



## May 2026 Newsletter

### “One Act of Love, One Invitation”

May brings us outside. We see neighbors on sidewalks, at ballgames, in fields, and yards. This month offers a chance to recall that the church is more than a place we attend; it is the people whom God sends out into the world.

Because we are rooted in Christ’s love, we also reach outward in love for others. This month, I’m inviting each of us to focus on two simple practices: one act of service and one invitation.

#### One act of service

Choose one way to serve someone beyond your own household this month. Keep it small and realistic.

You might:

- Send a handwritten note to someone special to thank them and pray for them.
- Check on a neighbor who lives alone or someone you have not seen at church for a while.
- Volunteer once at the Community Basket or another local ministry.
- Help with yard work or simple tasks for an older member or neighbor.

#### One invitation

Then, choose one person or one household to invite to something connected with our church.

You could:

- Invite a friend, coworker, or neighbor to worship on a specific Sunday.
- Invite someone to a community event, service project, or meal at church.
- Ask someone to join you when you volunteer.

You don’t need perfect words. Just an honest, simple invitation: “This matters to me. I’d love for you to come.”

#### Trusting God with small steps

Jesus often talked about tiny seeds and small beginnings. One act of service and one invitation might seem small, but God can do more with them than we see.

So that is our May experiment together:

- One act of service.
- One invitation.

Who is your one person? And what is your one act of love for this month?

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.  
No Sunday schools after  
May 17, 2026 until fall

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

Keith Davis, Pam Hansen, Steve Bengford, Jim Wareham, Karen Wareham, Dawn Roeder, Jeri Skaren, Rick Schroeder, Allen Reimers, Danny Dean, Jeff Fineran, Taylor Hemer, Brad Buller, Margaret Ann Buller, Mervin Buller, Nancy Kohnkamp, Rhonda Elmquist, Gary Carlson, Margaret Hubiak, Nancy Gress, Ardie Buller, Kevin Stockwell, Jack Hogue, Jane Hogue, Lou Goedhart, 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.

## May Council Schedule

Faith Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

## 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 are invited. Invite friends and families to join us as we explore God's word and have some fun. Sunday, May 17, 2026 will be the last Sunday of Sunday school for this school year. Have a fun Summer Kids!!

## Would You Like A Visit?

Would you like Vicar Travis to visit you? This could be for communion or simply to catch up. please reach out to him at (712) 830-7976, or you may leave a message at the Bethel office at (712) 675-4222.

## 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 Noisy Offerings will be given to a chosen mission. We will receive the Noisy offering of loose change on Sunday, May 31, 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](mailto:bethelchurch@schallertel.net) or [faithluth@netins.net](mailto:faithluth@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](http://wisynod.org).



## **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 April!

May Items needed are: Canned Meats and Fish as well as Vegetables, 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 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 Odebolt at the Community Center on Thursday, May 6, 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 May 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.

## **Odebolt Community VBS Invites Children to Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God**

A summer kids' event called Rainforest Falls will be hosted at Faith Lutheran Church from July 12 to July 16, 2026. Odebolt Community VBS is a joint venture between Faith Lutheran, First Presbyterian, St Martin Catholic, and United Methodist churches all of Odebolt. At Rainforest Falls, kids explore the nature of God—discovering who God is and how much he loves them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour a light supper with yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies, and test out science-fun experiments they'll never forget. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Canopy Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 7:40 p.m. each evening.

Kids at Rainforest Falls will join a missions effort to provide funds to our local area food banks to help feed families.

Rainforest Falls is for kids from age 5 (completed PK) to 6th grade. Older youth may be much needed helpers. Each evening will run from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. each day beginning with a light supper. For more information, call 712-668-4515.

## Synod Assembly

Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Jungling

### Seeking Well-Being for ALL!

#### Lutheran Faith and Civic Life in a BANI World

#### Three ways of Being Church in a Divided Society

(Ketterling Institute/Baylor)

- Refuge
- Mediator
- Prophet
- ALL of the Above at various times!

#### Conversing with The Social Statement

How do we together seek the well-being of all? “Religious communities and organizations must discern when and how to constructively engage in civic life. Religions can create divisions in civic life or contribute to mending the social fabric and reconciling divided peoples. Being a source of healing requires faithful discernment of contexts and of what specific roles and actions are called for.” (Article 13)

#### Conversing with The Social Statement

- The Title – “Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-Being of All”
- The Contents
- The Annotated Statement – not a summary
- Section 1 – Foundational Lutheran Theology
- Section 2 -- God’s Call to Civic Life and Participation

#### Conversing with The Social Statement

- Section 3 -- Lutherans assess US Constitution/ Representative Democracy
- Section 4 -- First Amendment
- Section 5 -- Relationship between the Church and Government
- Section 6 – Contemporary Issues

#### •Glossary

#### •Implementing Resolutions

#### The Waters We are Swimming In

#### BANI World

- Brittle** – Vulnerable to Sudden Collapse; Lack of Resilience.
- Anxious** -- Sense of Helplessness; Depression and Worry; Mis-information
- Nonlinear** -- Unbalanced; Lags between cause and effect; Disconnected; Unpredictable
- Incomprehensible** -- Things are senseless, unthinkable, absurd, paradoxical, & overwhelming

How do we lift up and welcome ALL into Christ’s kingdom to create “belonging without othering?”

#### The Waters We are Swimming In

##### The ELCA Waters

- Spiritual Wasteland?
  - Martha AND Mary
- Do we have a shared Faith?
  - Faith = Trust in God + Commitment to Christ’s Way + Beliefs/Wisdom
- Do we have a shared Vision, Mission & Purpose for this church?

What should we **BE & DO** to best **SEEK** the vision of “well-being for all?”

First -- We need to do the work! We need to take the time, energy, commitment, action to do the hard work of strategizing **together in Christ...**

- “Problem-stuck” vs. “Solution-Based”
- The 100% problem!

## **The BANI+ Approach**

Living our Faith into the BANI World\*

**Bendable** resilient clarity, don't demand certainty. Flexible, adaptable, able to pivot view. Boxing Ring.

**Attentive** with active compassion (empathy). Accepting, aware. Focus amid chaos. Recognize And respond to the pain in ALL others.

**Neuro-flexible** : adaptable, able to improvise, clever, open, creative (not merely deconstructive). Contingent and contextual.

**Interconnected**: Full-Spectrum thinking. Curious about many and various (life-serving) perspectives. Engage beyond our echo chambers. Bridging.

**Quote**: "Pessimism is a luxury affordable only in good times. In difficult times, optimism (hope, faith, creativity) is a duty, because pessimism easily turns into a self-inflicted, self-fulfilling death sentence." ~Norwegian scholar Evelin Lindner and Auschwitz survivor Jo Linser, 2004.

- How can we Flip the Story in Faith and Hope?
- Optimism is not toxic!

## **Being Church!**

6 Tasks of Being Church → Mission & Purpose

1. Proclamation of the WORD – Gospel & Law/ Sacrament; Spirit transforms! (Internal)

2. Discipleship – Train and Build up the Church and X's Followers (Internal)

3. Evangelize – Spread the Good News of what GOD has done to the World (External)

6 Tasks of Being Church → Mission & Purpose

4. Vocation – Called to Seek, Be, Do Love in daily lives (External)

5. Serve/Minister – Do Justice, Care For the World and All in it (External) PIG PROJECT!

6. Polity – How do we organize ourselves to effectively do all this?! (Internal)

## **Proclaim the Gospel!**

- Proclamation of the Gospel FOR YOU.
- Recover, Re-envision, Translate the Basic Teachings of Lutheran Theology in our ministry communities
  - Know the Difference between Law & Gospel and How they Relate
  - Reclaim Mystery, Awe, Reverence for the Transcendent God
- Grow, Form, Train Followers of Christ!
- ❖Resilience in Faith
  - Com-Fort = "with fortitude";
  - Spiritual practices;
  - Build up the community in its FAITH in Christ.
  - Have the resilience to counter BANI with BANI+

## **Conflict Resolution**

### **Learn how to deal with conflict, internal and external**

Start by asking: What is the church called to seek, be, do in the midst of conflict and polarization?

Remember The 3 ways of being church  
What is the church's Primary Role here and now?

Learn how to deal with Conflict, Internal and External

What does it look like to "**Win**" and are we willing to **pay the price**?

- Moral Discernment and Deliberation
  - Engage in the ELCA Social Teaching Process

**Emphasize Vocation** – We are Called to Seek, Be, Do

•Let's Focus on Discovering and Living out our Gifts

• **Group Exercise** -- Strategizing about How we Organize to do our work!

•“When and Where” Group: Lay out Vision and Mission

•“Why” Group: Focus on God’s Purpose, theology

•“How” Group: Practical/Worker Bees – get things done

•“Who” Group: Invites and Gathers all

•“What” Group: Focus on clarifying the issue/ problem

•“Support” Group: Pastoral Care for the people in the Group

### **Some Other Things**

“Get very clear about what is yours to do, and what is not yours to do. Do what is yours with passion and persistence, and trust others to do theirs the same way.” ~Nadia Bolz Weber

Find ways to be “clear, kind, flexible, able to live in the mysterious.”

### **A comment from Linda on assembly:**

As always Synod Assembly was a beautiful gathering of God's people. I was impressed with all of our presenters and really enjoyed what I felt was a general theme from all of them. **We are here together!!** No matter where we are; we are here together and we will figure out how to navigate the waters. Our world is ever changing and thus we as church must keep our solid foundation spreading the Gospel; however, how we do that may differ and may differ from town to town and church to church and this is **OK!** Our world has become polarized and this is sad, but we can't let it tear our churches apart. We may have differences of opinion, yet we should be able to listen to each other and see each other as children of God first. I also felt Bishop Scott gave a very clear message that he wants every church to also feel the Synod is here; here for all of us. I feel Bishop Scott is making sure **All Are Welcome as We Are Here!**

**"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU,"  
DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER  
YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS  
TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE." —  
JEREMIAH 29:11**

## **Lectionary for May 2026**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Principals</b>	<b>First Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
	<b>Festivals</b>				
5/3/2026	5th Sunday of Easter	Acts 7:55-60	Psalm 3:1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2:2-10	John 14:1-14
5/10/2026	6th Sunday of Easter	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15—21
5/17/2026	7th Sunday of Easter	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
5/24/2026	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
5/31/2026	The Holy Trinity	Genesis 1:1—2:4a	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20

## CELEBRATIONS

### Faith May Baptism Anniversaries

Tonisha Roeder	May 4
Bryson Roeder	May 4
Kelly Bender	May 9
Toby Johnson	May 10
Caitlin Thompson	May 11
Candace Daiker	May 19
Kristen Bieber	May 23
Amber Loger	May 25
Zach Olson	May 29
Adriana Loger	May 31

Hoyt Kline	May 15
Shae Leinbaugh	May 17
Kelton Bendixen	May 20
Kenneth Ekstrom	May 22
Connor Hemer	May 23
Wyitt Neville	May 23
Dalton Hemer	May 25
Gabe Clifton	May 25
Roxanne Hemer	May 26
Creighton Allen	May 27
Cyris Hemer	May 28

### Faith Sunday Attendance for March

3/29/2026	Palm Sunday	34
4/5/2026	Easter Sunday	43
4/12/2026		25
4/19/2025		20
4/26/2026		26



### Faith May Wedding Anniversaries

Dustin and Kara Reis	May 3
Clinton and Kaytlin Maddix	May 12
Robert and Linda Chase	May 24
Kenneth and Jerilyn Ekstrom	May 29

### Faith May Birthdays

Steven Roeder	May 1
Stephanie Roeder	May 1
Marla Friedrichsen	May 6
Barb Daiker	May 7
Terry Oxendale	May 9
Kaylee Oxendale	May 11
Alex Clark	May 13
Allen VanCleave	May 14

### Proverbs 31:27-29

"She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. '"