

October 2021

Faith Life Together

Volume 5 | Issue 10

Pastor:

Council President:
Larry Wigen

YouTube:

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



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@flcspencer



Fall Blessings ...

This month we welcome cooler temperatures, falling leaves, and the farmers' harvests. God's blessings are many.

Guest speakers continue to share a message with us in October. Their inspirations from God are good.

Sunday School, Adult bible study, confirmation, youth group are all underway! How wonderful to have the buzz of activity here at Faith!

The LCMC Annual Gathering is in Ohio October 3-6 this year. Many people from the USA and around the world attend to worship our God, attend meetings and workshops, and appreciate opportunities to connect with friends and meet new people.

The Call Team worked hard this year and recommended Pastor Ben Unseth to the church council. The council voted to call Pastor Ben to Faith. Recently, Pastor Ben accepted the council's call. Now we will vote as a congregation regarding this call. Be sure to attend worship and the **congregational meeting on October 10**. Your vote counts as we look ahead at Faith!

The Worship Team along with the Music and Creative Arts Team continue to plan schedules for this last quarter of 2021. Worship services have many parts, and we are grateful for the help of all those who pitch in. We are especially grateful for the addition of Leah Kreutner who plays piano for us and for Marlee Nicholson who is working in the Worship Director role for a time. Marlee is also helping with Wednesday LifeKids.

Faith is excited to **receive new members this month**. The orientation and reception are still being planned. If you or someone you know is interested in membership, please contact Kirby Fueston or the church office. In the meantime, be sure to check the bulletin for updated information!

Reformation Day, October 31, is on Sunday this year. All Lutherans celebrate the beauty of the themes in Martin Luther's Ninety-five Theses, posted to the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

May your October be filled with good things that come from our Lord!



LARRY WIGEN - FAITH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Welcome to the October edition of Faith's newsletter. I hope this letter finds you well and you are enjoying all of God's beauty this time of year. In the absence of a fulltime Pastor, I am filling in to stay in touch as much as possible.

First, I want to thank each and every person who is stepping up to lead Faith in this time of transition. Your entire Council and Executive Team are doing a great job. Many, many volunteers are stepping up to help them from the congregation and it is awesome to see and hear.

Our staff continue to excel and go above and beyond expectations. If you see them say thank you and if you need anything or have a question I know they are willing to help anyway possible. Thank you to you all.

At the time of this printing I am excited to announce Pastor Ben Unseth has accepted our call to be Senior Pastor for Faith. This is pending congregational approval by vote which is being planned for October 10. I hope to see many people that Sunday to show their support in this calling. I thank the Call Team again for all their effort in finding Ben. They are bringing forth an excellent choice for Faith.

Faith has secured a YMT from the camp to plan and lead our Sunday and WoW! services. Also, we have found a piano player to play every week until sometime next Spring. Both of these things are temporary and we will continue to look for our full time solution. Thank you to the Worship and Music & Creative Arts teams for continuing to lead Faith.

It is exciting to see Sunday School, Confirmation and all Fall activities starting up again. I am excited for Faith this holiday season and look forward to celebrating with everyone. Thank you to everyone stepping up and planning and teaching these programs. It truly shapes the lives of the children to see such awesome role models.

Blessing!
Larry

Congregational meeting on Sunday, October 10, immediately following Worship!

Pastor Ben Unseth has accepted the call to Faith!
A congregational meeting is required by the constitution to vote on the call.
A quorum of 85 voting members is needed. Please plan to attend!

A letter will be mailed with further details of the call.

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



Tuesday, October 12 at 1:30 p.m.
SON Room

We will be discussing living with Heaven in view and striving together based on Philippians 1.

All are welcome to come! Come join us!

For more information, please contact Linda Susie at 712-262-6621 or djslrs74@yahoo.com

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthday Blessings

October 4	Sharon Simington
October 5	Noah Spieker
October 6	Gary Arndt Joan Unrau Roger Godfredsen
October 8	Ross Brockshus Vickie Godfredsen Elliot Stykel
October 9	Bennet Hansen Rod Quanbeck Jayda Smith
October 10	Arlie Neiderheiser
October 12	Blake Kooker Andy Yungbluth
October 14	Patricia Rohmiller
October 15	Joan Loring
October 16	Doug Schwartz
October 19	Dave Susie
October 21	Jim Paulsen Pat Swancutt
October 22	Dan Anderson Shirley Lowe
October 24	Stephanie Carlson
October 27	Baylie Stykel
October 28	Madison Gilley/Harrington Jodene Jongma Emily Quanbeck
October 31	Kevin Lee

Anniversary Blessings

October 1	Jerome & Kristine Christianson
October 5	Dick & Diane Allen
October 12	Bill & Emily Kersting
October 14	Andy & Laura Yungbluth Mike & Bev Hummel
October 19	Mark & Mary Speidel
October 22	Dave & Barb Solberg Justin & Brittany Spieker
October 24	Steve & Lora Johnson
October 28	Dale & Karen Brandt
October 30	Josh & Whitney Smith



INTERNATIONAL MESSENGERS: JOSHUA & WHITNEY SMITH



Hello, Faith Lutheran! I trust Jesus is keeping you well. We are doing fine here. We just got over having COVID-19, but it was a light case, and we have recovered.

I wanted to write to you about the gift you gave for getting new Bibles for all of the children and a year to sponsor a new child at the home in Pawel.

As for the Bibles, we found some amazing Bibles and have purchased them. They are the NLT version and hardcover. Thank you so much for giving! We are so excited to give them to the kids! What a huge blessing!

I'm so sorry for the delay in writing to talk about getting new children. It's a bit complicated. According to the government, we are registered as a school. In working with our ministry lawyer, since the children are refugees, he advised us to be under the heading of a school and that these kids would be staying with us as boarding students. It is normal to have orphans boarding at a school being sponsored by one program or another. With all that being said, in Uganda, for the last 2 years, schools have only been open for around 4 months in total. Since we are registered as a boarding school, we have to wait until schools open up to take in more children. The school year in Uganda begins in January. We are praying for the sake of children all over Uganda that the schools open at the beginning of next year. This will allow us to move forward in getting new children.

Our vision is to have these children, know Jesus and receive salvation, but also that many would have a passion for bringing the Gospel back to South Sudan. Thank you so much for being co-laborers with us in the Gospel here in Uganda!

God bless you all,
Joshua and Whitney Smith

(For more information on Josh and Whitney, please see their letter on the Mission Team board!)

Lutheran World Relief



Hands-on Mission Day ***Wednesday, October 6 | 9:00 a.m. to noon***

Come for fellowship as we sew, tie quilts and assemble kits.
All Are Welcome!

**For the month of October, we are collecting the following items -
Bath-size bars of soap - these are used in personal and baby care kits!**

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

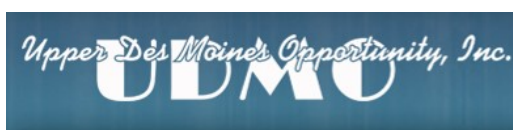
LWR Care Kit Supplies Needed At Anytime!

- *Bath-size bars of soap
- *Adult-size toothbrush
- *Metal nail clippers
- *Hand towel, dark colored

Baby items: 6 to 24 months in size:

- *Diaper pins | Cloth diapers
- *Socks | Cotton t-shirts
- *Receiving blankets | baby cap

Upper Des Moines Opportunity



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

Oatmeal | Soup (any kind) | Crackers

Mission Emphasis: Mental Health Conditions



Stigma is that unseen and powerful misunderstanding about mental health conditions that limits our acceptance of those who struggle with the signs and symptoms of mental illness. During the week of October 3-10, we observe Mental Illness Awareness Week (MIAW), which gives us an opportunity to learn more about these common occurrences in our community to reduce stigma.

As a church, we are reminded of the challenges our brothers and sisters in Christ face when mental health conditions take their toll on relationships with family and friends, marriages, parenting, employment, and our daily functioning. When combined with the spiritual strife that may affect our faith and robs us of our joy, we see more pain and suffering result.

Our Lord Jesus calls all of us in Matthew 11:28-30 to *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you would find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and burden is light.”* NIV

At Faith Lutheran, through our mission emphasis, we are committed to shining a light on the complexities of mental health conditions. By offering education and support, we hope to lessen the burdens for those affected by anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and obsessive compulsive disorder along with many other conditions.

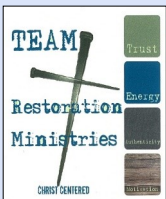
Right now, we offer a space for Team Restoration Ministries to meet with individuals and families and we partner with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to provide education through Family to Family classes and the NAMI Bridges of Hope class to be offered in the near future.



NAMI Northwest Iowa

Family Support Groups are a great way for individuals and families to lessen their burdens by sharing their concerns with others. If you are interested in seeing that possibility take root, please contact the church office or NAMI of NW IA 712-357-5428 or namiofnwia@gmail.com to express your interest.

God is showing us the way to make a difference in the lives of individuals and families who are affected with mental health conditions. By your participation and through His grace, we can lessen the burden by building this necessary and caring mission at Faith and in our community.



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



**For more information about TEAM Restoration Ministries
or to schedule an appointment with Erika, please call 515-238-9010
or visit them at www.team-restoration.org**



WORSHIP, MUSIC AND CREATIVE ARTS

The saying "It was a God thing" has been heard several times in regards to the beginning days of Faith Lutheran. Well, we have experienced yet another "God thing" when searching for someone to coordinate and play for our worship services! Leah Kreutner played piano at a church we previously



attended and then was our daughter, Haley's preschool teacher at First English Preschool. We asked her to help us out after Denise left and she agreed. Now, she has graciously agreed to play piano for us regularly! We are excited to have her husband, Adam, and their sons, Owen and Ross join us as well!

Marlee Nicholson is joining us through the Youth Ministry Team (YMT) program at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp! She plays guitar and sings. Brittany Spieker introduced us at the cross-generational baseball game night that was held in August. We really

believe this introduction happened for a reason! Marlee will be with us through mid-May. She will be involved with planning the services and doing many of the behind the scenes tasks. Marlee's camp background and experience with youth will come in handy as she assists with LifeKids on Wednesdays, helps us out with Sunday School music, and also helps with WoW! services.

These are exciting times at Faith Lutheran! God has a plan!

Blessings,

Brett & Jolynne Eilts, Music & Creative Arts Team leaders

Marlee Nicholson - Faith's New YMT!

Hello! My name is Marlee Nicholson and I'm so excited to be joining the Faith community!

I am originally from Storm Lake. I attended Augustana University in Sioux Falls, graduating in 2019 with my Bachelor's in Psychology and minors in Children & Youth and Communication Studies. I spent my college summers serving at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps in various roles ranging from the kitchen to Day Camp leader.

After college I attended a Discipleship Training School with YWAM, then moved to Colorado and worked with at-risk youth. This spring, God called me back to the Camp and provided a way for me to stay on as part of the YMT program this year. I am looking forward to meeting, serving and worshipping with you all!



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
- Door on southeast storage area: \$500 - \$600
- New ceiling fans in the Worship area: \$3,500 - \$4,000
- Sheetrock back of Worship wall: \$3,000 - \$3,500
- Landscape around cross: \$10,000
- Resurface North/South exterior walls to match front: \$37,000/side or \$74,000 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

- Paint remaining duct work in Worship area: \$3,000

- New digital sign: \$15,000 - \$20,000
- Shelves in storage area: \$500 - \$700

Technology Team

- New projectors and system in worship area.

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

New Member Orientation and Reception Sundays

Faith is welcoming new members in October!

If you wish join Faith Lutheran, please contact Kirby Fueston at 712-363-5541 or evangelism@faithlutheranspencer.com or contact the church office at 712-580-4316.

CPR/AED & First Aid Certification Class

Who: Anyone that wants to learn a life-saving skill, needs it for work or wants to recertify.

When: Zoom class: Thursday, Dec. 9, from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. that covers all of the course work
In person, hands-on portion: Saturday, Dec. 11 at Faith Lutheran.

Please register each person attending the class separately 2 days prior to the Zoom class.

Links for the Zoom class and additional information are sent out to all registrants.

The hands-on portion will be in person at Faith Lutheran on Saturday, Dec. 11. Matthew will be scheduling participants in small groups at 20-minute intervals starting around 3:00 p.m. until approximately 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$45 per person via cash, check, or Square Reader invoice.

Registration Link: osmanager4.com/advcustomerlanding.aspx?co=1&cid=3923428

If you can't make the Zoom Class options are available. Please contact Matthew Nagler. For any question, please feel free to reach out Matthew at 1-402-681-9559/mattsafetytraining@gmail.com

For more information, please visit: www.topnotchtrainingcourses.com

In the Month of September ...

A full-time staff person has not been hired. At this time, we are looking for someone who would be willing to take the training to be a substitute if I am sick or have an emergency. Eric is paid to assist on in-service days. On Wednesdays, Marlee Nicholson, a YMT at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp is paid to assist with the lesson, game and leading singing.

The children have been learning about Bible Heroes and characteristics of a hero. The LifeKids are earning badges when they demonstrate characteristics of a hero such as helpful, honest, kind, patient, obeys, giving, forgiving, self-control, wise, and tries hard! Check out which out the characteristics that each Bible hero demonstrates on the LifeKids wall.



On September 20, the LifeKids went to West Bend to visit the Grotto. "Wow!" "That's amazing!" "It's huge!" "It's like a castle!" These were the excited comments Eric and I heard as we pulled into the parking lot at the Grotto. We took a tour and heard the explanation of the theme of each of the nine grottos as well as information about what rocks we were seeing, and where the rocks had come from. The children thought the rocks were glued in place, but found out they were cemented in. Our tour ended in the Grotto Museum where rocks on display were labeled. The children had fun showing others which rocks were their favorite! As a group we walked back through the Grotto and the children enjoyed finding agates and geodes, two of their favorite rocks from the museum. We reviewed the events of the crucifixion by using the stations of the cross-mosaic pictures, went to the highest point of the Grotto and took a photo of the kids in their favorite room (Jesus' House). It was encouraging to hear what the children remembered from our lessons during Lent when we were at the stations of the cross. I was also reminded that the children in LifeKids have different background knowledge about Jesus' life. When we were looking at the Pieta statue by Michelangelo, one of the newest LifeKids asked who the woman was and why was she holding that man. I told her that Jesus had been taken off the cross after dying and Mary was holding him. Her response was, "Jesus died?" Her response reminded me that we are all on our own journey of knowledge and understanding of the events written in the Bible. LifeKids is a true mission as only 2 out of the 12 children enrolled in LifeKids attends Sunday School on a regular basis.

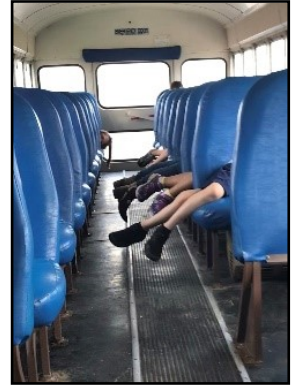




After the Grotto we headed to Fort Defiance State Park by Estherville. I knew we would encounter mud since when the children arrived for our full day LifeKids, it was raining. We were unsure if we'd get to go to either of the planned outings due to the forecasted rain. The rain was scattered. We were able to squeeze the Grotto before the second wave of rain, it rained on our way to Fort Defiance State Park, quitting just as we arrived! The kids wanted to experience hiking as some had not ever been before. Their wish came true! We encountered mud. There were muddy shoes, muddy hands, muddy elbows, and muddy legs. They had a great time and were relieved when we returned to the bus, a few thought we might be lost forever!



Radina Jansen



Prayer and Praise Corner

Lift Up in Prayer ...

- Congregational vote for a new pastor.
- The search for a worship director.
- Peace in our country and for our elected officials, both local and national.
- For healing for Shirley Kooker, Gene Lovitt and all those we name in our hearts.



Reasons for Praise!

- Generosity of Faith in support of our missions and ministries through their time and efforts, but also for special needs through the Project Tree.
- TEAM Restoration Ministry offering counseling through Erika Adolph, a licensed counselor.

Pastoral Care

As Faith waits for its next pastor, Eric Patten, along with other pastors or lay people as needed, will provide pastoral care in immediate or emergency situations.

Please call the church office to request pastoral care - 712-580-4316.



You can send your tithes and offering to Faith via a *text message*. Text **"give"** to 712-214-4317. You'll receive a link. For your first time click **"sign in"** then **"register for an account"**. Follow the prompts to receive your secure PIN. Select the fund, enter the donation amount and payment information. Tap **"save payment"** to use it for future gifts!

If you have questions or need help, please call the office at 712-580-4316.



Stewardship ... Steward of the Month: Colleen Rouse

As a sparkling gem in our congregation, let's celebrate Colleen Rouse as Steward of the Month for October! Colleen is a kind and sweet co-worshipper who always shares a tender smile with those around her making everyone, members and visitors alike, feel so welcome, loved, and noticed! She discerns others and empathizes if something is having a bad day and is ready to help lift them up and make their day and life better. On a personal note, Colleen is always making sure the guys in the field are rolling well along with the livestock. Family is everything to her, whether her immediate family or her church family, and she is adamant

about teaching her grandkids, the next generation, what they need to know in how to make different things. In spite of losing her husband, Harley, who was a huge part of her life, she did not go into a shell. Instead, she shares her love for others and her enthusiasm about Jesus with all those she meets. If it's possible, even more than all that this beautiful lady, inside and out, has started some foundational ministries at Faith.

Colleen organized the senior recognition luncheon for the silver members of our congregation. It was a beautiful time to remember all that Faith had been blessed with through the giving and hard work of our older generation with music and a luncheon. Another brilliant idea Colleen set in motion was coffee time on Thursdays so people had a chance to connect with others at Faith which continues to be a joy for all that attend. Colleen also is wonderful at giving a helping hand. She has been part of the team that preps the altar and prepares communion, she's helped decorate the church, and has helped with fellowship activities including funerals. Most recently, Colleen served on the Stewardship team and was such a generous asset.

For being that intuitive spirit behind the scenes and fulfilling God's call on your life as an authentic steward, Colleen, we wanted to bring to light how much you're appreciated. Well done, good and faithful servant, for everyone you've touched with your ideas and your faithfulness to God and our congregation!

The Giving Christian: Chapter 3 - Giving the Gift of Service

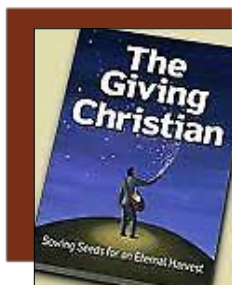
Service is something Faith Lutheran knows very well. We have sent many teams out on mission trips. We gather numerous items for the Lutheran World Relief kits, and we reach out to the community like when we had the Concert of Prayer for the senior class last spring. The real kicker though is really the reason behind the service we give. So what is it for you?

The author of the book we are going through, Kirk Nowery, had this chapter all written and ready for print, but then something big happened in his family and he scrapped it all and rewrote the chapter, sharing about an even more recent family happening. Nowery has three children who all serve Christ in some capacity. One evening, around midnight, Nowery's wife woke him up because they were being called by Franklin Graham to discuss the desire of two of Nowery's children serving Jesus in a significant capacity. Graham asked if the Nowerys would meet with him soon to discuss this, and not knowing what the possibilities could be, Nowery agreed to meet.

As the family gathered with Franklin Graham at the headquarters of Samaritan's Purse in North Carolina to discuss their two children looking to join the ministry of Samaritan's Purse, Nowery marveled at what God was doing through Samaritan's Purse all over the world. Franklin shared with

The Giving Christian: Chapter 3 - Giving the Gift of Service

them where there is an overwhelming need or a major crisis in the world, the first hand to reach out to help should be from those who represent Jesus Christ. What a beautiful idea that every Christian should always have in mind. As followers of Christ, no matter the need or crisis, we should be willing and ready to reach out at the drop of a hat.



by
Kirk
Nowery

Franklin continued to communicate with the Nowery family and shared how he would like to send both kids into ministry in Sudan. One of their kids is a nurse practitioner and they were send her to work in a hospital ministry. The other they wanted to send into Sudan as well to work with 400 churches they were trying to rebuild from being burnt down and numerous Christians being literally crucified for their faith. They wanted Nowery's son to go there and start gathering the stories of the martyrs so they would always be remembered and Christ would continue to prevail through the churches there.

Would your heart skip a few beats if your kids were being called to an area where Muslims have killed over 1.5 million Christians? Nowery gained wisdom that day. He was worried about the safety of his kids, but Franklin shared where his heart was when it came to his own son. Franklin's son graduated from West Point and was now a Ranger. Franklin didn't know exactly where his son even was while he was deployed because his son wasn't allowed to tell him. However, God taught Franklin, "my son is safer in a dangerous place in the center of God's will than he is anywhere else on the earth."

Both Nowery's son and daughter were very ready and willing to serve in huge ways that Samaritan's Purse was offering ... but this story goes back many decades.

God first used a pioneer missionary named Frazier to go into Sudan and build the first hospital to lay the foundation for many years of missions to come. In the first five years, Frazier had seen no benefit or fruit for what he was trying to do for Jesus and he would even get spit upon daily by the tribal people there, but he continued to serve and care for the sick for another 20 years until he died. Before his death, he did comfort those in the community that had been changed by Jesus that one day others would come to help them and continue the work God laid on his heart.

So, when Samaritan's Purse finally arrived, they discovered the old hospital had nearly been destroyed by landmines and fully burnt down and a near by church that was in the same condition as the hospital. In the beginning, there wasn't many people that would come around, but finally there were the oldest in the community that would come and see what they were up to. Finally, they shared how they had been waiting for someone to come. Samaritan's Purse was surprised by this, but soon found out about the work that had been done by Frazier and that the people of Sudan that God had changed had been waiting 60 years for the people to come that Frazier had promised.

The Giving Christian is a giver of hope, of help, and now of service too. It's about "wholehearted devotion – not to a religious system or a philosophy, but to a Person." Everything we do should be out of declaration of our faith in Christ and what He did for us on the cross that makes us able to give and live life out, and not be down trodden by our sin but living in the freedom of Christ!

Register for LifeKids!

Monday - Friday LifeKids from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

To register your child/children,
please visit the online registration form:

<https://bit.ly/3w5hSxy>



Faith Lutheran Council

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Larry Wigen. Those in attendance were Roger Godfredsen, Randy Enge, Mark Speidel, Heidi and Kevin Skadeland, LaVonne Clark, Laura Heikens, Kay Iversen, Paul Behrens, Jolynne Eilts, Korrie Anderson, Brittany Spieker. Via Zoom: Becky Simons.

Opening prayer was given by Roger.

August minutes were approved, moved by Becky, second by LaVonne.

August finances were reviewed by Becky. LaVonne moved to approve and Kevin seconded.

Team reports were given.

Old business – Noisy jar will get started again per last council meeting. Pastor will read Gospel message going forward.

Worship director – Much discussion was had. It was decided to move forward with a Youth Ministry Team (YMT) from Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp and Leah Kreutner as our piano player. They will work together on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. The YMT will also help with LifeKids. The YMT will help plan WoW! as soon as possible. Jolynne is going to arrange a meeting with the two and start planning and hopefully begin later in September. Leah will be paid \$600 per month and the YMT will be paid \$1,200 per month. LifeKids will cover their part of the YMT's salary. Korrie motioned and Laura seconded.

Confirmation had 24 kids attend. Trinity's pastor and parents are willing to help. Faith's Youth Ministry Team plans to serve the kids a meal of some sort. Things are sounding really positive for this program and thanks to all those who are making it happen for these kids.

Call Team Report – Brittany reported the Call Team has unanimously approved Pastor Ben Unseth as our next Pastor and were excited to bring it to council. Council had a lot of discussion and questions for Brittany. It was decided a package would be \$6,000 per month for 3 months. There will be a 90-day review and after that salary will go to \$7,000 per month assuming a positive review. Understanding there may be some negotiating it was approved that Larry could move the starting salary between \$6,000 and \$7,000 a month for the first 3 months. Salary will not go above \$7,000 per month without revisiting at council. Ben will get 3 vacation weeks the first year with one of those weeks used for his teaching a week a year. After one year it moves to 4 weeks. Requesting a start date of December 1. This was moved by Roger and seconded by Kevin. Approved unanimously.

Talked about Nominating Team and the need to keep that moving forward.

Leadership retreat was talked about and decided on Sunday, Nov. 14, starting after Sunday School with a lunch and a similar format to previous years.

Talked about team reviewing constitution and will support them anyway possible.

Closing prayer given by Larry.

Motioned by Becky and second by Brett to adjourn.

Submitted by Larry Wigen

Faith Lutheran Council Minutes

September 8,
2021

7:00 p.m.

In person
and
via Zoom

Next Council Meeting | October 13 | 7:00 p.m. | In person & Zoom

Council Members: Please submit your team reports to the office (office@faithlutheranspencer.com) by Monday, Oct. 11, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

GENERAL
OFFERING

January 1 - September 19, 2021 | Year to Date: \$228,507.46

Thank you for generously giving in 2021!

2021 Call Team ~ Joe Simington, Call Team Leader

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

Baby Bottle Campaign



The Baby Bottle Campaign is one of Cherish Center's longest-running fund-raising campaigns. This event successfully raises a huge amount of funds and awareness to the Cherish Center. *Thank you* for taking an empty baby bottle to collect change, cash and checks to support Cherish House and Cherish Center!

Please return bottles to Faith Lutheran by Sunday, Nov. 7.

Resources and services offered at Cherish House:

- ♦ A place to sort out and prepare for teens and young women facing unplanned pregnancies. Pre-natal care, as well as counseling for both parenting and placing for adoption.
- ♦ A unique thrift store located in Milford that supports the work of the Cherish Center. Good, clean furniture, household and baby/children items. Shop, donate or volunteer!
- ♦ An individual to come alongside, because parenting can be difficult! Mentors are available at no cost to parents with children of all ages. Meet to develop a plan that will enhance parenting skills.
- ♦ A place to connect with other parents as you navigate the journey of parenting. A family meal and childcare are provided at every meeting.
- ♦ A place to find guidance and insight into relationships, emotions, transitions and the ups and downs of life. Low-cost sessions available. Appointments subject to availability.

1004 22nd St., Milford, IA 51351 | Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1003, Okoboji, IA 51355
712-338-3333 | email: info@cherishcenter.org | website: www.cherishcenter.org



Amazon Shoppers - Consider Supporting Faith!

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.

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!



Youth News with Brittany Spieker

October is here and that means the start of Confirmation and Youth Group!!!! How exciting to have the church full of our youth on Wednesday nights!

This year we are doing Confirmation a little different. Joe and Rachel Simington have graciously accepted the blessing of taking over Confirmation in the absence of a Pastor. They have been working very hard on lesson plans, service projects and even a parent vs student Bible trivia night! We had our first Confirmation meeting that was very well attended with a wonderful number of new and returning youth and willing parents to help as well! Additionally, we are so excited to welcome Trinity Lutheran's Confirmation class and to have Pastor Renae Behrends from Trinity assisting in instructing!

A new addition to this year will be suppers before Confirmation. We are asking anyone interested to either cook or sponsor a meal and we will have more details on that to come.

The youth have been asked to choose a mentor to be alongside them through their Confirmation journey. Our hope is to form a faith filled bond, inside and outside of our church. Mentors will be invited to some of the Confirmation nights, welcome to any event and to pray over their mentee as they dig deep into the Word. As we go into the Confirmation season we ask for prayers that our youth open their hearts, their minds and welcome all what God has to offer. We will also be hosting Middle School Youth events throughout the year and a calendar will soon be formed.

High School Youth will start back up the first week of October. It excites me as we welcome the freshmen into the mezzanine and, of course, to be back into a routine with our older youth. I just love them! This year is also putting an uneasy feeling in my stomach as we have a pretty incredible group of seniors that I have gotten to know and love and knowing that God is granting us this time to help mold them and instill his Word and presence into them is all incredible and amazing and super sad all at the same time.

This fall we will be attending outreaches, having bon fires, and planning what the year has in store. We hope to have one extra event a month and a schedule will be formed soon. As we dig into the Word, I want to challenge the youth this year to be who God sees them to be. I have been given the greatest gift of getting to know a lot of these youth on a faith level, and I pray that someday they will see themselves as I see them. That obviously doesn't happen overnight and to be honest it is something that will take time. So how do we encourage our youth to see themselves as we see them, as God sees them? Helping them discover how they can be the best person they can be. In a world that is seemingly hurting and even a bit ugly, how can our youth stand out and be examples of His life? First, be kind. This month we will start with the basics, and that is simply being kind.

Have you ever spent time with someone who's unpleasant to be around because they're always complaining and finding fault in everything, even when life seems to be rainbows and butterflies? Sometimes it's difficult to be around people like that. Now, imagine the kindest person you've ever met. What's the difference? What is it that makes that person so kind? I bet if we were to take a poll, most of us would want to be more like the person who's kind.

The Bible has quite a bit to say about kindness. When we think about being kind, our reflection should begin with God Himself. A beautiful passage that shows this is Titus 3:4-6: *But when the kindness of and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

Consider also Ephesians 2:7-9: *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable*

riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. Our salvation is not because we've done any good works, but it's because of God's grace - an expression of God's kindness.

High school can be rough, battling school, homework, sports, jobs, friends, family, social media, gossip and now my crazy youth leader is telling me that above all God needs to come first and I have to be kind about it? Yup I am! BECAUSE God makes that all possible through trust and devotion!!!!

We ask that you cover all of our youth, parents and leaders in prayers, support and guidance. We have an amazing church family and I know God will be doing amazing things!

Give 'em Jesus!

Brittany Spieker, Youth Ministry Team leader

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



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

***During the month
of October,
Faith Lutheran
welcomes the following
Guest Speakers!***

Sunday, Oct. 3 - Kevin Brown
Sunday, Oct. 10 - Joe Simington
Sunday, Oct. 17 - Bill Kersting
Sunday, Oct. 24 - Justin Spieker
Sunday, Oct. 31 - Dan Winkowitsch



Outreach Nights

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

October 3 - Block Party/Kickball

Youth Recharges - "Into the Unknown" - John 16:33 ...

4th-6th Grades - October 22-24

6th-9th Grades - November 5-7 & November 12-14

9th-12th Grades - November 19-21

Fall Retreats ...

October 9 - Women's Day Away - **Guest Speaker: Brittany Spieker**

November 19-21 - Fall Crafting Retreat

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

Faith Lutheran Church

2912 Highway Blvd
Spencer, IA 51301

Faith Lutheran Church - September, 2021

Births | Baptisms | Confirmed | Deaths

Marriages: Crystal Schmidt and Shawn Meislahn, Sept. 18 | **New Members**

Faith Lutheran Church - Staff

Church Administrator: Lori Krei
churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com

Custodian: Rich Stueven
custodian@faithlutheranspencer.com

Technology Director: Lori Krei
techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven
office@faithlutheranspencer.com

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

LifeKids Director: Radina Jansen
director@lifekidsspencer.com

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

Like us on Facebook

Follow us at: @flcspencer

Faith Lutheran Church LCMC

Watch us on SMU:

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