



# Faith Life Together

March 2024 | Volume 8 | Issue 3

## Snapshot of Faith during February 2024

**Baptisms | Births | Confirmed  
Deaths | Marriages  
New Members**

## Mark Your Calendar

<b>March 6</b>	11:30 a.m. Community Lenten Lunch & Worship at Faith 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Potluck & 6:30 p.m. Worship
<b>March 13</b>	5:30 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Potluck & 6:30 p.m. Worship
<b>March 16</b>	Dinner & Movie Fundraiser
<b>March 20</b>	5:30 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Potluck & 6:30 p.m. Worship
<b>March 24</b>	Palm Sunday
<b>March 28</b>	6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday & 1st Communion
<b>March 29</b>	6:30 p.m. Good Friday
<b>March 31</b>	Easter Sunday & Breakfast Fundraiser

## Bring a Friend

### *Declare His Marvelous Works Among All Peoples!*

March is packed full with many opportunities to grow in faith, both for our current members and for the many guests who will walk through our doors this month. Who can you invite? With Lenten services, Holy Week, and Easter all happening this month, there are many opportunities to invite someone new and work to fulfill the Great Commission.

The first three Wednesdays in March – **March 6, 13 and 20** – will have a **potluck at 5:30 p.m.** followed by a service at **6:30 p.m.** Different members of Faith will give the message, so come hear their message and support each other as we journey toward Easter. **March 6** we will also host the **Community Lenten Lunch & Service**, with **lunch at 11:30 a.m.** and the **service beginning at 12:15 p.m.**

**Palm Sunday** marks the start of Holy Week, and **Faith's Pop-Up Choir** will be enhancing our service with the song, "**Let the Redeemed of the Lord**". We will not have a Wednesday Lenten service that week, but we will have two additional services that week – **Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m.**, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together with a special meal alongside the service. The following night, **March 29 at 6:30 p.m.**, we will also come together to remember **Good Friday** and the night of Jesus' death. As we know and have hope, that is not the end of the story!

**Easter Sunday, March 31**, marks the end of March this year, and we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord at our **9:00 a.m.** service. What wonderful assurance we have knowing that Christ forgave our sins and rose from the dead, just as one day we, too, shall rise to be with Him forever. Glory be to God!



## From the Pen of Pastor Ben

# Lost and Found Bicycles

My history with bicycles is a mixed bag of lost and found. I bought a beautiful green machine from Coast to Coast Hardware when I was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. It took every cent I had saved in my life to purchase that 1-speed, green beauty. After riding it for several years, I sold it to my younger brother, who passed it on to our mother. She rode it for another 30 years. She sold it at a garage sale a few years ago, and I'm not sure how I feel about that. Part of me wants it back ... but what do I want it for? The bike shines more brightly in my memory that it would in my basement. I guess that bike is not lost; I let it go.

In high school I bought a Raleigh 10-speed with a 25.5-inch frame, perhaps too big for me. Two days later, I mounted my bike early in the morning to ride to my new school in my new town. My left hand held my cornet case, and my right hand held the handle bar. Four blocks later, in the dim light, I hit the back of a parked car, and the bike was LOST to me.

I bought another 10-speed, which I pedaled up and down the Missouri River valley around Bismarck, North Dakota, then back and forth across Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota, then around the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. But one day, I stepped into the UND courtyard by my dorm, and my precious bike was gone!

Then in Pakistan, I was blessed to ride a borrowed bike. It was built as solidly as an army tank, but it took me back and forth to the University of Peshawar and all over my part of the city.

I returned to UND, and to my astonishment I received a letter from the police department. They had FOUND my precious, faithful bicycle ... in the creek beside my dormitory! Years earlier, someone had stolen it and dumped it into the creek. The bike was found, but it was still LOST to me. Years in a creek are not kind to a bicycle.

My next bicycle was the best bike I ever bought. I commuted to my publishing house in California on it, five miles each way. One day, I rode with my son to his Little League baseball game. Hours later, when the game was over, my son and I crawled into our station wagon with the family and rode home. When I woke up the next morning, I remembered our bicycles! I immediately drove to the ball diamond, but the bicycles were LOST and never to be FOUND!

Three years ago, my son called me and said he was buying a bicycle. He offered to buy me a bike, too. With a little pride in the way, I quickly said no. The next day I called him back and flipped my answer. A few weeks later, we drove to his bike shop and FOUND my amazing bicycle. Now we enjoy riding together!

God specializes in FOUND!

## 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](mailto:djslrs74@yahoo.com) or

Doreen Scribner at 712-260-9884

[doreenscribner@outlook.com](mailto:doreenscribner@outlook.com)



**Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday, March 9!**

## 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](mailto:office@flcspencer.org)



**Thrivent Members ... Be thinking of where you want your Choice Dollars® to go!**

If you are still searching for the perfect recipient for your Choice Dollars, please consider Faith Lutheran Church and LifeKids!

**Choice Dollars can be directed until March 31, 2024.**

To direct your choice dollars, you can call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and ask for Choice Dollars. If you have an online account, you can also go to your account at [thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice](https://thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-choice).

## Prayer Corner

### Lift Up in Prayer...

- Pray for our potential confirmands as they consider making vows to follow and serve Jesus with us.
- Pray for each other, as we consider whom to invite to church.
- Pray for wisdom as we consider new projectors and the equipment to run them.
- Pray for our friends who will share with us at our Lenten Worship Gatherings.
- Pray about serving on one of our ministry teams.
- Pray for Pastor Roger and Vickie Godfredsen as he serves as Interim Pastor with St. Johns Lutheran Church, Springfield, Minnesota.
- Healing for Al Vanderberg, Dick Allen, Kris Behrens, Randy Enge, Becky Simons, Duane Paulsen and all those we name in our hearts.
- Comfort for the families of Bill Welle, Pat Swancutt, Wayne Burnham, Jim Spieker, Marvin Somers, Nancy Ketcham's mother, and Gene Berkland.

### Reasons for Praise!

- Thank God for generous donors.
- Thank God for volunteers with Hands-On Mission and Loopy Ladies.
- Thank God "that He is truly our Father, and that we are truly His children, so that we may boldly and confidently pray to Him, just as beloved children speak to their dear father." (*Luther's Small Catechism*)



Gloria  
McKenney,  
Worship and  
Communications  
Director

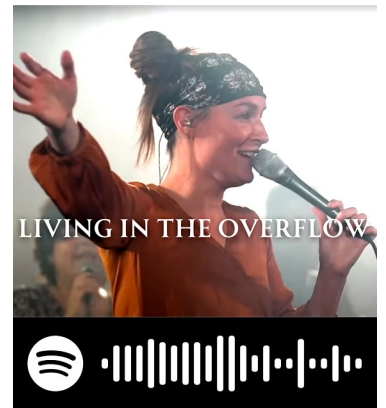
# Overflow!

*Living in the Overflow by Charity Gayle,  
featuring Joshua Sherman*

There's a post that circles around on social media you may have seen before – basically, you are holding a cup of coffee when someone bumps into you, and thus you spill coffee everywhere. Why did you spill coffee? Not because you were bumped, but rather, because you had coffee in your cup – if you had tea in your cup, you would have spilled tea. The point of the post is that whatever is in your 'cup' – ie, love or hate, kindness or bitterness – is what will spill out. But I have a question – what about God's cup? The truth is, God is not just filled with grace, love, and mercy – He is filled to overflowing. He showers our lives with blessings – some of which we can taste and experience now, and some of which will be made visible in heaven. The whole reason we are able to live, breathe, and celebrate life is because God is so filled with all that is good, it is impossible to contain. As it says in Romans 5:15, "*God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow(s) to the many!*"

This concept can sometimes be hard for us to understand, especially as we are limited human beings who can only give so much. The song, "Living in the Overflow" by Charity Gayle and featuring Joshua Sherman has helped me comprehend the immensity, and indeed inexhaustible nature of God's very character. The chorus declares, "bless the Lord, O my soul. I am living in the overflow!" Isn't that the truth, friends? We *are* living in the overflow! The overflow of God's love, His grace and kindness, the overflow of His goodness and compassion. Praise the Lord that we are blessed to be living in the overflow!

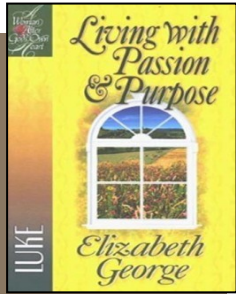
As we are living in God's overflow, may we also be challenged to overflow into others' lives. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 3:12, "*May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.*" We humans only have limited supply, but God has an unlimited, overflowing supply of love, kindness and mercy – let us draw strength from the One who is giver of every good gift, and then share God's gifts with the world.





# Coming Events at Faith

## **Bible Study: “Living with Passion & Purpose” Tuesday, March 12 | 1:30 p.m. | SON Room**



As we continue our study of Luke, we see Jesus continue on His journey toward Jerusalem while teaching the people following Him (and us!)

We are on the Lenten journey – is there something you are “giving up”? Something you are trying to “add” to your life to help your relationship with God grow?

Do you have a prayer, song or hymn that speaks to you during this season of Lent? Do you even think about Lent?

**Won't you come and join in the discussion and fellowship?  
All are welcome!**

## Hands-On Mission and Lutheran World Relief

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

Come and enjoy fellowship as we care for those in need with the quilts and kits we create.



### **Item of the Month ~ Bath Towels**

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

We are spreading God's love this Lent by collecting dark colored bath towels. These are part of the Personal Care Kit. ***If anyone knows of a need in the community for these let Linda Susie know.***

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:**

Cream soups | tuna | egg noodles

## Christian Woman Speaks

Several women at Faith are involved in the radio broadcast *Christian Woman Speaks*. They are Linda Susie, Rachel Simington, Brittany Spieker, Alice Nielsen, Gloria McKenney and Nancy Ketcham. The program is a fun experience and a great way to reach people with the good news of Jesus Christ.



**Christian Woman Speaks broadcasts over KICD-AM on  
Sunday, March 3, and Sunday, March 31, both at 7:50 a.m.**



If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Alice Nielsen at 712-264-0727.

Schedule of programs:

March 3 – Rachel Simington  
March 31 – Gloria McKenney

April 28 – Linda Susie  
May 19 – Brittany Spieker  
June 30 – Alice Nielsen

October 13 – Nancy Ketcham  
December 29 – Alice Nielsen



## LifeKids Spencer



Cheryl  
Jackson  
Director

In celebration of Ash Wednesday, LifeKids had the opportunity for Pastor Ben to give our daily lesson. The children listened to his message about what is represented by the ashes in the form of a cross. They were then invited to participate.

As always, our days in LifeKids are a balance of both learning and play. Please know that children often learn BEST through play.

We also spent our time this month focusing on love. Love for our parents and families, love for our friends, love for people in need, and of course the love we feel from knowing WE are loved by Jesus!

LifeKids is very grateful for the support you show our program. Even though financially many are fighting to make ends meet at home, we continue to be blessed by your support and gifts. Your support makes it possible to bless these children with the opportunity to both learn about Jesus' teachings and to grow as good people!





# Technology Team Update

## Projector Replacement Project

By Lance Storley, Technology Team Leader

Many of you have noticed the glitches we have been having lately with our projector system where the screens will go blue or blank momentarily. Our current system was installed roughly 13 years ago and they typically last around 10 years. These issues and others are indicators that the system is failing and will likely get progressively worse until the system is replaced. In working with R&D Industries, Inc. (RDI) and Jacob Weeks, we have come up with a proposal to replace the projector system. The bulk of the cost comes from a new controller that allows us to send video to the projector, livestream, and nursery, which is where most of our issues are stemming from currently. Also included in the proposal is replacing the front projector with a new laser projector and adding a second projector to the front. The rear projector will stay the same for the time being. With the newer laser projectors, we will have an increase in visual clarity. The second projector will enable everyone to see what is being projected up front, no matter where they are sitting.

To move forward with these upgrades, we need to raise an estimated \$75,000. We have \$10,000 already designated for this project, and we are planning on some fundraisers in the near future. The first of these fundraisers will be held on Saturday, March 16, when we will serve dinner and show the movie "Jesus Revolution". We will also provide an Easter breakfast at church, with all donations from both events being put toward the projector project. Thank you for your generosity as we work to create a welcoming environment for our members and visitors.



## March Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Happy Birthday Blessings to ...

March 1	Steve Oleson
	Aaron Stykel
March 3	Chris Christofferson
March 4	Laura Yungbluth
March 5	Leah Heikens
	Audrey Hansen
March 6	Mark Vreeman
March 11	Luke Ketcham
March 12	Kim Rye
	Daxton Simcox
March 13	Shawn Meislahn
	Tanya Vos
March 14	Sierra Ruhs
March 15	Kenzi Hoppe
March 16	Mark Heilman
	Lee Ketcham
March 18	Nancy Newgard

March 20	Jim Carpenter
	Linda Conlon
	Jesse Rustad
March 22	Jean Oleson
March 23	Christin Lee
	Sarah Ruhs
	Evelyn Patten
March 24	Emily Campbell
March 25	Whitney Gray
March 27	Owen Kreutner
March 28	Jericho Gray
	Nathan McKenney
March 30	Lisa Buchan
	Arlene Fairchild
	Mary Speidel

### Happy Anniversary Wishes to ...

March 10	Kevin & Heidi Skadeland
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# High School Youth Group

by Matt & Steph Essick, Youth Ministry Team leaders

Psalm 27:4 – *“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.”*

We invite all of youth (grades 6-12) to attend Sunday School led by Joe and Rachel Simington each week. They dive into the sermon and spend time relating with one another.

We also invite all high school students to attend Wednesday night youth group. We are currently taking a look at ways to build a stronger relationship with God and to trust in Him to guide us and lead us in the right direction. Psalm 27:4 is a reflection of David’s thoughts on building a strong relationship with God so that he may dwell in the presence of the Lord for all his days. Life is full of distractions and busyness that can take our focus off of God. We have to be intentional in our walk of faith and put time in getting to know the Lord on a deeper level. We ask that we all pray for the youth and encourage them to seek out God and delight in His will.

Several youth attended Outreach Night on Sunday, Feb. 18. We are very thankful for all the adult volunteers who help with that night and provide rides to those who need them.

## Mission Team Partner

### Friends of Madagascar Missions

Madagascar is the world’s fourth largest island and is located just east of the African continent. In 1866, Norwegian missionaries founded a Lutheran church there which grew over the years to become the Malagasy Lutheran Church. Friends of Madagascar Missions (FOMM) raises funds and works with this church federation to identify projects needing support to spread the gospel of Jesus and help people in poverty. Current projects that FOMM is supporting are a Bible school for evangelists, a hospital nutrition feeding center, a prison ministry, and a drip irrigation project.

During the month of March and the season of Lent, FOMM challenges Christians to give water to the people of southern Madagascar instead of giving up something for Lent. The challenge is to drink eight glasses of water every day. As the water flows out, let prayers flow to the Lord to help these people and donate at least \$25 dollars to FOMM for their “Living Water” program. It costs \$20,000 to dig a new well through the rock in southern Madagascar. The people are in desperate need of clean drinking water and water to use for drip irrigation for their food crops. Please donate any amount and see the video and downloadable resources on the website ([www.madagascarmission.org](http://www.madagascarmission.org)).

In 2023, 20,000 Tandroy Bibles and 50,000 hymnals were delivered to FOMM at the Ehoala port in southern Madagascar. They were shipped via a freighter ship and it was a difficult task to complete all of the paper work involved with taxes and duty, but they were able to get the container cleared from the port and the Bibles were quickly distributed.

FOMM started a welding training program for prisoners as well as for people in the general public. In discussion with contacts in Madagascar, welding has been identified as skill that would provide outstanding opportunities to build a strong economic future for prisoners in their local communities upon release.



# Community Events

## Activities at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps

### **Youth Outreach Night**

**March 17 – Gargoyles**

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

\$5.00 per person to cover food costs.

RSVP by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, to

Rachel Simington at 712-363-0663.

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

[www.okoboji.org](http://www.okoboji.org) or call

712-337-3306.

## Community Midweek Lenten Lunch and Worship

Let's unite as a community this Lenten Season as we journey together and embark on a weekly Lenten service with a light lunch.



The lunch begins at 11:30 a.m. with a free-will donation, and the service begins at 12:15 p.m.

### **Dates and Spencer churches hosting are:**

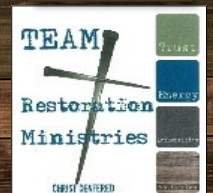
- February 28 – Grace United Methodist Church, 311 2nd Ave. West
  - **March 6 – Faith Lutheran Church**
- March 13 – Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1111 4th Ave. West
- March 20 – St. Luke Lutheran Home, 1301 St. Luke Dr.
- March 27 – Foundation Church, 1410 West 18th St.

## TEAM Restoration Ministries

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

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

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



2024  
Elected  
and  
Appointed  
Council  
Members



**Pam Hanson**  
**President**



**Justin Spieker**  
**Vice President**



**Kris Behrens**  
**Missions Team**



**Lee & Nancy**  
**Ketcham**  
**Fellowship Team**



**Beth & Ross**  
**Brockshus**  
**Caring Ministry**



**Emily Hoppe**  
**Stewardship**  
**Team**



**Lance Storley**  
**Technology**  
**Team**



# Through the Bible in 2024 – 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.

| Date         |           | Day           | Book           | Ch        | Summary                                         |
|--------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Month        | Date      | Day           | Bk Title       | Ch        | Ch Summary                                      |
| March        | 1         | Friday        | Exodus         | 17        | Moses Brings Water from a Rock                  |
| March        | 2         | Saturday      | Exodus         | 19        | God Comes Down to Mount Sinai                   |
| <b>March</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>1 Peter</b> | <b>2</b>  | <b>A Living Temple and Royal Priests</b>        |
| March        | 4         | Monday        | Exodus         | 20        | God Gives the Ten Commandments                  |
| March        | 5         | Tuesday       | Exodus         | 32        | Jews Worship a Golden Calf                      |
| March        | 6         | Wednesday     | Obadiah        | 1         | The Day of the Lord                             |
| March        | 7         | Thursday      | Exodus         | 34        | God Makes Moses Radiant                         |
| March        | 8         | Friday        | Exodus         | 40        | God's Glory Fills the Tabernacle                |
| March        | 9         | Saturday      | Leviticus      | 1         | The Burnt Offering                              |
| <b>March</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Romans</b>  | <b>12</b> | <b>Offer Your Body as a Living Sacrifice</b>    |
| March        | 11        | Monday        | Leviticus      | 16        | The Day of Atonement                            |
| March        | 12        | Tuesday       | Leviticus      | 23        | The Appointed Festivals                         |
| March        | 13        | Wednesday     | Micah          | 6         | What Does God Require from You?                 |
| March        | 14        | Thursday      | Mark           | 1         | Jesus Begins His Ministry                       |
| March        | 15        | Friday        | Mark           | 2         | Jesus Calls Levi, aka Matthew                   |
| March        | 16        | Saturday      | Mark           | 3         | Jesus Appoints 12 Disciples                     |
| <b>March</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Mark</b>    | <b>4</b>  | <b>Jesus Tells Parables</b>                     |
| March        | 18        | Monday        | Mark           | 5         | Jesus Exorcises, Heals and Resurrects           |
| March        | 19        | Tuesday       | Mark           | 6         | Jesus Feeds 5,000 and Walks on Water            |
| March        | 20        | Wednesday     | Habakkuk       | 3         | Habakkuk Stands in Awe of God                   |
| March        | 21        | Thursday      | Mark           | 7         | The Disciples Eat with "Unwashed" Hands         |
| March        | 22        | Friday        | Mark           | 8         | Jesus Feeds 4,000                               |
| March        | 23        | Saturday      | Mark           | 9         | Jesus Is Transfigured on the Mountain           |
| <b>March</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Mark</b>    | <b>11</b> | <b>Jesus Enters Jerusalem</b>                   |
| March        | 25        | Monday        | Mark           | 10        | Jesus Predicts His Death                        |
| March        | 26        | Tuesday       | Mark           | 12        | The Greatest Commandment                        |
| March        | 27        | Wednesday     | Mark           | 13        | Jesus Prophesies His Second Coming              |
| March        | 28        | Thursday      | Mark           | 14        | The Last Supper and Jesus' Arrest               |
| March        | 29        | Friday        | Mark           | 15        | Jesus Is Crucified and Buried                   |
| March        | 30        | Saturday      | 1 Corinthians  | 15        | Of First Importance: Christ Died and Was Raised |
| <b>March</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>Sunday</b> | <b>Mark</b>    | <b>16</b> | <b>Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension</b>        |





# "Lent: Seeking God's Grace" by Kim Wilson

As we continue through the season of Lent, we understand the importance of self-reflection and denying ourselves as we journey through Jesus' passion to His resurrection. Along this Lenten path, we may struggle with the emotions of guilt and shame as we realize our transgressions are many.

Let's unpack some of the raw feelings that tend to come to the surface as we take inventory of our trespasses/offenses during this season. When we feel guilty about something we have done or left undone, it's a strong reminder that we believe we have not measured up to expectations. Guilt is an internal moral response (our conscience) that convicts us so we strive to do better. Likewise, when we feel ashamed, we have experienced unpleasant public situations that leave us feeling embarrassed, resulting in us wanting to escape, withdraw, and isolate ourselves. In either case, we expend emotional energy chastising ourselves with thoughts of self-loathing when we think we don't measure up.

Guilt and shame can overpower us and lead to anxiety, depression, and other more involved mental health conditions. These feelings, if left unchecked and unaddressed, can result in intense suffering that can produce a host of struggles, including loneliness, physical and emotional anguish, addictions, and/or self-harm.

Since guilt and shame are universal, one may ask: How do I process these negative emotions in a healthy way? We can learn skills to teach us how to identify triggers, repair wrongs so we may heal, resolve our inner anger, and use calming techniques that help us relieve some of our distress. Counseling services, like TEAM Restoration Ministries, have helpful tools to guide us forward in the process of renewal.

As Christians, we possess an extra layer of courage and strength for coping with guilt and shame. First, the knowledge that we are sinners helps us understand our limitations. Next, since we are sinners, we know we can be redeemed when we confess, and believe our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, rescues us from our sin. *"In You, O Lord, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed, deliver me in Your righteousness."* Psalm 31:1.

As believers in Christ, we know we cannot conquer sin, nor guilt or shame, on our own. When we seek God's mercy, we confess our sins, repent, ask for forgiveness, and receive the hope and reassurance that we are forgiven. *"I have told you these things, so that in Me, you may have peace. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* John 16:33

The season of Lent reminds us of Jesus' overcoming the world, evidenced by His 40 days of enduring Satan's temptations in the wilderness. His victory over His many human life trials and at the cross gave us His gift to all believers: the JOY of Easter and His resurrection. Let us remember that Jesus is always with us to deliver us each day, through His grace, to eternal life.

To God be the Glory!



# Bill Kersting

As we enter the month of March, what some call the “Lucky Month” because of St. Patrick’s Day, we at Faith are lucky to have and recognize our next Steward of the Month, Bill Kersting. Bill has been an associate member of Faith for many years along with being a full-time member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church with his wife Lisa. Bill is a native of Sioux City where he used to go to church early with his father to ring the bell. After graduating from Bishop Heelan, Bill started seminary to

become a minister, but he discerned that God had other plans for him in which he then joined the U.S. Army. Following an honorable discharge, God guided Bill into social work where he helped people professionally for his entire career.

These days Bill serves on the Board of Grand Avenue Community Outreach (GACO). He would love to welcome you into his grocery unloading crew or some other volunteer role with GACO. All are welcome to join Bill and his troupe of troubadours as he leads them in singing in the Southpark Mall and at GACO. His next singing holiday venture will likely be St. Patrick's Day.

You can see and feel Bill’s love for the Lord and his churches through his many areas of involvement at Faith. Bill has most recently been seen acting in and leading the Children’s Message with his fun and energetic personality, being a Worship leader, reading scripture, and attending weekly Men’s Bible Study. Bill not only lends his voice in reading and singing, but also in writing as he is a part of the card ministry, reaching all areas of our church’s members.

Faith is lucky to have such an involved associate member as our Steward of the Month for March. Let us feel and see his love and kindness in his actions and strive to follow in his example. Thank you, Bill, for your involvement in the church and commitment to sharing God’s Word through your many, many talents.



Steward  
of the  
Month  
by  
Emily  
Hoppe

## 2024 GENERAL OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE BUDGET: \$420,894.00

|                   | <i>Attendance</i> | <i>Live Stream<br/>Computers</i> | <i>General<br/>Giving</i> | <i>YTD<br/>Undesignated</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>January</i>    | 118               | 28                               |                           | \$37,212.36                 |
| <i>Feb. 1-4</i>   | 124               | 20                               | \$7,666.79                | \$45,037.10                 |
| <i>Feb. 5-11</i>  | 139               | 18                               | \$4,485.50                | \$49,634.63                 |
| <i>Feb. 12-18</i> | 156               | 16                               | \$3,147.52                | \$52,933.15                 |

# Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes February 14, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Pam Hanson at 7:38 p.m.

Members present were: Nancy Ketcham, Emily Hoppe, Barb Solberg, Beth Brockshus, Stephanie Essick, Lisa Carpenter, Kris Behrens, Eric Tigges, Justin Spieker, Lance Storley, Pastor Ben, Gloria McKenney, Jacob Weeks & Pam Hanson.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pam Hanson. Pam led the group in devotions.

**Prior month's minutes were reviewed** – Motion to approve made by Eric Tigges. Barb Solberg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Prior month's financial statement** – Motion to approve made by Eric Tigges. Kris Behrens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Giving has been up since the first of the year. Administrative expenses are coming in less than budgeted in January. There are undesignated gifts of \$14,173 (Gifts & Memorials). Lisa & Carolyn would like to get some idea of where to use those funds. It could be put to the General Deposits, the projector project, etc. They would like to ask the families that donated it if they can put the money to a specific project. Pastor has spoken to one family and Beth will follow up with another.

**PASTOR BEN'S REPORT** – Focusing on Inviting All People to Faith in 2024. Pastor explained his report to new Council members and highlighted some of those items.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Pam Hanson)** –

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

- **Evangelism (Eric Tigges)** – Pastor Ben & the group have a meeting planned to do some brainstorming in the near future.
- **Missions (Kris Behrens)** – Needing a few more people on the Missions team. Hoping to get the high school youth on a mission trip this summer.
- **Worship (Pete Crew)** –
- **Discipleship (Barb Solberg)** – Nothing to add to the report.
- **Children's Ministry (Kirby Fueston)** –
- **Youth Ministry (Matt & Steph Essick)** – Confirmation/HS Youth meet on Wednesday nights. Would like to do a youth mission trip to our sister church in Sioux Falls or another city this summer. Eric had some ideas to share about where to go.
- **Caring Ministries (Ross & Beth Brockshus)** – Laura has agreed to stay on the team to help the transition. Their team has met and did some brainstorming and some new ideas are on the table and being discussed. More to come soon!



- **Fellowship (Lee & Nancy Ketcham)** – Working on the transition to the group. Potlucks on Wednesdays during Lent. Noon luncheons on Wednesdays through Lent at community churches. Faith is scheduled for March 6 at 11:30. People will go to different churches on Wednesdays at noon. Pastor will get out the revised list of the host churches for this. Rich is here on Saturdays cleaning and will set up the coffee for Sundays so the host/hostess doesn't have to worry about that on Saturdays. There will be a monthly rotation of people that will pick up the donuts from Casey's on Sundays.
- **Music & Creative Arts (Jared Hansen)** –
- **Properties (Eli Franker)** –
- **Technology (Lance Storley)** –

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Rental Agreement** – Pam formed a small committee last year to get a formal agreement for those wanting to use our church building. Becky put a proposed contract together. Pam would like the Council to review this and bring any feedback, concerns, changes, etc. to the meeting next month so we can vote on this and get this in place.
- **Use of color & reducing printed materials** – By cutting the monthly Newsletters, Annual reports, & Council packets to black & white, we can cut the printing costs back. This would allow us to print the front page of bulletins in color. They have reduced the number of bulletins being printed weekly as well, cutting back from 175 to 135-150/week.
- **Lance Storley – Technology Team Leader** – Barb motioned to approve Lance as our Technology Team leader. Beth seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Projector system fundraising ideas & current balance** – we have approximately \$7200 in the technology fund to put towards the projector. Of that, \$3900 is earmarked specifically for the projector and in a Thrivent account. Fundraising ideas: breakfasts, bake sales, etc. It was discussed to determine what our goal/want is at this point so we know how much needs to be raised. The undesignated giving that was discussed earlier, could be put toward this project if the families/Council would approve, giving us another \$14,000. Lance, Eric & Justin are going to meet and get some fundraising started.
- **Lenten potluck supper** – donations go to the Fellowship Team; money in the Blessing box goes to the Missions team. This year the Missions team has selected GACO.
- **Disciple Dinner, Maundy Thursday** – Pastor & Gloria have come up with this idea. Paul Behrens has agreed to provide the meal for this. It will be a "Last Supper" type setting and people will gather around the tables for this. It will be a full meal & more to come on this.

## Concerns and/or Celebrations

**Closing Prayer** was given by Pam Hanson.

**Adjournment** – Barb made the motion to adjourn. Nancy seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jolene K. Hansen, Church Council Secretary

**Next Council Meeting is March 13 | 7:30 p.m. | In person and Zoom**

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

## Faith Lutheran Church

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Spencer, IA 51301

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Office Hours

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

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

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

Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church LCMC

Youth Facebook Page: Faith Youth of Spencer

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

Watch us on SMU:

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