

FAITH NOTES



From The Pastor

"Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose." - 1 Corinthians 1:10

Recently, I finished knitting my first sweater made of 100% wool. It was a bit of a learning curve to work with real animal fiber for the first time, but totally worth it. One of the most intimidating parts of using real wool is the risk of felting. Felting happens because the wool fibers have these microscopic, overlapping scales that are normally relaxed and lay flat. But heat and moisture cause the scales to open, and if the fibers are agitated, like in a washing machine, the scales get caught on each other and turn into a tangled mess, twisting and tightening. Until what was once these distinct pieces of yarn beautifully looped together, becomes one hardened mass of indistinguishable felt.

Reading Paul's words to the Corinthians, his call for the community in Corinth to be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose, for them to be unified, I couldn't help but think about my sweater and my fear of it becoming felt. The fear of the fibers becoming so unified that they become hard, inflexible,



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Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs.
9a.m.-1p.m.

Sunday School: 8:45 a.m.
Sundays Sept.-April

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

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enmeshed and unwearable. And it made me think of the ways that that can happen within communities as well. Because, often, when we think of unity, we think of this kind of sameness. We think of a homogeneity with no distinctions between individuals.

But this is not the unity that Paul calls for. Throughout his letters, he is consistent in lifting up the unique gifts of the Body of Christ and how they work together for the greater good. Paul urges for a type of unity that doesn't require blanket conformity but instead removes the hierarchy and unfair distinctions that we often create when sin meets our diverse communities. This unity is not about removing our differences, it's about holding our differences alongside the knowledge that we are on the same team, that we are interconnected, and that we are one in Christ Jesus.

As we move through this month, join me in praying for unity within our church and world. A unity that is more like knitwear than felt. A unity that celebrates both our uniqueness and our interconnection. A unity that is found within our Triune God, who has knit us together as one in Christ Jesus.

In peace,
Pastor Katie Jensen



Lent Begins

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18th. A supper will be held prior to the service at 6pm.

Mid-week services will be held each Wednesday evening. We are seeking volunteers to help serve a light supper at 6:15 p.m. Contact Julie Peters or the church office to pick a date.

Following supper at 7 p.m., a brief service will take place with Holden Evening Prayer.

Join us each week as we journey through Lent!

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.”

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Tricia Perron

Vice President: Andra Eggers

Secretary: Jessica Howard

Treasurer: Jeanette Bennett

Worship: Kelli Parker

Faith Formation/Education: Dawn Popelka

Property & Management: Brad Peters & James Wilke

Stewardship & Outreach: Barb Randolph

Community Life & Care: Julie Peters

At the beginning of January, we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany in worship. Epiphany is the commemoration of the Magi meeting Jesus and his family after following the star from the East. Many Christians around the world celebrate Epiphany by "chalking the door," to their home or church as a blessing for the space and those who enter it. We do this by writing a sort of formula on the door frame with chalk: 20+C+M+B+26. You can probably guess that the 20 and 26 stands for the year, but the rest is a bit more mysterious. The "+" represents crosses, and the letters CMB have two traditional meanings. Some believe that these are the initials of the Magi, Casper, Melchior, and Balthazar. But we actually have no idea who the Magi really were, what their names were, or if there were even three! The other, more likely, meaning behind the letters is a Latin phrase, "Christus Mansionem Benedicat," which translates to, "may Christ bless this home." We write this blessing on the threshold of our churches and homes to remind ourselves and all who enter that Christ is present in the space, knowing too, that Christ is present all around us wherever we go.



Hope in Action

In January, members of Faith prepared and served the community meal at Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Clinton for their Hope in Action Meal. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped organize, serve during the meal and the many who cooked and prepared beforehand!

We are scheduled to do it again in January of 2027!



Students in 1st-3rd grade spent some time learning about Jesus' baptism. They used water to put crosses on their hands and looked up their baptismal birthdays in the big red book.



Summer camp registrations are beginning to open and Faith is looking to support students who are interested in attending EWALU or any other church camp! Please let the office know if anyone is interested.



FAITH LUTHERAN OFFERING 101

HOW TO FILL OUT AN OFFERING ENVELOPE:

Pick the fund you want your offering to go towards. Include dollar amounts if splitting between funds.



Fill in your offering number. Don't know your number? Look at your yearly giving statement or contact the office. Only listing your name creates more work for our counting teams.

If you don't use an envelope, please include your Giving Number and intended fund on the memo line of the check. Be mindful that the counting team will then have to transfer that information to an additional form, so it is much preferred that you use an envelope to avoid these extra steps!

GIVING ELECTRONICALLY?

If you give through the link on our website, all this information will be included. If you are giving directly through your bank or retirement, make sure to let Jamie in the office know how you want your donation to be distributed.

SO...WHAT EXACTLY ARE THESE DIFFERENT FUNDS?

CURRENT FUND

The church uses this money for general operating expenses. Things like paying bills, staff, worship materials, supplies, etc.

BUILDING FUND

This is the fund for updates or repairs to the physical building. Things like paint, gutter repair, the shed, etc.

OTHER

You can also give directly to other funds. Options include, but are not limited to, the garden fund, youth ministries, travel & share ministry, and playground fund.

MISSION

This fund goes to the Southeastern Iowa Synod who keeps 50% for supporting congregations, leadership development, synod-wide ministries, and more. They send 50% to ELCA Churchwide ministries to support leadership development, global partnerships, and justice work. When we give to the synod, we can trust that our money is going to organizations and ministries that align with the mission of our church - to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Faith Lutheran Church Women News & Events

February 2026

No FLCW / Circle this month



Feb 14: Bake and Decorate

Valentine Cookies at 9:00 am

- All ages welcome

- We will then serve at Feb 15 Fellowship, and work with Visitation Committee to deliver cookies.

Feb 15: All FLCW members to serve Valentine Cookies at Fellowship.

Feb 18: Ash Wednesday

Feb 19: Sewing Day (10:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

If you can tie a knot, your help will be greatly appreciated.

- Bring your own sack lunch.

Feb 20: Sewing Day (10:00-3:00pm)

If you can tie a knot, your help will be greatly appreciated.

- Bring your own sack lunch.

Calling ALL Members Young and Old for our 2026 FLCW Coloring Contest

There is no better way to cut stress than to sit down and let your creative coloring skills take over. You may use colors or colored pencils.

Coloring pages available in entryway.

FLCW is sponsoring a Faith coloring contest with voting at our Sunday, March 8 fellowship.

Ages include:

Preschool – Kindergarten

1st - 3rd Grades

4th-6th Grades

7th -8th Grades

9th- 12th Grades

Adults

Make sure to put your name, grade, or age on the back of your entry.

Saturday, Feb 14: Bake and Decorate Valentine Cookies at 9:00 a.m.

All bakers of Faith, young and old, are invited to join in baking Valentine Cookies for our February 15 Fellowship and Home bound Members.

Please sign up on the clip board page in the entryway for supplies.

* to make dough for 6 batches

* Let us know if you will be able to bake

* We will need rolling pins, baking sheets, heart cutters, cooling racks and sprinkles.



2026 FLCW Program Cards are on the back table in the entryway.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1. Jaleen Thi
5. Aden Howard, Mollie Galusha
8. Zoey Eggers
10. Kyle Hoffman, Mason Hull
12. Bryan Hermann
13. Cassie Behr
15. Elsie Popelka, Nolan Eggers
16. Jay Petersen
17. Ed Lange
19. Addilyn Thi
20. Mariah Benters
21. Archer Kelly
22. Amy Madsen-Smith, Andra Eggers, Janelle Eggers
23. Loryn Peters
24. Jason Rickertsen, James Wilke
25. Amber Friedrichsen
26. Dustin Rickertsen
28. Tracie Luckritz, Kevin Johnson, Fred Jensen

february anniversaries

13. Ben & Emily Petersen
19. Joel & Salina Schroeder
23. Tom & Ronda Tietjens
Gary & Denise Schroeder

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

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.

Scan the QR Code
to give online



Thank You! Happy Holidays Faith Lutheran, Thank you to all of you who prayed, sent cards, and thought about me during this terrible car accident. Things are looking better for all of us involved in the accident. I took my first steps a few days ago, which is a miracle itself! Family and friends have been by my side for a 24/7 care to make it possible to return home to finish the recovery process. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you soon! Merry Christmas, Happy New Year
-Bobbi Schroeder

Have you accumulated a bunch of plastic bags doing your Christmas shopping? Jack will take them off your hands! He is in need of plastic bags to make mats for the homeless. They go through them quickly this time of year.