

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation

“God’s Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever,
To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last your church may hold it fast
Through-out all generations.” ELW 509



First printed in 1817, Nicolai Grundtvig’s hymn, “God’s Kirke er von Klippe-Borg, consisted of five verses. The first four were a Danish version of A Mighty Fortress; the fifth stanza was Grundtvig’s own. The final stanza came into use as a separate hymn in Norway and Denmark as a closing hymn or a hymn for church festivals.

The translation is by Ole Gulbrand Belsheim, who was born August 26, 1861, at Vang, Valdres, Norway. His family came to the United States when he was five years old. After attending Luther College at Decorah and Augsburg Seminary in St. Paul he served as pastor in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota. He died February 12, 1925. (Companion to the LBW).

Consider this your personal invitation to join with me as we begin the journey of Bible study within the Lutheran tradition. Indeed, “God’s Word is our Great Heritage.” As such, we will discover four ways to approach the Bible. Devotional reading...”what stories or memories does this text stir within me?” Historical reading...When was the text written and what do we know about that time in history. Literary reading...What is the plot? Who are the characters? And Lutheran theological reading...In what ways does this text point to or lead us to Christ?

We begin our conversation in worship on September 19th and 26th with Dr. Ann Fritschel,

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professor of Biblical studies at Wartburg Seminary. She will preach and host Pastor’s class. On Sunday, October 3rd, Dr. Ritva Williams, a professor at Augustana College will preach and in Pastor’s class, offer insights on how Lutherans read and interpret the Bible.

The conversation continues on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm starting September 23rd. Pastor Albertson will facilitate this opportunity.

Come join the conversation!

Peace,

Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Ann Thielking, Ralph Spies, Tom Rohr, Jane Wildes, Donna Trumblee, Eunice Koeppen, Rose Brady, Marilyn Paulson, Annette Mohling's mother, Russ Gerst's father.

Please join the high school youth and sponsors for a special presentation from the recent mission trip to South Carolina. There will be photos, stories, and a time for questions and answers. Join us in the worship area at 9:45 a.m. next Sunday, September 5th. We would also like to thank Thrivent Financial for providing a \$1000 grant to help pay for paint and paint supplies necessary to paint the gym, entry ways and bathrooms at the Andrews Christian School.

Calendar Reminder: Beginning this weekend, September 5th, worship times will revert to 8:00 am and 10:45 am. Sunday School Rally Sunday will be Sunday, September 12th at 9:15 am. Saturday service will continue year-round at 5:30 pm.

Choir practice begins on Wednesday, September 8th at 7:30 pm. Come join us!

Bell choir practice will begin on Thursday, September 9th at 7:00 pm. See Steve Roggow for more information.

Cub Scout Pack 360 is again collecting aluminum cans for its fundraiser at Hy Vee on Saturday, September 11. You may drop yours off at Faith or contact Russ Gerst at 447-6000 for more information.

Wednesday Night Live begins on Wednesday, September 15th. Volunteers are needed in all areas. Sign up will be available at worship services the next few weekends or contact Penny Ripley at 373-2328 or pdripley1@gmail.com.

The Catherine McAuley Center is currently accepting reservations for the 14th annual Catherine's Tea Party fundraising event which will take place Sunday, September 19 at Mercy Medical Center. Please visit www.cmc-cr.org to download a reservation form. Also, contact the Center at 319-363-4993 or visit the website for more information about this event.

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 worship. Commit to growing in faith every day.

Give regularly. 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 faithfully. Find a ministry and share your gifts through serving others. Commit to serving this community and its mission to the rest of the world.

Bratfest Coming Soon!

Faith Lutheran's 3rd Annual Bratfest will be held on Saturday, September 18th in the Faith Lutheran parking lot and the Bratfest Committee needs your help and support.

Food will be served from 4:30 pm until the final band break. The polka music will go from 5:00—9:00 pm. This year's band will be Barefoot Becky from Mt. Vernon.

Purchase your quilt raffle tickets on Sundays this summer. We are actively looking people to sign up to volunteer in a variety of positions. For questions or to volunteer, please see Steve Deines or contact him at 373-0990 or sddeines@inav.net.

You can also go onto our website at faithlutheran.org to purchase tickets, see a video clip of Barefoot Becky and get more information about the event. **THERE WILL BE NO WORSHIP ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th!**

Thrivent News!

In the last 2 weeks, Thrivent Financial has sent letters to their annuity and insurance participants notifying them of the Thrivent Choice Program. Those members who have either made \$800 in annual premiums on insurance products or have \$20,000 in contact value on Thrivent policies were allocated “Choice dollars” that could be directed to Lutheran organizations including Faith Lutheran. These funds are replacing the \$1200 Care in Congregation grants we received in previous years.

If you qualified and were allocated “Choice dollars” we hope that you will designate the funds to Faith to help the mission of the church. Dave Koch, Dave Gerlach, and Steve Deines are Thrivent Congregational advocates who will help direct how those funds will be used and welcome your input. If you have questions, you can call Dave Koch at 319.364.3776 or call Thrivent at 1.800.847.4836

Rally Sunday

Join us on Sunday, September 12th for Rally Sunday. It’s time to celebrate the beginning of the Sunday School year. Lots of fun for everyone, blessing of students, classrooms, teachers and staff.

This year, kids in grades AK through 5th grades will have a new rotational Sunday school where they are walking with the kids as they learn in three distinct ways including music, story, and arts/crafts. Sunday school will also be offered for Middle Schoolers, High Schoolers and Adults. So stay tuned and plan to attend on Sunday, September 12th!

Worship Team Sign-Up

By now, you should have received a letter from the church asking for some input and involvement in deciding how we cover the worship services with ushers, greeters, communion assistants and altar guild.

We appreciate your participation in this process and we will have sign-up tables set up in upcoming weeks to fill these roles. Thank you in advance for being an involved and faithful member of your church.

New Member Dinner

It’s an exciting time to be a member of Faith Lutheran and we’d like to open our doors and hearts to welcome more members. A new member dinner is planned for Sunday, September 12th from 5:00 pm –7:00 pm in the Faith Library. All prospective new members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please contact the church office at 377-9700 for more information.

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars for an exciting new experience called “Discovery Weekend”. This unique event will be held on Friday, October 8th from 6:00 –9:30 pm and Saturday, October 9th from 8:00 am—9:00 pm. This will be time together to discover a new and closer relationship with God. This is open to all adults. The lay leader for this retreat will be Lorice Amlin. Stay tuned for more information!



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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 Times

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Sundays at

8:00 am & 10:45 am

**Sunday School begins
September 12th– Rally Sunday**

WNL begins on September 15th

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.