



Light Breaks Through

Seeking Jesus

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

January 7, 2024 | Epiphany/Baptism Of Our Lord

Prelude

Welcome

Prayer

Opening Song – “Come People of the Risen King”

*Invocation

We meet in the strong name of our God;

We praise You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Confession and Forgiveness

God of perfection, we have fallen short. God of truth, our tongues have betrayed You. God of goodness, we have indulged in moral pollution. God of love, we have dishonored others through anger and pride. Forgive all our sins and revive us, that we may offer You the fruit of our lips.

God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. He drowns your sincere confession in a flood of forgiveness. He will heal your waywardness and love you freely. He will revive us; He will restore us so that we may live in His presence.

*Prayer of the Day

Dear Jesus, we have come together at Your invitation. Unplug us from worry and fear. Restore our wounded hearts. Reclaim our focus, our priorities, our schedule – to follow You. Speak to us now. Amen.

Song – “At Your Feet”

New Testament Lesson – Acts 17:24-28

Children’s Message

Song – “ ’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

*Gospel – Mark 2:13-17

Sermon – “Seeking Jesus”

Song – “O Come to the Altar”

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

*Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that Hope came down from heaven and was laid in a manger.
We believe that darkness has been defeated.
We believe in the Father who said, “Let there be light!” And there was light.
We believe in the Son, Jesus Christ, who is the true light of the world,
offering light to everyone.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and illuminates our path.
We believe there is one body and one Spirit, one Lord,
one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all
and through all and in all.**

Prayers of the Church

Sharing of the Peace

Holy Communion

*Words of Institution for Holy Communion

*Lord’s Prayer

Distribution Songs: Special Music by Ashish Ingale

*Blessing

*Closing Song – “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Please stand if you are able.*

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad you are here this morning. Scan the QR code to help us connect with you, or find the “Guest Connection Form” on our Welcome Center.



New Testament Lesson – Acts 17:24-28

²⁴ “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵ And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He Himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷ God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us. ²⁸ ‘For in Him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are His offspring.’ ”

Gospel – Mark 2:13-17

¹³ Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to Him, and He began to teach them. ¹⁴ As He walked along, He saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow Me,” Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed Him. ¹⁵ While Jesus was having dinner at Levi’s house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Him and His disciples, for there were many who followed Him. ¹⁶ When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw Him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked His disciples: “Why does He eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹⁷ On hearing this, Jesus said to them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”



Today, Sunday, January 7

Congregational Forum immediately following Worship.

Please join us as we discuss the projector upgrade, 2024 budget and other topics as brought from the floor.

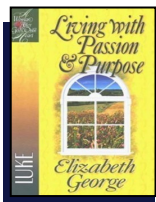
Faith Lutheran warmly welcomes Ashish Ingale!

Ashish Ingale, fiancé of Marlee Nicholson, is visiting Faith today, Sunday, Jan. 7. He is providing special music during Communion and will be sharing more about his mission work following the congregational forum.



Hello Faith Church!

I am Ashish Ingale from India. I am serving God at Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Scotland. I am a worshipper and love to sing worship songs on the streets for the Lord and share His love to the people through music. I am a fulltime missionary currently staffed at the School of Worship and lead Mission outreach teams in the United Kingdom doing street evangelism, spiritual busking, teaching workshops on worship, speaking at churches and encouraging the body of Christ. I lead worship every Sunday at Life Church in Paisley. ~ Ashish



Women's Bible Study: "Living with Passion & Purpose"

Tuesday, Jan. 9 | 1:30 p.m. | SON Room

We will be study Luke 13. Jesus is continuing His journey toward Jerusalem while teaching the people. We will see how Jesus corrects the people's assumption that bad things happen to those who are "worse" sinners, or in other words, 'if I'm good, bad things won't happen'. Jesus tells all to repent. What does that truly mean? We will discuss the Parables of the Fig Tree, Mustard Seed and Yeast.

There is much to learn from Jesus, why not begin the new year with a new habit - participating in a Bible study whether it is with this small group or another one available at Faith.

All are welcome!

Reverse Advent Calendar a Huge Success!!

Our second Reverse Advent Calendar was a wonderful success. Last year , we shared 596 food items. This year we



divided 1,043 items between Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO) and Grand Avenue Community Outreach food pantries, almost double the amount.

Both places were so surprised and pleased with all of these food items. We were thanked so many times and told it was a true blessing. Dawn Dahm from UDMO said "our shelves were empty," and we could see that was true.

Thank you so much for your awesome response. It was truly a way to "*Come and worship – Go and work*" to those in our community in need of God's love in the form of food items.

Alice Nielsen,
Mission Team member

2024 God's Creation wall calendars are available for \$10.00 on the Welcome Center!

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

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, at 7:00 p.m. – Sunday, Jan. 14, 4:00 p.m.

Women's Via de Cristo – Thursday, Jan. 18, at 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).

Worship partners for today are ...

Altar Prep: Denise Lovitt, Shirley Nelson

Children's Message: Dodo & Emu

Communion Servers: Sharon Cameron,
Bill Neiderheiser

Counters: Larry Wigen, Barb Solberg

Fellowship & Set-up: Cindy Essick,
Larry Peterson

Greeters/Ushers:
Terry & Jolene Hansen

Instrumentalists: Leah Kreutner,
Gloria McKenney, Jared Hansen,
Anna Quanbeck, Ashish Ingale

Message: Brett Eilts

Prayer Intercessors: Sara Franker,
Darla Kurtenbach,
Jake & Karen Jacobson

Prayers of the Church: Jim Paulsen

Scripture Reader: Pam Hanson

Camera: Cindy Tigges

Computer: Kent Heazlett

Sound: Nathan McKenney

Lead Tech: Jacob Weeks

Vocalists: Jim & Joan Unrau,
Kirby Fueston

Worship Leader: Karen Brandt

Worship partners for Sunday, January 14 are ...

Altar Prep: Denise Lovitt, Shirley Nelson

Children's Message: Laura Hamann

Counters: Barb Solberg, Shanna Kooker

Fellowship & Set-up:
Craig & Lindsay Neiderheiser

Greeters/Ushers: Lee & Nancy Ketcham

Instrumentalists: Elliana Antoine,
Gloria McKenney, Evan Storley,
Anna Quanbeck

Message: Pastor Ben Unseth

Prayers of the Church: Karen Brandt

Scripture Reader: Kent Heazlett

Camera: Becky Simons

Computer: Katie Eilts

Sound: Cheryl Stueven

Lead Tech: Jacob Weeks

Vocalists: Brett & Jolynne Eilts,
Lacey Johnson

Worship Leader: LaVonne Clark

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

Birthday blessings to ...

Jan. 7	<i>Kristine Christianson & Emma Hines</i>
Jan. 8	<i>Sam Brockshus & Katie Eilts</i>
Jan. 9	<i>Levi Simington</i>
Jan. 10	<i>Jada Piercy, Kailyn Griffin & Kinnick Friedrich</i>
Jan. 12	<i>Joy Kelsch</i>
Jan. 13	<i>Connor Tigges & Bob Erdman</i>



Item of the Month ~ **Adult Toothbrushes**

Toothbrushes are part of a Personal Care Kit. The kits provide needed self-care and the chance to regain dignity in times of fear and uncertainty.

The kits remind recipients that other people care. They give hope.

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

Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry is in need of:

Egg noodles, tuna, cream of chicken or mushroom soup



GENERAL OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE

2023 BUDGET: \$413,959.25

Thank you for your continued generosity!

2023	Attendance	Live Stream Computers	General Giving	Year to Date	Needed to Make Budget
<i>November</i>	168	22	\$25,091.00	\$310,810.63	\$103,148.62
<i>Dec. 1-3</i>	193	19	\$10,280.00	\$321,164.63	\$92,794.62
<i>Dec. 4-10</i>	223	25	\$29,410.00	\$348,667.63	\$65,291.62
<i>Dec. 11-17</i>	153	18	\$ 5,955.00	\$355,119.13	\$58,840.12
<i>Dec. 18-24</i>	152	25	\$ 7,923.00	\$363,161.56	\$50,797.69
<i>Dec. 25-31</i>	131	22	\$15,980.00	\$379,298.21*	\$34,661.04

*Amounts as of time of bulletin printing.

All checks dated 2023 have been and will be considered part of 2023 income.

Faith Lutheran Staff

Pastor Ben Unseth – pastor@flcspencer.org

Custodian: Rich Stueven
custodian@flcspencer.org

Technology Coordinator: Jacob Weeks
tech@flcspencer.org

Stephen Ministry and Visitation Director &
Lay Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Ruthven:
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Church Administrator: Becky Fear-Hatting
admin@flcspencer.org

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven
office@flcspencer.org

Finance Coordinator: Carolyn Dundas
finance@flcspencer.org

LifeKids Director: Cheryl Jackson
director@lifekidsspencer.com

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

This Week at Faith!

Today – Sunday, January 7

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Musician & Vocalist Rehearsal
- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Congregational Forum Fellowship
- 10:20 a.m. Children's Sunday School & Adult Bible Study
Ashish Ingale to speak immediately following the forum

Monday, January 8

- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program

Tuesday, January 9

- 1:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program
- 5:00- 8:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling – 515-238-9010

Wednesday, January 10

- 11:00 a.m. Staff meeting
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program
- 6:00 p.m. Worship Vocalist Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation
- 7:00 p.m. Council meeting
High School Youth Group

Thursday, January 11

- 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling – 515-238-9010
- 9:00 a.m. Coffee Fellowship
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program
- 4:00 p.m. Men's Via de Cristo weekend begins

Friday, January 12

- 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling – 515-238-9010
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program

Saturday, January 13

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

Upcoming Events!

- January 14** Men's Via de Cristo weekend concludes
- 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/