



January 2026 Newsletter

Thoughts From Vicar Travis

New Light for a New Year

January always arrives quietly. After the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we find ourselves standing at the doorway of a new year—often tired, reflective, and hopeful all at once. The church, in her wisdom, does not rush us forward. Instead, she invites us into the season of **Epiphany**, a season of light.

Epiphany reminds us that God is still revealing God's self in the ordinary places of our lives. The Magi follows a star, not knowing exactly where it will lead. They trust that the light is enough for the next step. In many ways, that is how we begin a new year as people of faith—not with all the answers, but with trust in the One who goes before us.

As a congregation, we enter this year carrying both gratitude and concern. We give thanks for familiar faces, faithful service, and the ways God has sustained us through another year. At the same time, we are honest about our challenges. The future of the church can feel uncertain. Yet Epiphany assures us that God is already at work, shining light into places we may not yet see.

This year, I invite us to watch for God's light together:

- In conversations after worship
- In small acts of care for neighbors
- In new ideas that may feel risky but faithful

In the continued proclamation of grace, week after week. We do not need to become something we are not. We are called simply to be who God has made us to be—a community centered on Christ, rooted in grace, and open to the Spirit's leading.

A new year does not promise an easier road, but it does promise God's presence. The same Christ who was revealed to the nations continues to meet us at the font and the table, in Word and sacrament, and in one another.

As we begin this year, may we walk in the light we have been given, trusting that God will provide enough light for each step.

Grace and peace to you in this new year,

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

Heidi Anderson's dad Dan Ladwig, Roger Buehler, Julie Litzenberger, Lainey the daughter of Adam and Emily Hemer, Dawn Roeder, Dean O'Tool (Linda's Brother in law), Ruth Neville, Jeri Skaren, Rick Schroeder, Allen Reimers, Danny Dean, Jeff Fineran, Taylor Hemer, Brad Buller, Margaret Ann Buller, Mervin Buller, Nancy Kohnekamp, 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.

JANUARY COUNCIL

SCHEDULE

Bethel Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2025 at 7 p.m.

Faith Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2025 at 7p.m.

JANUARY 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Faith Schedule for January 2026

January 4th 2026 Epiphany of Our Lord

Communion Worship 10:30 am

January 6th 2026 Epiphany

January 12th 2026 Baptism of Our Lord-Worship 10:30 am

January 14th 2026 Faith Council 7:00 pm

January 18th 2026 2nd Sunday of Epiphany after 9:00 am Communion Worship Bethel Annual Meeting following the service

January 25th 2026 3rd Sunday of Epiphany Worship 10:30 am-Noisy Offering Faith Annual Meeting following the service

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.

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, January 25th, 2026

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

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.

THE GIFT OF FOOD

You all did great filling the cart for December. Lets over fill the cart for January! January is Paper items: paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, trash bags, paper plates and other 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 Ida Grove Methodist Church on Thursday, January 15, 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.

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

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

In 2025 all of the Quilts and Kits that have been assembled to help Lutheran World Relief have gone to Angola, Djibouti, Georgia, Honduras, Jordan, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Romania, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Ukraine, United States East, United States Central, United States West, and Zimbabwe. Sending 315,818 Quilts, 179,200 School Kits, 231,811 Personal Care Kits, 66,984 Baby Care Kits, and 9,368 Fabric Kits.

Hurricane Survivor says- "The quilts were not only warm but beautifully made. The quality was amazing, and it felt like a gift of love in every stitch."

WHY JESUS: The Season of Epiphany

- **Timing:** The Christmas season ends on January 6, 2026 (Epiphany Day). The "Time after Epiphany" then runs from January 7 until the start of Lent on February 18.
- **Focus:** While Christmas focuses on the Incarnation (God becoming flesh), the Epiphany season shifts to how God reveals himself in that same flesh of Christ. The name "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, meaning a manifestation or a king's visit.
- **Key Events:** The lectionary readings during this season recount key events in Jesus' public ministry that reveal his divine nature and mission to the Gentiles (all nations). Specific services in January 2026 include:
 - **The Name of Jesus (Jan 1):** A commemoration of Jesus' given name as a sign of salvation.
 - **Epiphany of Our Lord (Jan 6):** Commemorates the visit of the Magi, representing the manifestation of Christ to the wider world (Gentiles).
 - **The Baptism of Jesus (Jan 11):** This event is described as a clear demonstration, with a voice from heaven, that Jesus is not only a man but also the Son of God and the Savior.
 - **Subsequent Sundays:** Readings continue to explore Jesus' public ministry and teachings, inviting the church to grow in the knowledge and understanding of Christ.

Faith January Birthdays

Kacie Mandernach	Jan. 2nd
Rachel Riessen	Jan. 2nd
Miley Riessen	Jan. 3rd
Brooklyn Martin	Jan. 5th
Dan Olson	Jan. 9th
Rob Litzenberger	Jan. 13th
Hidie Anderson	Jan. 18th
Jeri Skaren	Jan. 20th
Emily Beckman	Jan. 24th

Faith Attendance for

December 2025

7th	15
14th	31
21th	48
24th Christmas	42
Eve service	
28th	14

Faith January Baptisms

Anniversaries

Traci Allen	Jan. 1st
Royce Rosemeyer	Jan. 1st
Jersey Bender	Jan. 5th
Jennifer Swalve	Jan. 8th
Jessica Winter	Jan. 12th
Jim Wareham	Jan. 13th
Rick Schroeder	Jan. 18th
Kurt Fertig	Jan. 21st

Dan Olson Jan. 23

THANK YOU!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I couldn't ask for a better bunch of people to work for! Thank you for everything!

God Bless you all!

Mary Pridie

Lectionary for January 2025

First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Jeremiah 31:7-14	Psalm 147:12-20	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 1:1-18
Isaiah 60:1-6	Psalm 72: 1-7,10-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12
Isaiah 42:1-9	Psalm 29	Acts 10:34-43	Matthew 3:13-17
Isaiah 49:1-7	Psalm 40:1-11	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	John 1:29-42
Isaiah 9:1-4	Psalm 27:1,4-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Matthew 4:12-23