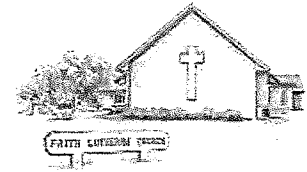


THE COMMUNICATOR

Faith Lutheran Church Parish News



July 2025

Vol. 55 No. 7

Jesus and the New Creation

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’” – Revelation 21:5

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Jesus is the savior that God promised to send after Adam and Eve sinned. Jesus is “true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary”.¹ Christ is the promised seed of the woman, who has wrought salvation, redemption, and the ushering in of a new creation.

This can be seen in the various “blessed exchanges” that happen because of Christ. Here are a few examples of the blessed exchanges of the new creation. First, by Jesus’ death He has won life for you. Jesus has taken into Himself your sin, and has given you instead His righteousness. Jesus was condemned, and you are declared innocent.

What’s more is that our Lord’s miracles point towards the new creation. Think of the woman who had suffered 12 years with a debilitating medical condition. Or remember the people that Jesus raised from the dead. In John chapter nine, the Lord’s healing of the man who was born blind is an explicit picture of the new creation.

In the healing account in John chapter nine, Jesus spits onto the dust of the ground, makes mud and anoints the man’s eyes. In Genesis, remember that God formed mankind from the dust of the earth. Now here, the Lord incarnate is forming sight out of dust for the blind man. And of course, this beautiful miracle also shows how the Lord opens our eyes to believe in Him.

By His work of teaching, healing, raising the dead, and suffering, dying, and rising again, Jesus Christ has begun to make all things new. “All who live and believe in me will live even after death. And all who believe in me will never die” (John 11). Christ has taken the curse of the cross and given to you the fruits on that tree in Holy Communion. Jesus has taken ordinary water and added His words to it, to bring the washing of renewal and rebirth to all who have been baptized.

And this your blessed assurance as members of Jesus’ new creation: “I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6)

Next month we’ll think through some of the implications of being made partakers of the new creation.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Batchelder

¹ Small Catechism, explanation to the Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed, 17.

July 2025 Stewardship Blurb

Jesus said: “*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*”. – Matthew 6:33

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Jesus teaches us to not be anxious about anything, not “your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will wear” (Matthew 6:25). But how often do you and I become anxious about these things? How often are we worried about making ends meet? Getting all the bills paid? Having enough gas in the tank?

While these things do cause alarm, Jesus’ promise is a blessing and comfort, especially to those who are anxious. “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things [daily bread/earthly necessities] will be added to you.”

Christ our Lord is calling us to reorientate our hearts and minds toward His kingdom and righteousness. He tells us to ‘seek first’, that is, prioritize God and His kingdom. Why? Because Jesus gives peace to the anxious soul. And because practically speaking, God is the one who provides our daily bread.

Take Jesus at His Word. Seek first the Kingdom of God, and see how the Lord provides for you and takes you out of anxiety and into His peace.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Batchelder

July 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).

Are you or a loved one undergoing medical treatment? Are you or a loved one hospitalized? Are you in need of prayer and encouragement from God's word? If so, please call Pastor Batchelder at 952-381-4093 so that he can bring the peace of Christ to you.

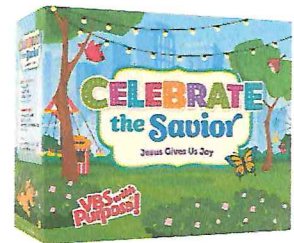
Pastor will be attending the 'Higher Things' Youth Conference in Seward, Nebraska from July 8 – 11 and will be on vacation July 25 - 27. If pastoral assistance is needed in his absence, please contact Pastor Michael Boothby of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ireton (660-221-6447).

The Church Council will meet at 7:45am on Sunday, July 13.

Adult Bible Class will be studying the book of Esther beginning on July 13, following the Divine Service.

July 20th Service will be the 'Commemoration of the Council of Nicea'. 1700 years ago, the false teaching that Jesus was not true God threatened to tear apart the unity and hope the church had. Emperor Constantine called for a council of theologians, pastors, and bishops to meet at Nicea to sort these issues out according to God's Word. The results are what we have and joyfully confess as the Nicene Creed.

VBS is coming in July: Join us for an exciting week – July 20-24 from 6:00-7:30pm. Sign up is for 4-year-olds through students completing the 5th grade. Dinner will be provided at 6:00pm each evening for all children attending. The theme this year is '**Celebrate the Savior – Jesus Gives Us Joy**'. To register see the QR Code in the flyer, included in this newsletter. Or you may fill out a registration form located on the table in the Fellowship Hall. Encourage your child to invite a friend and have them register, too. Registrations need to be turned in by July 6. **Volunteers are also needed.** See the sign-up sheet on the table in the Fellowship Hall and indicate your willingness to help with crafts, games, or snacks. Join in on the fun.



Special Mission Event: Rev. Steve Schulz from Mission Central, Mapleton, IA will be our guest preacher on Sunday, July 27. Rev. Schulz will also be using the education time to share about the Lord's work that our LCMS missionaries are doing across the globe. See the poster and biography included in this newsletter.

Heart & Soles is a Love INC Gap Ministry focused on providing new, quality tennis shoes for kids in K-5th grade. There is a place in the Fellowship Hall where you can pick up a shoe/sock cut out (pink/girl or blue/boy or green/donation). Please purchase the tennis shoes or socks listed (no flip flops or slip-on shoes) and bring them back to church by August 3. Our goal is to provide at least 15 pairs of shoes and 15 pairs of socks this year.

Mission Central Trip: Mark your calendars for Saturday September 13th. Faith Lutheran Church is going to Mission Central in Mapleton, Ia. Join us as we hear what God is doing around the world, that we might be inspired to partake of Christ's mission in our corner of the world in Sioux County.

- Meet at church at 8:45am. Transportation will either be a bus or caravanning by car. We'll be back by 4:30pm.
- Trip will include tour of Mission Central, hearing stories and seeing pictures of God's work through our missionaries. A noon meal will also be provided.

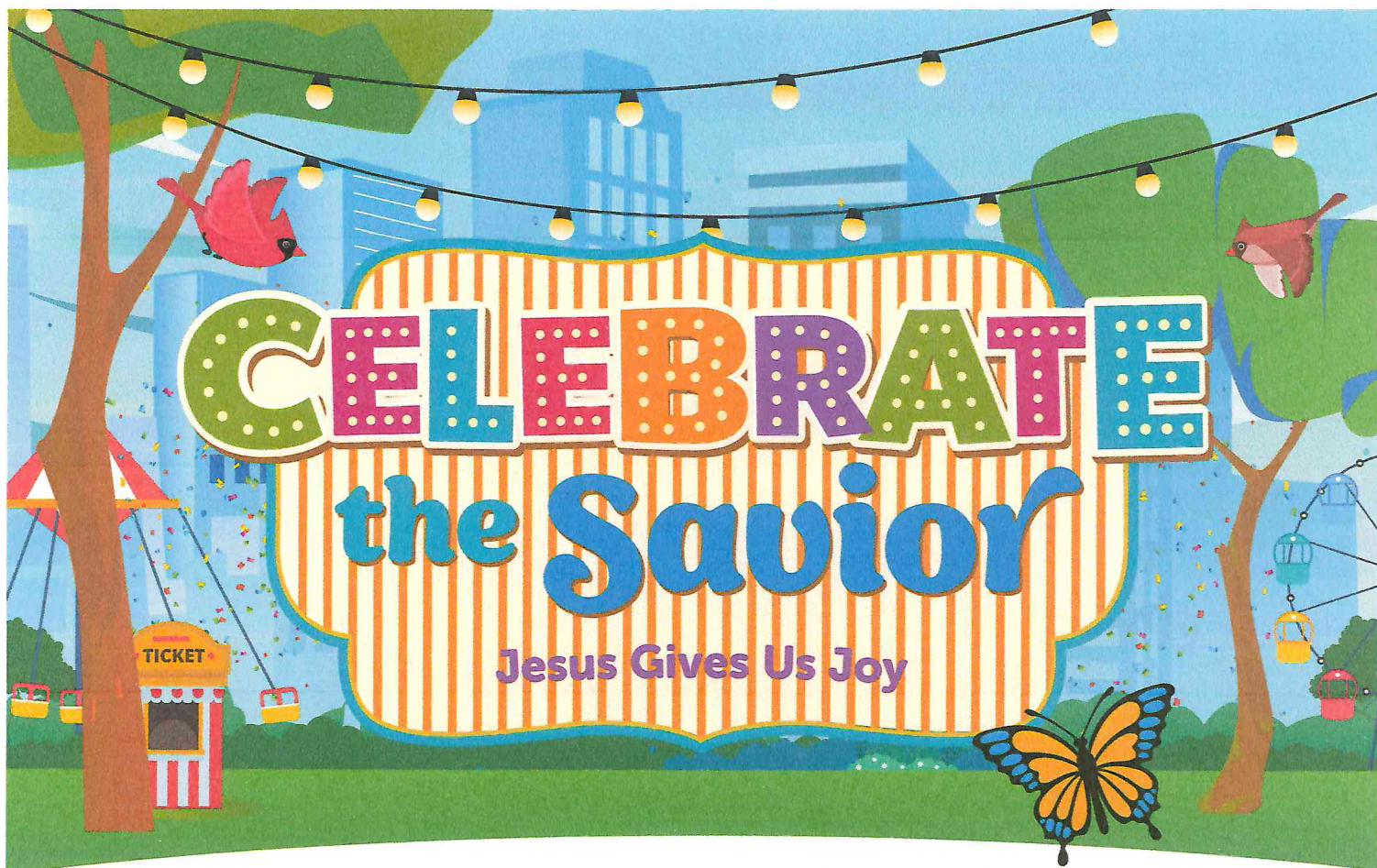
Bulletin Sponsorship: If you would like to recognize a special person or event, why not consider sponsoring a bulletin. The cost is \$10 (*please make check payable to Faith Lutheran Church.*)

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.

**"We rejoice in the Lord as He has brought Brecken Sneller into the fold
via Holy Baptism and Confirmation on June 1"**





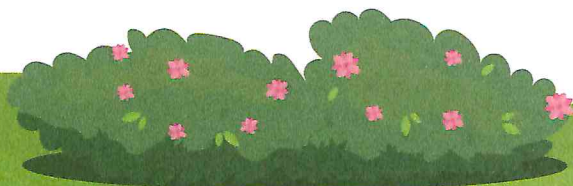
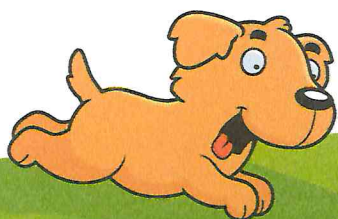
Join us for Vacation Bible School
at Faith Lutheran Church in Orange City!
Sunday, July 20 - Thursday, July 24
from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Children age 4 years old - the completion of 5th grade are welcome!

Sign up by using the QR code or learn more
at www.faithlutheranorangecity.com.



710 8th St. SE
Orange City, IA



Special Mission Event!



Rev. Steve Schulz
LCMS Mission Counselor at Mission Central

Come and see pictures of lost and hurting people
living in places of darkness.

Come and hear about your LCMS missionaries who are telling these
lost and hurting people about Jesus!

Come and be a part of bringing Christ to the world.



Faith Lutheran Church
Orange City, Iowa

Sunday, July 27, 2025
Worship at 9:00 a.m.
Bible class following Worship

Invite a friend! You're a missionary, too!
For more information, please visit us at www.missioncentral.us

Rev. Steve Schulz
Pastoral Advisor and Mission Development Counselor

Mission Central
40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034
Phone: 712-882-1029
Email: steve.schulz@lcms.org

Rev. Steve Schulz grew up in Edgeley, ND. After graduating high school, he served four years in U.S. Army Intelligence. He then attended North Dakota State University in Fargo where he met and married his wife, Sue.

Steve received his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1991 and served twenty years as a pastor in Iowa District West at St. John, Fenton (1991-1998) and Grace, Storm Lake (1998-2011). He then spent twelve years in LCMS campus ministry at NDSU and as associate pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fargo (2011-2023). Steve also served as the First Vice-President and Chairman of the Board of Directors for the North Dakota District.

Steve has known Gary Thies, Director of Mission Central, since Mission Central was first established. He was in attendance at the 1994 Iowa District West convention when Gary was installed as the first Mission Development Counselor for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

After serving as a parish pastor for 32 years, Steve accepted the Divine Call from LCMS Mission Advancement to serve alongside Gary in the important work of raising mission awareness among the members and congregations of the Synod.

Steve and Sue have four grown children and two grandchildren.

Faith Lutheran Church Council Minutes – June 8, 2025

In attendance: Karl Bahrke, Director of Lay Ministry; Michael Lewis, Director of PR/PF; Ali Hagen, Director of Young People's Work; Kevin Rueter, Director of Stewardship; Keith Huss, Director of Evangelism; Jason Overmohle, Director of Church Properties; Pastor Batchelder, and Paula Koller, Council Secretary.

Absent: Mike Blankenfeld, Kristy Frederes, Tonya Moore Huss, Jesa Pace

Meeting began with opening devotions by Keith Huss

Next meeting: Jason Overmohle

Keith Huss chaired the meeting in Mike's absence.

Minutes of May 18, 2025, were read by Paula.

Board of Lay Ministry:

*Rev. Steve Schulz from Mission Central will lead the Worship Service and Bible Class on Sunday, July 27.

*Church will be at the same time during Ragbrai (9am on July 20).

*July's BOLM meeting will be held on June 29 at 7:45am. No meeting in August.

Board of Christian Education: No report

Board of Evangelism:

*Keith reported they will be working on the Heart & Sole shoe drive this month.

Board of Properties:

*Jason said there is not a lot going on.

*Kevin asked about the trees near the highway and whether they need to be taken down? (Looking out the window there are a lot of dead branches.) Jason will put this on his agenda.

Board of Public Relations & Parish Fellowship

*Michael said there was not much to report.

*He has invited Board of Lay Ministers to review the survey. Once that gets done, he will report back to the Council.

*Jesa put together the VBS flyer, and it is being circulated.

Board of Stewardship:

*Receipts in General Fund were \$12,437; down substantially from the budget; and about \$500 less than last May.

*Kevin will be working with Pastor regarding the stewardship emphasis for this fall.

Board of Youth:

*Nothing to report since on break for the summer.

*The Board, at their last meeting, reviewed this year's Easter Breakfast and discussed plans for next year. And they spent the meeting finalizing plans for VBS (July 20-24).

Treasurer:

*The May report was distributed with Kristy's noted items: 'under budget on all items this month' and 'income was short \$7,030.35 this month'.

Committee Reports: None.

Correspondence: None.

State of the Parish:

"And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." – Acts 2:21

*Pastor thanked Karl for mentioning the upcoming Mission Event on July 27.

*The Lord led Paxton Hagen and Joeline Konz to confirm/confess their faith on May 4. God be praised!

*By God's gracious design we welcomed 12 people from 5 congregations to the Ascension Day service. God be praised!

*Brecken was welcomed into baptismal/communicant membership on June 1. God be praised!

*Please pray for Iowa District West's convention this week.

*Please pray for Higher Things Youth Conference July 8-11. Andy Reginald is not able to attend, so we are getting someone else to go.

Unfinished Business:

*Pascal Candle Discussion. Mike B. in his email stated: "Jordon Pace checked with his parent's church which closed, and the Paschal Candle has already been spoken for." Mike (in the email). shared information regarding costs of purchasing the candle from Concordia Publishing House. Also, a CM Almy catalog was passed around showing different candles and stands; this is the company where we purchased liquid altar candles in 2024. It was mentioned that money could come from the Restricted Fund/Memorial Account. And it was reported that Lorie Foreman is interested in purchasing the Pascal Candle & Stand in memory of Dave, using the money in the memorial account that was received from his funeral (and is willing to make up any difference if it costs more). The candle and stand are priced separately. Stands are either brass or can be wooden. It was suggested having a wooden stand made by the same person who did the baptismal font.

*Motion made by Karl, seconded by Michael to purchase a liquid Paschal Candle with either a brass or wooden stand, using money from the memorial account, and having the Foreman family make the decision on what to purchase. Motion carried.

*Ragbrai: Discussed and decided that Jason would get 2-4 people to come early on Sunday morning (7/20) between 8 and 8:30am for cleanup from the Saturday night Ragbrai people who may have used our parking lot. Pastor said he'd be at church at 7:30am.

*Constitution: An update was asked for, regarding the District's review of our constitution? Pastor will check with Richard Merrill (District Secretary) at the Convention this week, to see if this is getting reviewed. It was also asked, what gets done with the position for Director of Young People's Work if the constitution doesn't get approved in time for November's election?

New Business:

*Ascension Day Offering (May 29): Motion made by Kevin, seconded by Karl to transfer the \$69 offering to the Congregational Assistance Fund. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: July 13 at 7:45am. No meeting in August.

Agenda Items: Start thinking about budgets and a nominating committee for election of officers.

Adjournment:

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Koller, Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet

	5/31/25		
	General Fund	Restricted Fund	Net Position
ASSETS			
Cash in Bank	\$ 31,842.53	\$35,781.73	\$ 67,624.26
Due from Gen. Fund	\$ -		
Due from Res. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investments/CD	\$ -		\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 31,842.53	\$ 35,781.73	\$ 67,624.26
LIABILITIES			
Payroll Taxes	\$ (221.92)	\$ -	\$ (221.92)
Due to Gen. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Due to Res. Fund		\$ -	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ (221.92)	\$ -	\$ (221.92)
NET POSITION	\$ 31,620.61	\$ 35,781.73	\$ 67,402.34

General Fund (Actual vs. Budget) - May

INCOME	Income	Budgeted	Difference
General Fund	\$ 12,436.65	\$ 19,467.00	\$ (7,030.35)
Building Fund Loan	\$ 2,216.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 316.00
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 14,652.65	\$ 21,367.00	\$ (6,714.35)
EXPENSES	Expenses	Budgeted	Difference
Missions	\$ 1,417.00	\$ 2,371.00	\$ (954.00)
Lay Ministry-Salaries	\$ 11,786.79	\$ 12,905.00	\$ (1,118.21)
Lay Ministry-Other	\$ 457.50	\$ 592.00	\$ (134.50)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 83.00	\$ (83.00)
Evangelism	\$ -	\$ 67.00	\$ (67.00)
Christian Educ	\$ 117.49	\$ 271.00	\$ (153.51)
Properties	\$ 2,422.72	\$ 3,095.00	\$ (672.28)
Public Relations	\$ 78.71	\$ 83.00	\$ (4.29)
Building Fund Loan	\$ 2,189.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 289.00
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$ 18,469.21	\$ 21,367.00	\$ (2,897.79)
INCOME - EXPENSES	\$ (3,816.56)	\$ -	\$ (3,816.56)

General Fund YTD (Actual vs. Budget) as of 05/31/25

INCOME	Income	Budgeted	Difference
General Fund	\$ 80,079.75	\$ 97,332.00	\$ (17,252.25)
Building Fund Loan	\$ 28,142.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 18,642.00
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 108,221.75	\$ 106,832.00	\$ 1,389.75
EXPENSES	Expenses	Budgeted	Difference
Missions	\$ 12,507.00	\$ 11,853.00	\$ 654.00
Lay Ministry-Salaries	\$ 62,725.69	\$ 64,526.00	\$ (1,800.31)
Lay Ministry-Other	\$ 2,742.18	\$ 2,956.00	\$ (213.82)
Stewardship	\$ 640.93	\$ 419.00	\$ 221.93
Evangelism	\$ 37.50	\$ 331.00	\$ (293.50)
Christian Educ	\$ 1,183.03	\$ 1,353.00	\$ (169.97)
Properties	\$ 11,804.92	\$ 15,475.00	\$ (3,670.08)
Public Relations	\$ 130.21	\$ 419.00	\$ (288.79)
Building Fund Loan	\$ 28,858.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 19,358.00
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$ 120,629.46	\$ 106,832.00	\$ 13,797.46
INCOME - EXPENSES	\$ (12,407.71)	\$ -	\$ (12,407.71)

Restricted Fund - May

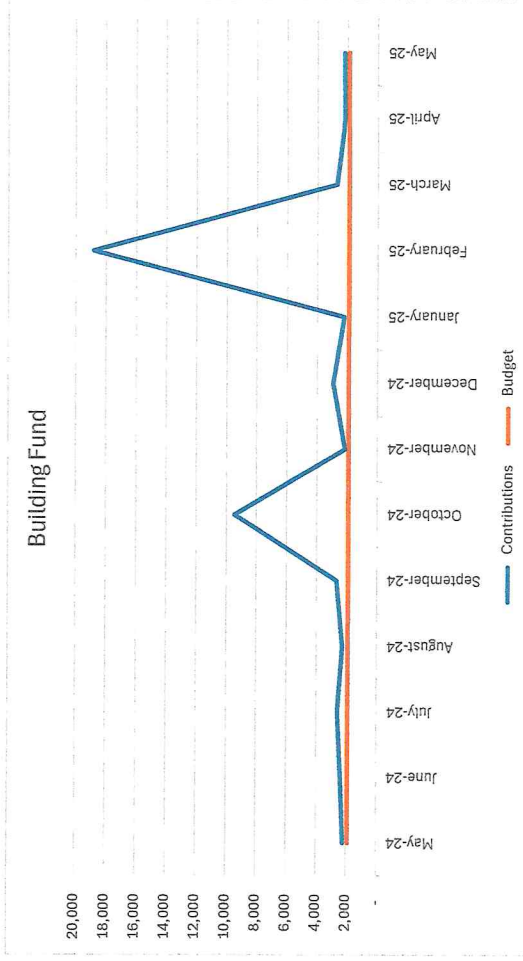
Accounts	Prior Mo	Income	Expenses	YTD Balance
ATLAS / CFE	\$ -			\$ -
Bldge Imp Fund	\$ 20,000.00			\$ 20,000.00
Camp Fund	\$ 135.00		\$ 5.00	\$ 130.00
Catechism	\$ (227.44)			\$ (227.44)
Cong Assist F	\$ 2,214.02			\$ 2,214.02
Easter Lily	\$ (436.87)			\$ (436.87)
Family Cr Ctr	\$ -			\$ -
Food Pantry	\$ -			\$ -
Genesis House	\$ -			\$ -
Habitat 4 Hum	\$ -			\$ -
Interest	\$ 2,520.34	\$ 8.86		\$ 2,529.20
Luth for Life	\$ -			\$ -
L World Relief	\$ -			\$ -
Memorials	\$ 3,434.00			\$ 3,434.00
Mid-Sioux	\$ -			\$ -
Misc	\$ 280.06	\$ 69.00		\$ 349.06
Missions	\$ 1,615.34			\$ 1,615.34
POBLO	\$ 5.00		\$ 5.00	\$ -
Seasonal Décor	\$ (108.46)			\$ (108.46)
SS Missions	\$ -			\$ -
SS Xmas Prog	\$ 42.74			\$ 42.74
Thrivent Fin	\$ 1,174.72	\$ 22.00		\$ 1,196.72
VBS Missions	\$ 55.10			\$ 55.10
Youth Activities	\$ 5,084.53		\$ 96.21	\$ 4,988.32
TOTALS	\$ 35,788.08	\$ 99.86	\$ 106.21	\$ 35,781.73

Noted items:

under budget on all items this month
Income short \$7,030.35 this month

General Fund	12 Month											Running Total		
	May-24	June-24	July-24	August-24	September-24	October-24	November-24	December-24	January-25	February-25	March-25		April-25	May-25
Contributions	12,928	15,143	14,036	13,019	16,124	25,274	15,377	20,273	14,142	22,160	17,392	13,949	12,437	199,326
Budget	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,464	19,467	19,467	19,467	19,467	236,373
Over/(Under) Budget	(6,935)	(4,720)	(5,827)	(6,844)	(3,739)	5,411	(4,486)	410	(5,322)	2,693	(2,075)	(5,518)	(7,030)	(37,047)

General Fund	May-24	June-24	July-24	August-24	September-24	October-24	November-24	December-24	January-25	February-25	March-25	April-25	May-25	Running Total
	12,928	15,143	14,036	13,019	16,124	25,274	15,377	20,273	14,142	22,160	17,392	13,949	12,437	
Contributions														199,326
Budget	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,464	19,467	19,467	19,467	19,467	236,373
Over/(Under) Budget	(6,935)	(4,720)	(5,827)	(6,844)	(3,739)	5,411	(4,486)	410	(5,322)	2,693	(2,075)	(5,518)	(7,030)	(37,047)
Building Fund	May-24	June-24	July-24	August-24	September-24	October-24	November-24	December-24	January-25	February-25	March-25	April-25	May-25	
Contributions	2,215	2,387	2,609	2,272	2,684	9,457	2,149	2,932	2,215	18,806	2,716	2,189	2,216	52,632
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	315	487	709	372	784	7,557	249	1,032	315	16,906	816	289	316	29,832



July 2025

Celebrations § Volunteers



Anniversaries

- 12 David & Megan Kramer
- 18 Austin & Lacey Reitz
- Howard & Pam Vlieger
- 22 Neil & Patty Bracker
- 27 John & Karen Streff
- 31 Howard & Janice Gayer

Birthdays

- 1 Jhett Pace
- 2 Brad Konz
- 3 Michael Ruden
- 8 Tennus Heronemus
- 11 J.D. Fink
- 12 Morgan Vlieger
- 13 Caden Katt
- 19 Micah Hagen
- 20 Michael Lewis
- 22 Ashley Blankenfeld
- 23 Cooper Hofmeyer
- 24 Brenda Uhl
- 25 Jim Juffer



Lay Minister: Karl Bahrke

Altar Guild: Lorie Foreman
Barb Greiner
Bill Greiner

Ushers: Eric Hofmeyer
Conner Huss
George Plendl

Counters: Bev Rohrs
Bob Rohrs
Patti Van Skike



Weekly Volunteers

Date	Acolyte & Cross Bearer	Greeter & Coffee Host	Projectionist
July 6	Volunteers Requested	Volunteers Requested	Pam Vlieger
July 13	Volunteers Requested	Howard & Pam Vlieger	Scott Bahrke
July 20	Volunteers Requested	Aaron & Nicole Fink	Julie Bahrke
July 27	Volunteers Requested	Jason & Heather Katt	Carrina Huss

thank you!



Greeters / Coffee Hosts:

Please be in place at least 15 minutes before the Worship 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








July 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: Scott Bahrke 	Altar Guild: Lorie Foreman Barb Greiner Bill Greiner Altar Color: All Sundays: Green	1	2	3	4  <i>Independence Day</i>	5
6 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Adult Bible Class	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Pastor will be attending the 'Higher Things' Conference in Seward, NE July 8-11				
13 7:45am Council Mtg 9:00am Worship with Children's Message 10:15am Adult Bible Class	14	15	16	17	18	19 <i>Ragbrai</i> 
20 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Adult Bible Class	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Celebrate the Savior - July 20-24 (6:00-7:30pm) Program - July 24 at 8:00pm				Pastor on Vacation
27 9:00am Worship with Children's Message 10:15am Adult Bible Class <i>Special Mission event with Rev. Schultz, Mission Central</i>	28	29	30	31	Ushers: Eric Hofmeyer Conner Huss George Plendl	 Counters: Bev Rohrs Bob Rohrs Patti Van Skike
					Pastor on Vacation	