



Faith Life Together

December 2023 | Volume 7 | Issue 12

Snapshot of Faith during November 2023

Baptisms: Nov. 5, Fallon Pratt

Births | Confirmed

Deaths | Marriages

New Members

Mark Your Calendar

Dec. 3 – First Sunday in Advent
Wednesdays, Dec. 6, 13, 20 –

5:30 p.m. Potluck

6:30 p.m. Advent Service

Saturday, Dec. 9 – 1:45 p.m.

Christmas Program Dress
Rehearsal

Dec. 10 – 9:00 a.m. Children's
Christmas Program

Dec. 24 – 9:00 a.m. Worship
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship

Dwelling

Immanuel – God With Us

What is something on your mind this December? Perhaps you are counting down the days until Christmas, or maybe you are hurrying to finish up year-end things before January arrives. If someone in your family has a birthday or anniversary in December, you may also be focusing on that. No matter what goes through your mind this December, let us also rest in the promise that God is with us, and Jesus will come again. The family of Faith is quite busy this month! We will have **Wednesday Advent services on December 6, 13, and 20. A potluck supper will be at 5:30 p.m., and the service will begin at 6:30 p.m.** These short, 30-minute services are opportunities for you to intentionally slow down during this busy season and focus on Christ's coming.

The children of Faith will be performing their **Christmas program, "A Rockin' Royal Christmas with the King", on December 10, during the 9:00 a.m. service.** Come enjoy the story of Jesus' birth told by the youngest members of Faith! Also on **December 10, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., there will be Christmas caroling**, so come join the festivities! On **Sunday, December 24**, we will have two services - our **normal Sunday service at 9:00 a.m.**, and the **Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 5:30 p.m.** Both services will be a meaningful opportunity for you to reflect on the newborn King, and we invite you to attend both if you are able. Blessings to you and your family this holiday season - God is with us!

Merry and Blessed Christmas!



From the
Pen of
Pastor
Ben -
Giving
Thanks to
God

Christmas Is Coming to You!

My dad, my pastor, was always in church on Sunday morning! Always! He was in church with me, or he was preaching in another church.

Except one time! Mom was gone too. Though I was only three years old, I still remember the date – April 24.

After church that morning, Gene and Francis Reuther took the five Unseth boys home for Sunday dinner. I don't actually remember the church service that morning or dinner. What I do remember is the phone call from Dad: We had a new baby brother! Five big brothers shouted for joy that our boys' dorm would not be polluted with femininity. The baby's name was Joseph. Today he may tell you that he was raised by wolves.

What did I have to do with Joseph's birth? Nothing.

What did I do to help bring him home? Nothing.

What did I do to help feed him? Nothing.

Yet Joseph changed my life.

He didn't waste thousands of hours trying to become a professional athlete as I did. He was busy solving problems. When I couldn't fix my bicycle, Joe figured it out and fixed it. When my cars break down, I call Joe.

When my mother has needed help building or fixing something, she has never called me. She has waited for Joe to come.

When my son Spencer died, Joe drove his casket 750 miles to the cemetery.

My brother Joe reminds me that I often look at Christmas backwards. I had nothing to do with Joe's coming, and I certainly had nothing to do with Jesus' coming.

I tend to think about what **I'm doing** for Christmas, but Christmas is all about Jesus coming to us – **what God does** through sending His one and only Son Jesus into the world. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him" (John 3:17).

Every week this December, I will remind seekers and saints at Faith Lutheran Church that Christmas is coming to you! We can celebrate. We will experience peace and joy in Jesus ... our Savior born in Bethlehem.

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
712-363-1130 or djslrs74@yahoo.com
or

Doreen Scribner at 712-260-9884
doreenscribner@outlook.com



Christmas Caroling!

Sunday, Dec. 10
Meet at Faith
at 4:00 p.m.
(Pizza to follow!)

All ages are welcome to come!

Any questions? Please call Sara Franker at 712-260-0931.

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

Check Your Online Giving ...

As the year is closing out and you may be making final financial preparations, keep your giving in mind, especially your online giving. Log in to your account and update things if needed. Maybe things have changed in your household and you need to change the amount you're giving to Faith. This is a great time of the year just to check into that account and make sure all is well or make changes. Thanks for taking the time to do so and making sure you're giving to God all that is God's. Thanks and blessings!

P.S. Don't forget to fill out your Time and Talent sheet! We will be taking them until they're all turned in!

Prayer Corner

Lift Up in Prayer ...

- Pray that God will make you sensitive to your friends and family member's spiritual needs as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas. Ask for wisdom to listen well and for boldness to share how Jesus has blessed you.
- Ask God how He would direct you to serve on a ministry team in 2024.
- Ask God to provide for Faith's financial needs as we approach the end of this year.
- Pray for Pastor Roger and Vickie Godfredsen as he serves as Interim Pastor with St. Johns Lutheran Church, Springfield, Minnesota.
- Pray for the Nominating Team as they seek to discern ministry leaders for 2024.
- Pray for Pastor Ben as he prepares to teach at Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, January 8-12.

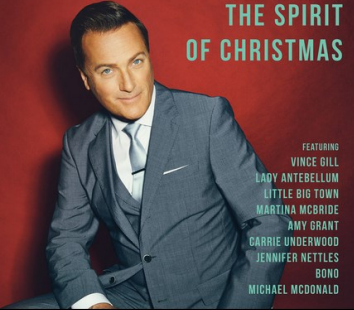
- Pray for the ministry of Falls Community Church in Sioux Falls.
- Healing for Mike Trierweiler, Al Vanderberg, Sharon Anderson, Shirley Lowe, Christa Gray, Emily Swancutt, John Trierweiler, Joseph Salmon and all those we name in our hearts.

Reasons for Praise!

- Give thanks for our new members through baptism, Fallon Pratt and Tatum Stykel, and for their families.
- Give thanks for our Properties and Stewardship teams.
- Give thanks for a second year with Jacob Weeks, our Tech leader from Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps.

Worship and Communications

MICHAEL W. SMITH & FRIENDS
THE SPIRIT
OF CHRISTMAS



All is Well - Alleluia

by Gloria McKenney

Have you ever looked around at the world and thought, “Where is a good God in the midst of such evil”? I certainly have, and I expect most of you have thought that at one point or another. The world we live in is far from perfect and sometimes feels darker than the light. So how can Michael W. Smith so definitively declare, as he titled his song, “All is Well”? Perhaps it would be more appropriate to say that all *will* be well – when Christ returns the second time to imprison Satan and do away with all trace of evil. And while Advent is all about looking forward to Christ’s return, we still live, here and now, in this world tarnished by sin.

Yet Michael W. Smith doesn’t say all *will* be well; he says all *is* well – and he even bolsters this proclamation multiple times throughout the song with the lyrics “sing alleluia”. The word ‘alleluia’ (sometimes spelled hallelujah, which means the same thing) is a combination of two Hebrew words: *hallel*, meaning ‘praise’ and *yah*, meaning ‘God’. Thus, alleluia = praise God.

Praise God – why? That’s just it. There is no stipulation. We aren’t praising God because of His goodness, or lovingkindness, or mercy, though those are certainly reasons to praise God. But here, in alleluia, we are simply praising God. No ‘because’. No reason why. Just – God. God, who has carried us in our past. God, who is forming and molding us now. God, who will come back one day. Just – God.

There may still be corruption in this world (for now), but God is still God, and thus all is well. Alleluia – Praise God.

High School Youth Group

by Matt & Steph Essick

Proverbs 4:7 (NIV) *“The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost you all you have, get understanding.”*

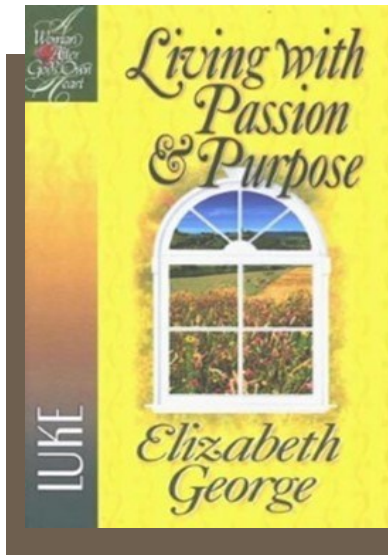
During one of the first sessions of high school youth group this fall, the youth stated that they would like to learn some life skills and lessons. The youth listed several areas of their lives that they want to know how to handle as a Christian and how to show God’s love each and every day and through every situation. We all acknowledged that life with Christ has so much to offer but there are times it isn’t easy to follow Christ, and that the pressures of the world can sneak in and distract you away from that life.

We have talked about what our purpose is, how to structure our day to include time with God and God’s Word, and how to best adapt to change in an ever changing world during our Wednesday night youth group meetings. A lot of what we talk about can be summed up as seeking God’s wisdom – taking the time to be present and in His word. We continue to look forward to Wednesday nights, time at Outreach, and Sunday School. We ask for continued prayers for the youth.

Outreach Night – Sunday, Dec. 3 – Christmas Mystery – Grades 6-12 | 5:00-8:00 p.m.
RSVP by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30, to Rachel Simington at 712-363-0663.

Coming Events at Faith

Bible Study: "Living with Passion & Purpose" **Tuesday, Dec. 12 | 1:30 p.m. | SON Room**



We will be studying Luke 12 - a message from Jesus about greed and materialism, anxiety and the watchful expectation of His return. How can we be ready for Jesus' return?

As Jesus moved toward the cross He remains passionate about His message which is loud and clear in this chapter: All must get right with God! Judgment is coming!

Let's get together, learn from God's Word and support and encourage one another through prayer and conversation!

All are welcome!

Hands-On Mission and Lutheran World Relief

Hands-On Mission Day | Wednesday, December 6 **9:00 a.m. to Noon.**

We have many school bags to string or you can choose to sew either school bags or quilt tops. We will also be tying quilts and assembling kits. All are welcome to participate in the way they enjoy.

Item of the Month ~



Bath Towels (minimum size: 20x40"/maximum size: 52x27")

These are part of a Personal Care Kit. The simple items included in these kits provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty. These kits remind recipients of God's loving presence and that there are other people in the world who care. They give hope.

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:

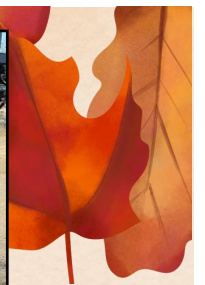
Canned tuna or chicken, hamburger helper, shampoo



LifeKids Spencer



Cheryl Jackson Director



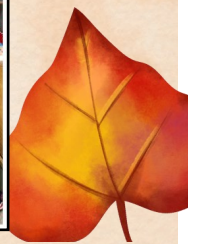
It was a great month in LifeKids! Our pizza fundraiser was very successful thanks to all the community support! In fact, one of the LifeKids sold 51 pizzas! Wow! Thank you to all who supported us with a purchase or donation during this fundraiser.

On our full day we enjoyed God's beauty and did a little fishing at Scharnberg – even though the fish eluded us, the conversations and connections did not!

Wednesday, Nov. 13, was World Kindness Day – the children and I decided to show our kindness by giving BACK to Faith through service. We took on the task of cleaning and sorting all of the toys in the church nursery. We discussed how many hands make for light work. I was so proud of the children, there was not one grumble in the group – just lots of smiles!

Thank you for continuing to support this program and myself as I learn the ins and outs of being the site director.

I truly believe that raising good people is our primary focus in LifeKids.



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday Blessings to . . .

December 2	Emily Hoppe	December 18	Jerome Christianson
December 3	Nicole Griffin		Del Christman
December 4	Tim Eglund		Syndee Patten
December 5	Cryss Quanbeck	December 20	Ross Kreutner
December 7	Gene Englin	December 22	Kyle Rouse
December 8	Dan Lockhart	December 23	Cayann Knoer
December 10	Reid Tigges	December 25	Randy Enge
	Mallory Anderson	December 26	Greg Lear
December 11	Troy Rosendahl	December 27	Lacey Johnson
December 12	Isaac Brockshus	December 28	Conner Essick
	Bruce Simons		Gavin Patten
	Larry Wigen	December 30	Lori Wire
December 13	Donna Frederick	December 31	Adam Dotson
	Charles Rouse		
December 14	Olivia Schuster		
	Connie Jenkins		
December 16	Stan Andersen		
	Justin Heikens		
	Mark Freeman		
	Carolyn Dundas		
December 17	Cherie Banks		
	Marci Sandven		
	Carl Simons		

Happy Anniversary Wishes To ...

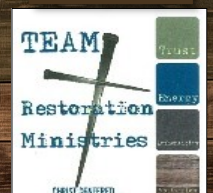
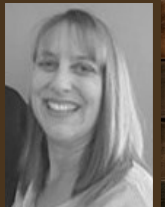
December 3	Bruce & Gayle Simons
December 17	Pete & Andrea Crew
December 28	Mike & Kim Wilson
December 30	Steve & Jean Oleson

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**



Reverse Advent Calendar by Alice Nielsen



Welcome to Faith's 2nd 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 2nd 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		

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 3 ~ 1st Sunday of Advent ~ Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 6

5:30 p.m. Advent Meal ~ Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

6:30 p.m. Midweek Service with Josh & Whitney Smith

Saturday, Dec. 9

1:45-4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal ~ snacks to follow.

Sunday, Dec. 10 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent ~ Worship at 9:00 a.m. and

Children's Christmas Program ("A Rockin' Royal Christmas")

Christmas Caroling ~ for all ages ~ meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. ~ pizza to follow.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

5:30 p.m. Advent Meal ~ Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

6:30 p.m. Midweek Service

Sunday, Dec. 17 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

5:30 p.m. Advent Meal ~ Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

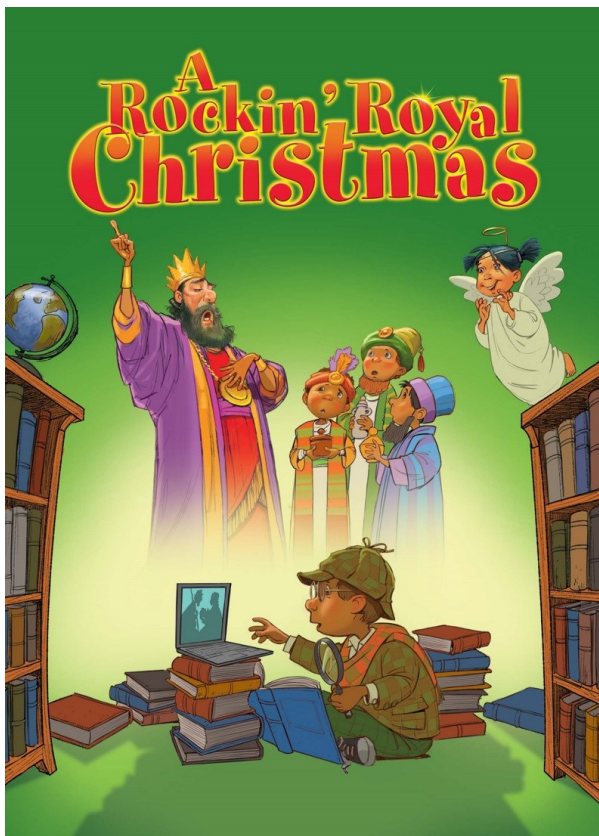
6:30 p.m. Midweek Service

Sunday, Dec. 24 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

9:00 a.m. Regular Worship Service

5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship service

Sunday, Dec. 31 ~ New Year's Eve ~ 9:00 a.m. Regular Worship Service



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,
1:45-4:00 p.m. with snacks to follow**

Faith's Mission Partners



Louis & Jane
Faulstich

Christian Missionary Alliance

by Julie Williams

The Christian and Missionary Alliance, otherwise known as the C&MA or The Alliance, is an evangelical denomination full of believers who long to introduce the love of God to all nations. The Christian and Missionary Alliance is currently one of our Mission Team partners. The Alliance was formed in 1881 when Pastor A. B. Simpson organized a small group of believers devoted to witnessing to the marginalized people of New York City. As the organization grew, so did their purpose, eventually expanding to more than 2,000 U.S. churches and 70 countries. The Alliance aims to carry out their vision of "All of Jesus for All the World". By following God's call and partnering with more than 700 international workers, C&MA desires to bring God's hope to the nations by caring for suffering and overlooked people, so that Jesus' name will be proclaimed in every tribe and tongue to fulfill the Great Commission.

Two of C&MA's international workers are Louis and Jane Faulstich, a couple from Ruthven, Iowa. They are now working in the country of Vanuatu, an island in the South Pacific near Papua New Guinea, as missionaries and Bible translators. Louis and Jane are working to fulfill the Great Commission where God has led them in Vanuatu, just as we follow God's leading here in Iowa. Louis and Jane Faulstich and the Christian and Missionary Alliance are currently one of our Mission Partners at Faith, as we support them financially and in prayer. Please continue to keep the Faulstich's in your prayers as they go and make disciples of all nations, working to bring all of Jesus to all the world.



Through the Bible in 2023 – One Chapter a Day

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

Month	Day	Book	Ch	Chapter Summary
Dec. 1	Friday	Hebrews	4	Invitation to Enter God's Rest
Dec. 2	Saturday	James	2	God's Law and Faith
Dec. 3	Sunday	James	5	God Answers Prayer
Dec. 4	Monday	Micah	5	Israel's Shepherd to Be Born in Bethlehem
Dec. 5	Tuesday	1 Peter	1	Redeemed by the Blood of Christ
Dec. 6	Wednesday	1 Peter	2	A Living Temple and Royal Priests
Dec. 7	Thursday	2 Peter	2	The Lord Rescues the Godly
Dec. 8	Friday	1 John	1	God Is Light, and in Him Is No Darkness
Dec. 9	Saturday	1 John	2	Whoever Does God's Will Lives Forever
Dec. 10	Sunday	1 John	3	The Love of the Father and the Son
Dec. 11	Monday	Zechariah	12	Jerusalem Will See the Pierced Son
Dec. 12	Tuesday	1 John	5	Whoever Has the Son Has Life
Dec. 13	Wednesday	2 John	1	This Is Love: Walking After God's Commands
Dec. 14	Thursday	3 John	1	Coworkers for the Truth
Dec. 15	Friday	Jude	1	Have Mercy on Those Who Doubt
Dec. 16	Saturday	Revelation	1	Jesus: The First and the Last
Dec. 17	Sunday	Revelation	3	Whoever Has an Ear, Listen to the Spirit
Dec. 18	Monday	Mark	1	The Beginning of God's Good News
Dec. 19	Tuesday	Matthew	1	Name the Virgin's Son Jesus
Dec. 20	Wednesday	Hebrews	1	God Has Spoken to Us by His Son
Dec. 21	Thursday	Hebrews	2	Jesus Had to Be Fully Human
Dec. 22	Friday	John	1	The Word Became Flesh
Dec. 23	Saturday	Malachi	4	The Sun of Righteousness Will Rise with Healing
Dec. 24	Sunday	Luke	1	Gabriel Tells Mary She Will Bear the Son of God
Dec. 25	Monday	Luke	2	Jesus Is Born
Dec. 26	Tuesday	Matthew	2	The Magi, Then to Egypt and Nazareth
Dec. 27	Wednesday	Revelation	5	Worship in Every Language
Dec. 28	Thursday	Revelation	20	Judgment of Satan and of the Dead
Dec. 29	Friday	Zephaniah	3	God Will Gather His People
Dec. 30	Saturday	Revelation	21	A New Heaven and a New Earth
Dec. 31	Sunday	Revelation	22	The Lamb Says: I Am Coming Soon!



JOY To The World by Kim Wilson

In December, we have so much to celebrate. As Christians, we are able to once again prepare for the birth of the Christ Child, who saved the world from sin. We see up close and personal the many ways our world needs the JOY of the season to change hearts and give hope.

As Lutherans, we enJOY the anticipation of the Advent Season, as we honor the path of our ancestors that led to this wondrous event. JOY was at the center of the journey as men and women of old clung to the promise of a Savior. Every year, we walk that same familiar road to capture the excitement and the anticipation of our Lord's coming.

Who knew that a baby born in a manger in a Jewish city to young parents would be the beginning of the greatest story ever told? We are reminded of the celebrating done by the parents, the angels, the shepherds, and the wise men during that blessed time. JOY was on full display as goodwill was shared throughout the world.

The Holy Spirit is the purveyor of that continued JOY these 2000-plus years later. The Spirit can deliver us, especially this time of year, from the distractions of this world in favor of a loving and expectant opportunity to renew ourselves according to God's plan. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, JOY, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23. During Advent and Christmas, we witness the Spirit at work lifting up the world with JOY in spite of itself.

You may be thinking, "Where's the JOY?" when media sources report incessant conflict, unrest, and hate. Distractions like these are the Enemy's way of flooding us with uncertainty and doubt to take away our JOY. We are reminded in Psalm 94:18-19 that others before us have experienced the same distress and have sought out our God for deliverance. "When I say, 'my foot is slipping,' your mercy, Lord, holds me up. When cares increase within me, your comfort gives me JOY."

It's too easy to accept the feelings of hopelessness and helplessness but each one of us has the opportunity to intentionally combat this. We can choose a different response. We can practice being JOYful, even when we may not feel it, and show it to others in big and small ways. Saint Paul, in Philippians 4:6-7, tells us to "be filled with joy. Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind."

Our hearts and minds contain great power to change the perspective of our immediate circle. Collectively, we can do so much more to bring people to Jesus. We can pray for others to experience this JOY, too. We can exert our spirit-filled muscle to spread the glad tidings of great JOY to all people we come in contact with. During this holiday season, we have the chance to show those around us through service what God's goodness, His peace, and JOY look like when we do His will.

To God be the Glory!



Roger & Vickie Godfredsen

As we await the arrival of Jesus, Emmanuel, let's celebrate a couple passionate about Christ's presence with us: Roger and Vickie Godfredsen.

Roger & Vickie, having been blessed with 5 daughters and 2 sons that gave them 24 grandchildren, show their love for life and especially kids through their interaction with people at Faith, but especially the kids. You will never find a bigger smile or twinkle in an eye than on Roger's face when he hands a kid a Styrofoam cup containing 3 donut holes.

Roger and Vickie served Faith together in many ways. They helped serve communion, were friendly greeters at our doors, and most recently as team leaders of Fellowship. During their time as team leaders, Roger used his extensive experience managing restaurants and developed a clean-up protocol for our kitchen that covers all the details. While ministering to our congregation in that fellowship role, we would mostly see their hospitality gifts caring for others on Sunday mornings. However, they also served family after family in moments of grief and comfort during many, many funerals at Faith during that time on their team. More than that, they also coordinated numerous meals for all kinds of events, along with the preparation of those meals along with setting up and cleaning up, over and over. At one point, they even had to cut a vacation short and drive all the way across Iowa to make sure Faith was there to care for a family in need. Now, Roger is currently serving as interim pastor at St. John's Lutheran in Springfield, Minn., even though they still enjoy their home in Milford.

Vickie has used her gifts in other ministries as well. She was a care minister, looking out for and connecting with our members. She's participated in the woman's Bible study, is part of the prayer chain, and is one amazing prayer warrior, always keeping others in her heart and presenting them to the Lord for whatever celebration or concern they have in their life. Vickie is also one talented quilter of beautiful works of art with fabric.

All in all, Roger and Vickie, good and faithful servants, thanks for all you've blessed us with through your gifts and service. We hope St. John's doesn't need you for much longer so we can have you back, worshipping together again. Until then, many blessings to you both.



Stewards
of the
Month
by
Heidi
Skadeland

Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes November 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Joe Simington at 7:01 PM.

Members present were: Eli Franker, Kirby Fueston, Eric Tigges, Pam Hanson, Barb Solberg, Joe Simington, Pam Harris, Dave Susie, Lisa Carpenter, Heidi Skadeland (via Zoom), Pastor Ben & Bill Neiderheiser & Jacob Weeks (guests).

The meeting was opened with prayer by Joe Simington. The Council then discussed Chapter 9 of *"The Lost Art of Disciple Making."*

OCTOBER COUNCIL MINUTES – Minutes from last month's meeting were reviewed. Quorum was not met for approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Lisa said we are in need of about \$14,000/week for the rest of the year to meet our budget. LifeKids will get caught up by next month. Numbers are similar to last year and December is typically a large month for giving. No quorum so financials were not approved.

PASTOR BEN'S REPORT – See attached.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Joe Simington) – None.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Evangelism (Eric Tigges) – None.

Missions (Pam Harris) – The Smith's are looking for one week of housing yet. They aren't sure what week they will need housing.

Worship (Pete Crew) – None.

Stewardship (Skadeland's) – THANK YOU to all for doing the videos for the Ministry Fair. Please fill out your time & talent sheets.

Discipleship (Barb Solberg) – None.

Children's Ministry (Kirby Fueston) – None.

Youth Ministry (Matt & Steph Essick) – None.

Caring Ministries (Laura Heikens) – None.

Fellowship (Larry Peterson) – None.

Music & Creative Arts (Jared Hansen) – None.

Properties (Eli Franker) – RIDES is looking at getting rid of some buses. Eli is being asked about getting a new bus which has been discussed before.

Technology (VOID) – None.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Tech project – Jacob handed out a proposal from RDI out of Milford to upgrade our projector system. He went over the details of the equipment included in the proposal. The quote came in at \$80,000 as is but it can be adjusted if we choose. The quote includes 2 projectors & 2 screens along with all of the cables, equipment & installation for the system. It does include some training for our tech team. Our current system is original to the church. It is starting to have a few issues due to its age. As it ages, it will get harder to maintain & get parts.

Insurance overview – The building is under-valued and we don't have a commercial umbrella policy. Cyber insurance was also suggested that we have but that would involve changing some things on the computers. Our insurance policy renews in December. Our premium would go up almost \$3,500 based on current value and a commercial umbrella for \$2 million will increase our premium by \$1,000. It was discussed to have our agent come out and look at the property and discuss with Becky, Eli and anyone else that would like to be a part of this discussion.

Advent meals – It was decided to just do pot luck. Joe to talk to Larry to have a couple people line some things up prior to each Advent service.

Team budgets – Try to have your team budgets & year end reports together by **December 10**.

Year-End annual reports – see Team budget above. Annual meeting is in January.

LifeKids update – Bill said their current budget will get them through to the end of this year. Cleaning was an issue so they hired their own janitor. Cheryl has been able to do the necessary cleaning so the janitor they hired will no longer be working for LifeKids but the janitor they hired could also work for the church if we wanted.

Concerns and/or Celebrations – One of the LifeKids sold over 50 pizzas and is going to hand deliver all of them.

ILCC aviation student coming next year from Oklahoma and is a current LCMC member. His mother reached out to Pastor Ben.

Closing Prayer was given by Joe Simington.

Adjournment – Barb Solberg made the motion to adjourn. Kirby Fueston seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jolene K. Hansen, Church Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting is January 10 | 7:00 p.m. | In person and Zoom

Council Members: Please submit your team reports to the office by
Monday, January 8, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

GENERAL OFFERING

January 1 through November 19

2023 Budget: \$413,959.25

Year to Date as of November 19: \$302,115.32

Needed to make budget as of November 19: \$111,843.93

Thank you for generously giving in 2023!

Faith Lutheran Church

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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.