

THE COMMUNICATOR

Faith Lutheran Church Parish News



May 2026

Vol. 56 No. 5

Rethinking Worship: Defining 'Worship'

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul." –

Deuteronomy 10:12

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

'Worship' is a verb defined as: "homage or reverence paid to a deity; acts, rites, or ceremonies of worship; adoration or devotion."¹ This definition is fine up to a point, but it doesn't do justice to the biblical conception of 'worship.' In Psalm 51:17, 'worship' is defined in this way: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

Worship is not merely singing songs to God. This is how I think we often times understand it because of our mainly American evangelical context. But at the heart of worship is the heart of faith: repentance of sin and clinging to Christ's death for forgiveness. And this is something the Holy Spirit works in us. Repentance isn't something we do on our own, but God exposes to us our sins and leads us to confess it to Him.

A better picture of worship is given in Psalm 116:12-13. "What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD." [This is the Offertory in Divine Service, Setting 1!] The psalmist, having considered the wondrous works of God in creating and redeeming him, asks himself this: "What can I possibly do for God since He's done everything for me?" The answer: Nothing! Your good works, your worship attendance, your tithes and offerings are not something God needs. All things are already His. Rather, He leads you to realize this and give thanks to Him.

Since there is nothing that we can offer God that He needs, the psalmist says: "I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD." Instead of doing something for the Lord, we receive the gifts He gives and we respond by praising Him and praying to Him. This verse is also fulfilled on every Lord's Day. For the cup of salvation is the chalice which holds the precious blood of Jesus. And we thank and praise Him for filling us with that salvation.

Worship, then, is more about receiving rather than doing or giving. When you enter the sanctuary you enter as a sinful beggar, totally empty-handed. But when you leave, you are filled with forgiveness, life, and salvation through the presence of God in His Word and Sacraments.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Batchelder

¹ *The Oxford American Desk Dictionary* (Berkley Books: New York, 2001), 971.

May Church News...

Not able to worship on Sunday morning – our services are also livestreamed each week and can be viewed any time on our Facebook page (Orange City Faith Lutheran Church). You can also ask Pastor for a copy of his sermon, so that you'll hear the same message as your brothers and sisters here at Faith. **Or if you're out of town and looking for another church to worship at**, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has a smartphone app which can help you locate one of our sister congregations.

College/Young Adult Bible Study will meet on Sundays at 8:00pm.

Rite of Confirmation for Isaac Bahrke and Angela Blankenfeld will be on **Sunday, May 3**. 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 this day.)*

Spring Pastor's Conference is Monday, May 4, and Tuesday, May 5, at Trinity Lutheran in Algona.

Board of Lay Ministry will meet on Sunday, May 10 at 7:45am.

Sunday School classes conclude for the September-May school year on May 10. (Adult Bible Class will continue each Sunday following the Worship Service.)

Catechism and Sunday School Teacher Recognition will be held on Sunday, May 10, with a reception to follow the Service.

The Circuit Pastor's Conference is on Tuesday, May 12 at Trinity Lutheran in Hinton.

Ascension Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00pm.

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, May 17 at 7:45am.

Graduation Recognition for 2026 graduates and their families: We would like to recognize our 2026 graduates on Sunday May 17 during our Divine Service. Parents if you have a senior (either high school or college) who is graduating this year, we ask that you email pastor a senior picture, the graduate's favorite Bible verse, and their plans following graduation (i.e. school and intended field of study; or employment).

Faith Women's Luncheon will meet at noon on Tuesday, May 19 at The Train Station.

Faith is hosting the Prayer Meeting at Pioneer Home on Wednesday, May 27 at 7:00pm.

Pastor will be on vacation from May 28-31. Rev. Dr. Michael Kumm from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Dakota Dunes will be our guest preacher on the 31st which is Holy Trinity Sunday.

Bulletin Sponsorship: If you would like to recognize or celebrate a special person or event in the weekly bulletin, please notify the church office. The cost is \$10 which will go toward printing and emailing the bulletin. *(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>.

PLANNING AHEAD (mark your calendars)

***Vacation Bible School** will be held the week of July 12.

Faith Lutheran Church Council Minutes – April 19, 2026

In attendance: Kerby Huss, Chairman; Aaron Fink, Director of Lay Ministry; Patti Van Skike, Treasurer; Kevin Rueter, Director of Stewardship; Keith Huss & Tonya Moore Huss, Directors of Evangelism; Pastor Batchelder; Paula Koller, Council Secretary.

Absent: Jason Overmohle and Jesa Pace.

Meeting began with opening devotions by Aaron Fink

Next meeting: Jesa Pace

Minutes of March 8, 2026: Motion made by Tonya, seconded by Aaron to approve the minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

Board of Lay Ministry:

*Aaron reported that the Board met last Sunday, April 12.

*Dave Boggs was welcomed to his first meeting (replacing Karl Bahrke on the Board of Lay Ministry).

*Discussed whether there's a practice in place when people (outside our membership) request financial assistance. Decided to handle on a 'case-by-case basis, suggesting people start by talking with Pastor. Concern was raised about determining whether the requests are legitimate or if people are just going from church to church asking for money.

*Continued discussion on weekly Communion; still asking members for feedback.

*The Board discussed Jesa's request about making some updates to the Nursery.

*Special services were mentioned: May 3 – Confirmation; May 10 – Board of Lay Ministry, due to Confirmation on May 3; May 13 – Ascension Eve Service.

Board of Christian Education (Kerby shared an email from Jesa, in her absence):

*No major updates.

*Easter Breakfast – Potluck was well attended (45 people, almost identical to 2025). There was plenty of food. Youth members served and earned \$180 toward 2027 Youth Gatherings.

*Final week of Sunday School for the year is May 10th. Teacher Recognition will also happen that Sunday.

*Planning to use some money from the Board of Education funds to organize the Nursery. Planning to toss broken toys, wash soiled toys, and ask the congregation for donations of gently used toys to place in the nursery.

Board of Evangelism:

*Tonya thanked the volunteers who served at the Food Pantry on April 11 (Keven & Paula Rueter, Dave Boggs, Alice Boggs & boyfriend). It went well.

*Today is the wrap up for the Toilet Paper Drive. Announcement will be made asking people to stay after church today to help package the toilet paper into 4 rolls per bag. (Micah is furnishing Fareway plastic bags.)

*Discussed year-end gift bags (during exam week) for college students who attend church. Last year 10 bags were prepared. So, decided to do the same this year. A decision will be made as to where to take the funds from (General Fund-Evangelism or from a Restricted Fund – Thrivent Fund, Memorial Fund, etc.

Board of Properties (Kerby shared an email from Jason, in his absence):

*There is not much to report.

*Cooper Katt is taking care of the mowing once again this year.

*Dave Aalbers brought in dirt and put some grass seed down, where the stumps were ground out.

*He asked that you let him know if there is anything that needs his attention.

Board of Public Relations & Parish Fellowship: Vacant

Board of Stewardship:

*Kevin reported that receipts were above budget two months in a row. There were no big individual receipts like in the previous month.

*Kevin reminded the Council that the 4-week District Stewardship Program is scheduled for September 20 – October 11, with stewardship program, sermons, self-ministry, and a luncheon.

Treasurer:

*Patti reported that things are looking good: income was \$932.50 above budget for the month and \$1,817.16 above budget for the year. Expenses were \$573 under budget for the month; and income was \$1,500 more than expenses. Building Fund was about \$1,000 less than in March a year ago, before loan was paid off.

*Patti announced she and Troy are moving to Kansas and asked about the treasurer's position. She is willing to keep doing the treasurer's reports and will attend meetings when they come back to visit their daughter in Sioux Falls.

Committee Reports: None

Correspondence: None

State of the parish:

*1 Corinthians 15:58 - *"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."* All Christians would do well to keep this verse in their hearts and minds. For some days our labors may seem fruitless and in vain, but when we're doing all things to the glory of God, the work is never in vain.

*For Holy Week God blessed us with solid attendance for the special services.

*Catechism class is just about over. The Rite of Confirmation will be on May 3rd with two youths receiving confirmation (Isaac Bahrke and Angela Blankenfeld).

*Lutheran Braille Workers update: Pam Vlieger has expressed interest in spearheading this endeavor beginning this summer, after her retirement from Northwestern College. She emailed Rachel Potts at LBW letting her know.

*Graduation recognition will be before the service on May 17.

*Today during the service Pastor will offer a blessing for Patti & Troy Van Skike – long-time members who are moving to Kansas.

Unfinished Business:

*Kerby thanked Kevin for filling in as Chairman last month.

*Kerby mentioned that it is getting tougher finding volunteers for the open positions on the Council.

Needed are Director of Public Relations & Parish Fellowship and later this summer - Director of Evangelism since Keith and Tonya will also be moving. Grateful that for now Patti will continue as Treasurer.

*Kerby mentioned making an announcement before church, several weeks in a row, keep asking people to volunteer and/or asking people if they have any ideas or know of anyone who might be interested in serving on the Council.

New Business: None

Next meeting: Board of Lay Ministry is meeting May 10 (due to Confirmation on May 3). So, Council will meet on May 17 at 7:45am. (Pastor will honor graduates during the Service on May 17.)

Adjournment: Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Koller, Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet

3/31/26

	General Fund	Restricted fund	Net Position
ASSETS			
Cash in Bank	\$ 30,071.73	\$55,141.17	\$ 85,212.90
Due from Gen. Fund	\$ -		
Due from Res. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investments/CD	\$ -		\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 30,071.73	\$ 55,141.17	\$ 85,212.90
LIABILITIES			
Payroll Taxes	\$ (529.64)	\$ -	\$ (529.64)
Due to Gen. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Due to Res. Fund		\$ -	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ (529.64)	\$ -	\$ (529.64)
NET POSITION	\$ 29,542.09	\$ 55,141.17	\$ 84,683.26

General Fund (Actual vs. Budget) - March

INCOME	Income	Budgeted	Difference
General Fund	\$ 21,095.50	\$ 20,163.00	\$ 932.50
Building Fund Loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 21,095.50	\$ 20,163.00	\$ 932.50
EXPENSES	Expenses	Budgeted	Difference
Missions	\$ 1,765.00	\$ 2,425.00	\$ (660.00)
Lay Ministry-Salaries	\$ 14,275.81	\$ 13,252.00	\$ 1,023.81
Lay Ministry-Other	\$ 186.86	\$ 626.00	\$ (439.14)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ (25.00)
Evangelism	\$ 98.38	\$ 67.00	\$ 31.38
Christian Educ	\$ 123.26	\$ 279.00	\$ (155.74)
Properties	\$ 2,986.38	\$ 3,406.00	\$ (419.62)
Public Relations	\$ 154.36	\$ 83.00	\$ 71.36
Building Fund Loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$ 19,590.05	\$ 20,163.00	\$ (572.95)
INCOME - EXPENSES	\$ 1,505.45	\$ -	\$ 1,505.45

General Fund YTD (Actual vs. Budget) as of 3/31/26

INCOME	Income	Budgeted	Difference
General Fund	\$ 62,310.16	\$ 60,493.00	\$ 1,817.16
Building Fund Loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 62,310.16	\$ 60,493.00	\$ 1,817.16
EXPENSES	Expenses	Budgeted	Difference
Missions	\$ 7,275.00	\$ 7,275.00	\$ -
Lay Ministry-Salaries	\$ 40,472.98	\$ 39,767.00	\$ 705.98
Lay Ministry-Other	\$ 1,818.12	\$ 1,866.00	\$ (47.88)
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 75.00	\$ (75.00)
Evangelism	\$ 98.38	\$ 197.00	\$ (98.62)
Christian Educ	\$ 462.40	\$ 839.00	\$ (376.60)
Properties	\$ 8,390.09	\$ 10,221.00	\$ (1,830.91)
Public Relations	\$ 256.36	\$ 253.00	\$ 3.36
Building Fund Loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$ 58,773.33	\$ 60,493.00	\$ (1,719.67)
INCOME - EXPENSES	\$ 3,536.83	\$ -	\$ 3,536.83

Restricted Fund - March

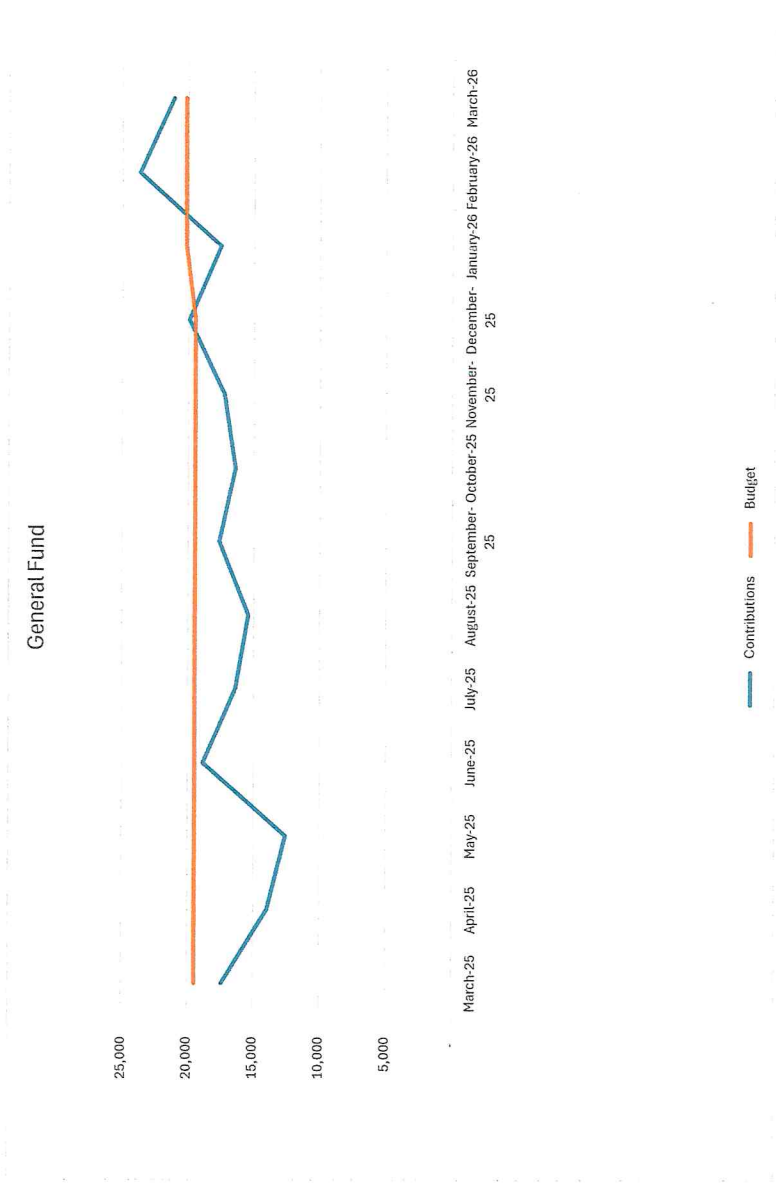
Accounts	Prior Mo	Income	Expenses	YTD Balance
ATLAS / CFE	\$ 50.00	\$ 273.00		\$ 323.00
Bldge Imp Fund	\$ 35,114.05	\$ 1,730.00		\$ 36,844.05
Camp Fund	\$ 130.00			\$ 130.00
Catechism	\$ (227.44)			\$ (227.44)
Cong Assist F	\$ 2,949.85		\$ 200.00	\$ 2,749.85
Easter Lily	\$ (436.87)	\$ 25.00	\$ 221.49	\$ (633.36)
Family Cr Ctr	\$ 50.00	\$ 272.00		\$ 322.00
Food Pantry	\$ -			\$ -
Genesis House	\$ -			\$ -
Habitat 4 Hum	\$ -			\$ -
Interest	\$ 2,626.13	\$ 14.41		\$ 2,640.54
Luth for Life	\$ -			\$ -
L World Relief	\$ -			\$ -
Memorials	\$ 2,982.26	\$ 485.00		\$ 3,467.26
Mid-Sioux	\$ -			\$ -
Misc	\$ 1,004.20			\$ 1,004.20
Missions	\$ 1,615.34			\$ 1,615.34
POBLO	\$ -			\$ -
Seasonal Décor	\$ (126.80)			\$ (126.80)
SS Missions	\$ -			\$ -
SS Xmas Prog	\$ -			\$ -
Thrivent Fin	\$ 1,374.50		\$ 27.29	\$ 1,347.21
VBS Missions	\$ -			\$ -
Youth Activities	\$ 5,685.32			\$ 5,685.32
TOTALS	\$ 52,790.54	\$ 2,799.41	\$ 448.78	\$ 55,141.17

Noted items:

4/4/2026

Stewardship Report - March 2026

General Fund	March-25	April-25	May-25	June-25	July-25	August-25	September-25	October-25	November-25	December-25	January-26	February-26	March-26	12 Month Running Total
Contributions	17,392	13,949	12,581	18,851	16,395	15,420	17,624	16,402	17,265	19,917	17,542	23,673	21,095	210,714
Budget	19,467	19,467	19,467	19,467	19,467	19,467	19,467	19,467	19,467	19,467	20,167	20,167	20,167	235,704
Over/(Under) Budget	(2,075)	(5,518)	(6,886)	(616)	(3,072)	(4,047)	(1,843)	(3,065)	(2,202)	450	(2,625)	3,506	928	(24,990)
Building Fund														
Contributions	2,716	2,189	2,216	3,628	2,125	10,356	2,510	2,540	4,099	2,845	1,755	1,365	1,730	37,358
Budget	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	-	-	-	-	1,755	1,365	1,730	9,500
Over/(Under) Budget	816	289	316	1,728	225	8,456	2,510	2,540	4,099	2,845	1,755	1,365	1,730	27,858



MAY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries	
8	Jim & Bonnie Juffer
11	Rick & Lorie Foreman
Baptism	
5	Angela Blankenfeld
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
<i>Contact the office if your name is missing from the Celebrations list.</i>	

SERVING IN MAY 2026

Altar Guild	Jen Korver and Lori Tuttle				
Counters	Paula Koller, Brenda Uhl, and Doug Uhl				
Lay Minister	Micah Hagen				
Ushers	Dave Aalbers, Cody Brennan, Richard Brennan, and Bruce Tuttle				
	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Acolyte & Cross Bearer	Norah Huizenga Madi Vlieger	Cooper Hofmeyer Harper Kramer	Paysley Hagen Angela Blankenfeld	Volunteers Requested	Volunteers Requested
Greeters / Coffee Hosts	—	Keith & Tonya Huss	Bruce & Lori Tuttle	Volunteers Requested	Richard & Sabrina Brennan
Projectionist	Jordon Pace	Mike Blankenfeld	Sam Clausen	Scott Bahrke	Carrina Huss
Altar Colors	White	White	White	Red	White



Greeters / Coffee Hosts:

Please be in place at least 15 minutes before the Service begins. When done serving, please cleanup the kitchen, wipe serving counter and tables in the fellowship hall.

2026 Church Council

Chairman	Kerby Huss	712-395-0304
Vice-Chairman	Kevin Rueter	712-541-7320
Treasurer	Patti Van Skike	712-539-1386
Boards:		
Christian Educ	Jesa Pace	712-539-2855
Evangelism	Keith Huss Tonya Moore Huss	712-395-0303 515-979-5784
Lay Ministry	Aaron Fink	712-294-4344
Properties	Jason Overmohle	712-541-3315
Public Relations/ Parish Fellowship	Vacant	
Stewardship	Kevin Rueter	712-541-7320

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

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

May 2026

Faith Lutheran Church, 710 8th Street SE Orange City, IA 51041 / Office 712-737-2112 / Email faithlutheran@premieronline.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:00am Worship w Communion <i>Rite of Confirmation</i> No Education Classes 8:00pm College Bible Study	4 Spring Pastor's Conference Trinity Lutheran, Algona	5 Spring Pastor's Conference Trinity Lutheran, Algona	6	7	8	9
10 7:45am Bd of Lay Ministry Mtg 9:00am Worship w Children's Msge <i>Teacher/Staff Recognition</i> 10:15am Education Classes 8:00pm College Bible Study	11	12 Pastor's Conference at Trinity, Hinton	13 7:00pm Ascension Eve Service w Communion	14	15	16
17 7:45am Church Council Mtg 9:00am Worship w Communion <i>Graduation Recognition</i> 10:15am Adult Bible Class 8:00pm College Bible Study	18	19 Noon - Faith Women's Luncheon at The Train Station	20	21	22	23
24 9:00am Worship w Children's Msge 10:15am Adult Bible Class 8:00pm College Bible Study	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>	26	27 7:00pm Pioneer Home Prayer Meeting	28	29	30
31 <i>Holy Trinity Sunday</i> 9:00am Worship w Communion 10:15am Adult Bible Class 8:00pm College Bible Study <i>Guest Preacher - Rev. Kumm</i>				Pastor on Vacation May 28-31		