



Faith Life Together

April 2024 | Volume 8 | Issue 4

Snapshot of Faith during March 2024

Baptisms

Births:

March 7, Becker Allen Treybal

March 15, Adeline Marie Rosendahl

Confirmed | Deaths | Marriages

New Members

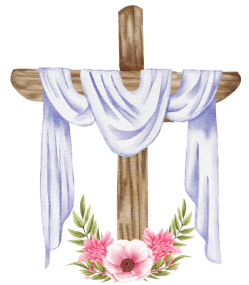
Mark Your Calendar

- April 3** Hands-On Missions Work Day
9:00 a.m.-Noon
- April 7** World Mission Prayer League
guest speaker
- April 10** 7:00 p.m. Council meeting
- April 14** 9:00 a.m. Jericho Gray
baptism
- April 15** 7:40 a.m.-5:30 p.m. All Day
LifeKids
- April 24** Confirmation banquet
- April 28** Confirmation Sunday

Proclaim God's Goodness

Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So

Happy Easter! Although many people think of Easter as a one-day event, the church celebrates Easter for 50 days, or 7 weeks, until May when we will celebrate Pentecost. As we continue celebrating the hope brought by the resurrection, let us also commit to spreading the hope we have received to our neighbors and friends, and inviting them to church as God leads.



On **Wednesday, April 3**, we will have a **Hands-On Missions Work Day** to put together quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief. Come from 9:00 a.m. to noon and find the way you would like to serve!

Council will meet on **Wednesday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m.** Thank you to our Council members who faithfully guide this congregation! If you have any questions or concerns to bring up, please contact one of the council members, or Council President Pam Hanson. Anyone is welcome to join the council meeting.

Finally, on **Sunday, April 28**, we will **celebrate the confirmation of 6 of our youth!** Each confirmand will be confirmed during the 9:00 a.m. service, so be sure to attend and congratulate each confirmand for taking the next step in their faith journey. For those interested in doing so, baskets will be available for cards for the youth.



From the Pen of Pastor Ben

Welcome?

When I moved to Iowa, my address became Minnesota. Don't expect that to make sense. Living by the state line meant that every week, I drove into Iowa and read the welcome sign, "*Iowa—A Place to Grow.*" The slogan felt a little corny, but it made sense, and it made me feel good. I could picture the rapid growth of corn, beans, calves, piglets and chicks. I was eager to grow too, and the sign offered hope for my scrawny frame.

I like today's sign also, "*The People of Iowa Welcome You—Iowa: Fields of Opportunity.*" Iowa is not a thing. *We* are Iowa. The sign reminds me of that. And "Fields of Opportunity"? It's a delightful play on words for agriculture and other business. One friend told me that an out-of-state contractor was very surprised when he walked out to where the man was working and offered him some food. The man said that in other states, someone walking toward his work site was likely to be angry and carrying a weapon. In Iowa, we know how to make people feel welcome.

Now for an awkward transition: I hate shopping. In stores or online.

It's true that Iowa stores are mostly friendlier than California, but I still hate shopping. There is only one grocery store that I have enjoyed walking into—Trader Joe's. When I lived in California, I would walk into a Trader Joe's grocery store if I was driving by and had an extra ten minutes. All the employees were friendly and helpful. I could walk out of Trader Joe's feeling better than when I walked in. That never happened for me in other stores. Our closest Trader Joe's are in West Des Moines, Omaha, Rochester and the Twin Cities. I can't tell you whether they are as friendly as my stores out on the West Coast, but I hope so.

My experience with stores is the experience lots of people have with churches - bad memories or unwelcoming people.

I want visitors to walk out of Faith Lutheran Church feeling better than when they walked in. For that to happen, they need to encounter a friendly, helpful person everywhere they turn. (That's us.) I encourage you to look for new faces...and welcome them!

Let's live up to our mission—and what our new entry sign says, "*Inviting All People to Faith.*" I'm delighted that another sign declares, "*New Here? We're Glad You Came!*" That will become real when you smile and tell a visitor, "New here? I'm glad you came!"

Another new sign asks an incredibly important question, "*Who Are You Inviting This Week?*" Please pray, and ask God to open an opportunity for you to invite someone to church this week!

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

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



DATE: JUNE 17-20
TIME: 12:30-5:00PM
LOCATION:
FAITH LUTHERAN
2912 HWY BLVD

SIGN UP ONLINE:



Prayer Corner

Lift Up in Prayer...

- Pray for each other, as we consider whom to invite to church this week.
- Pray for our potential confirmands as they consider making vows to follow and serve Jesus with us.
- Pray for wisdom as we consider new projectors and the equipment to run them.
- Pray about serving on one of our ministry teams.
- Pray for students as they pray about serving with Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps this summer or in another job.
- Pray for Pastor Roger and Vickie Godfredsen as he serves as Interim Pastor with St. Johns Lutheran Church, Springfield, Minnesota.
- Pray for Falls Community Church in Sioux Falls to share Jesus in their city.
- Healing for Dick Allen, Kris Behrens, Randy Enge, Duane Paulsen, Doug Greene, Patrick McFarland and all those we name in our hearts.

Reasons for Praise!

- Thank God for precious new babies: Adeline Rosendahl and Becker Treyball!
- Thank God for generous donors.
- Thank God for volunteers in Fellowship and LifeKids ministries.
- Give thanks that Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again." (Luther's Small Catechism)



Gloria
McKenney,
Worship and
Communications
Director

"Sing" by Sovereign Grace Music

Have you ever dealt with decision fatigue? When you get to that point, you don't just want to avoid making decisions - you want someone else to take on the responsibility of thinking through the options and deciding on a course of action. In other words, you just want someone to tell you what to do instead of you having to make decisions all the time!

Have you ever experienced spiritual fatigue? Where you know you still believe and belong to Jesus, but your soul is still weary? When it feels like a chore to open your Bible, pray, or attend church?

Sometimes it can be helpful to have someone tell you what to do in this situation too, and while I don't have a fix-all solution for you, I do know that praise can help redirect our focus from ourselves and back to God. "Sing" by Sovereign Grace Music is a song that highlights our obligation to worship the Creator of all and respond to God's goodness in song.

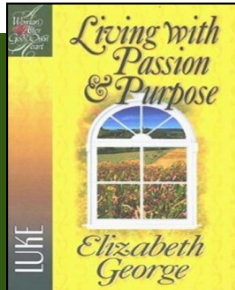
The song begins with asking questions such as "Did you draw a breath as the dawn awoke, and does your heart still beat? Is the mighty Word of the living God upholding you? Then sing, O sing." The implied answer is that, if you are listening to the song (or reading this article!), then you are still alive, and therefore still able to sing out to God. As the psalmist writes in Psalm 96, "*Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth*", and again in Psalm 150, "*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.*" Sovereign Grace echoes these thoughts in the chorus - "Morning and evening! Everything breathing must sing, O sing! All of creation rise up and praise the King of kings and sing!" The chorus is so filled with life and joy that even if you typically don't listen to some of the newer contemporary Christians songs, I encourage you to look this one up and give it a listen - and then maybe another. The beauty of this song is that it brings new life and meaning to so many other songs of praise, because knowing the reason for praise and how we are compelled to worship changes our attitudes when we sing.

So whether you are experiencing spiritual fatigue or spiritual rejuvenation, we are all called to sing praises to our God. If you're not sure what to do when your soul is weary, put on this song and listen to it until you are able to join in. If you're on a spiritual high and can't praise God enough, put on this song and belt your praises out. And after that, go find another song to praise God with, and continue in this pattern until eternity! As this song declares, "Evermore the saints will sing!"



Coming Events at Faith

Bible Study: "Living with Passion & Purpose" **Tuesday, April 9 | 1:30 p.m. | SON Room**



As we travel along with Jesus to Jerusalem and the cross, He continues to teach us. In Luke 14, Jesus instructs us on what to do when we attend a dinner party and when we host a dinner party. Jesus also gives us some requirements of being one of His disciples.

Come and join in the discussion and fellowship.
All are welcome!

Hands-On Mission and Lutheran World Relief

Hands-On Mission Day | Wednesday, April 3 **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 ~ Dark Colored Bath Towels

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

We are collecting dark colored bath towels. The towels are part of the Personal Care Kit. ***If anyone knows of a need in the community for these kits, please 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:
Spaghetti | Spaghetti Sauce | Mac 'n Cheese

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, April 28, 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:

April 28 – Linda Susie

May 19 – Brittany Spieker

June 30 – Alice Nielsen

October 13 – Nancy Ketcham

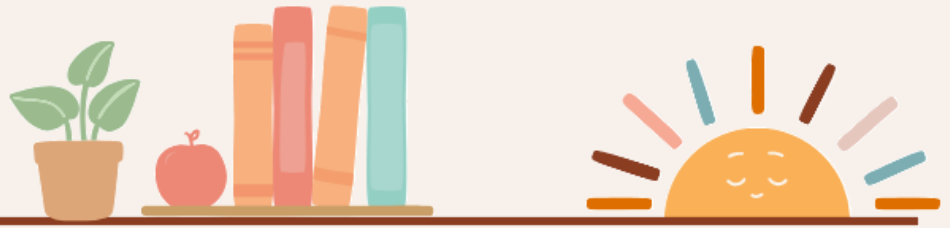
December 29 – Alice Nielsen



LifeKids Spencer



Cheryl
Jackson
Director



Dear Faith friends –

This month I need to place something on your heart.

Everyday I watch my little people grow, as people, as friends, and as young Christians who are learning what it means to both be loved by Jesus and to love others as He has taught us to do. I see them choose now to lead us in our prayer, I hear them reflect on our lessons and teachings they've been exposed to.

I feel their love for each other, myself, their parents, and Jesus.

LifeKids is a non-profit, and just like many of us, it has been stretched financially as of late. Without your cash donations our cash flow reserves will continue to dwindle. The families and children who use our service BELIEVE in our program. They purposely and intentionally have looked for an afterschool option in our community that is not only affordable, but more importantly, offers what we bring to the table. They seek the caring, kind, and family atmosphere where a servant's heart takes root. Our families were not finding what they were seeking elsewhere. And childcare arrangements need to be planned well in advance. As we look at next year's finances, we need to feel confident that if we offer our services to families, the funding will be in place.

I passionately believe in this program. I believe that the future of the world depends on growing good people. I truly believe the greatest gift we can leave the world is children who have been brought up knowing HOW to show God's love with their own actions and words. We as adults need to be intentional about our actions as well. My decisions as the director are VERY intentional, whether it is in the lessons I teach, the hugs I give, the comfort I offer after their long day, or even the way your donated dollars are spent.

If you, like myself, my families, and my board recognize that children are the future, please consider supporting our mission through your donations.





April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday Blessings to ...

April 3	Sara Franker Heidi Skadeland
April 4	Kevin Swancutt
April 5	Sara DeWitt
April 6	Lucy Simington
April 7	Beth Brockshus
April 9	Steve Doran
April 10	Eldon Larsen Dawn Willey Wyatt Griffin
April 13	Lindsay Neiderheiser Annie Rouse
April 14	Kaden Gilley/Harrington Mike Wilson
April 15	Paul Behrens Austin Crew
April 18	Brett Eilts Ruby Nitzel
April 19	Lois Christman Kolton Yungbluth

April 20	Whitney Smith
April 21	Tim Brinkley
April 24	Riley Simcox
April 26	Alice Nielsen
April 29	Annabelle Simington Dorothy Schmidt Penelope Hoppe Tatum Stykel
April 30	Otto Maaland

Happy Anniversary Wishes to ...

April 3	Steve & Theone Quattlebaum Neal & Cindy Drefke
April 10	Robert J & Sarah Wassom
April 15	Kent & Carol Heazlett
April 20	Carl & Becky Simons
April 21	Garold & Lisa Becker
April 29	Roger & Vickie Godfredsen



by
Matt &
Steph
Essick

High School Youth Group

High School Youth Group is currently studying the book of James. James has some great practical wisdom that all can use in it.

James 1:2 states *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ..."*. As we go through life, we face different trials each day. Some of these trials may be harder than others and over time our responses to trials will vary. At first glance, this verse can be confusing but as the High School students discussed the trials we face serve many purposes. They allow us to grow in our faith. We develop patience and wisdom through trials. We might not be joyful of the actual trial but we can find joy knowing that we are growing closer to God as we go through trials.

Another great lesson we discussed in James 1 was the fact that God gives us wisdom when we pray and when we seek Him. This serves as a great reminder that during our busyness, it is always very important to slow down and seek God. We all need to dedicate time to learn and grow in God's word. The world view of wisdom may conflict with God's wisdom and if we are not diligent at seeking out God, we can do things not according to God's will.

We will continue to study the book of James and seek out the wisdom of God. We are discussing plans for a Good Friday youth activity and are looking forward to celebrating the resurrection!

Welcoming New Members

If you are interested in joining Faith Lutheran Church as members, Pastor Ben will be holding a Discovery Class for new members on Sunday, April 14, and Sunday, April 21 (at 10:30 a.m. in the Discipleship Room).

**New Member Sunday will be
Sunday, May 5.**



Join Us!

Community Events

Activities at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps

Spring Youth Recharges

“Step by Step” - Colossians 2:6

April 12-14 - 6th-9th & 9th-12th grades

April 19-2 - 6th-9th grades

To register or for more information, please go to www.okoboji.org/recharges

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### **Youth Outreach Night**

#### **April 7 – Church vs Church Dodgeball**

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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Summer Outdoor Worship

Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.

Memorial Day through Labor Day

Okoboji Camp Amphitheater

The service will be live streamed on Facebook.Live each Sunday

<https://www.facebook.com/IOLBC/>

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#### **Celebrate 100 years of fun on June 28-30**

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

www.okoboji.org or call 712-337-3306.

Bible Stories Come to Life on the Big Screen



Sight & Sound Theatres brings Bible stories to life on film, creating unforgettable and uplifting experiences for audiences. One of their remarkable productions is “Moses”.

Journey with Moses as he leads God’s people on an amazing adventure toward the Promised Land. This original stage production has been experienced by nearly two million people on stage and was filmed in front of a live audience.

The film is being shown at the Riviera Theater in Emmetsburg beginning Sunday, March 31, through Sunday, April 28 at 5:00 p.m. The Theatre is located at 2209 Main St., Emmetsburg. They can be found on Facebook at Rivera Theatre-Emmetsburg.

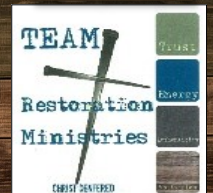
Future films include *Joseph*, showing Sunday, May 5, through Sunday, May 26, and *Queen Esther*, showing Sunday, June 2, through Sunday, June 30.

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



Faith's Mission Partner



Grand Avenue Community Outreach by Kim Wilson

Grand Avenue Community Outreach (GACO), located at 605 Grand Avenue in Spencer, exists as a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization that provides social services and outreach programs designed to meet physical, spiritual, and long-term needs.

The His Hand Extended Food and Clothing Outreach served 5,000 individuals in 2023 with this wonderful resource for strapped budgets. Donated food from the community, rescued food from Fareway, HyVee, and Walmart, and bi-monthly orders from the Des Moines-based Food Bank of Iowa are given out, along with free clothing, the 2nd and 4th Thursday from 2-5 PM free of charge. Donated food and gently used clean clothing can be dropped off Monday through Friday between 9AM and 12 noon at the Front Desk bins for weekly sorting. One Vision of Clear Lake is accessed to recycle some items into rough textiles.

The GACO Community Kitchen provided over 16,000 free hot meals last year. Food Bank inventory, donated food, and rescued produce and assorted grocery items from Fareway and HyVee are put in the hands of skilled kitchen volunteers to make home-made nutritious meals served in the GACO Dining Room every Monday and Thursday at 5 pm. Some patrons attending the meal take identified shut-ins (loved ones, neighbors) a meal also and deliveries are made to infirmed individuals by volunteer drivers.

The Free Clinics of Iowa support a free Medical Clinic held on the 3rd Thursday of the month on a first-come, first serve basis. Registration time is 4-6 pm. Dental care services are not available. Local healthcare providers volunteer their time and expertise to offer this much-needed service to Clay County and beyond.

GACO's "Say Yes to the Dress" Prom Dress Give-away connects donors of gently used dresses, shoes, and accessories to bless individuals accessing this ministry. Fifty-eight dresses were given in 2023 to happy patrons.

GACO is also host to six tenants (AARP Senior Employment Program, All Those Yesterdays, Birthright, Lutheran Social Services of Iowa, United Way, and Red Cross) who offer their services locally.

Volunteers are needed to distribute these necessary basic needs so please call 712-580-4732 or contact GACO at info.gacoutreach.com for these great opportunities to share your servant's heart with the time and energy you have available to give.

GACO especially needs Tuesday morning clothing and food workers, hospitality team volunteers to greet patrons and visitors at the Front Desk between 9 AM-2PM, a pool of willing people to do meal prep from 12 noon to 4-PM, dishwashing, volunteer meal delivery driving, and working upstairs to sort clothing on Mondays and Thursdays from 4-7 PM, and providing live entertainers who can perform at the suppers on Monday and Thursday night from 5-6:30 PM.

GACO is thankful for Faith Lutheran's mission contribution and your prayers of support to our ongoing operational expenses. Individuals providing financial support to this local mission are always appreciated as operating expenses (utilities especially) add up quickly. Volunteering your time and energy also can help GACO serve our neighbors and show love to people in our community. Please join us to be a blessing.

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
April	1	Monday	Leviticus	25	The Sabbath and Jubilee Years
April	2	Tuesday	Numbers	9	God Guides Jews with a Cloud
April	3	Wednesday	Numbers	13	Twelve Spies Explore Canaan
April	4	Thursday	Numbers	14	Jews Refuse to Go to Canaan
April	5	Friday	Numbers	20	Moses Again Brings Water from a Rock
April	6	Saturday	Deuterono	6	The Greatest Commandment
April	7	Sunday	John	21	Jesus Reinstates Peter
April	8	Monday	Deuterono	28	God's Blessings and Curses
April	9	Tuesday	Deuterono	30	God Offers Life or Death
April	10	Wednesday	Joshua	1	Joshua Succeeds Moses
April	11	Thursday	Joshua	2	Rahab Hides the Spies
April	12	Friday	Joshua	3	The Jews Cross the Jordan River
April	13	Saturday	Joshua	6	The Jews Build an Altar
April	14	Sunday	Hebrews	4	Invitation to Enter God's Rest
April	15	Monday	Joshua	24	The Jews Renew God's Covenant
April	16	Tuesday	Judges	4	Deborah Frees the Jews
April	17	Wednesday	Judges	6	God Calls Gideon
April	18	Thursday	Judges	7	Gideon Frees the Jews
April	19	Friday	Ruth	1	Ruth Commits Herself to Naomi
April	20	Saturday	Ruth	2	Ruth Meets Boaz
April	21	Sunday	Philippia	4	Unity and God's Peace
April	22	Monday	Ruth	4	Ruth Marries Boaz
April	23	Tuesday	1 Samuel	1	Hannah Dedicates Samuel to God
April	24	Wednesday	1 Samuel	3	God Calls Samuel
April	25	Thursday	1 Samuel	9	Samuel Anoints Saul as King
April	26	Friday	1 Samuel	10	Israel Coronates King Saul
April	27	Saturday	1 Samuel	15	God Rejects Saul as King
April	28	Sunday	Romans	7	Sin Living in the Christian
April	29	Monday	1 Samuel	16	Samuel Anoints David as King
April	30	Tuesday	1 Samuel	17	David Fights Goliath the Giant



Growing Your Servant's Heart by Kim Wilson

Receiving a heart-felt gift is a great JOY, isn't it? When you know the giver is in tune with what you need or want, that caring spirit gives us a sense of belonging that reminds us how much we are loved, doesn't it? Tangible items can bring that feeling sometimes. Giving of one's self (time, energy, kindness) genuinely communicates regard for people around us who need our attention and help.

Jesus confirmed the importance of the first commandment in Matthew 22:37 when He said we are to *"love the Lord our God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and all your strength."* He also added, *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."* Matthew 12:39

We know there are many ways to love the Lord as we praise and worship Him, pray, and give thanks to Him for all our blessings. He further commands us to reflect His love by bringing JOY to others we come in contact with to share His redeeming grace and the Good News of salvation.

What better way is there to connect with others than to volunteer our time and energy to help others? The excuses that we don't have time, don't have anything to offer, don't like to be around other people, or if we feel like it's too difficult are reminders that we are being less like Christ. Jesus tells us that when we help others, *"whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me."* Matthew 25:40.

As Christ's believers, we are equipped to do these acts of obedience and love because He has shown us by example through His Word, how to do it: offering support, feeding, healing, sharing His Good News, etc. Paul reminds us of Jesus' words that we are to love *"our neighbors"* at all times and in all places, telling us we are *"more blessed to give than to receive."* Acts 20:35.

Did you know that giving of yourself develops your servant's heart? This healthy habit of giving of ourselves helps us all gain better mental health as we develop the fruits of the Spirit: love, JOY, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control in ourselves. Enhancing these emotions and behaviors puts us on a path of wellness and recovery. We are all capable of giving compassion, patience, and encouragement. It's time to challenge ourselves to live more as Jesus has taught us by serving.

Volunteering takes many forms based on one's interests and passions. Find your niche. Get familiar and ask questions about options that spark your servant's heart in meaningful ways. A list for volunteering here at our church and through our mission partners can be found at Faith's church office to give us ideas. There are so many opportunities to love Jesus while loving on others. Accept this encouragement to bring Jesus' love in a real and tangible way to our church, our community, and our world.

To God be the Glory!



Lee & Nancy Ketcham

Lee and Nancy Ketcham are quite a couple and are definitely not new to helping others and helping our church in the most caring of ways as we recognize them as our March Stewards of the Month.

Nancy has held professional positions in which she has been able to help some of the most needed members of our community and

surrounding areas when working at St. Luke's, Elderbridge Agency on Aging, and most recently as an entrepreneur with her business "My Helping Hands." Nancy continues to be a tremendous attribute as an elder advocate in more ways than we can list. Lee is also big on helping others and was a long-time driver for Rides before retirement.

More than just her hands have been put to good use here at Faith as Nancy has been seen leading the Children's Message, reading Scripture, assisting with Communion, and giving the message during various services. Together, Nancy and Lee have welcomed members on Sunday mornings as greeters and behind the counter serving donuts and coffee for Fellowship. Most recently, Nancy has graciously taken over as leader of the Fellowship Team with Lee as her behind-the-scenes assistant.

Our church and city communities are lucky to have the love, support and caring hearts of Nancy and Lee as we honor them this month. Thank you for your caring hearts and all the ways you outwardly show this.



Steward
of the
Month
by
Emily
Hoppe

Stewardship Tidbit

At a recent council meeting, we passionately discussed a direction for which to lead our church in 2024. It included several thoughts with the main idea being to invite more people into the church. What better way to tell of our church and invite others to join than by knowing the areas of the church and being directly involved in some part of it. The last line of our church motto states, "Go and Work." These three words hold a lot of meaning. We want all members to go outside of the church to live out loud a Christian life. However, we also want, and NEED, members to 'work' within our church to keep it running as smoothly as it has. I challenge each of you to explore the various areas that you could be involved in. Whether it is in front of many or behind the scenes ... there is a place for everyone to "Go and Work" within Faith.

Faith Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes March 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Pam Hanson at 7:20 PM.

Members present were: Pam Hanson, Justin Spieker, Lisa Carpenter, Kris Behrens, Barb Solberg, Kirby Fueston, Emily Hoppe, Nancy Ketcham, Eli Franker, Jared Hansen, Lance Storley & Pastor Ben.

Devotions were given by Justin Spieker. The meeting was opened with prayer by Justin Spieker.

Prior month's minutes were reviewed – Motion to approve made by Nancy Ketcham. Kirby Fueston seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Prior month's financial statement – Lisa explained the financial statements. Barb motioned to approve the financials & Kris Behrens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PASTOR BEN'S REPORT – Pastor noted the multi-generational congregation participation that he has seen & really appreciates the involvement.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Pam Hanson) – The Technology fund has \$11,128 raised and Saturday night is a dinner & a movie fundraiser for this. A second fundraiser is planned for Easter Sunday breakfast.

There will be a Maundy Thursday meal & we will need some help setting up on the Tuesday before at 6:00 PM. Any help would be appreciated.

Becky has made a list of paper documents that she feels can be shredded & would like the Council to sign a form authorizing their destruction. We will retain records for 7 years. She also asked that the Council sign a Code of Conduct form stating that we are abiding by the laws that the Church has in place. A form regarding confidentiality in closed session of the Council was also brought to the table.

The copier lease is up in March & we have a new contract. With the change, the savings will be \$268.48/month and they will be on a 5 year lease.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- **Evangelism (Eric Tigges)** – Eric is looking into the security at the church.
- **Missions (Kris Behrens)** – Kim Wilson will be helping Kris with her duties as leader of Missions. Kim is also going to go through a box of files and put them on a thumb drive.
- **Worship (Pete Crew)** –
- **Stewardship (Emily Hoppe)** – The team just met last night & they are going to continue with Stewards of the Month but change it up a little down the road. Check-ins with the 12 - \$100 people will be happening and reports will be coming back on those.
- **Discipleship (Barb Solberg)** –

- **Children’s Ministry (Kirby Fueston)** – Wrapping up Sunday School and meeting tomorrow. Gearing up for VBS.
- **Youth Ministry (Matt & Steph Essick)** – None.
- **Caring Ministries (Ross & Beth Brockshus)** –
- **Fellowship (Lee & Nancy Ketcham)** –
- **Music & Creative Arts (Jared Hansen)** – Nothing additional for February. A skit for Good Friday is being planned.
- **Properties (Eli Franker)** –
- **Technology (Lance Storley)** – Jacob is looking at a laptop for the church so he doesn’t have to bring his or use Gloria’s. He’s been using his personal phone for back-ups and he is looking to get a phone for the church for the back-ups & a computer for the tech booth. Jacob’s last day will be around May 10 and he will be full time at the Camp for the summer.

OLD BUSINESS

Correct emails for council members – changes were made so everyone should be getting their emails now.

Rental agreement update – Recommended removing the cleaning deposit/no fee for members and suggested using “a donation would be appreciated”. For use of the kitchen, make sure that someone is available to run the dishwasher (prior approval). More discussion was had over the charges for non-members. Tabled to next month.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Concerns and/or Celebrations

Closing Prayer was given by Pam Hanson.

Adjournment – Eli Franker made the motion to adjourn. Jared Hansen seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jolene K. Hansen, Church Council Secretary



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

	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Live Stream Computers</i>	<i>General Giving</i>	<i>YTD Undesignated</i>
<i>January</i>	118	28		\$37,212.36
<i>February</i>	149	19	\$22,546.56	\$60,447.18
<i>Lenten Offering (as of March 10)</i>				\$876.00
<i>March 1-3</i>	148	21	\$8,920.00	\$69,414.63
<i>March 4-10</i>	144	15	\$5,345.00	\$75,412.63
<i>March 11-17</i>	189	28	\$3,273.90	\$85,866.15

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

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

Faith Lutheran Church

2912 Highway Blvd.

P.O. Box 1322

Spencer, IA 51301

Pastor: Ben Unseth
pastor@flcspencer.org

Council President: Pam Hanson
president@flcspencer.org

Stephen Ministry and Visitation Director
Lay Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Ruthven:
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Custodian: Rich Stueven
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Spencer, IA 51301 | Phone: 712.580.4316
Office Hours

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

Email: office@flcspencer.org

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.