



Faith Life Together

November 2023 | Volume 7 | Issue 11

Snapshot of Faith during October 2023

Baptisms: Oct. 15, Tatum Stykel

Births | Confirmed

Deaths | Marriages

New Members: Patty Englin,
Mark & Sharon Cameron

Mark Your Calendar

- Oct. 29** Christmas Program
Rehearsal Begin
- Nov. 1** All Saints' Sunday
- Nov. 19** Thanks for Giving
Sunday
- Nov. 22** Thanksgiving Eve
Service, 6:30 p.m.

Change & Dollars

The old has gone, the new is here!

Have you ever heard the quote, "Fall is proof that change is beautiful"? The breathtaking autumn colors we have been experiencing lately has certainly exemplified that, and we have also had several changes at Faith recently! We now have a new website and email addresses for staff that you may want to update on your computer if you haven't already. Our new website can be found at **flcspencer.org**, and we encourage you to go look at it and explore the site to become more familiar with it. The new emails are also listed on the site – just hover over 'About', and then click on 'Staff'.

On the same day this edition of *Faith Life Together* comes out, Stewardship will also

distribute new Time & Talent sheets. These forms will allow you to indicate where you would like to serve Faith going forward, and we need everyone to fill them out! To thank you for all the ways you give to Faith, whether that is with your time, talents, or resources, Stewardship is also hosting the annual '**Thanks for Giving Sunday**' which will include a meal everyone is welcome to enjoy after worship on **November 19**.

Later that week, we will have our **Thanksgiving Eve** service on **November 22 at 6:30 p.m.** Come and join us in thanking God for all the blessings He graciously offers, and for carrying us through all the changes in our lives!

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!



From the Pen of Pastor Ben - Giving Thanks to God

When the Pilgrims first saw America in November 1620, they assembled to read Psalm 100: "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.... Enter his gates with thanksgiving." Four months later, half of the Pilgrims were dead! Our national equivalent would be 165 MILLION deceased! Or on a state level, imagine 1.5 MILLION funerals in Iowa this winter!

A year later, after the surviving Pilgrims' first harvest, they gathered to give thanks to God and to their Native American neighbors. They acknowledged God as their Provider and themselves as unentitled receivers of divine goodness. We do not have to feel like it to give thanks. We may struggle with anxiety or anger, but we can choose to give thanks.

Who do you thank for the goodness in your life? There is temptation to look away from our gracious God, even for our presidents.

President Washington clearly called for thanksgiving to God. In his first proclamation of Thanksgiving Day, he declared in 1789:

*"It is the duty of all Nations to **acknowledge the providence of Almighty God**, to obey his will, to **be grateful for his benefits**, and humbly to implore his protection and favor...a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God."*

President Abraham Lincoln called Americans to thank God in 1863:

*"The year that is drawing toward its close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added which are of so extraordinary a nature that they can not fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to **the ever-watchful providence of Almighty God.**"*

Sadly, President Barack Obama, in his Thanksgiving Declarations, shifted from thanking God to thanking people. His last Thanksgiving Declaration emphasized interpersonal thanksgiving and did not name "God."

"The Pilgrims were grateful they could rely on the generosity of the Wampanoag people, without whom they would not have survived their first year in the new land, and together they celebrated this bounty with a festival that lasted for days and prompted the tradition of an annual day of giving thanks.... As we gather in the company of our friends, families, and communities—just as the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag did centuries ago—let us strive to lift up others."

President Joe Biden has begun well, naming God and even quoting the Bible in his Thanksgiving Declaration last year:

*"This American spirit of gratitude...moved Abraham Lincoln to proclaim Thanksgiving a national holiday, honoring America's bounty and **asking God to bring us together to care for one another and heal our Nation.... As Scripture says: 'let us rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances.'**"*

As we approach Thanksgiving and the close of the year, it is the perfect time to remind ourselves that our families, health and homes are gifts from God. Expressing thanks to people around us is good. Giving thanks to Almighty God is both our duty and an incredible privilege! Every day this November, share with someone, something for which you thank God.

Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request for the **Prayer Chain**, please direct it to the Prayer Team Leaders. They are:

Linda and Dave Susie at
djslrs74@yahoo.com or

Doreen Scribner at
doreenscribner@outlook.com

Mission Team's November Collection



Starting the month of November, the Missions Team will be collecting food, paper items and household cleaning supplies for Upper Des Moines Opportunity's Food Pantry.

The need to help our community is as great as ever. Please place your items in the baskets in the fall display on the corner of the worship platform.

~Thank you, The Mission Team

Sunday Morning Prayers of the Church

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



A Meal Train has been set up for Jake & Tanya Vos. Visit the website below to sign up to bring meals, give a gift card for food expenses, or donate money to help cover gas and other expenses.
<https://mealtrain.com/ekgdel>



Prayer Corner

Lift Up in Prayer...

- Pray for Fallon Pratt and her parents, Justin and Kelsey, as she is baptized November 5.
- Pray for the Nominating Team members as they seek to discern ministry leaders for 2024.
- Ask God how He would ask you to serve on a ministry team in 2024.
- Ask God to provide for our financial needs as we approach the end of this year.
- Pray for our college students that they would seek Christ first and be diligent in their studies.
- Pray for Pastor Roger Godfredsen as he serves as Interim Pastor with St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield, Minnesota.
- Pray for God to guide us regarding our Finance Team.

- Healing for Marge Frad, Robert Wassom Sr, Dave Frerichs, Carolyn Christofferson, Norma Johnson, Tracy Bengtson, Jerome Christianson, Elmer Nielsen, Christa Gray, John Trierweiler, Amy Studebaker, Joseph Salmon and all those we name in our hearts.

Reasons for Praise!

- Give thanks for our new members, Mark and Sharon Cameron and Patty Englin.
- Give thanks for our Finance staff and volunteers who have brought all our 2023 records up to date.
- Give thanks for our volunteers in Altar Preparation, Decorating, and Fellowship, as they prepare for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.



Gloria
McKenney,
Worship and
Communications
Director

Never and Always

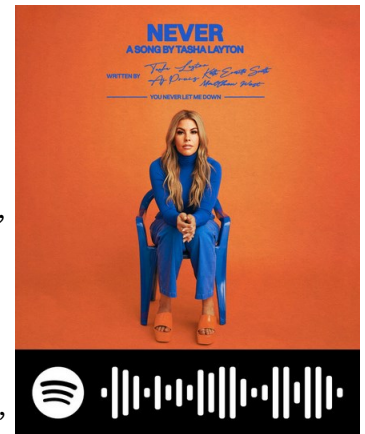
How many times have you heard “Jesus loves you?” If you’ve grown up in the church, the answer is likely to be quite high, and even if you spent most of your life outside of the church sphere, you probably still have heard the phrase more times than you can count.

How many times have you heard the phrase, “Jesus will never stop loving you?” Probably not as often, or perhaps ever. These two phrases are nearly synonymous, but the first our brain has heard so many times that it has become rote, whereas the second presents the same idea in a new way. It is often this new way of thinking that helps me to recognize the truth God has for me. I may have heard something all my life, but it is only once I hear it in a new way does the truth sink into my heart.

This is why I selected Tasha Layton’s song, “Never”, for the worship article this month. Tasha incorporates many of God’s promises for us in her lyrics, many of which you have likely heard before. For example, you have likely heard God’s promise to always be with us (Matthew 28:20), or to work everything for our good (Romans 8:28), or to hold everything together (Colossians 1:17). Each of these promises are included in the song “Never”, but are each rephrased to give us a different perspective on God’s promises. The chorus declares that we are “Never forgotten, never forsaken, never abandoned – not for a second ... You’re never not working; my heart is the proof. There’s not a broken too broken for You.”

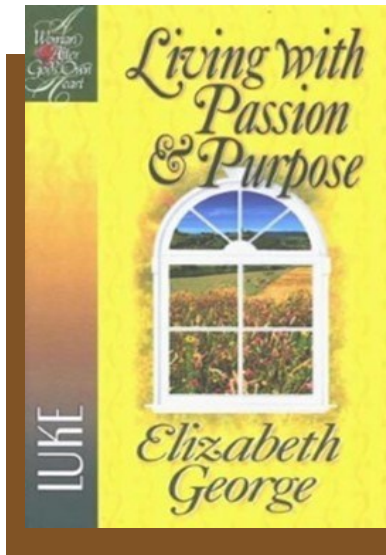
When I first heard this song I was slightly taken aback - I’m so used to hearing God’s promises in terms of what they *are* that hearing them in this reverse perspective made me question the truth of the lyrics. But as I considered each line, the Holy Spirit reminded me of Scripture verses backing up each promise, and I suddenly understood God’s promises for me – and indeed, each of us – in a much deeper way. I know Scripture repeatedly asserts “Do not be afraid for I am with you,” but hearing that I am never forsaken or abandoned caused me to realize the constancy of God’s presence.

As you listen to this song, I invite you to relish the promises God provides for us. I pray that their meaning will sink deeper into your mind and soul, and you will know with absolute certainty that you are indeed never abandoned or forgotten by the One who made you, that you are wholly and completely loved, and that you are safe in God’s hands, “always and forever.”



Coming Events at Faith

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



In Luke 11, Jesus continues His journey to Jerusalem. We begin with Jesus teaching the disciples how to pray by giving them a model prayer. How can our prayers follow this model? There is so much more in this chapter – two parables – the “Persistent Friend” and the “Good Father”; verse 9 is one we hear often (look it up); and verses that remind us of the song, “This Little Light of Mine.” We live in a world of darkness. We can light some small part of the world each day. Lastly, Jesus speaks to the Pharisees saying “woe to you” six times - Is Jesus speaking to me here too? After this, the Pharisees begin to oppose Jesus more as He continues on to Jerusalem to fulfill His purpose.

***Come and let's be taught alongside the disciples.
See you November 14! All are welcome!***

Hands-On Mission and Lutheran World Relief

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

There will be quilts to tie, sewing of school bags or quilt tops, stringing school bags and assembling kits. All are welcome to participate in the way they enjoy.

Hope to see you on Wednesday, November 1!



Item of the Month ~ Bath-sized Bars of Soap

The simple gifts in a personal care kit - towels, toothbrushes, combs, bars of soap - improve the standard of living for people around the world. Personal care kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more.

Donated items for both Lutheran World Relief and Upper Des Moines Opportunity can be put in the yellow Missions box near the front doors.



Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc.
UDMO

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

Peanut butter and Jelly



LifeKids
Spencer



Cheryl
Jackson

What a wonderful month it has been in LifeKids!

We had the opportunity to visit Oneota Park on our October full day, and the weather was absolutely beautiful!

As you read this, our annual Pasquale's Pizza fundraiser is well underway. If you have already ordered, the children and I are grateful for your support. Pizza pickup days are Nov. 20 and 21 from 5:00 to 6:00pm at McCreary's Catering in the North Mall. It is a blessing that they are willing to let us use their freezer space for storage of our pizzas until they are picked up.

This fundraiser is a true blessing. It allows the children to experience many opportunities and activities as I spend time helping them to not only grow as Christians, but to also grow as good humans. They often tell others that our time together is their favorite part of the day. What a blessing to have this time with them daily.

Community Events

Activities at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps

Adult Retreats

Fall Crafting Retreat – Nov. 17-19

Retreat cost: \$119

\$30 non-refundable deposit when registering

Youth Recharges

Nov. 3-5: 6th-9th Grades

Nov. 10-12: 6th-9th Grades

Nov. 17-19: 9th-12th Grades

Fall Theme: “Be Real” – Psalm 139:1 – “*You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.*”

Outreach Night

Nov. 5 – Secret Agents

Grades 6-12 | 5:00-8:00 p.m.

RSVP by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 5, to Rachel Simington at 712-363-0663.

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

[www.okoboji.org](http://www.okoboji.org) or call 712-337-3306.

**NOAH'S ARK**  
**AT HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**206 N WASHINGTON ST, EVERLY, IA**  
**NOVEMBER 12TH 11AM - 1:00PM**

**FEATURING:** Noah's Ark Storywalk  
Come read the story page by page throughout the church!

Animals from the Great Plains Zoo  
ZOOMOBILE (and some of our own!)

FOODTRUCK!  
Hunger Struck

Freewill donations will be accepted with a portion of the proceeds going to PEOPLE FOR PETS!

## Noah's Ark

at Hope Lutheran Church  
206 N. Washington St., Everly

**Sunday, November 12**  
**11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

### Features:

Noah's Ark Storywalk  
Come read the story page by page throughout the church!

Animals from the Great Plains Zoo  
Zoomobile (and some of our own!)

Hunger Struck Food Truck

Freewill donations will be accepted with a portion of the proceeds going to People For Pets!



# High School Youth Group by Matt and Steph Essick



Ephesians 2:10 ~ *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."*

When we said "yes" to serving our Lord and Savior by accepting responsibility for overseeing all of the youth activities at Faith, we didn't fully understand how many awesome people want to share their love of Jesus with the youth. We have volunteers who help with Sunday School for middle school students and high school students. We have volunteers who help with confirmation including mentors, leaders and those providing meals. We have help on Wednesday night High School Youth Group and with activities at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. I also know there are many of you who pray for our youth. And I am sure I forgot some of those helping with the youth. God has truly blessed Faith Lutheran with some amazing people who want others to know and love Christ. We thank God for all of those who volunteer to help out with the youth.

All of the volunteers wouldn't need to serve if we didn't have so many amazing youth at Faith! It is a blessing each week to see the youth interact with each other and see Christ working in their lives. We interact with the high school each week and it is inspiring. The high school youth have some great insights in how they can live out a Christ-centered life in a world that is not Christ-centered. So far this fall we have had discussions around what areas of life would we like to learn more about, who is Jesus, how we can defend our Faith, how we can make time to learn more about Jesus and what is our purpose. We have also mixed in some fun activities such as volleyball and a bonfire.

We ask that you continue to pray for our youth and all of the volunteers and that we praise God for the blessings that he has bestowed upon us.





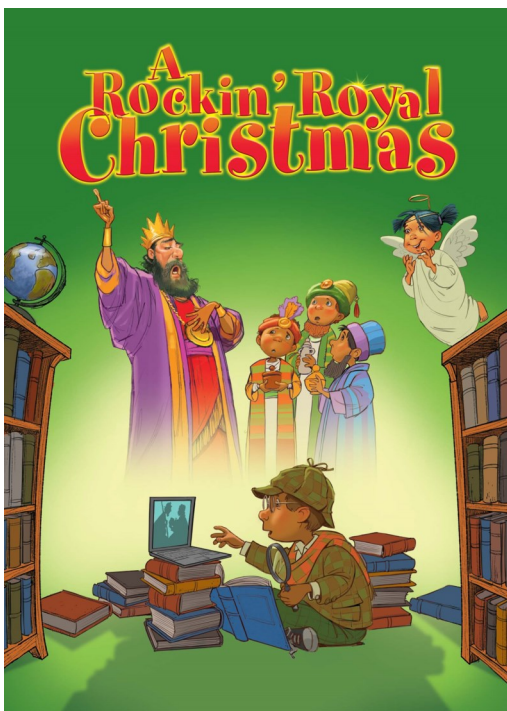
# New Members!



On Sunday, October 8, Faith Lutheran warmly welcomed 3 new members!

Pictured left is Sharon and Mark Cameron (and friend). They make their home in Spencer.

Pictured below is long-time member Gene Englin and his wife Patty. They make their home in Emmetsburg.



## Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 10, at 9:00 a.m.

"A Rockin' Royal Christmas"

Full Christmas program rehearsals are  
Sundays from October 29-December 3  
at 10:20 a.m.

Dress Rehearsal is  
Saturday, Dec. 9, at 3:00 p.m.

# Reverse Advent Calendar by Alice Nielsen



Welcome to Faith's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reverse Advent Calendar! This project is organized by Faith Lutheran's Mission Team. It's a fun and caring project where anyone who wishes can take part. It is called a Reverse Advent Calendar because we are "giving" rather than "receiving".

Each day from December 1 through December 24, each person, group, or family that decides to participate will set aside a non-perishable food item, for 24 items all together. No home canned products, please, due to health and safety concerns.

You may choose to collect the food items day by day and bring them to church each week. Or, you may choose to collect all 24 items before bringing them to church – whatever works best for you. There will be a special area for the food items on the east side of the worship area by a Christmas tree.

We will give these items to Upper Des Moines Opportunity and Grand Avenue Community Outreach food pantries. If there is someone in our Faith family that could use these food items, we would be very happy to share with you as well.

During October, Pastor Ben based his messages on the book of Ruth. In chapter 2, we learned how Boaz was a "kinsman redeemer" and he provided grain for Ruth and Naomi who needed food. Let's be "friend redeemers" as we provide food for those around us.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Alice Nielsen at 712-363-1380. Thanks for being a part of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Reverse Advent Calendar. The following is a suggested list of items to include, or you can choose your own items!

|             |                   |             |                        |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| December 1  | Cereal            | December 14 | Crackers               |
| December 2  | Peanut butter     | December 15 | Rice                   |
| December 3  | Jelly             | December 16 | Muffin mix             |
| December 4  | Boxed potatoes    | December 17 | Pasta                  |
| December 5  | Macaroni & cheese | December 18 | Pasta sauce            |
| December 6  | Canned fruit      | December 19 | Soup                   |
| December 7  | Canned tomatoes   | December 20 | Canned corn            |
| December 8  | Canned tuna       | December 21 | Canned green beans     |
| December 9  | Cake mix          | December 22 | Catsup or mustard      |
| December 10 | Canned frosting   | December 23 | Hamburger helper       |
| December 11 | Pancake mix       | December 24 | Ravioli or SpaghettiOs |
| December 12 | Syrup             |             |                        |
| December 13 | Kidney beans      |             |                        |



# Poinsettias for Christmas!



If you would like to help decorate the altar with poinsettias, and then enjoy them at home for Christmas, please fill out the order form below!

**Leave the order form – with payment – in the red Christmas box on the Welcome Center.**

Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church and earmark them "Poinsettia."

**Orders need to be turned in to the church office by Sunday, Nov. 19.**

Choices are: Red, White, Pink & Speckled.

Each 6-inch green covered pot is \$22.00.

***Due to supply constraints, white poinsettias must be ordered by Sunday, Nov. 12.***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# Red:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# White:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Pink:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Speckled:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Faith's Mission Partners



## World Mission Prayer League by Kay Iversen

The World Mission Prayer League (WMPL) is a Lutheran organization with headquarters in Minneapolis, MN. They are committed to know Christ, pray for His kingdom, and share the gospel and themselves with those who don't know Him. Their passion is to evangelize the world wherever people don't know Jesus as their savior. To do that, WMPL has 100 missionaries in 20 countries around the world. WMPL is unique in the approach to raising funds to support these missionaries. It does not ask for funds directly or conduct campaigns but rather prays for God to supply the necessary means through individual donations to send missionaries around the world.

In the mid-1930s, a band of students, pastors and friends gathered together to pray for the nations. Imagine – young people sharing their lives, their hearts, and a passion for the lost. This is exactly how the World Mission Prayer League began! That was then, but it is also now, because prayer is what WMPL is about when missionaries go out into the world.

The mission statement for WMPL declares their passion for reaching the lost. “We will share the gospel. And our sharing will involve more than our words. We propose sharing “ourselves” ... our very lives (1 Thessalonians 2:8).”

WMPL makes disciples along the frontiers. “We will apply our prayers and resources, in particular, along the frontier of the unreached – those peoples among whom an indigenous, missionizing, church-planting movement has yet to be established. We will apply ourselves further, as much as possible, along the frontier of limited access – unreached peoples among whom few global workers are serving, or traditional workers cannot go.”

WMPL works toward an indigenous, missional, church-planting movement, wherever God has led them. They will work under the structures of the church as it exists in hopeful partnership, that the church may be planted where it has not yet advanced.

Leadership is developed within the communities where WMPL sends their missionaries. “We believe that God has equipped the church with everything needful for its basic ministries of proclamation, service and administration. We believe that God equips the church, as well, with the leadership necessary for its life and ministry. We will pray and work to encourage and develop its leadership in every way.”

This is also what your Mission Team asks of you – to pray for WMPL and the missionaries that they send. Of course, people being sent need resources, so Faith's Missions Team also donates part of the offerings from our members to this mission partner. If you would like to read more about WMPL and the missionaries around the world, you can access their website at [www.wmpl.org](http://www.wmpl.org). Please pray for this mission organization, or contact the Missions Team at [missions@flcspencer.org](mailto:missions@flcspencer.org)

## ***Through the Bible in 2023 – One Chapter a Day***

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

| <b>Month</b>   | <b>Day</b>    | <b>Book</b>      | <b>Ch</b> | <b>Chapter Summary</b>                           |
|----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 1         | Wednesday     | 2 Cor.           | 9         | Whoever Sows Generously Will Reap Generously     |
| Nov. 2         | Thursday      | Galatians        | 5         | Stand Firm in Freedom                            |
| Nov. 3         | Friday        | Galatians        | 6         | Carry Each Other's Burdens                       |
| Nov. 4         | Saturday      | Ephesians        | 2         | Salvation by Grace, Not Works                    |
| <b>Nov. 5</b>  | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Ephesians</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>Keep the Unity of the Spirit</b>              |
| Nov. 6         | Monday        | Psalms           | 16        | I Keep My Eyes Always on the Lord                |
| Nov. 7         | Tuesday       | Philippians      | 2         | Christ, in Nature God, Made Himself Nothing      |
| Nov. 8         | Wednesday     | Colossians       | 1         | God Has Rescued Us from the Dominion of Darkness |
| Nov. 9         | Thursday      | Colossians       | 2         | All God's Fullness Lives in the Son              |
| Nov. 10        | Friday        | 1 Thess.         | 4         | The Lord Will Come Down from Heaven              |
| Nov. 11        | Saturday      | 1 Thess.         | 5         | The Day of the Lord Will Come Like a Thief       |
| <b>Nov. 12</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>2 Thess.</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>Avoid Idle Believers</b>                      |
| Nov. 13        | Monday        | Psalms           | 19        | The Law of the Lord Is Perfect                   |
| Nov. 14        | Tuesday       | 1 Timothy        | 3         | Qualifications for Church Leaders                |
| Nov. 15        | Wednesday     | 1 Timothy        | 6         | The Love of Money Is the Root of Evil            |
| Nov. 16        | Thursday      | 2 Timothy        | 2         | Paul Appeals to Young Timothy                    |
| Nov. 17        | Friday        | 2 Timothy        | 3         | All Scripture Is Inspired by God                 |
| Nov. 18        | Saturday      | Psalms           | 103       | All That Is Within Me Bless His Holy Name        |
| <b>Nov. 19</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Psalms</b>    | <b>37</b> | <b>Delight Yourself in God</b>                   |
| Nov. 20        | Monday        | Psalms           | 42        | Why Are You Cast Down, O My Soul?                |
| Nov. 21        | Tuesday       | Psalms           | 29        | The Voice of the Lord                            |
| Nov. 22        | Wednesday     | Psalms           | 133       | How Good and Pleasant Is Unity                   |
| Nov. 23        | Thursday      | Psalms           | 136       | His Love Endures Forever                         |
| Nov. 24        | Friday        | Psalms           | 139       | I Am Fearfully and Wonderfully Made              |
| Nov. 25        | Saturday      | Proverbs         | 1         | Solomon Exhorts His Children                     |
| <b>Nov. 26</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Proverbs</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart</b>     |
| Nov. 27        | Monday        | Isaiah           | 9         | To Us a Child Is Born                            |
| Nov. 28        | Tuesday       | Titus            | 2         | Teach What Is Sound                              |
| Nov. 29        | Wednesday     | Philemon         | 1         | Paul Appeals to Free a Slave                     |
| Nov. 30        | Thursday      | Hebrews          | 3         | Jesus Is Greater Than Moses                      |



# Mental Health by Kim Wilson

Anger is a natural mental and emotional human response that can come in many forms. It may be frustration of not getting our way in a particular situation, taking offense from the words and behaviors of family, friends, or neighbors, having unpredictable and/or explosive negative reactions to circumstances, or developing a grudge against someone or a situation that can result in bitterness and malice toward another.

We recognize external anger which may be a response to feeling overwhelmed, being in pain, or wanting to appear powerful and thus controlling. Being sarcastic, behaving erratically, stress eating and drinking, and self-harming behavior may be signals that anger is present. Anger may be expressed internally. It can be a physiological response, due to low blood sugar or other chemical imbalances. Anger may be present when fear, worry, frustration, pain, and depression are going on inside of us.

As Christians, we struggle with how we process anger when we know God's intention is for us to be *"quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger"* (James 1:19). Whatever the situation, we must remember that we are God's children and have been given authority to manage this often-destructive response, no matter how difficult it may be.

Colossians 3:8 reminds us that we must *"put away wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from our mouths."* Rather, we are to *"turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it"* (Psalm 34:14). We may be tempted to say, "that's too hard to not have the last word, to not stand up for myself." God's Word tells us repeatedly that we must restrain ourselves from anger. We can do that by knowing what our triggers are and why we react the way we do.

Sometimes, seeking out a trusted family member, friend or counselor can help us sort out what these influences are that give us so much unrest. When we know our anger's source, we can release its energy in healthier ways for our benefit and for those around us. Exploring workable techniques within our trusted circle or through counseling can help us understand what we need to do to improve our well-being and our relationships.

Since anger and bitterness are such destructive strongholds, our Lord Jesus' beatitudes give us divine instruction to combat their power. He teaches the concepts of us practicing mercy and forgiveness, being pure in heart, and being peacemakers. We are told to be merciful, which reflects our understanding of God's trait of giving grace. When we forgive or someone forgives us, this provides healing. As we strive to be obedient to God's Word, we learn we can come closer to Him in our thoughts, words and deeds and know the peace He gives.

When we live with these character qualities, we are known for our kindness, our integrity, and our ability to stay at peace even when it is difficult to do so. We can aspire to the goal of Colossians 3:13: *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you."* May we manage our anger by sharing these blessings as opportunities arise in our lives.

To God Be the Glory!



# November Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Happy Birthday Blessings to . . .

|             |                                                                             |             |                                               |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| November 2  | Jeffrey Franker<br>David Hopkins                                            | November 19 | Gayle Simons                                  |
| November 3  | Haley Eilts<br>Ann Lear                                                     | November 20 | Roger Hanson                                  |
| November 5  | Albany Anderson<br>Laura Hamann<br>Donna Johnson<br>Evan Storley            | November 23 | Kris Behrens                                  |
| November 6  | Justin Simcox                                                               | November 24 | Norah Hansen                                  |
| November 7  | Sophie Behrens<br>Theone Quattlebaum                                        | November 25 | Rich Stueven<br>Brooke Erdman<br>Chad Johnson |
| November 9  | Pam Doran                                                                   | November 26 | Leo Wigen                                     |
| November 10 | Drew Campbell                                                               | November 27 | Kevin Skadeland                               |
| November 11 | Carolyn Christofferson<br>Jolynne Eilts<br>Mathew Heilman<br>Allison Piercy | November 30 | Colton Vreeman                                |
| November 15 | Colton Christianson<br>Adam Kreutner                                        |             |                                               |
| November 16 | Jacob Krei<br>Norma Johnson                                                 |             |                                               |
| November 17 | Karen Jacobson                                                              |             |                                               |
| November 18 | Barbara Burnham                                                             |             |                                               |

## Happy Anniversary Wishes To ...

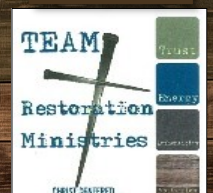
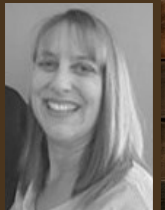
|             |                                                      |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| November 6  | Roger & Phyllis Hanson                               |
| November 10 | Aaron & Rebecca Stykel                               |
| November 22 | Del & Lois Christman                                 |
| November 24 | Doug & Courtney Schwartz<br>Keith & Diane Van Kleeck |
| November 26 | Eldren & Janell Holstad                              |

## TEAM Restoration Ministries

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

Erika Adolph is a counselor working out of Faith Lutheran for TEAM Restoration. Erika is certified to provide equine assisted psychotherapy, which uses horses to assist clients to work through challenges, relationships and to reach therapy goals.

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





## Steward of the Month by Heidi Skadeland

### Abbey Crew

This year, Stewardship Team made an intentional effort to teach our youngest members about Stewardship. We need all ages of members, so we also want to show our youth how much we appreciate their efforts in stepping up their stewardship in our congregation. Faith has many youths that give so much to Faith at every level, so this month we wanted to feature a youth that goes above and beyond, Abbey Crew.



From storytelling to singing, acting on stage and swinging the tennis racket, you will rarely hear her complain. Abbey Crew puts her heart and talents into everything she does. At Faith, you may recognize her as Dodo and Emu's helping hand during children's messages. However, she shines even brighter when writing and delivering her own children's messages which began this year. She doesn't stop there, Abbey also attends youth group regularly, has helped with VBS in the summer, and also teaches... not just helps, but teaches Sunday School to the Preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. Most recently at Faith, Abbey didn't just invite the youth group to her home for a hayride, but also organized the event for all the youth to enjoy.

Abbey, a God-driven sophomore in high school, isn't just hard working at Faith Lutheran. In school, she is an energetic crash cymbal percussionist in Spencer's drumline, is involved in mock trial, large group speech, individual speech, and drama as well. Outside of school, she is involved in Spencer Community Theater shows, and she shows pigs. This past week, Abbey announced a huge project that she is the crew head for Spencer High School's fall musical community. Abbey is raising awareness and raising funds for Feed Our Children. This organization sends bags of food home with kids over the weekend to ensure they have enough to eat.

As beautiful on the inside as you are on the outside, Abbey, your sacrificial actions and purity of heart are beyond admirable. Instead of hanging out with your church friends on Sunday, you show our youngest kids what a disciple of Christ does as an amazing role model at the same time. Your genuine heart and love for others radiates from you. Abbey, good and faithful servant, well done! Remember the King of Kings claims you as His daughter, always! May your energy for serving others never fade as you minister to all those around you! Blessings to you, Abbey, today and forever!

# The New Time & Talent Sheets

By Heidi Skadeland

Faith Lutheran, we have quite a few new staff, we have quite a few new members, and our members are always changing in the ways God uses us. Therefore, Stewardship has felt the need to give everyone a chance to look at their Time & Talent Signups in a new way.

There are times in our lives when life changes. Maybe we find ourselves being single, maybe we find ourselves having lost our spouse, maybe we find ourselves becoming parents, maybe we find ourselves in a new job, and maybe we find ourselves retired with health issues we never anticipated. In these times of change, God can use us in new ways that we also never anticipated. Maybe that time is now, or maybe that time was a couple years ago...and you're ready to step up in the church in new ways, or different ways. We want you to have that chance! We want you to be listening to the Lord's leading, and maybe listening to the Lord's challenge for you!

This year at Faith, we are giving everyone a new slate for Time & Talent. We want you all to have the chance to either step up in new ways and accept God's challenge for you, or we want you to be able to step back because life is getting harder in some ways and you can't do what you once did at Faith. In any situation, we all need to seek the Lord and truly dig into our faith and see where God wants to use us...because ALL CAN BE USED BY GOD IN ALL WAYS!

Stewardship Packets are coming out Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. We will hand them out at church to those that can attend, and then we will put them in the mail, just so we can save some postage with the additions that are in the packets this year. With our Video Ministry Fair, we put that in paper form so we all know what each team does and where there is need. This is a bit early for packets to be coming out because **EVERYONE NEEDS TO FILL OUT A TIME & TALENT SHEET!** Whether you fill it out in paper form or online, we need EVERY MEMBER – EVERY AGE to fill these out. We need as many youth in the church to step up as adults because we are all members! We need them to be filled out to keep our records up-to-date with where God is calling all to serve. If you haven't served at Faith before, please take this opportunity to be used somewhere, at least one place! So please look over all the information and contact the office with any questions you have.

Finally, we need Time & Talent sheets to be handed in by **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> OR EARLIER!** Since there will be no carryover from 2023, we need sheets turned in so that we can plan the first quarter of worship since it takes so many volunteers each week for worship. Thank you all in advance for taking all this into consideration. It is a blessing to serve alongside each and everyone of you!

**Faith Lutheran Church – Time and Talent Survey**  
“Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit.” – 1 Corinthians 12:4

When every member shares gifts of time and talents, Faith Lutheran becomes a vibrant place of worship.

- All previous commitments will NOT be carried forward into 2024.
- Please fill out surveys individually, NOT as a couple (scan QR code for online form).
- If you wish to be a part of a team, please mark where you would like to serve.

Thank you for sharing your time

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Landline: \_\_\_\_\_

**Caring Ministry – Laura Heikens**

- ☐ Serve on team
- ☐ Card ministry
- ☐ Serve as a Care Minister/In-person visits
- ☐ Meal Train/M meal support organizer
- ☐ Special Events Team: College care packages, baptisms
- ☐ Communion visitor to homebound
- ☐ Provide rides to church for homebound
- ☐ Become a member of the Prayer Chain

**Children's Ministry – Kirby Fueston (Grades 3 & Under)**

- ☐ Serve on team
- ☐ Help with 1st Communion class banquet
- ☐ Sunday school teacher
- ☐ Sunday school helper
- ☐ Substitute teacher
- ☐ Organize nursery
- ☐ Nursery attendant
- ☐ Vacation Bible School helper
- ☐ Kitchen help for events
- ☐ Maintain busy bags for children
- ☐ Prayer intercessor for a child

**Discipleship – Barb Solberg**

- ☐ Serve on team
- ☐ Journey Team (small group) host/lead
- ☐ Assist with the church library
- ☐ Assist with special projects
- ☐ Sunday adult class facilitator

**Evangelism – Eric Tigges**

- ☐ Serve on team
- ☐ Follow up with visitors
- ☐ Help with Discovery Class for new members
- ☐ Help with New Member Sunday
- ☐ Be a new member sponsor
- ☐ Help with outreach events (concerts, speakers)

**Fellowship – Larry Peterson**

- ☐ Serve on team
- ☐ Serve Sunday coffee & donuts
- ☐ Help with Saturday setup of coffee/donuts
- ☐ Keep kitchen organized
- ☐ Help with funerals
  - ☐ Set up/clean up during the week
  - ☐ Set up/clean up on weekends
- ☐ Make food like bars or salads
- ☐ Kitchen help with special events
- ☐ Help with potlucks & Wednesday meals

**Finance – Lisa Carpenter**

- ☐ Serve on team
- ☐ Facilitate budget process
- ☐ Endowment fund

**Leadership Support – Dave Susie**

- ☐ Serve on team
- ☐ Encourage, equip & support all teams
- ☐ Facilitate leadership transitions
- ☐ Personnel team/Human Resources



# Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes October 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Joe Simington at 7:04 PM.

Members present were: Dave Susie, Joe Simington, Kirby Fueston, Lisa Carpenter, Pam Hanson, Barb Solberg, Heidi Skadeland (via Zoom), Larry Peterson, Laura Heikens, Jared Hansen & Eric Tigges (via Zoom). Also joining the group were Jacob Weeks and Gloria McKenney.

Joe Simington opened the meeting in prayer and the group discussed Chapter 8 of *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*.

Minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve made by Barb Solberg. Larry Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Carolyn has moved the 12% over to Missions from Benevolence. Otherwise, there isn't a whole lot to point out. Things look good going into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. General giving is about the same as last year at this time. We are \$5,000 above last year on Administrative expenses mostly due to a small increase in wages. Team expenses are up but mostly due to snow removal and a few building expenses. Motion to approve made by Jared Hansen with Kirby Fueston seconding the motion. Motion carried.

**PASTOR BEN'S REPORT** – He and Eric had 22 visits last month. We have 3 new members with a few others potentially joining. A few baptisms will be happening in the next few weeks.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Joe Simington)** – Nothing to add.

## COUNCIL REPORTS

- \* **Evangelism (Eric Tigges)** – New member Sunday last Sunday and still have some additional interest from others.
- \* **Missions (Pam Harris)** –
- \* **Worship (Pete Crew)** –
- \* **Stewardship (Skadeland's)** – Nothing additional. Getting videos together for the Ministry Fair.
- \* **Discipleship (Barb Solberg)** – Sunday morning adult group meeting about the book of James with a 6-series video. Otherwise, they will be discussing that Sunday's gospel or sermon.
- \* **Children's Ministry (Kirby Fueston)** – Gearing up for the Christmas program.
- \* **Youth Ministry (Matt & Steph Essick)** –
- \* **Caring Ministries (Laura Heikens)** – Meal train is still open for the Vos'.
- \* **Fellowship (Larry Peterson)** – Still learning how everything works. Suggested giving any extra donuts to the kids after Sunday school.
- \* **Music & Creative Arts (Jared Hansen)** – Nothing additional.
- \* **Properties (Eli Franker)** –
- \* **Technology** –

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- \* **Team budgets** – Joe wants people to start looking at those and have a rough draft for next month's meeting to get a budget put together. Congregational forum will be in January so want to work toward having things ready for that. Last year's budgets are available in the Annual Report if any team members didn't get the packet last month with that information.
- \* **Appoint new Technology & Finance team leaders** – Kay Iversen has resigned from Technology. We need to find someone to help Lisa on the Finance Team.
- \* **Advent meals** – The first one would be the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday after Thanksgiving for a total of 3 dates. Do we want to do what we've done in the past by having the teams provide the main course & everyone else brings a side or just do strictly potluck? Everyone think on this for next meeting.
- \* **LifeKids payments** – We changed this midway through the year so we need to decide on how much they should pay as they paid this at year end in prior years. Decision to be made at next meeting.
- \* **Egypt mission for Pastor Ben** – Pastor has an opportunity to teach 100-200 ministers in Egypt in 2024 but with the recent activities in the Middle East, he isn't certain about going. Talk of having the church fund a portion or the Missions Team help. More to come.
- \* **Camp gift – Missions** – possible camp project? May have missed the window on this.
- \* **Gloria McKenney – Communications** Gloria has been working on a new website for the church. The new domain/website is flcspencer.org. Gloria gave us a tour of the new website. Jacob handed out the new email address listing since the domain is now flcspencer.org. New staff emails are live & working. As for everyone else, those are in the process of being transitioned. The new website was introduced to the congregation on Sunday, 10/15 and the old staff email addresses will be forwarded to their new addresses.

**Concerns and/or Celebrations** – None

**Closing Prayer** was given by Joe Simington.

**Adjournment** – Kirby Fueston made the motion to adjourn. Barb Solberg seconded. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jolene K. Hansen, Church Council Secretary

**Next Council Meeting is November 8 | 7:00 p.m. | In person and Zoom**

**Council Members:** Please submit your team reports to the office by  
Monday, November 6, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

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**GENERAL OFFERING**

January 1 through October 19  
2023 Budget: \$413,959.25  
Year to Date as of October 19: \$278,072.33  
***Thank you for generously giving in 2023!***

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## Faith Lutheran Church

2912 Highway Blvd.

P.O. Box 1322

Spencer, IA 51301

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Worship & Communications Director:  
Gloria McKenney

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LifeKids Director: Cheryl Jackson  
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Stephen Ministry and Visitation Director  
Lay Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Ruthven:  
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Office Hours

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Monday – Friday

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**[www.flcspencer.org](http://www.flcspencer.org)**

YouTube: [@faithlutheranspencer](https://www.youtube.com/@faithlutheranspencer)

Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church LCMC

Youth Facebook Page: Faith Youth of Spencer

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

Watch us on SMU:

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