

# DIVINE TURNAROUND: GOD'S SURPRISING COMEBACK PLAN

4-0



*Zero  
Blessings?*

**WELCOME TO FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Inviting all People to Faith ... Come and Worship – Go and Work*

Pastor – Ben Unseth | Ministers – All

Phone: 712-580-4316 | 2912 Highway Blvd, P.O. Box 1322, Spencer, Iowa 51301

October 8, 2023 | 19th Sunday in Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome

Prayer

Opening Song – “He Will Hold Me Fast”

\*Invocation

We meet in the strong name of our God;

**We praise You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*Litany

*(Taken from Psalm 107:8-9, Psalm 116:5, Psalm 16:11, John 10:10, Psalm 126:3, and Romans 15:13)*

Let us give thanks to the LORD for His unfailing love,

**For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.**

The LORD is gracious and righteous;

**Our God is full of compassion.**

You, LORD, make known to us the path of life;

**You will fill us with joy in Your presence.**

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;

**You have come that we may have life, and have it to the full.**

The LORD has done great things for us,

**And we are filled with joy.**

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in Him,

**So that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

\*Prayer of the Day

**Dear God, we pray for those people sitting to our left and to our right. We ask with Naomi: Show them kindness; grant them rest. Sometimes we complain like Naomi: The Lord has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me. Clear our vision as we hear Your Holy Word. Comfort us and fill us, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Reception of New Members

Special Music – “Christ The Sure And Steady Anchor” – Gloria McKenney

Old Testament Lesson – Ruth 1:6-22

New Testament Lesson – 1 Peter 1:17-21

Children’s Message

Song – “It Is Well With My Soul”

# LCMC Annual Gathering Report

\*Gospel – Matthew 5:1-6

Sermon – “Zero Blessings?”

Song – “I Will Follow”

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostle’s Creed

Prayers of the Church

Sharing of the Peace

\*Lord’s Prayer

\*Blessing

\*Closing Song – “Blessed Be Your Name”

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\*Please stand if you are able.

## ***Welcome to Faith Lutheran!***

Live Stream: [www.youtube.com/user/faithlutheranspencer](http://www.youtube.com/user/faithlutheranspencer) | Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday - Friday | 712-580-4316 | [office@faithlutheranspencer.com](mailto:office@faithlutheranspencer.com)

[www.faithlutheranspencer.com](http://www.faithlutheranspencer.com) | Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church LCMC | Instagram: @flcspencer

Watch us on SMU: Monday @ 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday @ 11:00 a.m.

Text your giving to Faith at 712-214-4317

### **Old Testament Lesson – Ruth 1:6-22**

<sup>6</sup> When Naomi heard in Moab that the LORD had come to the aid of His people by providing food for them, she and her daughters-in-law prepared to return home from there. <sup>7</sup> With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup> Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown kindness to your dead husbands and to me. <sup>9</sup> May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.” Then she kissed them goodbye and they wept aloud <sup>10</sup> and said to her, “We will go back with you to your people.” <sup>11</sup> But Naomi said, “Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands? <sup>12</sup> Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me – even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons – <sup>13</sup> would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me

than for you, because the LORD's hand has turned against me!" <sup>14</sup> At this they wept aloud again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. <sup>15</sup> "Look," said Naomi, "your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her." <sup>16</sup> But Ruth replied, "Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup> Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me." <sup>18</sup> When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her. <sup>19</sup> So the two women went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they arrived in Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them, and the women exclaimed, "Can this be Naomi?" <sup>20</sup> "Don't call me Naomi," she told them. "Call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. <sup>21</sup> I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi? The LORD has afflicted me; the Almighty has brought misfortune upon me." <sup>22</sup> So Naomi returned from Moab accompanied by Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, arriving in Bethlehem as the barley harvest was beginning.

### **New Testament Lesson – 1 Peter 1:17-21**

<sup>17</sup> Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. <sup>18</sup> For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. <sup>20</sup> He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. <sup>21</sup> Through Him you believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

### **Gospel – Matthew 5:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, <sup>2</sup> and He began to teach them. He said: <sup>3</sup> "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup> Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

***Today, Faith Lutheran warmly  
welcomes these new members!***

Mark & Sharon Cameron

Patty Englin



**October is**

**Pastor Appreciation Month!**

Pastor Appreciation Month began in 1 Timothy 5:17 and was officially established in 1992.

**Thank you Pastor Ben for leading the flock at Faith Lutheran!**

Your hard work along with your kind and willing heart are so appreciated!



Dean Allen Vos, son of Jake & Tanya Vos, was born Saturday, Sept. 16, weighing 2 lbs., 14 oz. He arrived 8 weeks early and is spending 8 weeks in the NICU in Sioux Falls. A Meal Train has been set up for Jake & Tanya's benefit. Please check out the ways you can help at <https://mealtrain.com/ekgdel>

**Council Meeting**

**Wednesday, Oct. 11**

**7:00 p.m. | SON Room**

Council Members! Please submit all team reports to the Church Office by Monday, Oct. 9, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).



**Cherish House's Baby Bottle Campaign**

Cherish House provides prenatal and postnatal care, transportation, healthy meals, counseling, and parenting or adoption support. They need your support ~ prayer, volunteer and financial! All funding comes through generous gifts of individuals.

**Be sure to pick up a baby bottle from the table by the front doors today!**

**Stewardship's**

**Video Ministry Fair**



Throughout the month of October, we are having a Video Ministry Fair so everyone knows what each team does at Faith Lutheran!

As you watch, be thinking about how you would like to be involved!

If you miss a Sunday or would like to hear the video again, check out church's Facebook or Instagram accounts to watch the video from that Sunday

**CHRISTIAN WOMAN SPEAKS**



BROADCASTS OVER KICD-AM ON SUNDAY, OCT. 15, AT 7:50 A.M.

FEATURING NANCY KETCHAM!

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact Alice Nielsen at 712-264-0727.



**Birthday blessings to ...**

Oct. 8	<i>Vickie Godfredsen, Elliot Stykel, Ross Brockshus, Marlene Thorson</i>
Oct. 9	<i>Bennet Hansen, Rod Quanbeck, Jayda Smith</i>
Oct. 10	<i>Arlie Neiderheiser</i>
Oct. 12	<i>Blake Kooker, Andy Yungbluth</i>
Oct. 14	<i>Trisha Rohmiller</i>

**Anniversary wishes to ...**

Oct. 8	<i>Paul &amp; Christina Caton</i>
Oct. 10	<i>David &amp; Terry Frerichs</i>
Oct. 12	<i>Bill &amp; Emily Kersting</i>
Oct. 14	<i>Andy &amp; Laura Yungbluth Mike &amp; Bev Hummel</i>

## *Thank you to today's worship partners ...*

**Altar Prep:** Lora Johnson, Denise Lovitt

**Children's Message:** Lacey Johnson

**Counters:** Shanna Kooker, Greg Lear

**Fellowship & Set Up:**

Dave & Barb Solberg

**Greeters/Ushers:**

Todd & Shanna Kooker

**Instrumentalists:**

Gloria McKenney, Evan Storley,

Anna Quanbeck

**Message:** Pastor Ben Unseth

**Prayers of the Church:** Whitney Gray

**Scripture Reader:** Sara DeWitt

**Camera:** Kent Heazlett

**Computer:** Cindy Tigges

**Sound:** Brett Eilts

**Lead Tech:** Jacob Weeks

**Vocalists:** Joy Kelsch, Troy Rosendahl,

Lauren Lee, Kaitlin Sirovy

**Worship Leader:** Justin Spieker

## *Worship partners for Sunday, October 15*

**Altar Prep:** Lora Johnson, Denise Lovitt

**Children's Message:** Bill Kersting

**Communion Servers:**

GA Wagner, Karen Brandt

**Counters:** Barb Solberg, Jolene Hansen

**Fellowship & Set-up:**

Dave & Linda Susie

**Greeters/Ushers:** Jim & Lisa Carpenter

**Instrumentalists:** Leah Kreutner,

Gloria McKenney, Jared Hansen,

Kevin Skadeland

**Message:** Pastor Ben Unseth

**Prayer Intercessors:**

Dennis Larson, Dave & Linda Susie,

Steve Quattlebaum

**Prayers of the Church:** Dennis DeWitt

**Scripture Reader:** Brett Eilts

**Camera:** Becky Simons

**Computer:** Kent Heazlett

**Sound:** Cheryl Stueven

**Lead Tech:** Jacob Weeks

**Vocalists:** Cassie & Riley Simcox,

Rachel & Annabelle Simington

**Worship Leader:** Gary Klett

## *Prayer Chain*

Please send your prayer request to  
**Linda & Dave Susie** at 712-262-6621

or [djslrs74@yahoo.com](mailto:djslrs74@yahoo.com) or to

**Doreen Scribner** at 712-262-3488 or

[doreenscribner@outlook.com](mailto:doreenscribner@outlook.com)

To be placed on the Sunday morning

**Prayers of the Church**, please contact  
the church office at 712-580-4316.

## *Item of the Month ~*

### **Bath-sized Bars of Soap**



Personal care kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more.

#### **Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO)**

Food Pantry is in need of the following items for our community:

Oatmeal, soup, egg noodles

*Soap & UDMO food items can be put in the yellow Missions box near the front doors.*



**NETWORK**

FAITH\_Guest

**PASSWORD**

7125804316





## meet **our** STAFF

### **Pastor Ben Unseth**

**pastor@faithlutheranspencer.com**

LifeKids Director: Cheryl Jackson  
director@lifekidsspencer.com

Technology Coordinator: Jacob Weeks  
techdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com

Church Administrator: Becky Fear-Hatting  
churchadmin@faithlutheranspencer.com

Finance Coordinator: Carolyn Dundas  
finance@faithlutheranspencer.com

Worship & Communications Director:  
Gloria McKenney  
worshipdirector@faithlutheranspencer.com  
media@faithlutheranspencer.com

Custodian: Rich Stueven  
custodian@faithlutheranspencer.com

Stephen Ministry and Visitation Director &  
Lay Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church,  
Ruthven: Eric Patten  
eric@faithlutheranspencer.com

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven  
office@faithlutheranspencer.com

## **Guest Connection Card**

Dear Visitors,

We are glad you are worshiping with us today! We'd love to connect with you. Please share your contact information, and a member of Faith will be in touch with you soon.

*Please put this form in the offering kiosk at the back of the church. – Thank you!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to ...

- Visit with the Pastor.
- Learn about becoming a member.
- Hear more about opportunities at Faith.
- Hear about joining a small group.

***Thanks for worshiping with us!***

## **2023 GENERAL OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE**

**BUDGET: \$413,959.25**

	<b>FELLOWSHIP*</b>	<b>GENERAL GIVING</b>	<b>YEAR TO DATE**</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>
SEPTEMBER	\$254.50	\$22,679.14	\$256,122.89	129
OCT. 1	\$110.00	\$ 9,145.00	\$264,022.89	152

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1: YOUTUBE LIVE-STREAMING COMPUTERS – 22

\*INCLUDED IN THE YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL. EACH SUNDAY, HY-VEE CHARGES \$90.00 FOR DONUTS.

\*\* YEAR TO DATE TOTAL INCLUDES ALL UNDESIGNATED GIVING.

***Thank you for generously supporting Faith Lutheran in 2023!***

# ***This Week at Faith!***

## **Today – Sunday, October 8 – New Member Sunday**

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Musician Rehearsal
- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:20 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study – SON Room

## **Monday, October 9**

- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program

## **Tuesday, October 10**

- 1:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study – SON Room
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program
- 5:00-8:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling – 515-238-9010

## **Wednesday, October 11**

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program
- 6:00 p.m. Worship Vocalist Rehearsal  
Supper for the Confirmation Students
- 6:30 p.m. Confirmation
- 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting  
High School Youth Group

## **Thursday, October 12**

- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling – 515-238-9010
- 9:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Coffee Fellowship
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program

## **Friday, October 13**

- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling – 515-238-9010
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids After School Program

## **Saturday, October 14**

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study

## **Upcoming Events!**

**October 15** – *“Christian Woman Speaks”* – 7:50 a.m., KICD Radio – Nancy Ketcham

**October 29** – Reformation Sunday

Please contact the church office (712-580-4316) for a current calendar of events.

Or, check the online calendar at [www.faithlutheranspencer.com/events](http://www.faithlutheranspencer.com/events)