

## February 2026 Newsletter

### Thoughts From Vicar Travis

#### Love That Comes to Us

February often brings with it reminders of love—cards, candy, and gestures meant to say, you matter to me. While those can be sweet and meaningful, the love at the heart of our faith runs deeper and lasts longer than any season or sentiment.

Scripture reminds us that love does not begin with us. As John writes, “We love because God first loved us” (1 John 4:19). This is good news. God’s love is not something we earn by being faithful enough, kind enough, or strong enough. It comes to us freely, spoken over us in baptism, repeated in forgiveness, and made visible at the table. Again and again, God chooses us.

That kind of love changes how we see one another. In a world that often divides, measures, and excludes, Christ’s love draws us together. It teaches us patience when we are frustrated, compassion when we are tired, and hope when we are uncertain. Love, in this sense, is not just a feeling, it is a way of life shaped by grace.

As we move through these winter weeks, my prayer is that we remain rooted in this truth: God’s love is steady, present, and active among us. May we receive it with gratitude and share it freely—with our neighbors, our communities, and one another—trusting that God is always at work, even in the quiet seasons.

Grace and peace,

Vicar Travis Brincks



Faith Lutheran Church  
700 Locust Street  
P.O. Box 448  
Odebolt, IA 51458

Odebolt Church (712) 668-4515  
Bethel church (712) 675-4222

Email: [faithluth@netins.net](mailto:faithluth@netins.net)

Website:  
[faithlutheranodebolt.org](http://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

## Prayers

Karen Wareham, Dawn Roeder, Ruth Neville, Jeri Skaren, Rick Schroeder, Allen Reimers, Danny Dean, Jeff Fineran, Taylor Hemer, Brad Buller, Margaret Ann Buller, Mervin Buller, Nancy Kohnkamp, 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.

## In-Service Sign-Up

Please review the sign-up sheet in the narthex for available opportunities to assist during services throughout the coming year.

## February Council Schedule

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

Bethel Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2025 at 2p.m.

## February Worship Schedule

Worship at Faith will be at 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first and third Sundays. 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.

## Faith Schedule for February 2026

Sunday, February 1, 2026 4th Sunday after Epiphany Communion Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 8, 2026 5th Sunday after Epiphany Worship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 Bethel Council 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 Faith Council 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 15, 2026 Transfiguration of our Lord 10:30 a.m. Communion Worship

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. at Faith Joint service Holy Communion

Sunday, February 22, 2026 1st Sunday of Lent Worship 9:00 a.m. -Noisy Offering

## Ash Wednesday

We begin our Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026 7:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church. We have the service of the Imposition of Ashes and celebrate Holy Communion. All are welcome!

## Lenten Services

Our theme this year is The way of the Cross: What Jesus Carries for us Worship will be at 7:00 p.m. On Wednesdays. We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer.

February 18th Faith Ash Wednesday

February 25th Bethel

March 4th Faith

March 11th Bethel

March 25th Faith

April 2nd Bethel Mundy Thursday

April 3rd Faith Good Friday

## Sunday Schook 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.

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## GOD'S LOVE: 1 JOHN 4:19

### "WE LOVE BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US"

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#### **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](http://faithlutheranodebolt.org). Offering envelopes can be sent to Faith Lutheran, PO Box 448, Odebolt, Iowa.

#### **Noisy Offerings**

The Faith and Bethel Noisy Offerings will be given to a chosen mission. We will receive the Noisy offering of loose change on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

#### **Would You Like A Visit?**

Would you like Vicar Travis to visit you? This could be for communion or simply to catch up. Since he can't read minds, please reach out to him at (712) 830-7976, or you may leave a message at the Bethel office at (712) 675-4222.

#### **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](mailto:bethelchurch@schallertel.net) or [faith-luth@netins.net](mailto: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

#### **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: Lets overflow the cart for February!

February Items needed are: Laundry Items; Soap, Bleach, Dryer Sheets, Dish soap, Dish Washer Soap, and other items such as Soups, crackers, pasta, rice, cereal, ketchup, 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.

The items will be transported to the food pantry in Sac county.

#### **The Gift Of Food**

The Mobile Food pantry is available every third Thursday of the month. The Community Basket Mobile Food Panty will be in Arthur at the Arthur Community Center on Thursday, February 19, 2026. 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.

#### **Knotty Ladies**

The Knotty Ladies meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays. For February they will meet on the 2nd and 16th at 2:00 p.m. in the church basement. 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, Queen, King, or fitted king (no twin size)

Color: Any color except white

**Tables of Grace**

When: March - June. Details: Groups of around 9 people gather once a month for food and devotions. They gather at each other’s homes or any public place. Each group is self-directed and chooses dates, times, and locations for the gatherings.

Most are potluck meals where each couple or person contributes a dish.

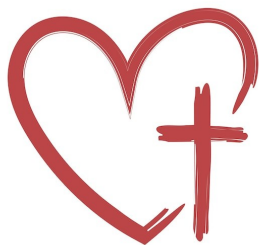
There should also be some time for a devotion. (e.g. Sharing Stories, playing games, prayer, bible reading, etc.)

**Sign Up Ends March 1<sup>st</sup> so we can get groups put together.**

**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](http://wisynod.org).

**New Faces On The Synod Staff Rev. Cara Knutson** has accepted the position of Assistant to the Bishop for Mobility, Call Process, and Congregational Care within the Synod Staff. She has been serving full-time at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs since December 2019 and previously worked as a chaplain at the Methodist Retirement Community in Storm Lake, IA. Rev. Cara has served on the synod council, the synod candidacy committee, and is currently the vice president of the Southwest Iowa National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) board. She will serve the synod part-time while continuing her role at Emanuel Lutheran.



**Dominique Fritz-Rapsch** is the new part-time Synod Bookkeeper. He will split his time between remote work and in-person duties at the Synod Office. When he is not involved in ministry with the Synod, he works as an accountant at Berkshire Hathaway, bringing a decade of accounting experience. He is also the husband of Rev. Jamie Fritz-Rapsch, who serves at St. Mark in Sioux City.

**A New Chapter in Faith’s Ministry**

On June 1, 2025, Bethel Lutheran Church in Kiron and Faith Lutheran Church in Odebolt entered into an Agreement for TEEM Ministry with Travis Brincks to serve our congregations until completing seminary.

This program is an alternative path to ordination, integrating seminary education, local mentoring, and practical experience to prepare leaders for specific ministry contexts such as rural ministry.

Vicar Travis actively participated in church leadership at St. John Lutheran in Carroll and serves on the synod council of the Western Iowa Synod. His foundation in Lutheran theology was received through the synod’s Lay School of Ministry, and he is currently pursuing his seminary studies through the TEEM program while serving our congregations.

Please keep him and our congregation in your prayers as we work together to enhance our ministry.

**Faith Attendance for January 2026**

4th	23
11th	20
21th	48
18th	18
25th	34

## Faith February Birthdays

Harper Ladwig	Feb. 1st
Seth Schroeder	Feb. 5th
Brextyn Roeder	Feb. 6th
Bennett Neville	Feb. 7th
Sara Steinkamp	Feb. 9th
John Ekstrom	Feb. 12th
Charlie Neville	Feb. 15th
Travis Brincks	Feb. 17th
Clint Maddix	Feb. 24th
Caitlyn Neville	Feb. 26th
Vicki Beckman	Feb. 27th

## Faith February Baptism Anniversaries

Lyncon Hemer	Feb. 3rd
Rachel Riessen	Feb. 11th
Wyitt Neville	Feb. 11th
Bennett Neville	Feb. 11th
Austin Steinkamp	Feb. 19th
Heidi Anderson	Feb. 21st
Colton Hemer	Feb. 21st
Colby Hemer	Feb. 25th

## Faith Anniversaries

Dalton and Shae Leinbaugh Feb. 8

## Lectionary for February 2026

Date	Principals Festivals	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
2/1/2026	4th Sunday after Epiphany	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
2/8/2026	5th Sunday after Epiphany	Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]	Psalm 112:1-9 [10]	1 Corinthians 2:1 -12 [13-16]	Matthew 5:13-20
2/15/2026	Transfiguration of Our Lord	Exodus 24:12-18	Psalm 2	2 Peter 1:16-21	Matthew 17:1-9
2/18/2026	Ash Wednesday	Isaiah Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Psalm 51:1-17	2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
2/22/2026	1st Sunday in Lent	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Psalm 32	Romans 5:12-19	Matthew 4:1-11