



# The SEED



## Walking Together

Perhaps you have noticed some “newness” at Faith Lutheran Church. Tangible things like plants that now adorn the altar. A “noisy” baptismal font in use during the season of Epiphany reminding us of God’s saving action in the Sacrament. Faith formation opportunities like the “worship practices” and Financial Peace University.”

You may also have noticed some new expectations regarding discipleship: Worship Every Week, Pray Daily, Grow in Your Faith, Give regularly, Serve Faithfully. Of course these are not new or unique to Faith Lutheran Church. These are invitations from our Lord, found in the Bible, which enable us to live together as members of the body of Christ.

Walking together, we commit ourselves to step out in faith with courage knowing that God walks with us and promises that nothing can ever change that arrangement.

Along with the expectations, (which are always blanketed in grace), comes the challenge to walk together in faithfulness sharing God’s love.

What does that look like? Walking together means responding gratefully to what God has first given us. All that we do is a response to God’s grace.

Everything we are, have, and use comes from God. Best of all, God gives the gift of Jesus Christ and the community of believers. It all begins with God. Our confession of faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior is not our doing. We put God first.

As we walk together this year we commit ourselves to begin and end each day in prayer, to worship with the gathered community, to seek out opportunities for faith enrichment, to serve one another in word and deed and to give in relation to our abundance.

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Will you join your fellow pilgrims at faith? Commit to walking?

Peace,

Pastor John Albertson



## Faith Church News

**We continue to pray** for Jane Wildes, Lawrence Behnke, Von Trumblee, Chuck and Norma Butters, Vic Diercksen, Jim Shimek, Jan Keyes, Marilyn Paulson, Eunice Koeppen, Melinda Dye, Sue Schunter, Helen Hale, Connie Herrington, Claire Diefenderfer, Roger Grimm, Russ Gerst's father, Gary Stephans (friend of Hummel Family) and Bonnie Eckhoff's brother.

**Deepest sympathies to** Roxanne and Kerry Koch and family on the recent passing of her sister.

**Congratulations to new great-grandma,** Jean Garlinghouse! Twin boys, Landon and Conner were born on Sunday, January 24th at 9:30 am to parents Betsy and Brett Hoffman.

**Reminder:** There will be no Financial Peace University Class on February 9th as Pastor Paul will be gone for Continuing Education. We will resume FPU on Tuesday, February 16th. Do your homework!

**Also,** FPU has been a great success with over 26 families participating in this life-changing look at our relationship with money. We already have a class scheduled for the fall. Sign-up now to reserve your spot!

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets on Wednesday, February 3 at the church at 1:30 pm. We are always looking for new knitters & crocheters. Give Leona Diercksen a call if you're interested at 377-3250.

**Games/Social Time** will take place on Thursday, February 4th and 18th this month at 1:00 pm. Come a take a break from the cold for some fun, fellowship time. No experience necessary!

**The Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast** will be held here at Faith Lutheran on Saturday, February 20th Please come and support these great kids and have a fantastic breakfast, too!



## Expectations of Discipleship

**Worship** Every Week, experience God's Word in Scripture and Proclamation, the Means of Grace found in the Bread and Wine, and the Waters of Baptism.

**Commit** to being in worship here or as you travel. Pray in daily life, around the dinner table, as you drive, as you wake and as you sleep. Let all of life be a prayer!

**Commit to praying every day.** Grow in faith. Attend Bible Studies, Read the Bible, Invest in Your Faith, Learn Spiritual Practices, Invite Others to Faith.

**Commit to Growing in Faith Every Day.** Give. Be Intentional about Giving to Grow God's Kingdom through Faith Lutheran Church.

**Commit to giving,** work toward a Goal of 10% (Biblical Tithe). Serve. Find a Ministry and Share Your Gifts through Serving Others.

**Commit to Serving** this Community and Its Mission to the World.

## Wednesday Night Bookclub

Mark your calendars for an upcoming opportunity as we begin Wednesday Night Book Club! Join us for a good book, good conversation and just plain fun! The dates are March 3, 10, 17 and 24th at 7:00 pm in the Faith Drama Room and will be facilitated by Lorice Amlin.. Below is a brief synopsis.

Mitch Albom's nonfiction book, [\*Have A Little Faith\*](#) begins with an unusual request: an 82-year-old rabbi from Albom's old hometown asks him to deliver his eulogy. Feeling unworthy, Albom insists on understanding the man better, which throws him back into a world of faith he'd left years ago. Meanwhile, closer to his current home, Albom becomes involved with a Detroit pastor – a reformed drug dealer and convict – who preaches to the poor and homeless in a decaying church with a hole in its roof. Moving between their worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and

well-to-do, Mitch observes how these very different men employ faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi, embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat.

Albom has stated that 10% of the profits from this book will be donated to charity, including the Hole in the Roof Foundation, which helps refurbish places of worship that aid the homeless.

## Marion Churches Blood Drive

How often do you get a chance to save someone's life? Well, it happens every time you give blood. Please consider joining with the members of Ascension and Resurrection Lutheran Churches in donating blood to make our common goal of collecting at least forty units.

**When: Tuesday, February 9th**

**Where: Lutheran Church of Resurrection**

**Time: 3:00-6:30 pm**

You may sign up for an appointment by calling Kerry Koch at 377-5067 or Bob Wolterat 377-5126. Remember to eat a nutritious meal and hydrate at least 4 hours before donating. Also bring your photo ID. Donors must be at least 17 to donate and there is no upper age limit. Donors must be at least 110 pounds.

Facts about Donated Blood:

One of five people entering the hospital need blood  
20% of the donated blood goes to cancer patients  
16% goes to people with heart disease  
16% goes to people with gastro disease  
12% to injuries



## Looking Ahead

Looking ahead on the Church calendar, Ash Wednesday will be on Wednesday, February 17th. Our worship service will be held at 7:00 pm.



Lenten Services will again be held on Thursdays, beginning February 25th and we will have a soup supper at 6:00 pm and worship to follow at 7:00 pm.

Make plans to participate this Lenten season.

## New Member Dinners

We will shortly be welcoming some new families to Faith. Prospective members have been invited to choose one of two dates to attend a dinner at a member's home to come and learn what it means to be a member of Faith Lutheran. Dates are Sunday, February 21st & 28th. Special thanks to Diane & Larry Lehtinen and Roxanne & Kerry Koch for hosting these dinners. Please RSVP to Pr. Paul or contact the church office if you are unable to make it.



## Wednesday Night Live

**Feb 3 - "Worship" Team # 2** for cooking and clean-up.

**Feb 10- "In the Red" Team #3** for cooking and clean-up.

**Feb 17 - Ash Wednesday Worship no WNL**

**Feb 24 - "Worship" with Team #1** for cooking and clean-up.

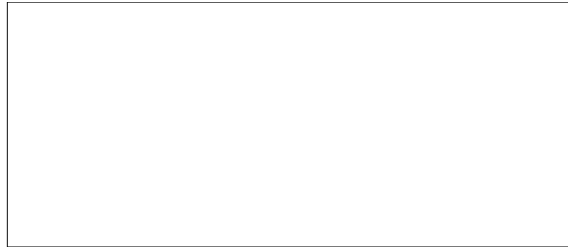


## Faith Lutheran Church

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*We are a community of Faith,  
growing in Christ, sharing God's love.*



## Worship Opportunities

All are welcome and invited to worship at Faith Lutheran Church.

### ***Worship Services***

Sunday Mornings at 8:00 and 10:45 am

### ***Sunday School***

for youth and adults at 9:15 am

### ***Choir Practice***

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm

### ***WNL Youth Program***

Wednesdays at 5:00 pm

### ***Bell Choir Practice***

Thursdays at 7:00 pm



*Faith has been serving the Marion-Cedar Rapids area for more than thirty years; supporting local ministries such as the Marion Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, and Senior Assistance Programs. We are in partnership with the 10,657 congregations, 28 Lutheran colleges and universities, 8 seminaries, 450 global missionaries and one of the largest non-profit social service networks in the United States; as well as Lutheran World Relief worldwide. All are ministries of the 5.2 million member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

### **Faith Lutheran Church Staff**

**John A. Albertson**  
Senior Pastor

**Paul M. Amlin**  
Associate Pastor

**Jen Heinsius**  
Secretary

**Diane Lehtinen**  
Choir Director

**Steve Roggow**  
Bell Choir

**Don Schluter**  
Custodian

### **Faith Lutheran Church Council Members**

**Paul Gibbs**  
President

**Angie Miglia**  
Director of Worship

**David Ripley**  
Vice President

**Todd & Carolyn Mitchell**  
Directors of Youth

**Lois Yoerger**  
Secretary

Directors of Fellowship

**Russ Gerst**  
Treasurer

**Diane Lehtinen**  
Director of Witness

**Dave Koch**  
Financial Secretary

**James Gardiner**  
Director of Facilities

**Mark Siebenga**  
Directors of Adult Nurture

Director of Youth Nurture

**Kerry Koch**  
Director of Social Concerns

But most of the real work is done by unpaid members of the congregation, often without recognition, who see their service as a response to God.