

# FAITH LIFE TOGETHER

## *A Letter From Our Council President*

BY PAM HANSON

Greetings Faith!

I was reflecting this morning on what to say and the one word that came to my mind is "grateful". Phillippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, Rejoice! It must be really important that we rejoice and find the joy, as Paul said it twice! It has been very humbling to watch the oldest of our members to the youngest come together to lend a hand, make a meal, clean, haul, shovel, sweep, give and pray. It reaffirms that even though our situation may seem bleak, the joy of the Lord is our strength.

Watching others work together, share a meal and laugh together as we work has been a joy to see. You are all important and no matter your situation in life, you are a valued member of our church! I am grateful for those who have made it possible for us to worship and have fellowship in our church. As we move forward to the rebuilding phase, I ask you to pray for our leaders, pray for the members and community who have been most impacted by this flood, pray for us to be a light within the community and pray for the great things that God has in store for Faith Lutheran.

We held a congregational meeting on July 28th where the congregation voted to approve a spending cap of \$175,000.00 to be used on Flood repairs. This amount was based on current bids and flood relief gifts. We are committed to the work it will take to get our church back in business as soon as possible. It will take patience, as we know our community is also needing the same services that we are. Our focus this month will be to finish the tin work on the outside of the building, insulation, and repairing heating and cooling systems. Once that is finished, we can work on drywall and the interior work that needs to be done. We are announcing work days during our weekly service and by sending out text messages and emails. If you are not receiving those, please make contact with Gloria so we can get your corrected information. You will also see updates on Facebook! We are trying to be as communicative as possible with the understanding that we do not have the capabilities of printing at this time.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to those who have so generously given to our flood relief funds in addition to our regular general giving. Your gifts have kept our church moving forward during a very difficult time. The council has worked hard to be good stewards of those gifts.

GREAT NEWS ALERT!

...Sunday School will begin in September! We know this will look a little different, but we are excited to have our kids in the building learning about Jesus! The team is making plans for this to be a great year!

I encourage you to reach out if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. I truly welcome the correspondence. I also encourage you to reach out to other members of Faith. Many have been impacted in some way and may need a prayer or a friendly reminder that they are not alone! May God bless each of you as we walk this journey together.



# Welcome to My Home!

BY PASTOR BEN UNSETH

Tomorrow I move into 521 E 2nd St in Spencer, a block west of the high school. How I look forward to welcoming you into my home! People are asking about my calling it The Forge. Let me explain.

If you visited a dozen churches to discern the least represented demographic group, you would find a consistently small group of men under 40 years old. This is a problem for our nation and communities, our churches, for young families, and particularly for young men! How can we better introduce young men to Christ and then help them grow in a deep relationship with Christ?

Our culture tells young men that masculinity is “toxic.” Media preaches that to be a better man,

a young man should become more like a woman. In elite private high schools, teachers remind young men that they come second. I read this summer that women are 50 percent more likely than men to earn a bachelor’s degree and twice as likely as men to earn a graduate degree.

In this negative atmosphere, how can we support young men in seeking Christ and in becoming who God is calling them to be?

Last fall I sat down with Nathan McKenney, and he asked, “Could we sit down with some young men and go through a Christian book together?” Until Bible camp season started, a group of us sat down weekly to share a meal, a Christian book, the Bible and prayer.

My apartment has been great except that it requires climbing 25 steps. I would like that less as time goes on, and it’s no good for my mother today. Thus, a house.

Because a couple great young men are starting jobs in Spencer in August, and housing is hard to find, the thought came to me to buy now and make room for them. For a year or two I have talked with friends about beginning a discipleship house. Why not now?

To accelerate young men in fulfilling God’s calling in their lives, I am welcoming them to live together in encouragement and mutual accountability. The Bible tells us, “As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.” (Proverbs 27:17)—thus, we will live in The Forge, and pray for God to do his will in our lives. We appreciate your prayers for us! If you would like to know more, please talk with me.



## Upcoming Dates for Sunday School

### August 25

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS  
BIBLE PRESENTATION  
RALLY DAY

### September 8

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS!



### Register today!

Scan the QR code or follow the link to sign your child(ren) up today! All children are encouraged to have an updated registration form in their file.

<https://bit.ly/FLC-SS-register>





# Building Update

BY PROJECT MANAGER PAUL BEHRENS

Here are a few things that have been done and some that we are working on to start rebuilding our Faith church. To start we poured concrete in the north west offices to bring the flooring up to level with the main floor. We have started cutting and replacing the bottom 30 inches of tin on the outer perimeter. Once that is complete we will be able to have the outer walls spray foamed which will seal the existing insulation against the tin and also adhere to the concrete which will help on rodent control and also help keep water from running in like it has in the past. This process is also FEMA approved to if flooding ever does happen again it can be washed like we did in the west offices. There were several stub walls that need to be replaced and insulation put back in the inner walls to help quiet noise.



Once this is all done we can have Denison Drywall come in to start sheet rocking and we can go to work on the wainscoting. This whole process is not going to happen fast so we ask for your patience as we move forward. Other things being done, much cleaning of anything that still has residue on it is being done, carpet glueing has been cleaned off, Electricians have been called in to tell us what we need to do, good news on that, we basically just need to replace outlets which can be done after sheet rocking is complete. Bids are being put together for the kitchen, appliances are being purchased since there is a great sale on them right now, carpet has been picked out and working on a bid for having it installed when the time comes. There has been so many volunteers that have stepped up to help with everything right from the start, with Gods blessings and all the volunteers along with the incredible giving that is still happening we will be able to rebuild Faith and continue to be God disciples. Come and Worship Go and Work!



# Christ is Our Firm Foundation

BY WORSHIP DIRECTOR  
GLORIA MCKENNEY

Faith Lutheran Church has always had a special place in my heart. I was in 6th grade when my family helped start this church. I was there when we purchased our building and slowly turned an old Shopper's Supply building into a church, adding a worship space, kitchen, Sunday School rooms and more. My dad was handy and often helped with building projects on Saturdays, and it was quite exciting when my brothers and I got to tag along. As the building grew, so did we, growing from 90 people to 120, to 150, and beyond. After college I was given the opportunity to return to Faith not just as a member, but as an employee of the church. For the past two years I have loved working in the building I helped construct. Now, however, that has changed.

Saturday, June 22, I awoke to find water surrounding my apartment building. Within hours, boats traveled over what had previously been a bean field and parking lot to rescue residents from the first floor of my apartment building and nearby neighborhoods. Thankfully, I had plenty of supplies to wait out the flood from my third floor apartment. Over the next few days the waters receded, leaving behind devastation and destruction everywhere the waters reached. Faith was one of the buildings ravaged by the flood, destroying much of our property on the main level, including the office I had done much of my planning, preparation, and praying in.



When we were able to enter the church building, we started the process of cleaning up by gutting the walls four feet on down and tossing everything touched by floodwaters. Volunteers worked long, hard hours as everything I had seen built was taken apart and thrown in a giant trash pile outside. Items that were safe from the flood were taken to our upstairs mezzanine or placed on a trailer. We brought in a power washer to spray down the building, and then used squeegees and shop vacs to chase the water out of the building. Now, most of the demolition work is done, and we wait for the building to be dry enough to rebuild.

The building itself may be only partially functional today, and I may be working from home or up in the mezzanine for quite some time, but the church is stronger than ever. People are more intentional with checking in on their neighbors and carrying the weight for each other.

The building itself may be only partially functional today, but the church is stronger than ever. People are more intentional with checking in on their neighbors and carrying

the weight for each other. We know we aren't meant to do this life alone, which is why we build our life on Christ and link arms with fellow believers. We've been singing the song "Firm Foundation (He Won't)" by Cody Carnes in church, and the bridge could be described as a motto that helps carry us through this season: "Rain came and wind blew, but my house was built on You. And I'm safe with You, I'm going to make it through."

Faith Lutheran Church has been through quite a storm, or to be more precise, a flood. We're not out of it yet. But we are built on Jesus. We are connected to each other. With God's help and the help of God's people, we will make it through.



# August Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to...



8.2 Jolene Hansen

8.5 Alyssa Dotson

8.5 Jorgan Rustad

8.5 Isaac Rouse

8.7 Joe Simington

8.7 Mary Sembach

8.7 Titan Coleman

8.8 Shirley Nelson

8.8 Kent Heazlett

8.10 Peggy Olson

8.11 Marge Nielson

8.12 Raul Ortiz

8.13 Michael Ruhs

8.13 Logan Treybal

8.16 Dennis Larson

8.16 Garold Becker

8.18 GA Darnell-Wagner

8.18 Linda Susie

8.18 Brook Freeman

8.18 Trent Freeman

8.18 Augutmn Erdman

8.19 Lydia Skadeland

8.20 Marge Frad

8.20 Dale Brandt

8.20 Christina Caton

8.20 Connor Orr

8.22 Larry Peterson

8.22 Mike Trierweiler

8.22 Cindy Essick

8.23 Carissa Doran

8.23 Jackson Eilts

8.24 Diane Allen

8.24 Darren Piercy

8.24 Lance Storley

8.24 Brittany Spieker

8.24 Ryan Crew

8.25 Nancy Ketcham

8.25 Shanna Kooker

8.25 Cade Freeman

8.26 Lora Johnson

8.27 Marv Schutter

8.27 Easton Anderson

8.30 Jett Blazek

8.31 Larry Nelson

8.31 Jake Hanson

8.31 Isaiah Gray

Happy Anniversary to...

8.4 Stan and Jodene Jongma

8.7 Tracy and Donna Bengtson

8.7 Dan and Catie Vos

8.15 Jeff and Joan Loring

8.16 David and Jan Hopkins

8.17 Eric and Shiela Weeks

8.18 Al and Kim Rye

8.19 Dennis and Jan Larson

8.25 Jim and Joan Unrau

8.26 Rod and Cryss Quanbeck

8.28 Justin and Laura Heikens

8.29 Larry and Tracy Wigen

8.31 Craig and Lindsay Neiderheiser



## Hands-On Mission Day

**When:** Wednesday, August 7 from 9 a.m. to noon

**Where:** Linda Susie's house, 1514 W. 13th St., Spencer

**What:** Tie quilts, and sew and string school bags.

School supplies are on sale now so 70 count notebooks would be an item that is needed when we start to fill the bags. If anyone has a question, call Linda at (712) 260-8495.

**Women's Bible study** will be Tuesday, August 13, at 1:30 p.m. We will meet at Countryside Condos, 1102 St. Luke Dr. in their community room which is on the 2nd floor. Park on the west side of the building.

We will be studying Luke 18. As you read this chapter, what stands out to you as the message Jesus is wanting us to learn? Please share any poems, songs, etc. that reinforce this message.

# Special Emergency Flood Recovery Meeting minutes

July 28, 2024 10:07 AM

Faith Lutheran Church Congregational Flood Recovery meeting

Meeting was called to order & prayer given by President Pam Hanson.

**\*\*Financial update:** July 2024 general giving is very close to the July 2023 general giving at just over \$24,000. YTD giving is down a little bit compared to last year at just under \$200,000. The 2024 budget is about just shy of half. Flood relief funds total \$102,194 PLUS and additional \$2500 in Thrivent funds.

The bus was sold for \$500 to an anonymous buyer and if they sold the bus, they would donate the sale proceeds to the church and they sold the bus for \$4,000.

Morningside Lutheran Church in Sioux City has sent us a check for \$10,000. This is in addition to our flood relief funds. What a blessing!

Projected expenses/estimates that we are needing:

Concrete in the office area \$700; HVAC system components \$3,500; insulation on the HVAC system \$8,000; AC west \$3,900; toilets \$400; bottom 30” of north & east side of perimeter of the building \$3,250; sprayfoam \$8,665; sheetrock \$38,312; lumber for walls \$1,000; bat insulation \$1,400; other expenses that we don’t have estimates for include duct cleaning, kitchen, carpet, wainscotting north of worship wall, interior doors, trim/baseboard, exterior sliding doors, paint, waterline to coffee pot filler, desks & chairs, electrical outlets, sanctuary floor etching & miscellaneous items. Current expenses that we are aware of total \$109,127.00.

At the July Council meeting, a suggestion was made that we get the congregation to increase our spending capacity without congregational approval up to \$75,000. Opened this up to the floor for input from the congregaiton. Paul Behrens would like to amend the motion to increase it to \$175,000. Pete Crew agreed with the amendment to avoid further congregational meetings. Kyle Rouse asked how the incoming flood relief funds/grants were being tracked & he would like to amend this so that the funds come specifically from the flood relief funds. Clarification on the motion by Kyle: Any approved spending up to \$175,000 specifically for flood relief be approved without a congregational meeting. These are for flood repairs ONLY. Ross Brockshus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Comments/Questions:

If we have expenses over \$175,000, we will have another congregational meeting to discuss where the expenses are coming from.

Congregational work day information will be sent out via text to the members. Looking at a week from Saturday for the next work day (8/10).

Pam closed the meeting in prayer at 10:32 AM. Gary Klett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:33. Larry Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene K. Hansen  
Council Secretary

## 2024 Giving and Flood Relief Report 2024 BUDGET: \$420,894.00

	July	Year to Date
General Giving	\$29,293.10	\$203,973.44
Flood Relief Fund		\$115,594.00