Trust Is Better Than Understanding

Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church

Inviting all People to Faith … Come and Worship – Go and Work

Pastor – Ben Unseth | Ministers – All

Phone: 712-580-4316 | 2912 Highway Blvd, P.O. Box 1322, Spencer, IA 51301

December 24, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. | 4th Sunday in Advent

Prelude

Welcome

Prayer

Opening Song – "O Come All Ye Faithful"

*Invocation

We meet in the strong name of our God;
We praise You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Litany

Come now, long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Your people free.

Giver of every good gift,
Thank You for tidings of comfort and joy.

Long-awaited Chosen One,
With the angels, let us sing, "Alleluias" to our King.

Messiah who lay in a manger,
I ask You to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Savior of the world,
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

The Lord is come, let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing.

Come and worship, come and worship!
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

*Prayer of the Day

Dear Jesus, thank You for crossing the boundary between time and eternity to lower Yourself into our world, into a mortal body, lying in a manger. We do not understand, so we ask You to open our hearts to trust Your perfect heart. Illuminate our souls to hear and see You in Your Word and in our worship. We ask in Your holy name. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Prayer – Love

Song – "He Came Down"

New Testament Lesson – 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of
you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of
noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God
chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly

things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, [29] so that no one may boast before Him. [30] It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. [31] Therefore, as it is written: "Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord."

Children's Message

Song – "Christmas Carol Medley"

*Gospel – Luke 2:1-7

[1] In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. [2] (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) [3] And everyone went to their own town to register. [4] So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. [5] He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. [6] While they were there, the time came for the Baby to be born, [7] and she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Sermon – "Trust Is Better Than Understanding"

Song – "Hallelujah"

*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostle's Creed

Prayers of the Church

Sharing of the Peace

*The Lord's Prayer

*Blessing

*Closing Song – "Go Tell It on the Mountain" *(Noisy Band)*

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Please stand if you are able.*

Welcome to Faith Lutheran!

Live Stream: youtube.com/@flcspencer | Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday - Friday | 712-580-4316 | office@flcspencer.org

www.flcspencer.org | Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church LCMC | Instagram: @flcspencer

Watch us on SMU: Monday @ 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday @ 11:00 a.m.

Text your giving to Faith at 712-214-4317

Thank you to all who are sharing a poinsettia to beautify our church! Poinsettias may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship service tonight.

In memory of our parents by Kent & Carol Heazlett.

In memory of Diane & Gary Hansen, Steve McGinley, Margaret Alberts, John Jurgens and other family members by Dick & Diane Allen.

In memory of JoAnne Harders by Al & Kim Rye.

In memory of loved ones by Pat Swancutt.

In memory of Bill and Mary Astor, Ethan Astor, and Donald Brinkley by Tim & Sue Brinkley.

In memory of and in honor of loved ones by Becky Fear-Hatting.

In memory of Joan and son, Curt Berkland, by Gene Berkland.

In memory of Sharon Woodford by Roydal Woodford.

In honor of family and friends by Jim Paulsen.

In memory of our parents by Dave & Sharon Simington.

In memory of and in honor of loved ones by Rich & Cheryl Stueven.

In memory of Kelly Polson by Isaiah, Whitney, Jericho & Oliver Gray.

In memory of Mom, Doris Andersen, and in honor of Dad, Stan Andersen, by Denise Lovitt.

In memory of loved ones by Pam Harris.

In memory of Wayne Burnham by Barbara Burnham.

Thank you to Neal & Cindy Drefke for their donation of 5 red poinsettias.

Register Now for Via de Cristo

Now is the time to register for either the men's or women's Via de Cristo. There are **registration forms on the Welcome Center** or you can find the form online at 2024 Via de Cristo Pilgrim Application.pdf

Men's Via de Cristo – Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:00 p.m. – Sunday, Jan. 14, 4:00 p.m.
Women's Via de Cristo – Thursday, Jan. 18, 7:00 p.m. – Sunday, Jan. 21, 4:00 p.m.

For more information, please see Justin Spieker (712-260-2414) or Rachel Simington (712-363-0663).

Item of the Month ~ **Bath Towels**

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

Donated items can be put in the yellow Missions box near the front doors.

Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry is in need of:

Canned tuna or chicken, hamburger helper, shampoo

Faith Council Members

2023 Year-End reports are due now to the Church Office. If you haven't turned in your report, please do so today!

office@flcspencer.org

Christmas will be here soon, do you need a last-minute stocking stuffer?

2024 God's Creation wall calendars are available for $10.00 at the back of the church!

Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran and earmark them "Youth Calendars."

Ashish to Visit

Ashish Ingale, fiancé of Marlee Nicholson, is visiting Faith on Sunday, January 7. He is looking forward to providing special music and sharing more about his mission work in Scotland.

Faith Game Night

Please join us Friday, Dec. 29, for fun table games, food, and fellowship. We will start at 6:30 p.m.

Bring your favorite appetizer/New Year's Eve party sort-of-food (or side dishes if that is what your family calls them). Bring a game if you have one you'd love to play with others or just come – a variety of games will be provided. All ages are wanted.

If you have questions, please contact: Lance or Jalyce Storley, Jared or Nickie Hansen, Joe or Rachel Simington

(Lance: 605-759-8399 | Jalyce: 712-363-5100 | Jared: 712-260-5947
Nickie: 712-346-8387 | Joe: 712-346-7834 | Rachel: 712-363-0663)

SMU Holiday Rebroadcast Schedules

Because of Christmas and New Year's Day holidays, SMU will rebroadcast our Sunday 9:00 a.m. services as follows ...

Monday, Dec. 25, has been moved to Thursday, Dec. 28, at 5:30 p.m.
The Tuesday, Dec. 26, rebroadcast will still be at 11:00 a.m.

Monday, Jan. 1, has been moved to Thursday, Jan. 4, at 5:30 p.m.
The Tuesday, Jan 2, rebroadcast will still be at 11:00 a.m.

Faith's normal rebroadcast days and times return as of Jan. 8.

Anniversary Blessings to ...	
Dec. 28	*Mike & Kim Wilson*
Dec. 30	*Steve & Jean Oleson*

Birthday blessings to ...	
Dec. 25	*Randy Enge*
Dec. 26	*Greg Lear*
Dec. 27	*Abigail Sedlacek, Lacey Johnson, Fallon Pratt*
Dec. 28	*Conner Essick, Gavin Patten*
Dec. 30	*Lori Wire*

Worship partners for 9:00 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 24 ~ 4th Sunday in Advent

Altar Prep: Altar Prep Team | Counters: Greg Lear, Jolene Hansen
Advent Wreath Lighting & Prayer: Lance, Jalyce, Evan, Isaac, Aaron & Owen Storley
Children's Message: Troy Rosendahl | Fellowship & Set-up: Dave & Linda Susie
Greeters/Ushers: Troy & Anne Rosendahl | Instrumentalists: Leah Kreutner, Gloria McKenney, Evan Storley, Anna Quanbeck | Message: Pastor Ben Unseth
Prayers of the Church: Lisa Buchan | Scripture Reader: Bill Neiderheiser
Camera: Cindy Tigges | Computer: Brittany Spieker | Sound: Cheryl Stueven
Lead Tech: Jacob Weeks | Vocalists: Jim & Joan Unrau, Dennis Larson
Worship Leader: Gary Klett

Worship partners for 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Altar Prep: Altar Prep Team | Advent Wreath Lighting & Prayer: Mike, Sarah, Savannah, Sierra & Sophia Ruhs | Children's Message: Dodo & Emu
Communion Servers: Dave & Sharon Simington, Ross & Beth Brockshus
Counters: Becky Simons | Greeters, Ushers, Candlelighters: Dave & Barb Solberg, Laura, Brayden & Kolton Yungbluth; Eli, Sara & Jeffrey Franker
Instrumentalists: Carolyn Dundas, Gloria McKenney, Jared Hansen, Anna Quanbeck
Message: Pastor Ben Unseth | Prayer Intercessors: Steve Quattlebaum, Dennis Larson, Keith & Diane Van Kleek | Prayers of the Church: Justin Spieker
Scripture Reader: Cryss Quanbeck | Camera: Becky Simons
Computer: Cheryl Stueven | Sound & Lead Tech: Jacob Weeks | Vocalists: Cassie & Riley Simcox, Rachel & Annabelle Simington | Worship Leader: Greg Lear

Worship partners for Sunday, Dec. 31

Altar Prep: Altar Prep Team | Children's Message: Jalyce Storley
Counters: Becky Simons, Larry Wigen | Fellowship & Set-up: Jim & Lisa Carpenter
Greeters/Ushers: Bruce & Gayle Simons | Instrumentalists: Leah Kreutner, Gloria McKenney, Evan Storley, Anna Quanbeck | Message: Pastor Ben Unseth
Prayers of the Church: | Scripture Reader: Kyle Rouse | Camera: Becky Simons
Computer: Cindy Tigges | Sound: Cheryl Stueven | Lead Tech: Jacob Weeks
Vocalists: Brittany & Ellie Spieker, Emily Quanbeck, Lisa Buchan
Worship Leader: Dennis Larson

meet our staff

Pastor Ben Unseth
pastor@flcspencer.org

Finance Coordinator: Carolyn Dundas
finance@flcspencer.org

Worship & Communications Director:
Gloria McKenney, worship@flcspencer.org
media@flcspencer.org

Custodian: Rich Stueven
custodian@flcspencer.org

Stephen Ministry and Visitation Director & Lay Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Ruthven: Eric Patten, eric@flcspencer.org

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven
office@flcspencer.org

LifeKids Director: Cheryl Jackson
director@lifekidsspencer.com

Technology Coordinator: Jacob Weeks
tech@flcspencer.org

Church Administrator: Becky Fear-Hatting
admin@flcspencer.org

Guest Connection Card

Dear visitors, we are glad you are worshiping with us today! We'd love to connect with you. Please share your contact information, and a member of Faith will be in touch with you soon.

Please put this form in the offering kiosk at the back of the church. – Thank you!

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

I'd like to …

☐ Visit with the Pastor.
☐ Learn about becoming a member.
☐ Hear more about opportunities at Faith.
☐ Hear about joining a small group.

Thanks for worshiping with us!

2023 General Offering and Attendance

Budget: $413,959.25

To meet our 2023 budget and fulfill our financial commitments, Faith needs to receive $65,291.62 by the end of the year, which amounts to $29,420.06 each week.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

2023	*Attendance*	*Live Stream Computers*	*General Giving*	*Year to Date*	*Needed to Make Budget*
November	168	22	$25,091.00	$310,810.63	$103,148.62
Dec. 1-3	193	19	$10,280.00	$321,164.63	$92,794.62
Dec. 4-10	223	25	$29,410.00	$348,667.63	$65,291.62
Dec. 11-17	153	18	$ 5,955.00	$355,119.13	$58,840.12

This Week at Faith!

Today – Sunday, December 24 – 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 a.m.	Worship Musician & Vocalist Rehearsal
9:00 a.m.	Worship
10:15 a.m.	Fellowship
4:30 p.m.	Worship Musician & Vocalist Rehearsal for 5:30 p.m. service
5:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Monday, December 25 – Christmas Day

Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26

11:00 a.m. SMU rebroadcast of 9:00 a.m. Dec. 24 worship

Wednesday, December 27

No Worship Vocalist Rehearsal, Confirmation or Youth Group

Thursday, December 28

9:00 a.m.	Thursday Morning Coffee Fellowship
5:30 p.m.	SMU rebroadcast of 9:00 a.m. Dec. 24 worship

Saturday, December 30

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Upcoming Events!

January 7	Congregational Forum immediately following worship Ashish Ingale to visit Faith
January 11-14	Men's Via de Cristo weekend
January 18-21	Women's Via de Cristo weekend
January 28	Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following worship

Please contact the church office (712-580-4316) for a current calendar of events.
Or, check the online calendar at www.flcspencer.org/our-calendar/

Prayer Chain

Please send your prayer request to Linda & Dave Susie
at 712-363-1130 or djslrs74@yahoo.com or to
Doreen Scribner at 712-262-3488 or doreenscribner@outlook.com
To be placed on the Sunday morning Prayers of the Church, please contact the church office at 712-580-4316 or office@flcspencer.org

Free WiFi Connection: Network: FAITH_Guest | Password: 7125804