

FAITH LIFE TOGETHER



October 2024 Newsletter

Greetings Faith, and welcome to the October edition of Faith Life Together! This newsletter may be looking different these days, and may not contain as much content, but I hope it is still a valuable resource for you to remain connected to the body of Faith and the activities going on here. Because of flood restoration and construction going on in the building, activities may look different, but we are striving to keep everything as normal as possible in the midst of everything going on.

In pursuit of maintaining normalcy, Pastor Ben has started to hold **office hours** at the church on **Tuesdays from 9-11am** and **Wednesdays from 3-5pm**. These hours may increase as the building comes back together, and we will keep you updated when additional changes occur. For now, however, you are welcome to enter the building during those hours and find Pastor Ben up in the mezzanine.

October continues to be a busy month. **Sunday, October 13**, we will have the pleasure to hear the message from Andrea Crew. Andrea will also give an overview of her recent mission trip to Madagascar with her daughter Abbie, Lori Krei, and others from Friends of Madagascar Missions.

We look forward to hearing from Andrea what God places on her heart, and to hear how God worked during their trip to Madagascar.

Saturday, October 19 at 7:00pm we will show the movie **'Overcomer'** here at the church. This event is free for everyone and we look forward to watching the movie and snacking on popcorn with people of all ages. 'Overcomer' is by the same producers that made 'War Room' and 'Facing the Giants', and is an inspiring Christian movie with a message about what has the power to define you.

Sunday, October 20, we will have a **Special Congregational Meeting** to discuss raising the spending cap on flood-related expenses. We will need a quorum of at least 84 people to proceed, so please plan to attend.

Sunday, October 20, we will also have Bible Presentation. We are thankful we are able to provide kid-friendly Bibles to the youngest members of our congregation.

To round out the month, Reformation Sunday is October 27, so don't forget to wear **RED**! Reformation Sunday marks the day that Martin Luther presented his 95-thesis, which catapulted the start of the reformation, eventually resulting in the formation of the Lutheran church. We wear red that day to celebrate the power of the Holy Spirit and truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God's Blessings to you all!



**SPECIAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

OCTOBER 20

Wanted: Your Prayers!

BY PASTOR BEN UNSETH

For several years, our congregation has sent teams to Mexico City. With a ministry that began in that city's immense garbage dump, we bring the good news of Jesus to poor neighborhoods. While we served there last year with Operation Serve International, more than 100 people prayed to follow Jesus. The ministry's leader invited me to train pastors in a country where Christians are persecuted.

Here at Faith Lutheran Church, Andrea Crew will share God's Word, and her experiences in Madagascar, on October 13. That week I will worship with 160 pastors who serve under oppression. Please pray that I will encourage them in faith and point them to Christ's wisdom for their overwhelming circumstances.

In the last few years in their country, for the first time, many Christian churches have been allowed to build a church building, but more than one thousand congregations are still being denied a building permit.

Christians regularly experience discrimination there because they follow Jesus. Social media are monitored, and criticism of the majority religion is not allowed.

Christian men lose their jobs because of their faith or are not hired for good jobs. Christian women are harassed in the street. Christian children are bullied at school.

Rumors that a building has been turned into a church, or an accusation of blasphemy on social media, has led to mob violence. In rare instances, mobs have forced Christians to flee their communities. The government regularly arrests converts to Christianity.

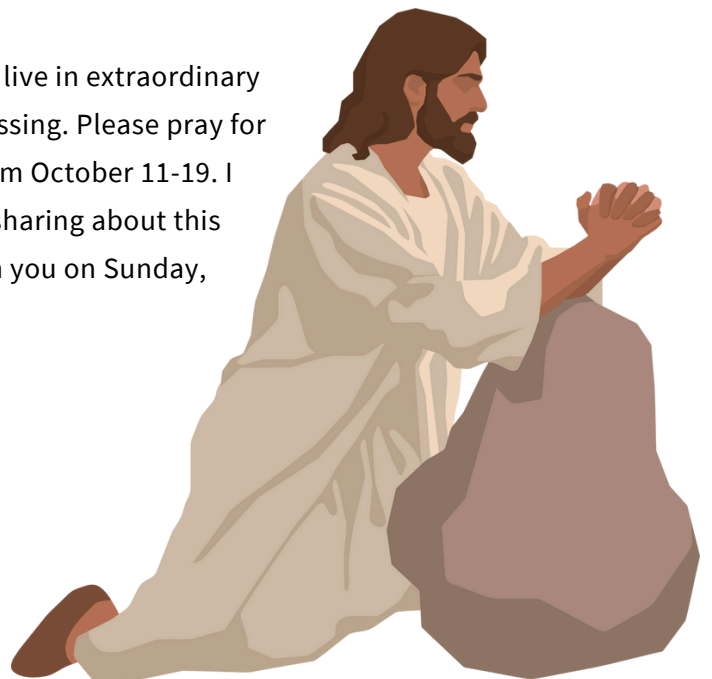
One sister in Christ writes, "I am a Christian now. If I showed you my face, it could cost me my life. Fanatics, or even my own family, would kill me if they saw my picture online and read" that I trust in Jesus.

Here in Iowa, we live in extraordinary freedom and blessing. Please pray for me as I travel from October 11-19. I look forward to sharing about this Mission Trip with you on Sunday, October 20.

Some prayer suggestions:

- Freedom and funds for pastors to come to the conference
- Safety for the participants in the conference
- Health, strength and safety for me throughout the trip
- Anointing of God's Holy Spirit on me to encourage and teach these brothers and sisters
- An open heart to learn from these brothers and sisters

I am deeply grateful to Faith for sending me as your representative to these brothers and sisters in Christ! There is an exception to the commandment "Do not covet." I covet your prayers for me and everyone I will meet on this trip.



Building Report

BY PROJECT MANAGER PAUL BEHRENS

With many people going to the fair and farmers getting started in the fields September was a tougher month to find time to get projects accomplished but we still made it happen with our volunteers. We had a Saturday workday and had many volunteers come in to help. We were able to get all the exterior walls replaced that had to be cut out four feet high, all the outlets have been cut out and walls built around the ducts on the east side. JCL Solutions brought in a scrubber for us to use so we were able to clean our floors. Ducts have been cleaned so will have to be conscientious about dust control so we don't fill them back up with dust. We have been shutting the systems down every day and running them at night. Sheetrocking has begun and they are doing an awesome job.



With that we had a work night insulating interior walls which went very quickly with our volunteers and had treats afterwards thanks to Pam! We will need to continue to insulate for noise reduction as they get one side of the walls done. So will have more work nights as we go along.

We could really use a clean up crew to help keep our church as clean as possible while going through this building spree. If you feel this is something you would be willing to help with please let Pam, Justin or myself know.

Thanks again to all who have helped rebuild Faith!

Highlands (Song of Ascent)

BY WORSHIP DIRECTOR
GLORIA MCKENNEY

Imagine, for a moment, you lived with the Israelites at some point during the Old Testament. There, 'church' - which is approximately equivalent to worship at the tabernacle - only happened for the average person a few times a year, during the annual feasts. This was a cornerstone of their culture, as sojourners from all over Israel would travel to Jerusalem to be in the presence of God. If you lived in such a time, where you traveled for days to seek God's presence, how would your relationship with God change? How far would you travel if your only chance of experiencing God was by searching far and wide?

The song 'Highlands (Song of Ascent)' by Hillsong UNITED is based loosely off the Psalms of Ascent - Psalms 120-134 which all contain the theme of 'going up' to Jerusalem, to dwell with God. These 15 psalms are fairly short, containing just over 100 verses altogether, but pack in the real emotions of a people dealing with everyday struggles, yet earnestly desiring and seeking the face of God. Is your desire for God as unquenchable as it was during the time of these psalmists? Now, of course, we have access to the very presence of God not only at church, but wherever we may go. However, it is often helpful to remind ourselves of the importance of seeking God and carving out both time and space with which to do so. The song 'Highlands' contains beautiful imagery of both searching for God and realizing that God is worthy of worship wherever we may find ourselves. Consider the profound lyrics of the chorus: "No less God within the shadows; No less faithful when the night leads me astray; 'Cause You're the heaven where my heart is; In the highlands and the heartache all the same." This song contains lyrics so profound, it may be worth listening to more than once so that the meaning can sink into your heart. As you listen, picture yourself on a pilgrimage to experience God. He's waiting for you.



MOVIE NIGHT



OCTOBER 19TH, 2024

START AT 07:00PM

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT

FREE TO ATTEND

POPCORN PROVIDED!



Reducing Stigma about Mental Illness

BY KIM WILSON

In October, and especially during Mental Illness Awareness Week (Oct. 6-12), information is shared to reduce confusion and encourage understanding of mental illness. Since it is a common occurrence, (1 in 5 Americans have a diagnosable mental health condition) there's a need to tackle the myths that circulate about mental illness. Perhaps, you have heard the stigmatizing messages that mental illness is a sign of weakness, a sin, or a passive set of circumstances that should just "be prayed away"?

Having difficulties coping at various times in life is a burden to us all. For many of us, the events of this past summer are painfully taking their toll on our mental, physical, and spiritual well-being. We wonder if we can reclaim our peace as we survive the trauma, hardship, and grief we are feeling. Our resilience is being tested in ways we never thought possible. For some, valuable lessons about facing adversity together have led to more reliance on family, friends, neighbors, and other community members. For others, the loneliness and lack of support are evident and discouraging. If you need some relief, maybe it's time to reach out for help to your doctor, pastor, or a trusted friend or family member to get back on track.

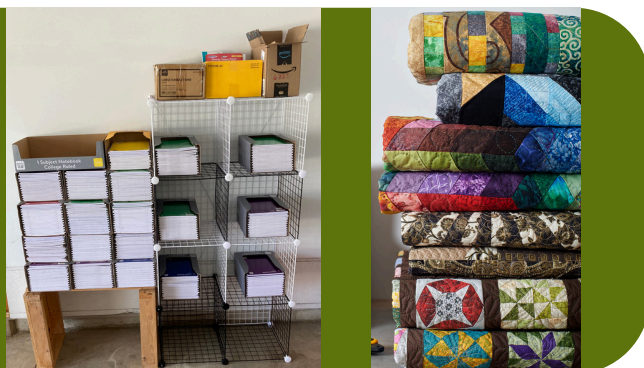
Counselors, like Restorations Ministries, may be another avenue to confidentially share the turmoil you are enduring when depression, anxiety, changes in sleep, appetite, or feelings of hopelessness linger for longer periods. When experiencing risks of self-harm, immediate attention is needed. Sharing these private concerns now may be far less detrimental to your health than bottling them up and developing other stress-related illnesses that can adversely affect you.

Our church can be a light to the darkness mental illness can bring. However, we must guard ourselves against Stigma, which promotes isolation if we fear exposure to others' judgment and criticism when we aren't doing well. Especially with the struggles of more severe and persistent mental illnesses, like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, clinical depression, and personality disorders, stigma can stoke feelings of inadequacy that erode one's self-confidence to participate in relationships and activities.

As Christians, our Lord has outfitted us with His armor to give us strength. God's Word tells us many times that, as Christians, we must be prepared and equipped for battle. We have access to and use of the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, the Helmet of Salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:14-17) to deliver us.

We can also use this "equipment" to lift up each other with the Hope of God's grace. Since we are more similar than different, we can remind each other through our respect, the sharing of kind words of reassurance, and thoughtful gestures of care and concern that we are all God's children, in need of His peace, presence, and protection. Let's help each other navigate this world together. To God Be the Glory!

Hands-On Mission Day was held on October 2. November 6 from 9 to noon will be the next time we meet at Linda Susie's home, 1514 West 13th St., to tie quilts, sew and string school bags and also assemble school and personal care kits if we have the supplies.



September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to...



10.2 Ryker Morrow

10.2 Riley Morrow

10.4 Sharon Simington

10.4 Sophia Ruhs

10.5 Noah Spieker

10.6 Joan Unrau

10.6 Roger Godfredsen

10.7 Bill Neiderheiser

10.8 Ross Brockshus

10.8 Vickie Godfredsen

10.8 Elliot Stykel

10.8 Marlene Thorson

10.9 Rod Quanbeck

10.9 Jayda Smith

10.10 Arlie Neiderheiser

10.12 Blake Kooker

10.12 Andy Yungbluth

10.14 Trisha Rohmiller

10.15 Joan Loring

10.16 Doug Schwartz

10.19 Dave Susie

10.21 Jim Paulsen

10.21 Pat Swancutt

10.22 Shirley Lowe

10.24 Stephanie Hines

10.25 Erin Krei

10.26 Grayson Cooke

10.27 Baylie Stykel

10.28 Madison

Gilley/Harrington

10.28 Jodene Jongma

10.28 Emily Quanbeck

10.31 Kevin Lee



*Happy
Anniversary to...*

10.3 Beau and Emily Hoppe

10.5 Dick and Diane Allen

10.8 Jake and Tanya Vos

10.8 Paul and Christina Caton

10.10 David and Terry Frerichs

10.12 Bill and Emily Kersting

10.14 Mike and Bev Hummel

10.15 Isaiah and Whitney Gray

10.19 Mark and Mary Speidel

10.21 Jim and Lisa Carpenter

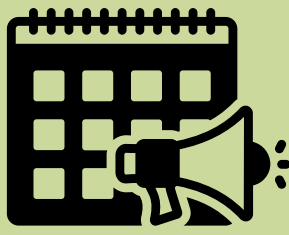
10.22 Dave and Barb Solberg

10.22 Justin and Brittany Spieker

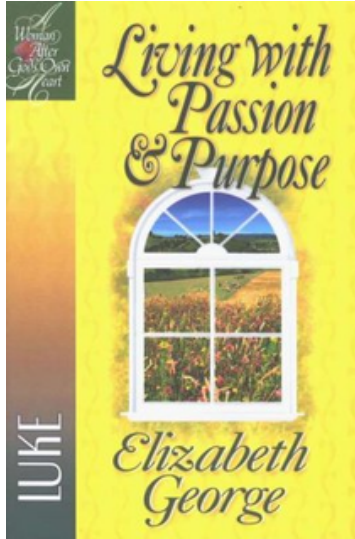
10.24 Steve and Lora Johnson

10.28 Dale and Karen Brandt

10.30 Josh and Whitney Smith

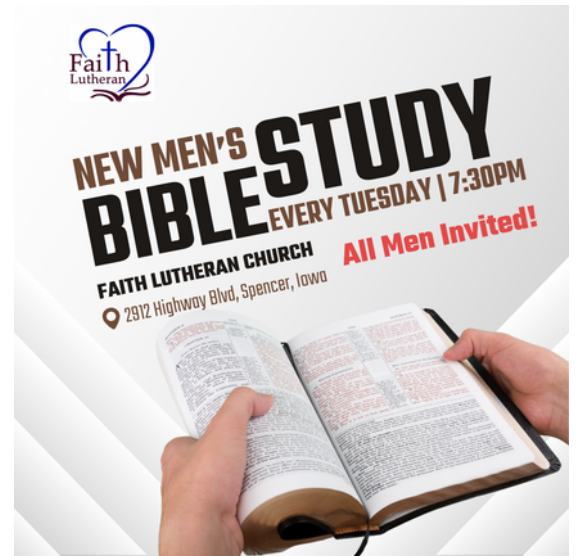


Upcoming Bible Studies



Women's Bible study will be October 8 at 1:30 p.m. at Countryside Condos, 1102 St. Luke Dr. in the community room on the 2nd floor. We will see Jesus continuing his way to Jerusalem in Luke 19 looking at the details of the first Palm Sunday. What memories do you have of Palm Sundays past in your life? We also meet Zacchaeus. How did his encounter with Jesus change his life? In the "Parable of Ten Minas" Jesus tells us what our behavior should be while we wait for the kingdom of God to arrive. Join us for discussion of God's Word. All are welcome!

Justin Spieker and Eric Tigges are heading up a new Bible Study for men held in the evenings on Tuesdays at 7:30pm. Their first meeting will be October 8, and they plan to meet in the mezzanine until construction is wrapped up in the SON Room. All men are invited, regardless if they attend Faith or not.



Faith at a Glance (September 2024)

Baptisms:

Hayes Vanderberg - September 15
Dean Vos - September 22

Births

Confirmed

Deaths: Marge Frad - September 29

Marriages

New Members

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

	August	Year to Date
General Giving	\$27,210.00	\$281,768.50
Flood Relief Fund	\$28,987.50	\$176,321.41