

December 2025 Newsletter

Thoughts From Vicar Travis

Advent: Hope in the Waiting

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined." - Isaiah 9:2

December brings long nights and early sunsets, and sometimes the shadows of the world feel heavy. Yet in this season of Advent, the church proclaims: Christ is coming.

The prophet Isaiah spoke to a people who knew exile, fear, and uncertainty. His promise of light breaking into darkness reminds us that God's faithfulness is not bound by circumstance. In Jesus, the Word made flesh, we see that promise fulfilled.

Advent invites us to wait—not passively, but with hope and expectation. We prepare not only for Christmas morning, but for Christ's presence in our daily lives and in the world's needs.

We wait with hope—trusting that God is at work even when we cannot see it.

We prepare with justice—making room for Christ by caring for the poor, welcoming the stranger, and lifting up the overlooked.

We celebrate with joy—rejoicing that God's love is already among us, even before the manger scene is complete.

As we light candles on the Advent wreath—hope, peace, joy, and love—we remember that Christ's light shines in every darkness.

Where do you see God's light breaking into darkness in your life or community this Advent?

Prayer:

Come, Lord Jesus, Light of the World. Shine in our darkness, kindle hope in our hearts, and guide us to prepare room for you with justice and joy. Amen.

**With deep gratitude for each of you,
Vicar Travis Brincks**



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Bethel church (712) 675-4222

Email: faithluth@netins.net

Website:
faithlutheranodebolt.org

Church office : (712)668-4515

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

WORSHIP TIMES

Faith Sunday School
9:30a.m.-10:15a.m.

Faith Fellowship
10:00a.m.-10:30a.m.

Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

FAITH'S CHURCH COUNCIL AND OFFICERS

President:
Rick Schroeder

Vice President:
Paul Neumann

Secretary:
Jeri Skaren

Treasurer:
Tami Hemer

Student Loan:
Ruth Oxendale

Financial and Church
Secretary:
Shayna Brincks
Kallie Fertig
Dean Roeder
Steven Roeder
Diane Hemer

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

PRAYERS

Dawn Roeder, Dean O'Tool (Linda's Brother in law), Ruth Neville, Jeri Skaren, Rick Schroeder, Allen Reimers, Danny Dean, Ashley Collins, Jeff Fineran, Taylor Hemer, Brad Buller, Margaret Ann Buller, Mervin Buller, Nancy Kohnekamp, Zoe Bengford, Rhonda Elmquist, Gary Carlson, Margaret Hubiak, Nancy Gress, Ardie Buller, Kevin Stockwell, Jane Hogue, Lou Goedhart, Angie Carlyle, All of our Military men and woman that have been deployed and families, families of missing people, individuals and families dealing with addiction, children in abusive situations, the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel and the people of the Middle East, the people of Sudan who have been experiencing war and starvation for many, many months, and all those suffering from natural disasters.

FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is welcome for fellowship There is still time to sign up for bringing refreshments for fellowship on Sundays.

DECEMBER COUNCIL SCHEDULE

Bethel Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Faith Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2025 at 7p.m.

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December worship at Faith will be at 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first and third Sundays of December. Worship is streamed on the Faith Face Book page and can also be watched on the Faith YouTube channel by going to the link on the Faith web page. Invite friends and family as we gather to worship our Lord and Savior.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7th 2 Advent Holy Communion Worship at 10:30 a.m.

December 14th 3 Advent Service of the Word Worship 10:30 a.m.

Voters Meeting following the Service
2:00 pm Matinee The Star at Faith (Basement)

December 18th Faith Council 7p.m.

December 21st 4 Advent Holy Communion Worship 10:30 a.m.

December 22nd Newsletter articles to Faith office by 2p.m

Christmas Program

December 24th Christmas Eve Service With Holy Communion Worship 7p.m.

December 28th 1st Christmas Service of the word (Noisy Offering)

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT FAITH

Join us for Sunday school at Faith at 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. in the church basement All children preschool-6th grade is invited. Invite friends and families to join us as we explore God's word and have some fun.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Optional opportunities of giving other than in the offering plate.

Faith: Simply Giving and the Give Plus app are two online giving opportunities. Information about these options are on the Faith website, faithlutheranodebolt.org. Offering envelopes can be sent to Faith Lutheran, PO Box 448, Odebolt, Iowa.

Thank you for your faithful giving.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We can love our neighbor by supporting the food pantry located in Sac City. Our support makes a difference in people's lives. Items requested for the Sac County food pantry: Soups, crackers, gram crackers, spaghetti O's, cereal, ketchup and mustard, tuna, granola bars, pancake mix, syrup, various sizes of disposable diapers and personal bathroom toiletries. Items can be placed in the shopping cart at Faith.

NOISY OFFERING

The Faith and Bethel Noisy Offerings will be given to a chosen mission. We will receive the Noisy offering of loose change on Sunday, December 28, 2025

THE GIFT OF FOOD

Fill the grocery cart at Faith. December is Breakfast items: Pancake mix, syrup, cereal bars as well as any other food items. The items will be transported to the food pantry in Sac county. The Mobile Food pantry is available every third Thursday of the month. The Community Basket Mobile Food Panty will be in Holstein at the Fire Station on Wednesday, December 18, 2025. Volunteers are welcome to help at 3:00 p.m. to set up and with distribution that begins at 4:30 p.m.

Community Basket – Ida Grove– Site Pantry hours 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursday of every month. The Site Pantry will be Closed on Thursday, December 25, 2025 and Thursday, January 1, 2025.

UPDATES

If you need to add information to the newsletter or update address, email or phone in our church records, you can email: bethelchurch@schallertel.net or faith-luth@netins.net. You may also contact Vicar Travis Brincks at Faith office at 712-668-4515 or leave a message at Bethel office at 712-675-4222



WHAT'S HAPPENING

IN THE SYNOD

Check out the Water Life Journal, the Western Iowa Synod Newsletter. You can find the newsletter and other Synod information by going to the Western Iowa Synod at wisynod.org.

KNOTTY LAIDES

The Knotty Ladies are in need of sheets for the backs of quilts. The quilts may be washed frequently against rocks or hard surfaces so the sheets need to be durable.

Requesting washable fabric such as cotton blends or light-weight flannel with no stains or holes.

Size: Double, King, or fitted king (no twin size)

Color: Any color except white

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:00 p.m. at Faith for a Joint Faith and Bethel

Christmas Eve Service

FAITH CHRISTMAS

PROGRAM

The Christmas program will be Sunday, December 21, 2025 during the service

WHY JESUS:

A SPOTLIGHT ON THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Each Christmas, we reflect on Jesus' birth and its significance. While His death provided salvation, His birth renewed hope for humanity—He came to save people from their sins (*Matthew 1:21*). The necessity of Jesus' coming lies in the fact that only He, being sinless, could atone for humanity's sins, fulfilling God's requirement for a perfect sacrifice (*Exo. 12:5; 1 Pet. 1:19; 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Rom. 3:23*).

Jesus bridged the gap between God and humans, restoring a close relationship once lost. Only the Son could truly reveal the Father (*John 1:18*). Additionally, by living as a human, Jesus understands our struggles and temptations (*Hebrews 4:15*), making Him a compassionate intercessor.

Without Christ's birth, there would be no resurrection or universal access to salvation. After Jesus' sacrifice, the gospel became available to all, granting open communion with God (*Eph. 2:12; Gal. 3:28; Matt. 27:51*). Ultimately, Jesus came because of God's profound love for humanity (*John 3:16*). The promise of the Messiah was planned from the beginning (*Gen. 3:15*), and His arrival marked the defeat of sin and death.

In summary, Jesus' birth exemplifies God's unwavering love and the path to salvation. During Christmas and beyond, let us remember this love and respond with gratitude and inspiration.

Faith December Birthday'

Jersey Bender	Dec. 1
Mark Streed	Dec. 8
Sue Hemer	Dec. 11
Bridger Leinbaugh	Dec. 12
Kurt Fertig	Dec. 20
Clayton Mandernach	Dec. 22
Tonisha Roeder	Dec. 23
Joshua Loger	Dec. 28
Shayna Brincks	Dec. 31
Colby Hemer	Dec. 31

Faith December Anniversaries

Austin and Kady Steinkamp	Dec. 12
Karlie and Kent Krager	Dec. 19
Randell and Kathy Drake	Dec. 21

NOVEMBER FAITH ATTENDANCE REPORT

2nd	19
9th	23
16Th	38
23rd	27

Faith December Baptisms Anniversaries

Deborah Hoegh	Dec. 3
Sharon Thies	Dec. 4
Harrison Leinbaugh	Dec. 5
Treylor Bender	Dec. 11
Connor Hoegh	Dec. 11
Zach Thompson	Dec. 11
Kayleigh Hall	Dec. 16
Brad Mickelson	Dec. 21
Sue Hemer	Dec.22
Cora Maddix	Dec. 23
Billie Oxendale	Dec. 24
Beverly Beckman	Dec. 26
Ryan Hemer	Dec.27