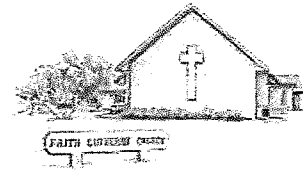


THE COMMUNICATOR

Faith Lutheran Church Parish News



May 2025

Vol. 55 No. 5

The Fall of Creation

"Then the LORD God said... 'What is this that you have done?'" – Genesis 3:13

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

When God saw all that He had made, it was all very good. The care and attention to detail that God worked into creation is wonderful and awe-inspiring. But this goodness did not last long. For the devil slithered into Eden and began sowing his seeds of doubt.

"Did God *really* say???" says the serpent. What better way is there to cause doubt and division than by making someone question "the Lord and themselves". "Did God really say not to eat of the fruit of the tree? For God knows that you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Eve heard this, saw that the fruit was good for food, and believed the devil rather than the Lord. Worst of all, Adam stood by idly watching his wife be the first guinea pig in Satan's lies and snares. When nothing had apparently happened, he took the fruit and ate as well.

The created order was subverted in this moment. Mankind wanted to be like God, but on the basis of pride and not on the basis of obedience. When confronted about his sin Adam pointed the finger at Eve and at God. The woman, learning from her husband, passed blame away from herself and pointed to the serpent.

For this rebellion God put this curse upon us and creation: for womankind, hardship and pain in childbearing, as well as the desire to take the headship of her husband; for man, "cursed is the ground because of you; only in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you." Things had previously been good. But now things were anything but good: division, conflict, sin, evil, and the like all are fruits of the fall into sin. We all know and feel these evils all too well.

God the Lord is a jealous God, and wasn't content to watch His children and creation remain in a state of sin and evil. And so He made a pledge to us: "I will put enmity between you [the devil] and the woman, and between your [Satan's] offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

To redeem and restore creation back to its original goodness, God promised to send a savior who would be born of woman. This is God pledging to send His only-begotten Son. "When the fulness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5).

Next month, we will look more in depth at Christ who is our redeemer, and the One who ushers in the New Creation.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Batchelder

May 2025 Stewardship Blurb

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. – Ephesians 5:15-16

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Consider a typical day in your week. Think about all the things you have to do, the things you want to do, and the things you ought to do. How much time do you devote to these various things? Just consider how much time you devote to work, leisure, entertainment, sports, family, the gym, etc.

Now ask yourself: how much time do you regularly set aside to read Holy Scripture? To pray? My encouragement with this blurb is for all of us to take stock of how we spend our time. If we're not devoting ourselves to the study of God's Word and prayer, it's a good time to start building up these holy habits.

If you're looking for a place to start with studying the Bible, I'd suggest you start with either Genesis, John, or Ecclesiastes. And if you are looking for a resource on prayer, find your Small Catechism or borrow/buy a hymnal for your family, and start by praying Luther's morning and evening prayers at the beginning and end of the day. Then feel free to add in the Apostles' Creed as well as the Lord's prayer. And even if you have to pray these by reading them out loud, you have found a brief, yet useful, devotional pattern.

May God lead us all to have a hunger for His Word. Amen.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Batchelder

May Church News...

Not able to worship on Sunday morning – our services are also livestreamed each week and can be viewed any time via our website (faithlutheranorangecity.com) or our Facebook page (Orange City Faith Lutheran Church).

Rite of Confirmation for Paxton Hagen and Joelle Konz will be on **Sunday, May 4**. On Sunday confirmands and their family will be communing first, followed by the rest of the congregation/guests attending. After the Service you can congratulate our confirmands and take note of their confirmation banners. Copies of their Faith Statements will be available on the podium. *(There will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Class.)*

The FLC Women's Luncheon will not be meeting in May due to the **Women of Faith Tea Party on May 10** (*see the insert in this newsletter*). And there will be no FLC Women's Luncheon meetings during the summer months - June, July, or August.

The Board of Lay Ministry will meet at 7:45am on Sunday, May 11.

Teacher/Staff Recognition will take place during the Worship Service on May 11. Stay after for refreshments and join in fellowship to show them your appreciation.

Sunday School classes conclude for the September-May school year on May 11. (Adult Bible Class will continue each Sunday following the Worship Service.)

The Church Council meets on May 18 at 7:45am.

Men's Fellowship will not be meeting. Will try regrouping in the Fall.

Graduation Recognition for 2025 graduates and their families: We would like to recognize our 2025 graduates on Sunday, May 18 during our Divine Service. Please let Pastor know of your graduate's plans post-graduation (i.e. school and intended field of study; or employment).

Nursing Home Service: Faith is doing the devotional service at the Pioneer Home on Wednesday, May 28 at 7:00pm.

Ascension Day Service will be held on Thursday, May 29 at 7:00pm. We will be using Divine Service 1 with Holy Communion.

Iowa District West Convention will be June 8-10. Please keep Pastor Batchelder and Mike Blankenfeld, along with the other delegates and the proceedings in your prayers as we approach convention.

District President Steve Turner is retiring. If you would like to express your thanksgiving for his years of service, please feel free to do so. Pastor Batchelder can deliver them to him at the Convention.



VBS: Join us for an exciting week at Vacation Bible School July 20-24 from 6:00-7:30pm. Children aged 4 years old through the completion of 5th grade are welcome. Register your child online using the link on the QR code or fill out a registration form located on the table in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to see your child there!

Bulletin Sponsorship: If you would like to recognize a special person or event, why not consider sponsoring a bulletin. The cost is \$10 (*please make check payable to Faith Lutheran Church.*)

The Messenger 'Partners in the Gospel': To keep updated on what is happening in Iowa District West, please view this monthly publication at <https://www.idwlcms.org/publications.php>.

Help get our church website recognized by visiting our site: faithlutheranorangecity.com.

Women of Faith Tea Party

Saturday, May 10th (10:00AM - NOON)

Faith Lutheran Church - Orange City, IA

Fellowship Hall

3 courses of delicious foods,
Tea, door prizes, friendly smiles,
and good conversation

Sign up with Paula (605)359-3639

or Hannah (612)578-2824

Sign up by May 1st

Free Event!



Faith Lutheran Church Council Minutes – April 13, 2025

In attendance: Mike Blankenfeld, Chairman; Karl Bahrke, Director of Lay Ministry; Kristy Frederes, Treasurer; Michael Lewis, Director of PR/PF; Ali Hagen, Director of Young People's Work; Kevin Rueter, Director of Stewardship; Jesa Pace, Director of Christian Education; Jason Overmohle, Director of Church Properties; Pastor Batchelder, and Paula Koller, Council Secretary.

Absent: Keith Huss and Tonya Moore Huss

Meeting began with opening devotions by Karl

Next meeting: Jesa Pace

Minutes of March 9, 2025: Motion made by Kristy, seconded by Karl to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Board of Lay Ministry:

*Karl announced that Jordon Pace has been appointed as a new Lay Minister (replacing Howard Vlieger).

*Service times for Holy Week are set as follows: Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm; Good Friday – 7:00pm; and Easter Vigil – 8:00pm. Easter potluck will be at 8:00am and the Easter Service at 9:00am.

*It was mentioned that maybe next year we could discuss changing confirmation classes to 6:00pm, and have Midweek Lenten Services start at 7:00pm.

*The Board discussed the survey that is being put together by Michael Lewis.

Board of Christian Education:

*There will be teacher recognition on Sunday, May 11; and this will be the last day of Sunday School for the school year.

*Will start promoting VBS after Easter (July 20-24 from 6:00-7:30pm) (4 year olds through 5th grade).

Michael L. is getting a registration sheet ready for on-line. Mentioned also having a sign-up sheet on the table. (Paula will send Jesa a copy of a 'registration sheet' seeing what was used in the past.) Will wait to see how many register before asking for volunteers.

Board of Evangelism:

*Mike B. reported that one more volunteer is needed for the OC Food Pantry distribution on April 26 (8:30am-noon).

*For Ragbrai (Saturday, July 19) it was reported that only the parking lot will be available for people to use. So no one is needed to monitor the 'inside' but will need a cleanup crew to help afterward, before church on Sunday, July 20. It was mentioned that maybe could combine a 'Ragbrai cleanup crew' with a 'VBS setup crew' on the 20th?

Board of Properties:

*Cooper Katt has been lined up for mowing, and the mower has been serviced.

*Jason will take care of installing a handrail in the women's bathroom (new addition).

*It was mentioned that at some point, we need to build up the \$20,000 on reserve in the Restricted Fund to meet our deductible (if needed) or for replacing one or two of the furnaces. It was mentioned that a new furnace runs in the \$20,000 range.

Board of Public Relations & Parish Fellowship:

*Michael is building up the website and putting together a slide show, not yet sure of the logistics on how to get people's information out there. Some things mentioned were senior graduations or recognizing other milestones, a VBS promo, including pictures, etc. It was mentioned having a flat screen TV in the fellowship hall, displaying information.

*A 'survey' for getting feedback from members is being developed. Michael is open to suggestions of what questions to ask. It was noted that the Board of Lay Ministry wants to see the survey before it gets put out there, and so does the Council. So when ready, Michael will forward a draft to Paula who will get it sent to the Lay Ministers and the Council.

*A form for on-line VBS registrations and for promoting VBS is being created.

Board of Stewardship:

*Kevin said there was not much to report. The March General Fund offerings were \$17,392, up 18% from last year.

Board of Youth:

*It was reported on July 27 (6:30pm) there will be a 'wrap-up' meeting for all youth (4th – 12th grades) and their parents. Andy is planning this event and will be seeking suggestions for next year. Currently there are 6 on the roster for JLYF, with an average of 1-3 coming to the meetings; and, there are 24 on the roster for YouthLead with an average of 10 attending. YouthLead students are attending church regularly which is a plus.

*Not a lot of people have signed up for the Easter Breakfast Potluck. So will have to see how it goes and plan accordingly for next year. (An idea for the future included pancakes. In the past borrowed the grille from the fire fighters.)

Treasurer:

*Kristy said not a lot to report; no big expenses; income for the month was good; just short of \$2,000 from our budgeted amount.

Committee Reports: None.

Correspondence:

*Mike B. read a letter from the MOC-Floyd Valley After Prom Committee requesting a monetary gift for the After Prom party scheduled for April 26. One suggestion was made to give \$50 from the Restricted Fund Thrivent account. Motion made by Karl, seconded by Kevin to check to see what we have given in the past, and give the same amount this year. Motion carried.

State of the Parish: Pastor Batchelder

Jesus said, *“And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* – Matthew 16:18

- The Church is an article of faith: “I believe in the Holy Spirit, **the Holy Christian Church**, the communion of saints...”
- Jesus promised us that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against us, because He has died, descended into Hell to proclaim His victory, and He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity.
- Christ is the savior of the Church. God is the one who grants growth, whether it be spiritually maturity or numerically.
- “in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).
 - Since the victory is ours, and this promise from our Lord is certain, we can boldly go forth in faith and love, rather than in fear of the unknown.

Unfinished Business:**New Business:**

*Will start promoting VBS after Easter.

*Confirmation will be May 4. No Sunday School or Adult Bible Class.

Next Meeting: May 18 at 7:45am

Adjournment: Motion made by Jason, seconded by Kristy to adjourn. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Koller, Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet

	3/31/25		
	General Fund	Restricted Fund	Net Position
ASSETS			
Cash in Bank	\$ 42,609.35	\$35,820.75	\$ 78,430.10
Due from Gen. Fund	\$ -		
Due from Res. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investments/CD	\$ -		\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 42,609.35	\$ 35,820.75	\$ 78,430.10
LIABILITIES			
Payroll Taxes	\$ (451.58)	\$ -	\$ (451.58)
Due to Gen. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Due to Res. Fund		\$ -	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ (451.58)	\$ -	\$ (451.58)
NET POSITION	\$ 42,157.77	\$ 35,820.75	\$ 77,978.52

General Fund (Actual vs. Budget) - March			
INCOME	Income	Budgeted	Difference
General Fund	\$ 17,391.74	\$ 19,467.00	\$ (2,075.26)
Building Fund Loan	\$ 2,716.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 816.00
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 20,107.74	\$ 21,367.00	\$ (1,259.26)
EXPENSES	Expenses	Budgeted	Difference
Missions	\$ 1,717.00	\$ 2,371.00	\$ (654.00)
Lay Ministry-Salaries	\$ 13,387.39	\$ 12,905.00	\$ 482.39
Lay Ministry-Other	\$ 192.89	\$ 592.00	\$ (399.11)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 83.00	\$ (83.00)
Evangelism	\$ 12.50	\$ 67.00	\$ (54.50)
Christian Educ	\$ 125.03	\$ 271.00	\$ (145.97)
Properties	\$ 2,673.90	\$ 3,095.00	\$ (421.10)
Public Relations	\$ 12.50	\$ 83.00	\$ (70.50)
Building Fund Loan	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ -
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$ 20,021.21	\$ 21,367.00	\$ (1,345.79)
INCOME - EXPENSES	\$ 86.53	\$ -	\$ 86.53

General Fund YTD (Actual vs. Budget) as of 03/31/25			
INCOME	Income	Budgeted	Difference
General Fund	\$ 53,693.74	\$ 58,398.00	\$ (4,704.26)
Building Fund Loan	\$ 23,737.00	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 18,037.00
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 77,430.74	\$ 64,098.00	\$ 13,332.74
EXPENSES	Expenses	Budgeted	Difference
Missions	\$ 7,111.00	\$ 7,111.00	\$ -
Lay Ministry-Salaries	\$ 38,245.13	\$ 38,716.00	\$ (470.87)
Lay Ministry-Other	\$ 1,263.18	\$ 1,772.00	\$ (508.82)
Stewardship	\$ 640.93	\$ 253.00	\$ 387.93
Evangelism	\$ 37.50	\$ 197.00	\$ (159.50)
Christian Educ	\$ 1,040.71	\$ 811.00	\$ 229.71
Properties	\$ 6,958.54	\$ 9,285.00	\$ (2,326.46)
Public Relations	\$ 51.50	\$ 253.00	\$ (201.50)
Building Fund Loan	\$ 23,953.00	\$ 5,700.00	\$ 18,253.00
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$ 79,301.49	\$ 64,098.00	\$ 15,203.49
INCOME - EXPENSES	\$ (1,870.75)	\$ -	\$ (1,870.75)

Restricted Fund - March				
Accounts	Prior Mo	Income	Expenses	YTD Balance
ATLAS / CFE	\$ -	\$ 225.00		\$ 225.00
Bldge Imp Fund	\$ 20,000.00			\$ 20,000.00
Camp Fund	\$ 130.00			\$ 130.00
Catechism	\$ (227.44)			\$ (227.44)
Cong Assist F	\$ 2,214.02			\$ 2,214.02
Easter Lily	\$ (415.14)			\$ (415.14)
Family Cr Ctr	\$ -	\$ 225.00		\$ 225.00
Food Pantry	\$ -			\$ -
Genesis House	\$ -	\$ 224.00	\$ 224.00	\$ -
Habitat 4 Hum	\$ -			\$ -
Interest	\$ 2,502.17	\$ 9.11		\$ 2,511.28
Luth for Life	\$ -	\$ 224.00	\$ 224.00	\$ -
L World Relief	\$ -			\$ -
Memorials	\$ 3,434.00			\$ 3,434.00
Mid-Sioux	\$ -			\$ -
Misc	\$ 280.06			\$ 280.06
Missions	\$ 1,615.34			\$ 1,615.34
POBLO	\$ -			\$ -
Seasonal Décor	\$ (108.46)			\$ (108.46)
SS Missions	\$ -			\$ -
SS Xmas Prog	\$ 42.74			\$ 42.74
Thrivent Fin	\$ 754.72			\$ 754.72
VBS Missions	\$ 55.10			\$ 55.10
Youth Activities	\$ 5,084.53			\$ 5,084.53
TOTALS	\$ 35,361.64	\$ 907.11	\$ 448.00	\$ 35,820.75

Noted items:

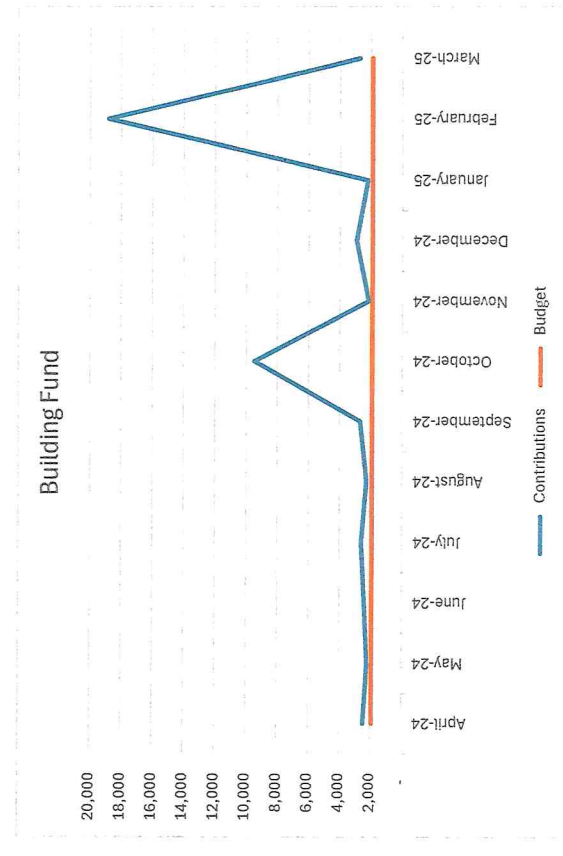
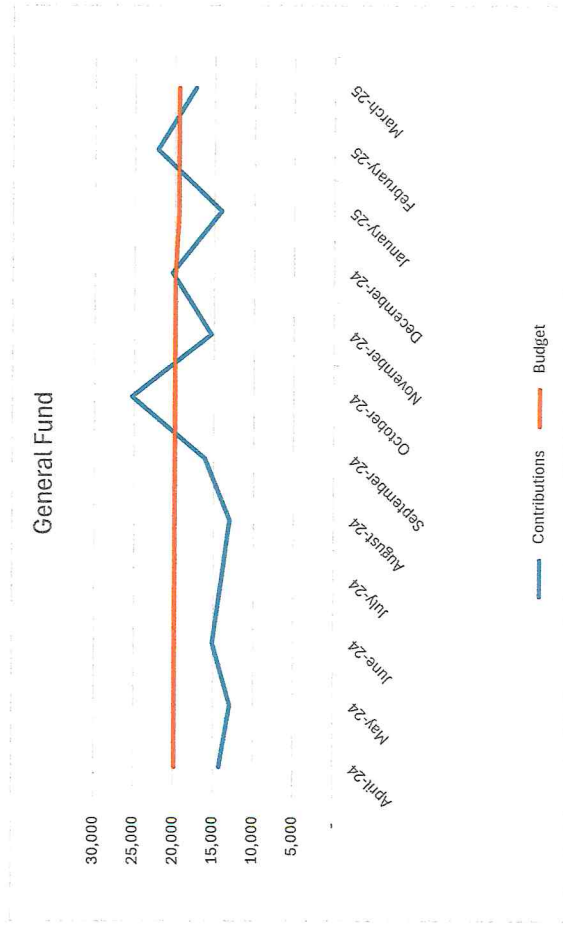
Stewardship Report - March 2025

12 Month	March-25	February-25	January-25	December-24	November-24	October-24	September-24	August-24	July-24	June-24	May-24	April-24	March-24	Running Total
Contributions	17,392	22,160	14,142	20,273	15,377	25,274	16,124	13,019	14,036	15,143	12,928	14,248	19,288	200,116
Budget	19,464	19,464	19,464	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	237,159
Over/(Under) Budget	(2,072)	2,696	(5,322)	410	(4,486)	5,411	(3,739)	(6,844)	(5,827)	(4,720)	(6,935)	(5,615)	(575)	(37,043)

12 Month	March-25	February-25	January-25	December-24	November-24	October-24	September-24	August-24	July-24	June-24	May-24	April-24	March-24	Running Total
Contributions	2,716	18,806	2,215	2,932	2,149	9,457	2,684	2,272	2,609	2,387	2,215	2,457	2,702	52,899
Budget	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	22,800
Over/(Under) Budget	816	16,906	315	1,032	249	7,557	784	372	709	487	315	557	802	30,099

12 Month	March-25	February-25	January-25	December-24	November-24	October-24	September-24	August-24	July-24	June-24	May-24	April-24	March-24	Running Total
Contributions	17,392	22,160	14,142	20,273	15,377	25,274	16,124	13,019	14,036	15,143	12,928	14,248	19,288	200,116
Budget	19,464	19,464	19,464	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	237,159
Over/(Under) Budget	(2,072)	2,696	(5,322)	410	(4,486)	5,411	(3,739)	(6,844)	(5,827)	(4,720)	(6,935)	(5,615)	(575)	(37,043)

12 Month	March-25	February-25	January-25	December-24	November-24	October-24	September-24	August-24	July-24	June-24	May-24	April-24	March-24	Running Total
Contributions	2,716	18,806	2,215	2,932	2,149	9,457	2,684	2,272	2,609	2,387	2,215	2,457	2,702	52,899
Budget	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	22,800
Over/(Under) Budget	816	16,906	315	1,032	249	7,557	784	372	709	487	315	557	802	30,099



May 2025

Celebrations § Volunteers

Anniversaries



- 8 Jim & Bonnie Juffer
- 11 Rick & Lorie Foreman
- 26 Tensus & Vonda Heronemus

Lay Minister: Micah Hagen



Altar Guild: Jen Korver
Lori Tuttle
Patti Van Skike

Ushers: Dave Aalbers
Cody Brennan
Richard Brennan
Bruce Tuttle

Counters: Paula Koller
Brenda Uhl
Doug Uhl



Baptisms

- 5 Angela Blankenfeld
- 31 Allison Stephenson



Birthdays

- 6 Allison Blankenfeld
- 11 Gavin Frederes
- 12 Jackson Huizenga
- 13 Heather Hofmeyer
- 15 Cooper Katt
- 16 Paige Brennan
- 21 Trever Huss
- 23 Madison Vlieger
- 25 Kooper Huss
- 26 Bob Rohrs
- 27 Olyvia Bahrke
- 29 Lisa Whitmore

Weekly Volunteers

Date	Acolyte & Cross Bearer	Greeter & Coffee Host	Projectionist
May 4	Paysley Hagen Isaac Bahrke	<i>Confirmation Sunday</i>	Carrina Huss
May 11	Harper Kramer Madi Vlieger	Dave & Ruth Katt	Aaron Rees
May 18	Paxton Hagen Joelie Konz	Bruce & Lori Tuttle	Jordon Pace
May 25	Volunteers Requested	Volunteers Requested	Pam Vlieger



Greeters / Coffee Hosts:

Please be in place at least 15 minutes before the Service begins. Also, please stay after the Service to cleanup the kitchen, wipe serving counter and tables in the fellowship hall. Thank you.

Is your name missing from our Celebrations list? If so, please contact Paula Koller, Church Secretary. We want it to be complete.



Church Council

President, Mike Blankenfeld 319-215-7655
 Treasurer, Kristy Frederes 441-7579
 Lay Ministry, Karl Bahrke 490-8299
 Stewardship, Kevin Rueter 541-7320
 Evangelism, Keith & Tonya Huss 395-0303
 Christian Ed, Jesa Pace 539-2855
 Properties, Jason Overmohle 541-3315
 PR/Parish Fellowship, Michael Lewis 210-5092
 Youth, Ali Hagen 641-990-2438




May 2025

Pastor's Office Hours:
 7:30am -12:00pm Monday - Thursday
 (afternoons or evenings by appointment)
 Secretary in on Tuesday & Thursday.

Faith Lutheran Church, 710 8th St. SE, Orange City, IA 51041

Office: 712-737-2112 Church Email: faithlutheran@premieronline.net

Pastor Thomas Batchelder - Cell: 952-381-4093 Pastor's Email: pastorbatchelder@gmail.com

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Lay Minister: Micah Hagen Altar Colors: White: all month 4 9:00am Worship with Communion No Education Classes Rite of Confirmation	Ushers: Dave Aalbers Cody Brennan Richard Brennan Bruce Tuttle 5	Altar Guild: Jen Korver Lori Tuttle Patti Van Skike 6	 Counters Paula Koller Brenda Uhl Doug Uhl 7	1 8 15 22 29 7:00pm Ascension Day Service with Communion	2 9 16 23 30 7:00pm Pioneer Home Devotional Service	3 10 17 24 31
11 7:45am Bd of Lay Ministry 9:00am Worship with Children's Message 10:15am Education Classes Teacher/Staff Recognition Happy Mother's Day	12 19	13 Pastor's Conference 20	14 21 28	 Tulip Festival 23 30	 10:00am Women of Faith Tea Party	18 7:45am Council Mtg 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Adult Bible Class Graduation Recognition
25 9:00am Worship with Children's Message 10:15am Adult Bible Class	26 27	27 28	28 29 7:00pm Pioneer Home Devotional Service	29 30 7:00pm Ascension Day Service with Communion	30 31	31