



CHRISTMAS IS
COMING TO
YOU!

Jesus Comes to the Needy

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, IA 51301

December 3, 2023 | 1st Sunday in Advent

Prelude

Welcome

Prayer

Opening Song – “Sound of Heaven”

*Invocation

We meet in the strong name of our God;

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

*Confession and Forgiveness

Let us admit our debt and trust God’s sufficiency.

Merciful Friend, most Holy God, we are grateful that You love us and call us to a life of boundless opportunities and unmeasured joys. Yet around us in this world, we see a desperate search for happiness in all the wrong places.

We have allowed ourselves to become caught up in the world’s busy futility, exchanging love for selfishness, encouragement for criticism, peace for conflict and alienation, wholeness for brokenness, contentment for dissatisfaction, and joy for brief splashes of superficial pleasure.

Loving God, thank You for coming to us with the salvation that only You can give. We are the lost who need a rescuer, the sick who need a physician, the offenders who need forgiveness, and the weak who need Your transfusion.

Most gracious God, please forgive us, and have mercy upon us.

It is written of Christ: *“In Him we have redemption through His shed blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He has lavished upon us.”* Now that really is good news! Believe it, trust it, and be free of shame and anxiety. In Christ, you are forgiven!

*Prayer of the Day

Dear Jesus, when You came to earth in Bethlehem, the world was unprepared and paid little attention. At Your Second Coming, the world will be equally unprepared, but will be compelled to pay complete attention. Prepare our hearts today. Cast out our sin, and enter in. Renew our hearts and minds as we sing, as we hear Your Word, and as we come to Your Table. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Prayer – Hope

Song – “He Came Down”

Old Testament Lesson – Isaiah 11:1-5

Children’s Message

Song – “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

*Gospel – Luke 6:20-23

Sermon – “Jesus Comes to the Needy”

Song – “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostle’s Creed

Prayers of the Church

Sharing of the Peace

Holy Communion

*Words of Institution for Holy Communion

*The Lord’s Prayer

Distribution Songs

“O Come to the Altar”

“Just As I Am”

*Blessing

*Closing Song – “Goodness of God”

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: youtube.com/@flcspencer | Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Office hours: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Monday - Friday | 712-580-4316 | office@flcspencer.org

www.flcspencer.org | 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 – Isaiah 11:1-5

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him – the Spirit of Wisdom and of Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and of Might, the Spirit of the Knowledge and fear of the LORD – ³ and He will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears; ⁴ but with righteousness He will judge the needy, with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be His belt and faithfulness the sash around His waist.

Gospel – Luke 6:20-23

²⁰ Looking at His disciples, He said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.”



Guest Speakers Wednesday ...

Josh & Whitney Smith and children, Jordan, Jonah and Jayda, serve with International Messengers as missionaries to the people, and especially the children, of Uganda. The Smith Family moved to Uganda in 2019 and serve the town of Pawel.



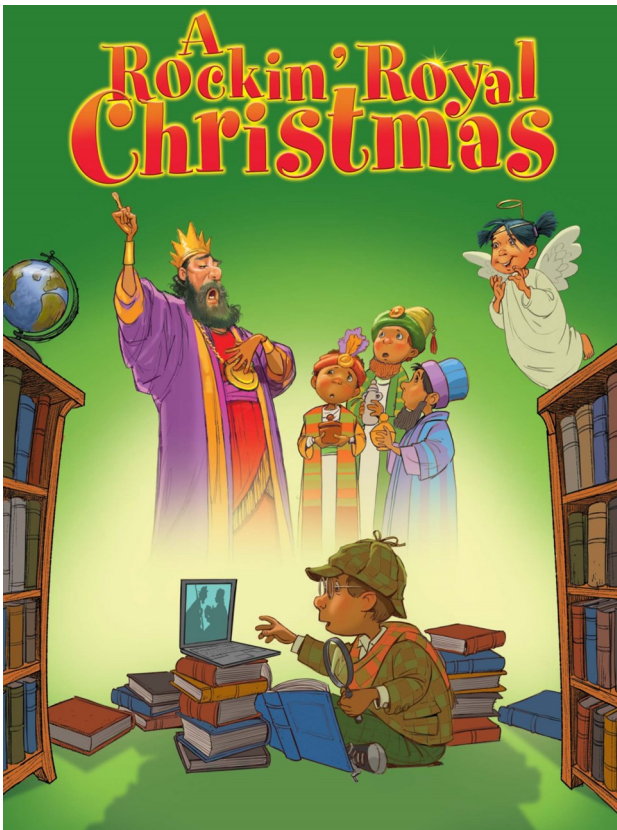
Josh & Whitney will speak at the Wednesday Advent service on Dec. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Following the worship service, they will spend time with the Confirmation class in the SON Room and with the adults in the Discipleship Room.



Wednesday night Potlucks ...

Each Wednesday during Advent we will have a potluck meal followed by a short service. The potlucks will begin at 5:30 p.m. We are returning to a traditional potluck as the main dish will not be provided. Please bring an entrée, side or dessert to share.



Children's Christmas Program

**Sunday, Dec. 10,
at 9:00 a.m.**

“A Rockin’ Royal Christmas”

Dress Rehearsal is
this Saturday, Dec. 9,
from 1:45-4:00 p.m.
with snacks to follow

2nd Annual Reverse Advent Calendar!

A Reverse Advent Calendar is a fun and caring project because we are “giving” rather than “receiving.” Each day from December 1-24, a person, group, or family participating will set aside a non-perishable food item, for 24 items all together.

No home canned products, please, due to health and safety concerns.

Participants can collect the food items day-by-day and bring them to church each week. Or, participants can collect all 24 items before bringing them to church.

There are tables located on the east side of the worship area by the library where items can be placed, or there is also space under the tables for larger containers holding the items. All items will be donated to Upper Des Moines Opportunity and Grand Avenue Community Outreach food pantries.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Alice Nielsen at 712-363-1380.

Some suggested items are:

December 4 Boxed potatoes
December 5 Macaroni & cheese
December 6 Canned fruit

December 7 Canned tomatoes
December 8 Canned tuna
December 9 Cake mix
December 10 Canned frosting

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Wednesday, Dec. 6

5:30 p.m. Advent Meal ~ Please bring an entrée, side or dessert to share.

6:30 p.m. Midweek Service with Josh & Whitney Smith

Saturday, Dec. 9

1:45-4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal with snacks to follow.

Sunday, Dec. 10 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent ~ Worship at 9:00 a.m. and Children's Christmas Program ("A Rockin' Royal Christmas")

Christmas Caroling ~ for all ages ~ meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. with pizza to follow.

Wednesday, Dec. 13

5:30 p.m. Advent Meal ~ Please bring an entrée, side or dessert to share.

6:30 p.m. Midweek Service with Dennis Larson

Sunday, Dec. 17 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 20

5:30 p.m. Advent Meal ~ Please bring an entrée, side or dessert to share.

6:30 p.m. Midweek Service with Alice Nielsen

Sunday, Dec. 24 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve

9:00 a.m. Regular Worship Service

5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship service

Sunday, Dec. 31 ~ New Year's Eve ~ 9:00 a.m. Regular Worship Service

Register Now for Via de Cristo

Via de Cristo is a Spanish phrase meaning "Way of Christ." It is a 3-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It is a combined effort of lay people and clergy toward renewal of the church.

Men's Via de Cristo – Jan. 11- 14 | Women's Via de Cristo – Jan. 18- 21

To register for either the men's or women's weekend, go to www.iowavdc.com/sites/default/files/2024%20Via%20de%20Cristo%20Pilgrim%20Application.pdf

For more information, please see Justin Spieker or Rachel Simington.



Hands-on Mission Team Work Day ***Wednesday, December 6*** ***9:00 a.m. to noon***

We have many school bags to string or you can choose to sew either school bags or quilt tops. We will also be tying quilts and assembling kits. All are welcome to participate in the way they enjoy. Please join us!



Thursday Morning Coffee Fellowship

The Thursday Morning Coffee Fellowship will meet at the home of Norm & Alice Nielsen on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 9:00 a.m. (2002 23rd Ave. West ~ 712-264-0727)

Come! Enjoy friendship and fellowship!



Come Christmas Caroling with us on Sunday, Dec. 10

Sunday, Dec. 10

Meet at the church at 4:00 p.m.

The church will provide a pizza supper following the caroling.

For more information, please see Sara Franker at 712-260-0931 or saramames@gmail.com



Christmas Caroling Party

Prayer Chain



If you have a prayer request for the **Prayer Chain**, please direct it to the Prayer Team Leaders ... Linda and Dave Susie at 712-363-1130 or djslrs74@yahoo.com or Doreen Scribner at 712-260-9884 doreenscribner@outlook.com

To be placed on the Sunday morning Prayers of the Church, please contact the church office at 712-580-4316 or office@flcspencer.org



Item of the Month ~

Bath Towels

(minimum size: 20x40"/maximum size: 52x27")

The bath towels are part of a Personal Care Kit. The simple items included in these kits provide much needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amidst situations of fear and uncertainty.

These kits remind recipients of God's loving presence and that there are other people in the world who care. They give hope.

Upper Des Moines Opportunity Food Pantry is in need of the following items for our community:

Canned tuna or chicken, hamburger helper, shampoo

Donated items for both Upper Des Moines Opportunity and Lutheran World Relief can be put in the yellow Missions box near the front doors.



Birthday blessings to ...

Dec. 3	<i>Nicole Griffin</i>
Dec. 4	<i>Tim Egland</i>
Dec. 5	<i>Cryss Quanbeck Piper Pratt</i>
Dec. 7	<i>Gene Englin</i>
Dec. 8	<i>Dan Lockhart</i>

Anniversary wishes to ...

Dec. 3	<i>Bruce & Gayle Simons</i>
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"Guess who got voted to be a sheep in the Sunday school program for the fifth year in a row?!"



Hat and Mitten Christmas Tree

The Missions Team has set up their hat and mitten Christmas tree near the tech booth. You are asked to help out those in need by bringing either a pair of mittens or a hat, or both! All hats and mittens will go to Grand Avenue Community Outreach and Upper Des Moines Opportunity.



**The youth are selling
2024 God's Creation Wall
Calendars in the back of the
church for only \$10.00!**

Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran and earmark them "Youth Calendars."



**BE OUR
GUEST**



NETWORK
FAITH_Guest

PASSWORD
7125804316



**Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 13 | 7:00 p.m.
SON Room & Zoom**

All church members are welcome to attend the council meeting. Topics may also be shared with any council member for discussion at the council meeting. Please find a list of your Council Members on the bulletin board near Pastor Ben's office.

Council members are also found on the church website
at www.flcspencer.org/get-involved/

Council Members!

Please submit December team reports to the Church Office by Monday, Dec. 11.

DECEMBER 10: Don't forget to send team budgets to finance@flcspencer.org or treasurer@flcspencer.org. Please send year end reports to office@flcspencer.org



Powered by Generosity

God is doing great work through us at Faith Lutheran, each day, all year long. Even beyond our doors, mission partners serve Christ around the world because of our support and prayers. All these ways we serve Christ are possible because of the generosity of the people of Faith Lutheran. As the final weeks of 2023 unfold, would you consider a special, "extra-mile" gift to help our church fulfill all our ministry goals?

**Thank you for your vital, gracious support
of God's work at Faith!**

Thank you to today's worship partners ...

Altar Prep: Linda Conlon, Lora Johnson

Advent Wreath Lighting & Prayer:

Adam, Leah, Owen & Ross Kreutner

Children's Message: Bill Kersting

Communion Servers:

LaVonne Clark, Kirby Fueston

Counters: Becky Simons

Fellowship & Set-up:

Trisha Rohmiller, Kevin Swancutt

Greeters/Ushers: Paul & Kris Behrens

Instrumentalists: Leah Kreutner,

Gloria McKenney, Jared Hansen,

Anna Quanbeck

Prayer Intercessors: Justin Spieker,
Joe Simington, Steve Quattlebaum,
Dennis Larson

Message: Pastor Ben Unseth

Prayers of the Church:

Bill Neiderheiser

Scripture Reader: Donna Johnson

Camera: Cindy Tigges

Computer: Becky Simons

Sound: Cheryl Stueven

Lead Tech: Jacob Weeks

Vocalists: Kaitlin Sirovy, Lauren Lee,
Joy Kelsch, Troy Rosendahl

Worship Leader: Barb Solberg

Worship partners for Wednesday, December 6

Altar Prep: Altar Prep Team

Advent Potluck:

Paul Behrens, Denise Lovitt

Advent Wreath Lighting & Prayer:

Harper Nolte, Sophia Porath

Counters: Jolynne Eilts, Barb Solberg

Greeters/Ushers: Jeffrey Franker and
mentor, Matt Essick

Instrumentalist: Gloria McKenney

Message: Josh & Whitney Smith

Scripture Reader: Kinnick Friedrich

Camera: Kent Heazlett

Computer: Brittany Spieker

Sound: Brett Eilts

Lead Tech: Jacob Weeks

Worship Leader: Pastor Ben Unseth

Worship partners for Sunday, December 10 - 2nd Sunday in Advent

Altar Prep: Altar Prep Team

Advent Wreath Lighting & Prayer:

Isaiah, Whitney, Jericho and
Oliver Gray

Counters: Jolene Hansen,
Shanna Kooker

Fellowship & Set-up:

Paul & Kris Behrens

Greeters/Ushers: Cindy Essick,
Larry Peterson

Instrumentalist: Gloria McKenney

Message: Sunday School
Christmas Program ...

"A Rockin' Royal
Christmas"

Prayers of the Church:

Cryss Quanbeck

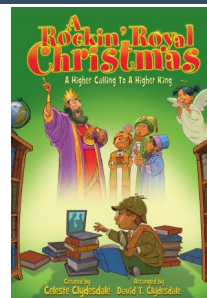
Camera: Becky Simons

Computer: Kent Heazlett

Sound: Brett Eilts

Lead Tech: Jacob Weeks

Worship Leader: Karen Brandt





meet **our** STAFF

Pastor Ben Unseth
pastor@flcspencer.org

Office Assistant: Cheryl Stueven
office@flcspencer.org

LifeKids Director: Cheryl Jackson
director@lifekidsspencer.com

Technology Coordinator: Jacob Weeks
tech@flcspencer.org

Church Administrator: Becky Fear-Hatting
admin@flcspencer.org

Finance Coordinator: Carolyn Dundas
finance@flcspencer.org

Worship & Communications Director:
Gloria McKenney, worship@flcspencer.org
media@flcspencer.org

Custodian: Rich Stueven
custodian@flcspencer.org

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

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

To meet our 2023 budget and fulfill our financial commitments, Faith needs to receive \$118,494.93 by the end of the year, which amounts to \$16,927.82 each week.

Thank you for your continued generosity!

2023	Attendance	Live Stream Computers	General Giving	Year to Date	Needed to Make Budget
October	158	21	\$25,025.00	\$282,486.33	\$131,472.92
Nov. 1-5	186	24	\$ 7,211.00	\$289,420.32	\$124,538.93
Nov. 6-12	175	24	\$ 5,646.00	\$295,464.32	\$118,494.93
Nov. 13-19	148	19	\$ 6,620.00	\$302,115.32	\$111,843.93
Nov. 22	62	6	\$475.00 – Thanksgiving offering went to Falls Community Church in Sioux Falls, SD		
Nov. 18-26	161	21	\$ 5,070.00	\$307,338.32	\$106,620.93

This Week at Faith!

Today – Sunday, December 3 – 1st Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 a.m. Worship Musician Rehearsal
- 9:00 a.m. Worship
- 10:15 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:20 a.m. Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study

Monday, December 4

- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids

Tuesday, December 5

- 9:00 a.m.-Noon Homeschool Christmas Party
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids
- 5:00-8:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling

Wednesday, December 6 – 1st Wednesday of Advent

- 9:00 a.m.-Noon Hands-On Mission Work Day
- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids
- 5:30 p.m. Potluck Supper
Executive Team meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Advent Midweek Worship with Josh & Whitney Smith
- 7:00 p.m. Worship Vocalist Rehearsal
Confirmation
High School Youth Group

Thursday, December 7

- 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Team Restoration Christian Counseling – 515-238-9010
- 9:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Coffee Fellowship at the Nielsen home
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. LifeKids

Friday, December 8

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

Saturday, December 9

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 1:45-4:00 p.m. Dress rehearsal for Christmas program with snacks afterward

Upcoming Events!

- December 10** Christmas Program during the 9:00 a.m. Worship service
Christmas Carolers meet at 4:00 p.m. at the church,
pizza afterward

Please contact the church office (712-580-4316) for a current calendar of events.
Or, check the online calendar at www.flcspencer.org/our-calendar/