



Faith Notes

April 2024

Mission Statement: "We are a welcoming people of God, striving to reflect Jesus Christ's love and grace, and open to the work of the Holy Spirit."

The Best Way to Evangelize

Evangelism! Does that word scare you? Does it make you think about knocking on doors and asking people if they have time to talk about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? The "E" word definitely scares me. As an introvert, I can't think of anything more nerve-wracking than talking with total strangers about Jesus. But recently, I saw two excellent examples of evangelism in our world. I'll share one in this newsletter.

You see, evangelism isn't necessarily *just* telling people about Jesus. My internship supervisor, Pr. Ken Gibson, taught me, "Evangelism is everything we do." From our words to our actions out in the world, we preach Christ. Sometimes, the most effective form of evangelism is caring for our neighbor and showing love where there is hatred. Sometimes, it's an invitation, a car ride, and free food. Sometimes we never even need to mention Jesus' name. This is what I'll share today.

When I first arrived at Faith as interim, a group of you invited me to join in a highway clean up. While the Andover Lions Club is technically its own organization, most of its members are people from Faith Lutheran. I accepted the invitation and joined. I was given a ride to the meeting place, and Wayne walked alongside me as we cleaned up the highway. Afterwards, we all went to the Almont Tap for lunch. The Lions paid for my meal.

This alone is an example of good evangelism—an invitation, a ride, and then fellowship. But the Lions went further.

Recently, I was invited to their February meeting. The invitation was genuine with no strings attached. "Come, join us for lunch, we'd love to have you," I was told. Multiple people offered me a ride. And at lunch we laughed together, ate, and they attended to their business as I listened. I loved hearing about the service they do in the community. From the highway clean up, to the Easter egg hunt, to cemetery care, I saw firsthand how their faith inspired them to care for those around them. And of course, someone paid for my meal.

If I was asked to join the Lions, I would say "yes." All because the way they "evangelized" to me; a genuine invitation to join, a follow up and offer of transportation, engaging fellowship, and hearing how they serve others.

This is exactly what we should do in the church. This is how we evangelize! Not always by talking

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President:
Chuck Corr

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Financial Secretary:**
Andra Eggers

Secretary:
Tait Wilson

Treasurer:
Jeanette Bennett

Worship:
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2024 Church Council

**Faith Formation/
Education:**
Craig Fredrich

**Property &
Management:**
Tim Hess

Stewardship & Outreach:
Barb Randolph
James Wilke

Community Life & Care:
Beth Petersen

...continued

about Jesus, but by forming relationships, genuinely engaging, and showing our faith through our words and actions. We trust that God is at work in and through us. The Holy Spirit picks up where we leave off, and God's love is for all, whether they attend church or not. But an invitation is a powerful thing. After all, we are called to share God's love with all we meet.

Echo the Lions. Evangelize with your loving actions, and if you invite someone to church, offer them a ride, sit with them and become friends, and make sure to pay for their lunch. God will do the rest. 😊

Peace,
Anthony



Congratulations to those who participated in their First Communion on Palm Sunday! Adley Hansen, Blaire Bratcher, Lane Lorenzen, Corbin Peters, Jake Peters, Ivan Popelka, Austin Popelka, Elsie Popelka, Carter Randolph, Joana Randolph, and Jason Rickertsen.

The Garden Committee is hosting an Appetizer Cook-Off on Sunday, April 7th during fellowship. Bring an appetizer to share or just stay and sample the yummy snacks and vote for your favorite!



On April 14th, we will bless the water, seeds and soil for Rogation Sunday at 10am.

Bring your gardening gloves, tools, seeds, tractors, etc. to worship for a blessing as farmers gear up to begin their work in the fields.



Our sympathy to Sheridan Petersen on the passing of his sister Jo.



We laugh at the joke God played on death by raising Jesus from the dead! Join us for Silly Sunday, April 7th at 10am!

Faith Lutheran Church Women FLCW News & Events April 2024

Sharing & Caring Circle Tuesday, April 2nd at 6:30 pm – meeting at the church

Hostess: Kelli Parker

Bible Study: Kathy Harmsen

Cluster V Spring Gathering Saturday, April 27th at St. John Lutheran Church

32101 370th St. Bellevue, Iowa (near St. Donatus)

Hosted by St. Paul/St. John WELCA

Time: 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

Bible study on Jeremiah 3:15: "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding."

Program: Wartburg Theological Seminary by President Kristin Johnson Largen

Bring a regular cash offering and Love Gifts of non-perishable items which will go to Wartburg Seminary Food Pantry

The \$7.00 fee will be paid by our FLCW account for members who attend.

We will carpool from the church for those who sign up to do that.

****Please preregister by April 22nd** on the signup sheet in the Narthex

Sewing Days

Wednesday, April 24th Ladies sew 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm then enjoy Pizza for supper and tying quilts with the Confirmation Students done by 7:30 pm

Regular Sewing Days Thursday, April 24th & Friday, April 25th, 10 am to 3 pm.

Bring a sack lunch

****Please Look on the white stand in the entry to pick up**

2024 FLCW Program it is on ½ page front and back

Thank Offering Tub for Collecting Coins to support Churchwide Women Ministries

"Remember we are Easter People – Jesus' power equips us, strengthens us, matures us, and transforms us, so that through us, Jesus can transform the world! He is risen, He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!" [Message from Rev. Angela T. Khabeb's article in the March/April Gather Magazine]

Thank you to everyone who supported our annual trivia night! It was a fun night with lots of laughs and food. Almost \$800 was raised to support the Ark Trip.



Our last day of Sunday School is April 28th! We hope to see everyone at VBS June 10th-14th! Counselors from Camp EWALU will be back again this year!

EXTRA, EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!
Faith Lutheran Church was featured on the front page of the Clinton Herald in celebration of our 75th Anniversary! Thank you to everyone who came to pack the church to get a wonderful picture of this church family.

The 75th Anniversary Committee is excited to share that our celebration will kick off on Sunday, September 8th with Pastor Kristen (Corr) Rod as our guest preacher, an ice cream social to follow. There will be events in October and November as well, details TBD.

Our big celebration will be Sunday, December 8th with Bishop Amy Current as our guest preacher and a reception to follow. Make plans to be there as we celebrate!



Scholarship Essay By Ava Friedrichsen

Growing up in the church, specifically Faith Lutheran Church, has shaped me into who I am today. While college has been a huge adjustment in all aspects including social life, academics, and balancing an increasingly busy schedule, I am blessed to have my faith to guide me through these stressful yet exciting years of my life. I am fortunate to go to the University of Dubuque that prioritizes Christian faith across campus. There are lots of opportunities for student ministry across campus and smaller groups such as bible study led my teammates on the cheerleading team. Although I miss the community that I grew up with at Faith, I am excited to meet new people in my community in Dubuque, for it is a great way to make friends and continue strengthening my relationship with God.

At UD, I am a member of multiple band ensembles, a student athlete on the competitive cheerleading team, and of course a full-time student in the STEM department. While this proves to be overwhelming, this semester has opened my eyes to the blessings I have and gives me the ability to keep up with all these commitments. Because of Faith's teachings, I can recognize the gift of a healthy body and mind God gave me and think of ways that I can use it to serve others and the Lord. Something that has stuck with me from confirmation classes is Pastor Eric and Tricia saying, "you don't have to come to confirmation class; you get to come to confirmation class." I use this in my day-to-day life. Even though someday I may be tired, stressed, or overwhelmed, I remember that by the grace of God I get to go to class, music rehearsal, or practice.

In one of my classes this semester, we focused on volunteerism and how your experiences shape your identity. While completing various projects and assignments, I got to reflect on my childhood and how a big part of it was focused on serving others. Faith Lutheran Church provided me with the education and opportunities of volunteerism, and I will continue to seek those opportunities in my new community as well.

The ability to recognize God's powerful gifts has given me the strength to keep up with my studies and other commitments at college. Without the experiences I've had through Christian practices, I do not think I would have achieved the amount of success that I have this semester and hope to continue in future years.

Dear selecting committee,
I would like to thank you for selecting me for your generous gift to my educational journey. This warms my heart that you believe in me and choose to invest in my future. Thank you so very much.

- Lucas Gruhn

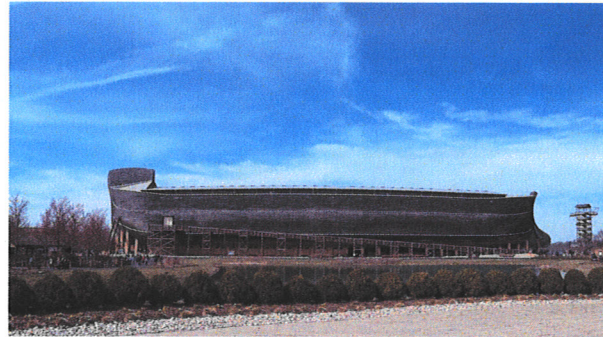


If you haven't ordered a t-shirt or tumbler already and want to, time is running out! The last day to order or purchase will be April 7th. All proceeds continue to help offset the cost of the Ark Trip.

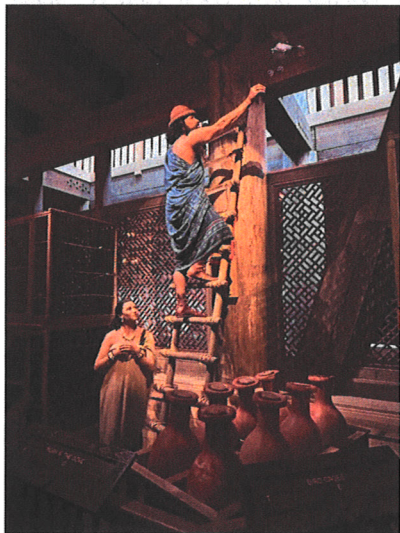


Our group standing under the rainbow at the end of our day. The rainbow is the symbol of God's promise that there will never again be a flood to destroy the earth.

The Ark group had a wonderful time in Kentucky visiting the Ark Encounter and Creation Museum! This intergenerational trip allowed members of our congregation time together for fellowship and the opportunity to see the magnitude of how big Noah built the Ark. This trip would not have been possible without the support of our congregation! Our group would like to THANK YOU for donations to the Travel and Share fund and our fundraisers. We are blessed to have your support giving members of our congregation opportunities like this.



A view of the Ark



Noah reaching for the dove returning to the Ark with an olive branch.



Pizza, games, and laughter after a long day at the Ark.



The kids took advantage of the nice weather to walk on the walking path at the Creation Museum.



Corbin and Caleb on a camel ride at the zoo.



An exhibit with Adam in the Garden of Eden.

1. Brandon Gay
9. Brandon Hansen
11. Sheridan Petersen, Erna Rickertsen, Rod Luckritz, LaRee Krogman
14. Noelle Peters
16. Kathy Shoup, Brady Seamer
17. Judy Petersen
20. Judy Smith, Hadley Wilke
21. Phyllis Marshall, Elise Perron
23. Eli Fredrich
24. Tim Hess
25. Peggy Neblung
28. Danika Perron
29. Tammy Hansen
30. Allegra Luckritz



Faith Lutheran Church has a prayer chain that sends prayer requests to a list of people for those who invite prayers upon themselves or others. In respect of people's privacy, we ask that you get permission from them before adding their name to the prayer chain. If you would like to be added to the list to pray, please contact the office.



5. Glenn & Kathy Shoup
11. David & Jane Rathje
26. Scott & Brenda Banker
28. Scott & Kelli Parker
29. Brian & Brooke Lafollette

Please notify the office for any new contact information, including college students. Information can be emailed to flcandover@gmail.com

Online giving is available! Go to our website, flcandoveria.com and click the donate button!



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 Email: flcandover@gmail.com † Website: flcandoveria.com † Instagram: [faith.andover](https://www.instagram.com/faith.andover)
 Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church—Andover † Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Sunday School: 8:45 a.m. on Sunday (September-April) † Worship 10 a.m.



SERVING FAITH

April 2024

	<u>4/7</u> Silly Sunday	<u>4/14</u>	<u>4/21</u>	<u>4/28</u>	<u>5/5</u> Quilt/Graduation Sunday
LECTOR	Chuck Corr	Bri Fredrich	Julie Peters	Kelli Parker	Loren Peters
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Deana Jacobs, Megan Peters	Beth Petersen, Loren Peters	Julie Peters, Marilyn Peters	Allegra Luckritz, Bette Petersen	Tom Tietjens, Jeanette Bennett
ALTAR GUILD	Deana Jacobs	Virginia Eggers	Ronda Tietjens	Kelli Parker	Megan Peters
FELLOWSHIP COFFEE	Appetizer Cookoff	Marilyn Peters, Bri Peters & Nancy Cram	Tricia Perron	Lou Schroeder	High School Graduate Reception
USHERS	Sunday School Kids	Andy & Renee Friedrichsen	Ben & Jamie Luckritz Family	Jeanette Bennett & Jim Jacobs	Tim & Kim Hess
COUNTING TEAM	Team #2 (4/1) Team #3 (4/8)	Team #1 (4/15)	Team #2 (4/22)	Team #3 (4/29)	Team #1 (5/6)

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed Counting Team 2	2 Sharing/Caring Circle 6:30pm	3 Confirmation 6pm	4 Bible Study 10am Fellowship reserved 5pm	5	6
7 Silly Sunday SS/STUFF 8:45am Worship 10am Appetizer Cookoff	8 Counting Team 3	9	10 75 th Anniversary Committee mtg 1pm Confirmation 6pm	11 Bible Study 10am Council meeting 7pm	12	13
14 Rogation Sunday SS/STUFF 8:45am Worship 10am	15 Counting Team 1	16	17 Confirmation 6pm	18 Bible Study 10am Newsletter info due	19	20
21 SS/STUFF 8:45am Worship 10am	22 Counting Team 2	23	24 FLCW sewing & pizza w/ confirmation 6pm	25 Bible Study 10am Sewing 10am-3pm	26	27 Cluster V Gathering in St. Donatus 9am-12pm
28 SS/STUFF 8:45am Visitation mtg 9:30am Worship 10am	29 Counting Team 3	30				