

Faith Notes

January 2021



Friends in Christ,

It's a new year, yet the world continues to suffer through so many of the same things as last year; injustices, the COVID-19 pandemic, division, and so on. In the midst of all of this, I hear many people asking how much longer these challenges we face will continue, and I admit that I sometimes wonder the same thing. Of course, this is far from the first time in history that people have faced great struggles, the Bible is filled with stories and accounts of the many obstacles which God's people went through. One of these accounts is Psalm 13 whose author cried out, "How long, O Lord? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?" Perhaps some of you have also been in positions when you've called out to God in a similar way before or maybe you know someone else who has. The scriptures give us permission to ask these kinds of questions and show that doing so doesn't make us any less faithful. Calling out to God like this in the face of challenges can be an important part of our faith, just as it was for the psalmist. While our faith doesn't give us an answer as to why the challenges and uncertainties we face exist or how long they will last, it does assure us that God is still with us through them. In fact, in the final words of Psalm 13, the author describes this powerful truth, writing, "I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me." So friends, whatever it is that you're experiencing in this new year, whether it's doubts, sorrows, uncertainties, fears, or perhaps even joys, know that the grace of God always shall be with you through it all.

Shalom to you in Christ,
Pastor Eric.

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."

2020 Church Council

President:

Katie Wilke

Vice President/Financial

Secretary:

Tamarra Friedrichsen

Secretary:

Kristi Seamer

Treasurer:

Kathy Harmsen

Property & Management:

Jay Petersen

Worship:

Ronda Tietjens

Community Life & Care:

Megan Peters

Faith Formation/Education:

Chuck Corr

Stewardship & Outreach:

Valerie Spooner & Sandy Hansen

Faith Spotlight Deana Jacobs

Tell us about yourself:

My family moved around quite a bit while I was growing up, so I don't have a 'hometown' as most people call it. Every town we moved to, one of the first things we did was find a Lutheran church to worship in. So, I look at church as my hometown. I grew up with the Lord's prayer, the Apostle's creed, the ten commandments – all memorized. The one thing I looked forward to most was singing in the junior choir. Once there, I was hooked! I found music to be great for singing, playing, and later realized there is actual theology in hymns and choral music. I am an EWALU camper – as a youth and adult, and rather proud of my Norwegian heritage.



How do you serve Faith Lutheran?

First and foremost, I attend worship. Romans 12:3-8 explains that we all have gifts to offer, so sharing those gifts with each other is an act of love. I am an employee of the church – worship and music coordinator – so I use the gift of music and what I have learned from it to the best of my ability. I try to share ideas and experiences for making worship meaningful for all of us, regardless of where we are in our spiritual lives.

Second, I participate. It might be in a big way, or in a behind the scenes way. I love teaching Sunday school and VBS, mission trips, caroling to the homebound, Bible study, giving monetarily, sharing ideas, singing, playing instruments, praying and getting to know my church family. I'm a 'newbie' here at Faith, I've only been a member for 10 years, so there is still so much to learn!

Pastor Eric Hanson • 815-543-5077 • eric.hanson88@yahoo.com

1364 Washington St. • P.O. Box 57 • Andover, Iowa 52701

Phone: 563-682-7629 • Email: flicandover@gmail.com

Website: flicandoveria.com • Instagram: [faith.andover](https://www.instagram.com/faith.andover) • Facebook: Faith Lutheran Church—Andover

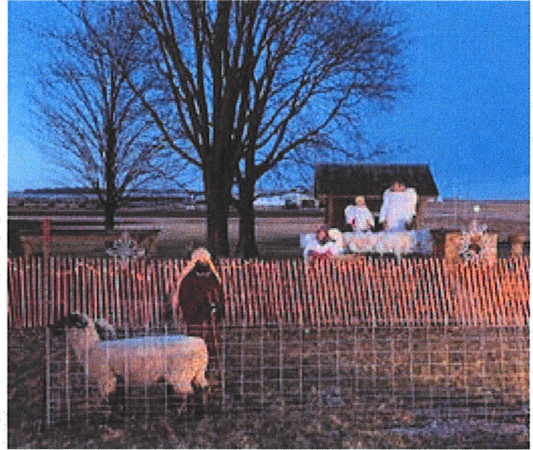
Office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

Our Journey to Bethlehem

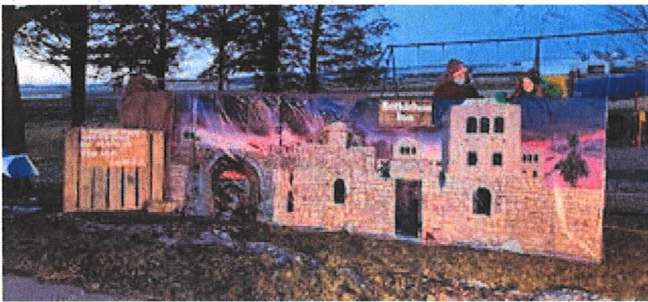
Thank you to everyone who participated in our Live Nativity in any way! There are so many that helped make our event so special! The cold weather held off and the Christmas star even made a glow for us. The Preston and Elvira food pantries have received your generous food and monetary donations. A video and more photos can be found on our website and Facebook page if you were unable to attend.



Mary, Joseph and a Shepherd traveling to Bethlehem with donkeys.



A Shepherd with his sheep when the angels appear.



The City of Bethlehem where there was no room in the inn.



Marketplace sellers in the City of Bethlehem.



The manger where Baby Jesus lay with Mary and Joseph, a Shepherd and an Angel.



The Wise Men following the star to Baby Jesus.

Faith Lutheran Church Women – FLCW

News & Events for JANUARY 2021

The following women are the 2021 officers for the Women of Faith:

President - Kelli Parker
Vice President – [*need someone*]
Secretary – Tricia Perron
Treasurer – Sherril Johnson
Mission of Stewardship/Action – Sharon Jepsen
Mission of Discipleship/Growth – Julie Peters
Mission of Justice/Community – Virginia Eggers
Circle Chairman – Pennie Peters

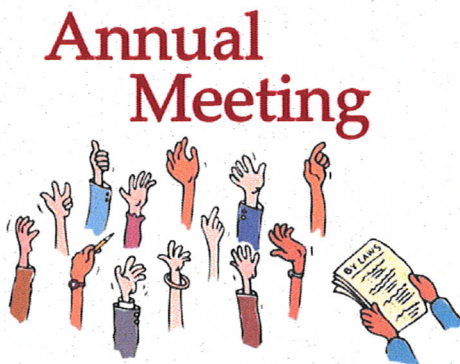
We hope to have officer installation sometime in the New Year. Thank You for supporting the ministry and mission outreach of Faith Lutheran Women for 71 years. Please join us for circle, bible studies and sewing at the church in 2021.

During the past year we gave \$1450.00 in support to 19 benevolent agencies. Thank Offering brought in \$287.73 which was sent to church wide women for program support.

The items donated for the Homeless were divided and given to Benevolent Society, Family Resources, Share Our Sandwiches and YWCA Empowerment.

January/February Bible Study in the Gather magazine is 'Journeys with Angels' written by Christa Von Zychlin.

****Remember to save your canceled stamps for the 2021 SWO Challenge. Leave a ¼ inch edge around the stamp. We will turn in all collected stamps in September and they will be sent to raise money for Lutheran World Relief Shipping costs****



Annual Reports are due to Jamie in the office by Thursday, January 7th. Committees are asked to write a synopsis of what their committee did throughout the year.

The Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 17th, 2021, following worship. (Around 10:15am) Due to circumstances with the pandemic, the meeting will be held in-person and via Zoom. Look for more information in the mail in the next week or so.

2. Will Hasken
5. Kayelee Hansen
7. Dee Wilson, Karin Harmsen, Don Schroeder
8. Joel Petersen
10. Helen Cotton
11. Loren Peters
12. Elyse Spooner
13. Jason Johnson
14. Charles Corr
15. Marianne Jess, Michael Parker
16. Quillen Schroeder, Stephanie Eickert
17. Ardith Hamilton
18. Darla Hasken, Kylie Petersen
22. Ivan Popelka
23. Arya Feddersen
28. Denise Schroeder, Adam Naeve
29. Arlyn Schroeder



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 Jamie in the office.



You can now listen to Pastor's sermon on the phone! If you call the church office and choose option 3, you will be able to hear the weekly sermon.



20. Lester & Shirley Greve

Do you have a special event or announcement? Please contact Jamie in the office if you would like the announcement in the weekly announcements or newsletter. Due to policies set in place, you must contact the office.

Copies of the council minutes are available in the overflow room on the white turnaround. Things happening at Faith and our financials can be found in the minutes. If you would like to know the amount of donations you have given so far this year, please let Jamie in the office know.

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2
3 <i>Online worship 9am – favorite hymns</i>	4 <i>Counting Team #1</i>	5	6	7 <i>Annual Reports due</i> <i>Bible Study 10am</i>	8	9
10 <i>SS 8:30am Worship 9am</i>	11 <i>Counting Team #2</i>	12	13	14 <i>Council meeting 5:30pm</i> <i>Bible Study 10am</i>	15	16
17 <i>SS 8:30am Worship 9am</i> <i>Annual meeting following worship</i>	18 <i>Counting Team #3</i>	19	20	21 <i>Bible Study 10am</i>	22	23
24 <i>SS 8:30am Worship 9am</i>	25 <i>Counting Team #1</i>	26	27	28 <i>Bible Study 10am</i>	29	30
31 <i>SS 8:30am Worship 9am</i>						