

# Faith Notes

July 2020

*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."*



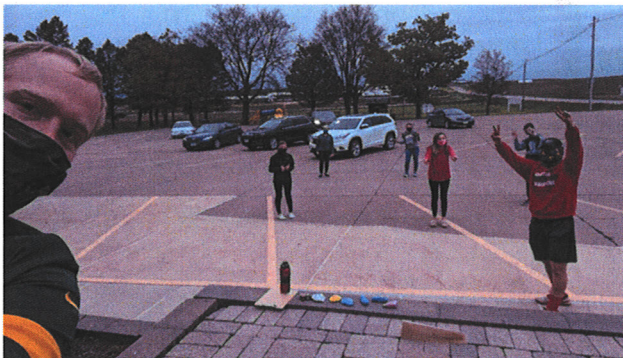
Friends in Christ,

As I said in a sermon a few weeks ago, "lately, it's become somewhat cliché to hear the phrase 'these are difficult and uncertain times' ". Part of that difficulty and uncertainty during these times is that we can't do all that we used to, or at least not in the same way that we did previously. This has forced the church to get creative in how we minister together, and I must say I've been moved by the many ways I've seen of creative ministry lately. To name but a few examples, I've been inspired by:

- + the bible studies, confirmation, and Sunday School classes that we've had on the internet
- + the nightly bible readings we had on our church Facebook page
- + the children of this congregation making faith inspired art work and videos
- + the hymn request services that we've done on Facebook
- + the many ways members have supported one another by writing letters, making phone calls, or using the internet
- + car parades to celebrate birthdays
- + social distance visits with members who are homebound
- + the many ways that we've worshiped together as the church; whether over the internet, through mailings, or in-person

I've included some pictures below of some of these creative ministries but I also invite you all to share your pictures and stories of creative ministries on our church Facebook page too, so we can keep seeing that we're still church together.

Shalom to you in Christ,  
Pastor Eric



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Office hours are Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm



## 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 Lutheran now has access for online giving! With our limited gatherings, this is another option for members, friends, and the community to make donations to Faith. Mailing or bringing offerings to parking lot worship are still encouraged as well. Go to our website or enter the link below in your browser if you would like to engage in our e-giving!

[https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco\\_ver3.vps?ap-pver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlg0BDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JIDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbQtZvmds5ED2g66D6czc2oUiYnTg5dP4O6rpX5QvPEWIBhHDN59kLZFffwKfYERpOrLiKP9rmE7FyU8fJN-I\\_G4=&ver=3](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?ap-pver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlg0BDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JIDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbQtZvmds5ED2g66D6czc2oUiYnTg5dP4O6rpX5QvPEWIBhHDN59kLZFffwKfYERpOrLiKP9rmE7FyU8fJN-I_G4=&ver=3)



An open house will be held for Jasper Luckritz on Sunday, July 12th, 2020 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 402 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave N, Clinton. Friends and family are invited to stop by anytime to allow for proper social distancing.

Best way to communicate with Pastor Eric: call the office, email, call his cell phone, or best of all tell him in person. He doesn't use or check social media very often and might not see something if you're trying to share it with him on social media. Please refrain from asking other people to relay information because often times that results in confusion and misinterpretations.



## Faith Lutheran Church Women (FLCW) JULY 2020 News

Women of Faith Lutheran – July is our vacation month from planned church activities but please start collecting school supplies to donate to our area schools. The FLCW Board will meet on August 16 to divide whatever school supplies have been brought to the church and deliver them. Hopefully we can meet in person for circle and sewing this fall once they know more about this COVID-19 virus.

The June, July and August Gather magazines contains the summer bible study of “Just Love”. The topic is very timely with what is going on in our nation and around the world concerning justice and fairness. Session 1 examines our ability to express or suppress our feelings around our family. We learn a lot about love from our family and following Jesus. Session 2 deals with creating new relationships with community - “Just Love” enables us to be seen as we really are and to become God’s baptized children helping to restore peace and justice in the community. Session 3 challenges us to examine what “just love” requires of us when injustice occurs because of those in power. How do we seek life and light for all people? Only through the power of God can we have courage and defy the forces of evil.

A closing prayer (attributed to ST. FRANCIS)

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

(ELW p. 87)



Lucile Feddersen celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 8<sup>th</sup>! Family and friends gathered outside of the Alverno to give her birthday greetings. Happy Birthday, Lucile!



Thank you for the gift of home-made face masks and monetary donations from your noisy bucket offering. Thank you for the time and talent you possess and responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service!

- LSI





### Blessed with a Green thumb?

Council is seeking to develop a landscaping committee to develop a plan for the front (east) side of the church as well as annually discuss any other lawn and landscaping maintenance needs of the church. If you are interested please let Jay Petersen or Megan Peters know. We would like to get a plan figured out for the front of the church soon!

### Parking lot services...

We continue to have beautiful weather to worship together in our parking lot! Services have been well attended and we were even able to celebrate our high school graduate and present one of our veterans with a quilt.

As we continue to go forth in this new normal, we will add pieces of our worship services slowly. We look forward to participating in holy communion soon! Please continue to send in your offerings. We have three options for you to do so: mail, during worship, or our new online e-giving.

Thank you for being mindful of our social distancing recommendations. It is not easy. We follow the recommendations of the CDC and Synod for your safety and the safety of all others. Any questions, concerns, ideas, and praises can be given to our church council.



Families worshipping together



Jack with his veteran quilt made by Ronda



Blessing Jasper, our high school graduate



VBS Family and Friends,

Faith Lutheran will not be holding VBS this year due to the pandemic. We did not feel we could hold VBS and keep our participants in proper social distance while continuing to be safe. With that being said, St. John's Lutheran and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Preston have invited our youth to participate in their take home/virtual vacation Bible school. Materials will be sent to your home or emailed and connect via social media, zoom, etc. While we understand technology has been very important in communicating these last several months, youth may need a break. We still encourage you to participate in the lessons and activities together at home. This is a great way for parents and grandparents to enjoy time together with their kids and grandkids while learning and sharing their own stories! Please contact the Education Committee for questions or concerns.

God bless,

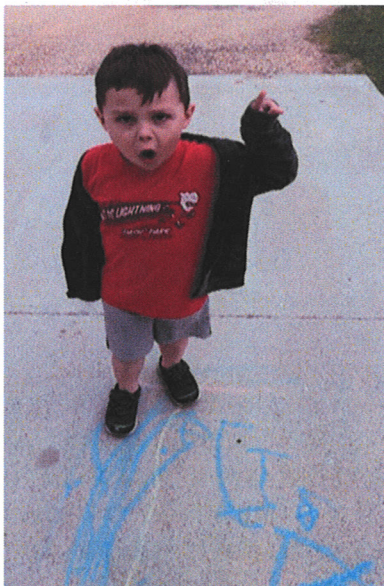
The Education Committee

Chuck Corr, Megan Peters, Jamie Luckritz, Billie Jo St. Ores

### July Events

- ◇ Pastor Eric will be on vacation beginning June 29<sup>th</sup> and will return to the office July 7<sup>th</sup>
- ◇ Sunday worship is 9am in the parking lot
- ◇ FLCW is collecting school supplies throughout the month

The counting teams are looking for substitutes to add to our list. The counting team is a small group that counts weekly giving on a rotating schedule. Contact Jamie in the office for more information or if you are interested!



Patriotic songs will be available for your listening pleasure on Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at our 9 am worship.

Living Lutheran magazines and Word in Season books are available to take home.



1. Carolyn Naeve
2. Terry St. Ores, Ronda Naeve
3. Valerie Spooner, Dianna Feddersen
5. Ben Petersen
6. Ray Naeve
8. Tait Wilson
9. James Perron, Leta Wilson
10. Kipp Zubrod, Mackenzie Kelly, Emma Garien
11. Ruthann Caven
16. Billie Jo St. Ores, Alexis Ehlers, Julie Bott
17. Greg Kelly
18. Patti Krogman
19. Jim Jacobs
21. Allen Christiansen, David Bennett
24. Zachery Hamilton
25. Sherril Johnson, Adam Friedrichsen
26. Glorianne Greve
31. Tricia Perron, Wayne Harmsen



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.



1. Glenn & Kathy Shoup
3. Lester & Phyllis Marshall
13. Ken & Tricia Perron
17. Bryan & Denise Hermann
24. Mike & Kim Gay, Pastor Eric and Carina Hanson
29. Randy & Marcy Wilcke



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.





**Community Take-Home/Virtual Vacation Bible School available to everyone at no cost!**

One lesson per week starting the week of July 5, for 4 weeks!

Have compassion for others, ourselves, and the world!

Fun for the whole family, created for preschool age children through 5th grade, older siblings, friends and neighbors can join in, too!

Have materials mailed to your house or emailed. Weekly Facebook/Youtube posts, zoom gatherings, art projects, and more!

**To sign-up:** Call St. John's office at 689-6107, state your name, email address, physical address and if you want materials mailed or emailed to you.

You can also email [stjohnspreston@netins.net](mailto:stjohnspreston@netins.net) with the same information or call St. Joseph's Catholic church at 689-5161.

**Sponsored by St. John's Lutheran and St. Joseph's Catholic Church.** Freewill donations will be used to purchase art supplies or will be donated to the Manna Center or River Hawk Assistance Program.



# Vacation Bible School July 2020

Hosted by St. John's ELCA and St. Joseph's Catholic Church

For the safety of our church family and our community, we will be engaging in at home/virtual VBS this year.

Who: Kids age pre-k to 5th grade & their whole family

When: July 5 through July 31

Where: Your home!

Each week we will share a different Bible story focused on creating compassion for ourselves, others, and the world. Activities will include a combination of virtual lessons on Facebook, Youtube, and Zoom, at-home activities and outreach to our community. Materials will be sent via email or mailed to your home.



Child's name	Age	School grade completed:

Communication Preferences:

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

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

Our family would prefer to receive instructions and activities:

- ☐ Digitally by PDF
- ☐ Printed copy by mail

Is your family in need of basic art supplies?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

There will be no registration fee.  
Free will donations will be accepted.  
Proceeds will go to pay for supplies,  
the Manna Center, and RiverHawk  
Assistance Program.

Questions? Call or text Jordan Ehlers at (515) 729-3131 or Rhonda Hartung at (563) 212-3430.

Return this form to the box in St. John's entry way or return in the mail:  
St. John's ELCA, PO Box 257, Preston IA 52069