



Through The Eyes of A Child

During the season of Advent I have had the great joy of leading the children's sermons. Let me tell you it is tougher than it looks! The children are eager to participate and offer their thoughts on the Christmas tree! The tree started out bare to remind us that we all stand naked before God. The lights came next to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. Decorations will complete the dressing of the tree. The thing the kids noticed most was the absence of the star on top. That's a very interesting theological observation. What does the star mean? What does the star represent? Perhaps we need to ask the children for they are not afraid to state their opinions.

The star led the wise men to the infant Jesus. The star guided ships out on the sea before radar. The man who wore the star was someone "you could trust your car too."

Now more than ever we need a star to guide us. That star comes in many forms: scripture, prayer, sermon, hymns, bread and wine. The star announces that the baby about to be born is to be born for you! In this birth your sins are forgiven. The dark valleys and crooked paths become bearable because "Jesus is the Light of the world." Find time to embrace this star, to worship this baby about to be born. Lay at the manger all bitterness, hatred and whatever is keeping you from embracing this Christ child, for then you can let your light shine too.

Inside this issue:

Faith Church News	2
Christmas Eve Worship	2
Faith Library	2
Youth Events	3
Worship Opportunities	4

Jen, Leif and I wish you a blessed Christmas and a joyful new year!

Peace,



Faith Church News

We continue to pray for Paula Burley, Pard Keith, Rusty Moore, Betty Thompson, Milo Popp, Krista Johnson (granddaughter of Helen Hale)

Coffee with Pastor will have our annual Christmas Party & gift exchange this Thursday, December 13th at 1:00 pm in the family center. Please bring a \$5 gift and a plate of cookies or treats to share.

Join us this Sunday, December 16th at 9 am as our Faith Lutheran Choir presents "Night of the Father's Love" by Pepper Choplin. They will dedicate this performance to the memory of Loren Netz. Please plan to stay following the Cantata for a brunch in the Family Center.

Good Time Rollers will be rolling in the new year on Monday, December 31st anytime after 7:00 pm at Marlene Pasker's home 475 Beverly, Robins. Please sign up on the clipboard on the welcome table.

The new 2019 Flower Chart is up and ready for members to reserve their special dates to donate flowers in honor of a special occasion or person or in memory of a loved one that has passed. Flower Coordinator is Kathy Rude 826-2149 and she would be happy to help answer any questions.

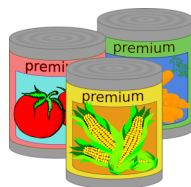
Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24th

5:30 pm Candlelight worship with Communion

9:00 pm Candlelight worship with Communion

Join us for one of our Christmas Eve Worship services. We will be featuring a variety of special music that you won't want to miss! Please bring a canned good to donate to the Marion Churches Food Pantry. Children may join in the opening procession and present a canned good at the feet of baby Jesus.



Faith's Library

Did you know Faith has a library? We do – and it's in the room where the Pastor's Class is on Sundays, straight ahead from Danny's office door. To tell you the truth, I was not all that familiar with our library, and when I started looking through what is there, I found all sorts of interesting types of books. Thanks to all the people who have generously donated time and energy over time to making this collection! In our library you will find materials under these (and other) categories: Bible study, Good Books to Read, All Things Martin Luther, Children's Books, Daily Devotions. Stop by and browse the shelves. If you see something that looks interesting, help yourself. Take it and bring it back to the Faith library when you are done. There's no official checkout process. No fines for late returns. No hassle if it takes you a l-o-n-g time to read (I like to read some books only a few pages a day, myself). If you have any questions, just ask!

There are several Christmas-related books in the Faith Library. *The Manger is Empty*, by Walt Wangerin is one. It is written by a Lutheran pastor who is well known for his captivating way of telling stories. In this book, he starts out with a scene of his little daughter crying at Jesus's crib at Christmas time, and he and the reader explore



**CHURCH
LIBRARY**

why. Our Library also has a number of children's books with Christmas themes. Plus, we have 2 copies of *An ABC for Christmas*, written by our own Dick Jacobson, late husband of organist Char Jacobson. This book is a "Keepsake" book, which means that the book should stay in the library. Enjoy reading it in one of the comfy chairs!

Senior High Overnight

Faith invites our Senior High and recent grads back to church for a fun overnight of “Shenanigans” on Friday, December 28th from 8:00 pm to Saturday, December 29th at 8:00 am.

Please bring \$5 for pizza and breakfast, snacks to share, board games and video games. Adults are needed to share the fun. Sign up at Faith’s welcome table or on Facebook by December 27th.



Middle School Overnight

Middle School Youth mark your calendars for January 18th as you are invited for a fun overnight beginning at 8:00 pm and going until Jan 19th at 8:00 am. More information will follow.

From the Faith Lutheran Staff:



HS Christmas Party

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Christmas Party.

The High School Christmas Party will take place on Sunday, December 16th beginning from 6:00-8:00 pm. Please bring a small wrapped (unisex) \$7-\$10 present for the gift exchange.



Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday, Dec. 12th—WNL w/ Women’s team for cooking and clean-up.

Wednesday, Dec. 19th —WNL w/ HS for cooking and clean-up.

Wednesday, Dec. 26th —No WNL

Wednesday, Jan. 2nd —WNL w/Men’s team for cooking and clean-up.

Wednesday, Jan. 9th —WNL w/ Women’s team for cooking and clean up

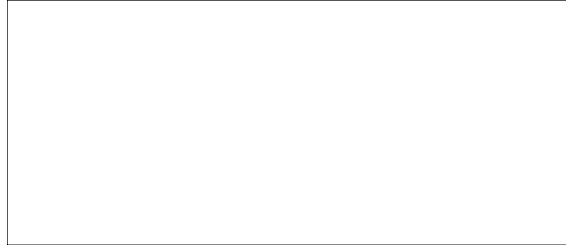
Wednesday, Jan. 16th —WNL w/ HS team for cooking and clean-up.





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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

5:30 pm– Worship

Sundays

9:00 am– Worship

Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 16th @ 9:00 am
(Brunch to follow)

Christmas Eve Worship

Monday, December 24th

5:30 pm– Candlelight Worship

9:00 pm–Candlelight Worship

(Please bring a canned good for donation)

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

Jen Heinsius
Secretary
Diane Lehtinen
Choir Director

Daniel Stone
Director of Youth and Family Ministry
Steve Roggow
Bell Choir

Christy Pratt
Parish Nurse

Faith Lutheran Church Council Members

David Ripley
President

Jeff Ausman
Vice President

Paula Burley
Secretary

Karen Cain
Treasurer

Dave Koch
Financial Secretary

Diane Lehtinen
Director of Adult Nurture

Connie Bulman
Director of Worship

Kellie & Josh Osbeck
Directors of Youth

Barb & Chris Thompson
Director of Fellowship

Director of Witness

Mike Dautremont
Director of Facilities

Vicki Barnidge
Director of Youth Nurture

Christy Pratt
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.