany.

Floods of refugees streamed into the walled city of Eilenberg. It was the most desperate of times. The Swedish army encompassed the city gates, and inside the walls there was nothing but plague, famine, and fear. Eight hundred homes were destroyed and people began dying in increasing numbers. There was a tremendous strain on the pastors, who expended all their strength in preaching the gospel, caring for the sick and dying, and burying the dead. One after another, the pastors themselves took ill and perished until at last only Martin Rinkart was left. Some days he conducted as many as fifty funerals.

Finally the Swedes demanded a huge ransom. It was Martin Rinkart who left the safety of the city walls to negotiate with the enemy, and he did it with such courage and faith that there was soon a conclusion of hostilities, and the period of suffering ended.

Rinkart, knowing there is no healing without thanksgiving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg. It has been sung around the world ever since.

*In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18*

Denise Laaveg Denise Laaveg, Worship Director

Worship with Denise Laaveg





Nov. 4 - Pool of Bethesda

Nov. 11 - Walking on Waves

Nov. 18 - River of Life

5:30 p.m. WoW! Community Meal

6:30 p.m. WoW! Service



**Advent begins Sunday,
November 29**



Council minutes from October 14, 2020 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom

The October council meeting was held on October 14 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Those in attendance include Al Vanderberg, Korrie Anderson, Randy Enge, Pete Crew, Mark Speidel, Kay Iversen, Brittany Spieker, and Pastor Lee Laaveg.

The council did not have a quorum for official motions; however, the following items were discussed moving forward.

The annual Council Leadership Retreat will be held at Faith on November 15 after worship. This day each team evaluates their ministry activities in each of the areas of our congregation life.

Adding a second worship service to enable members who prefer all worshippers be masked to feel safe as they come to worship.

Thanksgiving offering will be directed toward Falls Community Church Sioux Falls, SD, a largely Sudanese congregation seeking to share the gospel in Sioux Falls, SD.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Krei, Church Administrator



GENERAL OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

January 1 - October 25, 2020

Year to Date: \$280,087.17

Average Attendance: 128

Thank you for generously giving in 2020!

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting Wednesday, Nov. 11 | 7:00 p.m.

Council Members:

Please submit your October team report to the church office (office@faithlutheranspencer.com) by Tuesday, November 10. - *Thank you*



Happy 10th Anniversary, Faith!

Children and youth have been a part of Faith Lutheran since the beginning.

Left: Chloe Brockshus Deike leads the children in a Children's Sermon.

Below: Children receive their Bible.



Discipleship

Calling All Disciples

When Jesus called His first disciples, He simply said, “Follow Me!” and they left everything behind and followed Him. What does it mean to be Jesus Christ’s disciple? Are you one of them?

A disciple of Jesus is a follower of Jesus during life. To fit this definition, a person might imitate the ethics, behavior, attitudes, and speech of Jesus each day in order to model our lives after His example. We could seek to walk, talk, think, love, and feel like Jesus. But, then we would be a part of a group pursuing yet another system of religious ethics. We might imitate the pattern of Jesus’ life without believing in Him as God.

A critical key to being a disciple is believing in

Jesus as Son of God, Savior, and Lord. We believe that by His crucifixion on the cross, He took the punishment for our sins and the sins of the whole world. We

believe that by His resurrection He conquered death, proving Himself to be God and Lord of life. He lives to dwell within our hearts and to give us eternal life.

If we confess these truths in faith, then the LORD Jesus calls for our loyalty, trust, devotion and obedience. He is our Master, and we are His servants. Paul calls us Christ’s ‘doulos,’ His slaves, bought with a price – the blood of Christ.

So, disciples should have a daily conscious commitment to “lay hold of that for which we were laid hold of by Christ.” We need to embrace walking by faith with Jesus as our indwelling Master.

Continued on page 13 - “Calling All Disciples”

Evan’s Corner

As the chill creeps in early this fall so too does our youth events subtly begin. Normally, of course, we want our youth program to be loud, proud, engaging, and active, but this year with all that is going about it seems all things are at a hushed tone. Not for any reason other than we are in a period of adjustment for an un-seeable restriction. Nevertheless, we are still powering onward within our youth programs.

Though Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp did cancel their first recharge designated for the fourth through sixth grade students, the organization still has and plans on hosting its remaining recharge weekends for junior and senior high. November 6th-8th is the weekend for the first group of junior high kiddos followed quickly by the second recharge of the same age group November 13th-15th. Ingham Okoboji has done some restructuring with how they handle their programs to best accommodate all participating parties in this time of health safety. The biggest change is that IOLBC is offering a single day option to any who wish to attend the recharge but do not desire nor feel comfortable spending a night on the camp premise. No primary lessons will be missed as all studies and activities based on the theme “Happy” will solely be on Saturday. Additional health safety considerations have been made and an informative video on what all has been modified can be found on the Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp YouTube channel.

Despite the restrictions our youth have to follow, their spirits are not dampened. They have continued to be rampant in energy and yearning for the word of God and never cease to end their questions of when the next youth event is. May our youth reflect upon us our own drive for Christ. May we follow their lead and examine of passion for the LORD. “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

1st Timothy 4:12

God’s Blessings and remember to *Shut up and Cherish Jesus* :)



Evan Nielsen

YMT - Worship Assistant, Sunday School and Confirmation Teacher, LifeKids Assistant, WoW! Assistant



LifeKids with Radina Jansen



As we enter November, we are reminded that there are many things in which to be thankful. I am thankful that the Faith congregation and parents of children participating in LifeKids support our mission. I am thankful for the LifeKids Board for their work and guidance as we work to grow the LifeKids program. I am thankful for the loving and giving people I work with. I am thankful for Pastor Lee's encouragement. I am thankful that Lori is always willing to help with any technology questions that arise, with a smile. I am thankful that Cheryl has the skills for rearranging things on the computer to match my ideas! I am thankful for Eric's ability to drive the bus to both pick up the children daily and take us on field trips! I am thankful for Eric and Evan's ability to play like a kid and their ability to actively engage the children in whatever activity is planned. I am thankful that Ann Lear does all the shopping for snacks and then delivers the food to the church each week! I am thankful for Kirby Fueston for preparing and serving the snack on Wednesdays.

LifeKids is thankful for Wayne Burnham's donation of \$250 through his Thrivent Community Impact Card. The money is being used to purchase healthy food for the daily snack. Some of the favorites include bananas, pineapple, apples, grapes, yogurt, blueberry bagels with cream cheese/ peanut butter, carrots, cucumbers, and Goldfish crackers.

LifeKids is thankful that they get to go on fieldtrips on in-service days! In September, a day was spent at the Ingham Okoboji Bible Camp in Milford! An unknown person made the day of some children who found painted rocks and plastic gems hidden along the path on the group hike! We were thankful that the temperatures were perfect for playing outside as well as providing community service by raking up leaves. The best part about the leaves was that the children got to jump in them before the industrial leaf vacuum came to suck the leaves into a truck.

Our second field trip took us to the Little Sioux Apple Orchard. The children and adults enjoyed the Liberty and Red Delicious apples that they picked from the trees, finding their way out of the corn maze, and using the sling shot to sling apples! After we returned from the orchard, the children raced their wooden boats that they had painted that morning before leaving for the orchard. The boats went along with our story, Jesus Calmed the Storm.

I am thankful that our number of children is growing both for our daily program and on Wednesdays. The need for tuition assistance continues to grow each week also. Having the LifeKids program available to the Spencer community is an opportunity to share God's love freely as a local mission. I truly believe God brings us children who need us! I thank those that have provided and continue to provide monetary support for the daily expenses of the program and tuition assistance.

You dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

1 John 4:4

Radina Jansen

Radina Jansen, LifeKids Spencer Director

REGISTER YOUR CHILD TODAY!

www.lifekidsspencer.com

**Grades K-5 | Monday - Friday
3:30 - 5:30 p.m. | \$30 per week**

- **Transportation to Faith from Spencer Middle School**
- **7:40 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Child Care on Spencer In-Service Days**
- **Multi-Child Discount**
- **Tuition Assistance**



Steward of the Month:

Jim Paulsen



With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate another faithful member of our Faith family, who willingly serves with a warm smile in a variety of ways. This month's steward of the month is Jim Paulsen.

Jim serves in a number of our lay led, worship roles: worship leader, scripture reader, leading prayers of the church, assisting in the distribution of the sacrament of Holy Communion, and greeting all worshippers as they arrive. Especially during this Corona pandemic, Jim has very willingly stepped in often to serve in these important ways when others were unable.

Jim is a man of prayer, and has actively been a part of all opportunities to share in prayer with others. He is one of the members who assists with intercessory prayer in the wings of the worship area after we receive communion.

Jim also attends a "journey team" Bible study group, meeting on Monday evenings. He has also indicated his willingness to share his personal testimony with the church.

He also enjoys helping the Properties team with special projects. Recently, Jim was part of a two-man team in the lift and vacuumed the rafters of the whole building from one end to the other.

Obviously, Jim is a devoted, faithful member of Faith, offering back his time and talents to serve our Lord within the ministries of the church. We are grateful to God for Jim!

**Well Done,
Good and Faithful
Servant!**

Stewardship

Christian Giving

by J.I. Packer, Professor of Theology, Regents College, British Columbia

1. Christian giving is both a spiritual gift and a discipline of discipleship to our Lord Jesus Christ.

What is a spiritual gift? Paul's Greek has two label-nouns for identifying any item in this category: *charisma*, meaning a product of the active, communicative, redemptive divine love that the New Testament calls *charis*, and we call grace, and *pneumatikon*, meaning an expression of the life and energy of the divine person whom the New Testament calls *hagion pneuma*, the Holy Spirit. A spiritual gift, a grace gift as we may well describe it, is essentially a pattern of service in the church that honors Christ, glorifies God his Father and ours, edifies one's fellow believers and oneself too, and imparts strength and maturity to the church as a whole. Some gifts are abilities that transcend one's natural resources and are supernaturally bestowed in and through Christ; others are natural abilities redirected, sanctified, and activated by the Holy Spirit from within on each occasion of their exercise. Thus, Paul's intermittent healing powers were a gift of the first type, while his unflagging powers as a teacher of gospel truth were a gift of the second type. Giving, now, is a gift of the latter sort.

In Romans 12:6, Paul writes, "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them," and he proceeds to give examples of this, emphasizing each time that one use his or her gift in the best way possible. He speaks of prophesying (i.e., preaching the word of God), serving, teaching, exhorting, and exercising leadership. Then in verse 8 he comes to this: "the one who contributes [should do so] in generosity." "Contributes" is a word in the Greek that means "shares" and certainly refers to the sharing of money, as those who have give to meet the needs of those who have not.

Continued on page 13 - "Christian Giving"

For all the Saints
Jesus promised, “I am the resurrection and life.”

On Sunday, November 1, Faith Lutheran remembered the saints who have gone before us, especially ...

Bill Frederick – March 29, 1929 - November 4, 2019

Roger Coffman – November 20, 1935 - February 16, 2020

Niles Swancutt – June 17, 1929 - February 26, 2020

Tom Willey – January 14, 1934 - April 23, 2020

Fern Sembach – October 6, 1925 - July 9, 2020

Norman Halverson – February 11, 1927 - August 22, 2020

LaVonne Weisbrod – July 12, 1929 - October 12, 2020

Doug Duitsman – October 22, 1956 - February 7, 2020

Lisa Loring – April 16, 1967 - March 15, 2020

Peggy Wigen – June 7, 1927 - June 22, 2020

Melissa Sebastian – July 16, 1962 - August 5, 2020



Continued from page 12 - “*Christian Giving*”

“Generosity” is a term that also signifies “sincerity,” and Paul probably selects it for use here because it always carries overtones of transparent goodwill being expressed.

So giving or sharing or using money to relieve needs is a spiritual gift, and one who gives generously is as truly a charismatic as one who prays for another’s healing or who speaks in tongues. Also, giving is a discipline of discipleship to the Lord Jesus. Disciplines do not come naturally, without effort. On the contrary, they are acquired and sustained habits of thought and/or behavior that need constant practice if they are ever to be anything like perfect, and they often involve specific techniques of their own.

Christian virtues, of which generosity is one, are disciplines that Christ commends, commands, and models as life qualities that should mark out all his disciples, that is, all those who have committed themselves to learn his way of living. (The Greek word for “disciple” means learner.)

All spiritual gifts are, from one standpoint, disciplines of discipleship, and if we are not actively traveling the path of generous giving, it will have to be said of us straightaway that we really are weak and deficient in our discipleship to and dependence upon Christ Jesus our Lord—which means that we need, urgently, to change our ways.

*This is the first of four articles on giving by J.I. Packer,
Professor of Theology at Regents College, British Columbia*

Continued from page 10 - *Calling All Disciples*

As our all-wise Master, He has so much He wishes to teach us! Do we have an appetite to learn? Or, as a scriptural word to a church in the book of Revelation, have we “lost our first love?” Again, in conscious commitment, we should aspire to keep learning from Jesus and the Word, and apply what we learn to how we approach life.

Faith continues to invite you to keep growing as Christ’s disciples. We offer Sunday morning Discipleship Classes. Presently, we are enjoying a

great study called, “In Pursuit of Jesus.”

Throughout Faith’s history, we have encouraged all our members to join a small group Bible study. At Faith, we call them “Journey Teams.” Have you ever considered becoming involved? It is a great way to broaden friendships with other members, increase our knowledge of God’s Word, wrestle with questions of faith, deepen our own faith, and pray for one another.

Let’s encourage one another to continue to grow strong and deep as disciples of Jesus Christ!

Youth News



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

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Alas, Sovereign LORD," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am too young." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD. Jeremiah 1 5-7.

As we meet with our High School youth every Wednesday, I am reminded how encouraging, and strong our youth members are. We get the opportunity to see what COVID looks like in the eyes of these spirit filled youth members, and it has been so incredible to watch them each build each other up, and reassure each other of the struggles they are each facing. We challenge them to speak up to their Christian rights, to ignite the spirit of the Lord within them, and we are watching that challenge be accepted and applied. Aside from a calendar of events, the High School youth is looking forward to a mission trip at the end of the summer, and we look forward to finalizing all the details and getting the fundraising started!

Wednesday night I had the short opportunity to quietly watch the end of the confirmation class. As I watch the large number of kids, it excited me to see how our youth group will be growing in the next few years, and it gives me a sense of assurance that God has placed each one of these young adults in the hands of our church family to help mold! Collaboration of our youth with the rest of our Faith Family is essential in our Church home, an interface that I know has been on the hearts of Joe and Rachel Simington. I am so blessed that they have graciously taken on the Mentor program. Emerging a collaboration of youth and adult connection is so beneficial for the growth of Christ and we look forward to different activities that come to fruition.

Lastly the youth committee has been busy scheduling a year of calendar events including the newest Cross-Generational Events! Each month we have two youth Events and One Cross Generational Event! Our next Cross Generational event is one very dear to my heart, on November 16 we will be serving supper at our local Soup Kitchen! We will have more information to come, but if able, pencil in the night of November 16 to serve our Community!

God's Blessings!
Brittany Spieker



1-Day Recharges:

November 14: 6th-9th Grades | Registration Deadline: October 30

November 21: 9th-12th Grades | Registration Deadline: November 6

Outreach Night:

November 8 - Grades 6-12 | \$4.00 per person | 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.


RSVP to Brittany Spieker at 712-260-4273 by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5

COVID-19 guidelines will be in place.

Crafting Retreat: November 20-22

Get your creative juices flowing and come to Camp for a weekend of inspiration, fun, fellowship and accomplishment! Bring your friends and get creative!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 1: Reformation, All Saints and Confirmation 8:00 a.m. WV Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. Worship and Confirmation 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Discipleship Course Mentors visit youth 1:00 p.m. Mask reqd. Worship	November 2 3:30 p.m. LifeKids	November 3 10:30 a.m. Tuesday Bible Study 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Bible Study	November 4 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Community Meal 6:30 p.m. WoW! Worship Confirmation 7:00 p.m. HS Bible Study	November 5 1:30 p.m. Loopy Ladies 2:00 p.m. 10th Anniversary team mtg. 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 4:00 p.m. Outreach night registration deadline 6:15 p.m. Stephen Min. at Faith	November 6 Nov. 21 Recharge registration deadline 3:30 p.m. LifeKids	November 7 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
November 8 8:00 a.m. WV Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. Worship Service In-house and YouTube 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Discipleship Course 5:00 p.m. IOLBC Outreach 1:00 p.m. Masks required Worship Service	November 9 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Youth Ministry Team mtg.	November 10 10:30 a.m. Tuesday Bible Study 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Bible Study	November 11 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Community Meal 6:00 p.m. Executive Team mtg. 6:30 p.m. WoW! Worship Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Council HS Bible Study	November 12 3:30 p.m. LifeKids	November 13 3:30 p.m. LifeKids	November 14 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. 6-9th Grade 1-day Recharge at IOLBC
November 15: Thanks for Giving Sunday 8:00 a.m. WV Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. Worship Service In-house and YouTube 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Discipleship Course Mentors visit 1:00 p.m. Masks reqd. Worship	November 16 7:40 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. All-day LifeKids Cross generational event: Grand Ave. Com. Outreach Soup Kitchen	November 17 10:30 a.m. Tuesday Bible Study 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Bible Study	November 18 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Community Meal 6:30 p.m. WoW! Worship Confirmation 7:00 p.m. HS Bible Study	November 19 1:30 p.m. Loopy Ladies 3:30 p.m. LifeKids 6:15 p.m. Stephen Min.	November 20 Newsletter articles due 3:30 p.m. LifeKids	November 21 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. 9-12th Grade 1-day Recharge at IOLBC
November 22 8:00 a.m. WV Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. Worship Service In-house and YouTube 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Discipleship Course 1:00 p.m. Masks required Worship Service 3:00 p.m. Private Baptism	November 23 2:30 p.m. LifeKids	November 24 10:30 a.m. Tuesday Bible Study 2:30 p.m. LifeKids 5:30 p.m. Bible Study	November 25 1:00 p.m. Staff meeting 6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve worship service No ... LifeKids, Community Meal, Confirmation, HS Bible Study	November 26 Thanksgiving day Office closed 	November 27 No LifeKids	November 28 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
November 29: Advent Begins 8:00 a.m. WV Rehearsal 9:00 a.m. Worship Service In-house and YouTube 10:15 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School Discipleship Course 1:00 p.m. Masks required Worship Service	November 30 3:30 p.m. LifeKids					
<div>THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE! Please check the online calendar or call the church office (712-580-4316) if there are questions regarding an event or availability of space. For up-to-date information, go to “Events” at www.faithlutheranspencer.com</div>						

Faith Lutheran Church

2912 Highway Blvd
Spencer, IA 51301

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - OCTOBER, 2020

Births | Baptisms: Audrey Jolynn Hansen and Isabelle Ruby Patten, October 25

Marriages | Deaths: LaVonne Weisbrod, October 12

First Communion: October 18 - Kiersten Campbell, Katie Eilts,
Corbin Maaland, Drew Piercy, Josh Vos | **Confirmed**

New Members: October 25 - Angie Friedrich and Kinnick and Paizlee Friedrich

Faith Lutheran Church Staff:

Pastor: Lee Laaveg

pastor@faithlutheranspencer.com

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven

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Outreach and Stephen Ministry Director:

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Faith Lutheran Church LCMC

Watch us on SMU:

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