



March 2026 Newsletter

Thoughts From Vicar Travis

As we step into March, the Church enters one of the most meaningful seasons of the year: Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we heard the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Those words ground us and remind us that we dependent upon God’s mercy.

However, Lent is not a time of sadness. It is a time of return.

In the Gospel readings throughout the month, particularly in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus invites us to the wilderness. Just as He was led into the wilderness for forty days, so too are we invited into a period of testing, reflection, repentance, and renewal. The wilderness is not a comfortable place. It is a place where distractions are stripped away. It is a place where our loyalty is revealed. It is a place where our hunger is revealed—not just for bread, but for meaning, forgiveness, and hope.

Lent asks us honest questions:

- Where have we been trusting in ourselves instead of God?
- What false promises have we believed?
- What needs to die in us so that Christ may live more fully?

These are not easy questions. But they are holy ones.

The ashes on our foreheads were not placed there to shame us. They were placed there in the shape of a cross. Even in repentance, we are marked by promise. Even in dust, we are claimed by Christ.

This month, I invite you to fully enter the journey. Join us for midweek Lenten worship as we journey the Way of the Cross together. Come not because you have it all together, but because you don’t. None of us do. Lent levels the ground at the foot of the cross.

If you are fasting from something this season, let it be a space for prayer. If you are taking something on—daily Scripture reading, extra generosity, acts of service—let it bring you closer to the heart of Jesus. The point is not self-improvement. The point is repentance, which simply means “to turn.” To turn back toward the One who never stops turning toward us.

It may still be winter outside in March, but it is already spring in Christ.

May this holy season bring you closer to the crucified and risen Lord. May it increase your trust. May it revive your joy.

And may you remember that you are dust, but you are dust that Christ has redeemed.

In Christ’s peace,

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

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 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.

In-Service Sign-Up

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

March Council Schedule

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

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

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.

March 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 March 2026

Sunday, March 1, 2026 2nd Sunday in Lent

Communion Worship 10:30 am

Sunday, March 8, 2026 3rd Sunday in Lent

Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 Bethel Council

2:00 pm

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 Faith Council

7:00 pm

Sunday, March 15, 2026 5th Sunday in Lent

Communion Worship 10:30 am

Sunday, March 22, 2026 5th Sunday of Lent

Worship 10:30 am

Sunday, March 29, 2026, Palm Sunday

Worship 10:30 am

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 at Faith. We will be using the Holden Evening Prayer.

March 4th

March 11th

March 18th

March 25th

April 2nd, Maundy Thursday at Bethel

April 3rd Good Friday (Church to be Determined)

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.

Noisy Offerings

The Faith Noisy Offerings will be given to a chosen mission. We will receive the Noisy offering of loose change on Sunday, March 29, 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 or [\[luth@netins.net\]\(mailto:luth@netins.net\). You may also contact Vicar](mailto:faith-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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 over flow the cart for March!

March Items needed are: Pastas; Mac & Cheese, Spaghetti, Shells, Bowtie, Spirals, Macaroni, 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 bath-

room 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 Battle Creek at the Battle Creek Fire Department on Thursday, March 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 March 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

Do you have good quality cotton or cotton-blend fabric of any size that you don't plan to use? If so, please leave it in the church store room or the kitchen. The Knotty Ladies will use it for quilts which will be given to needy people locally and to Lutheran World Relief. We also give a quilt to a high school senior at graduation time and donate a quilt to the Odebolt Specialty Care bazaar.

Thank you for your help.

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.

Thank You Notes

- Thank you For your Generous Donations to the Veterans Memorial restoration project.— Odebolt Betterment Committee
- Thank you very much for the generous donations you have given to the Odebolt Community Center over the years. We really appreciate it! OCC Board—
- Thank you for the Check to the Heys Township Cemetery is it much apricated. –Barry
- Dear Faith Lutheran Church and Family, On behalf of our board, we extend our sincere gratitude for your thoughtful donation. Your generosity helps preserve a sacred space that honors

our loved ones and holds deep meaning for generations of family's. We hope to have our directory completed by Memorial Day. Our web site and map is completed. Your donations truly makes a difference and we are grateful for all you do for your community.— Odebolt

Cemetery Board

-Faith Lutheran Church, Thank you for your recent donations to Lutheran Lakeside Camp! Your heart for outdoor ministry shines through your generosity! -Peace & Blessings Lutheran Lakeside Camp

-Faith Lutheran Board-Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Arther EMR's. We greatly appreciate this gift and I will be put to good use. –Thanks again Members of the Arther EMR Dept.

-Hopefully you know how much this donations keeps us and, area a stronger fire department.

–Thanks OFD

Lectionary for March 2026

Date	Principals Festivals	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
3/1/2026	2nd Sunday in Lent	Genesis 12:1-4a	Psalm 121	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	John 3:1-17
3/8/2026	3rd Sunday in Lent	Exodus 17:1-7	Psalm 95	Romans 5:1-11	John 4:5-42
3/15/2026	4th Sunday in Lent	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
3/22/2026	5th Sunday in Lent	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45
2/29/2026	Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Psalm 31:9-16	Philippians 2:5-11	Matthew 26:14-75 27:1-66

Faith March Baptism Anniversaries

Terry Oxendale	March 3rd
Kendra Wunschel	March 7th
Sara Steinkamp	March 9th
Colton Ranson	March 9th
Chance Ransom	March 9th
Seth Schroeder	March 20th
Elaine Harden	March 21st
Madison Allen	March 22nd
Alex Clark	March 23rd
Gabe Clifton	March 23rd
Brooklyn Martin	March 23rd
Clayton Mandernach	March 28th

Faith Attendance for February 2026

2/1	24
2/8	22
2/15	18
2/18	16
Ash Wednesday	
2/22	13
2/25	6
Holden Evening Prayer	

Faith March Birthdays

Tracy Skaren	March 1st
Talon Bender	March 5th
Dalton Leinbaugh	March 6th
Jaxon Reis	March 7th
Trish Martin	March 8th
Dawn Roeder	March 8th
Davis Neville	March 9th
Jay Hemer	March 13th
Catlin Thompson	March 13th
Tyler Witzke	March 18th
Don Hemer	March 22nd
Kevin Stockwell	March 22nd
Kim Mickelson	March 23rd
Garrett Neville	March 23rd

I LIFT UP MY EYES TO THE MOUNTAINS—WHERE DOES MY HELP COME FROM? MY HELP COMES FROM THE LORD, THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH." -- PSALM 121:1-2