

# THE COMMUNICATOR

Faith Lutheran Church Parish News



July 2026

Vol. 56 No. 7

## Find Rest In Jesus.

*“At the time for the banquet he sent his servants to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ But they all alike began to make excuses....” – Luke 14:17-18*

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

In the Parable of the Great Banquet, Jesus teaches us about the great love of the Father. In Christ, the Father has prepared a great feast and has invited you to join in the celebration. Jesus wants us to experience the fullness of the feast as often as possible. The preview of this feast is Holy Communion, where our Lord says: “You’re welcome here. Sit for a while with me and find rest for your body and soul. Eat my body, and drink my blood, be forgiven and at peace in Me.”

Sometimes we make excuses for passing up such an invitation. “I just bought a field.” “I just bought some oxen.” “I just got married.” All of the excuses amount to this: “I’m just too busy to stop by, Jesus. Please have me excused.”

With summer in full swing, how often are you bringing your family to the Table of the Lord? How often does it seem like you live in a constant state of run, run, run? How often are you able to be honest with yourself on how your walk with the Lord has been lately?

Dear friends, the Divine Service is the place that God invites you to. Here the Lord invites you to slow down, to lay down your burdens at the foot of the cross, to find peace for your souls. When our Father gathers us in His house, He forgives us of all of our sins. He speaks to us through the Bible and Sermon. And being refreshed in His grace in Christ, we lay before Him our prayers, entrusting ourselves and all people to His Fatherly care. And just when we think this time as the Family of God can’t get any better, the Lord Jesus invites us to His Table to rest and recline with Him and one another. Jesus is here bodily for you!

Brothers and Sisters, let us ever walk with Jesus. Let us take up His invitation and meet together at the Lamb’s High Feast. In our daily lives, let us also take time to quietly retreat from the hecticness of life, and read God’s Word, and pray to our Father in Heaven. You who wait for the Lord shall renew your strength (Isaiah 40:31). Jesus invites you to “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matthew 11:29).

In the midst of your burdens, in the fast flow of the busyness of life, take our Lord’s invitation to heart. For “our hearts are restless, until they find their rest in Thee, O Lord.”<sup>1</sup>

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Batchelder

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<sup>1</sup> Saint Augustine, *Confessions*.

## 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](http://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.

**Adult Bible Class will meet on Sundays following the Divine Service.**

**College/Young Adult Bible Class will meet on Sunday, July 5 and 26 at 8:00pm.**

**The Board of Lay Ministry** will meet at 7:45am on Sunday, July 12.

**Pastor will be attending the 69th LCMS National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona from July 17-23.**

**The Church Council** will meet at 7:45am on Sunday, July 19.

**Faith Women's Luncheon** will not be meeting in July or August.

**VBS is coming in July:** Join us for an exciting week – July 12-16 from 5:30-7:30pm. Sign up is for 4-year-olds through students completing the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Dinner will be provided from 5:30 - 6:00pm each evening for all children attending. The theme this year is '**Set Sail With Jesus**'. 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 June 29. **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 the meal. Join in on the fun.

**Thrivent Card for VBS:** The Board of Education is looking for a Thrivent card to help pay for various items at Vacation Bible School in July. If you are able to help, please let Jesa Pace know: [jesa.lm.pace@gmail.com](mailto:jesa.lm.pace@gmail.com).

**Opportunities to Serve:** We are in need of people to lead the Board of Public Relations/Parish Fellowship and the Board of Evangelism, as well as people willing to help kick start a Lutheran Braille Workshop here at Faith. Let us all be praying that God would lead people to serve in these ways. And if you have an inkling of helping out, please talk to Pastor for more details.

**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.*)

**Portals of Prayer for July -September 2026 are here.** Pick up your copy on the literature table in the Fellowship Hall.

**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](http://faithlutheranorangecity.com).

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Catechism Family Information** will be given on August 30 during the education hour.

## Faith Lutheran Church Council Minutes – June 14, 2026

In attendance: Kerby Huss, Chairman; Kevin Rueter, Director of Stewardship; Keith and Tonya Huss, Directors of Evangelism; and Jason Overmohle, Director of Properties.

Absent: Aaron Fink, Jesa Pace, Patti Van Skike, Pastor Batchelder, and Paula Koller.

Meeting began with opening devotions by Kerby, filling in for Patti      Next meeting: Jason.

**Board of Lay Ministry:** No notes were sent to Kerby, but Kerby gave brief update, but wasn't sure of all the details without his notes. Said they learned more about Pastor's upcoming conference and offered up prayers.

**Board of Christian Education:** Jesa sent Kerby a report and Kerby read it.

\*Board met on June 3. Discussed Andy Reginald stepping down from the Youth Director position and the end of Ali Hagen's position of Director of Young People on the Board. The Board decided they will add a new member to the Board, but not in a specific role with the youth. Many times, in the past, having both Andy and Ali's roles, caused confusion on who should handle certain items. The new member will not have a specific obligation to youth activities. Instead, the Board of Ed, as a whole, will assist the new Youth Director when needed, including him/her on board meetings and stepping in when needed. Pastor plans to approach a member about taking on the Youth Director role. Once this position is filled, the Board will recruit for the open member position.

\*VBS - Sunday, July 12 - Thursday, July 16 from 5:30PM-7:30PM (dinner served from 5:30-6:00PM) - Currently have 5 children registered. Looking for a Thrivent card from a member. Donations will be taken to go toward Heart and Soles.

**Board of Evangelism:**

\*Shared that we got email for NWC's Welcome to the Neighborhood, and that we forwarded it on to Paula since we won't be here. Also mentioned Dordt's would need to be taken care of when it arrives. Decided both are beneficial to continue attending. Will need volunteers when time comes.

\*Also discussed Heart and Soles that was approved. Need someone to lead that up. No decision at this time.

\*No one to replace Keith and Tonya on the Council.

**Director of Properties:**

\*Jason shared that Cooper Katt will continue to mow for the church.

\*Also, a light cover needs fixed in the nursery.

\*Talked about filters and who usually takes care of that? May have to buy several and just replace in spring and fall.

**Board of Public Relations & Parish Fellowship:** no report / vacant.

**Board of Stewardship:**

\*We were short this month. Up \$16,000 in general fund from last year.

\* Stewardship program is still planned for fall. It's a 4-week program during service Sept 27-Oct 18. Training in mid-August. Need several volunteers such as chairman, financial sect, Sunday school Supt. Volunteers to give testimonies.

**Unfinished/New Business:** Nothing else was discussed due to not many people attending today.

**Next meeting** will be July 19 at 7:45am.

**Notes taken by Tonya Moore-Huss (in Paula's absence)**

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

## Set Sail WITH Jesus

A THEME CENTERED AROUND  
WATER STORIES IN THE BIBLE!



**DATES:**  
July 12-16



**TIME:**  
5:30PM-7:30PM  
(DINNER 5:30-6:00)



**CHILDREN  
AGES [4-11]**



**LOCATION:**  
Faith Lutheran Church  
710 8th St SE  
Orange City, IA 51041



**WHAT TO EXPECT:**  
Bible Stories, Music & Worship,  
Crafts, Games, Dinner,  
and so much more!



**SAFE & FUN:**  
Friendly Volunteers and  
a Safe Environment

**A WEEK OF FUN,  
FAITH, AND FRIENDSHIP!**

- Bible Stories • Music • Crafts
- Games • Dinner • More!

**REGISTER TODAY!**

Scan the QR code  
to register your child!



# Treasurer's Report

## Balance Sheet

	5/31/26		
	General Fund	Restricted fund	Net Position
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash in Bank	\$ 26,358.88	\$57,396.11	\$ 83,754.99
Due from Gen. Fund	\$ -		
Due from Res. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Investments/CD	\$ -		\$ -
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 26,358.88</b>	<b>\$57,396.11</b>	<b>\$ 83,754.99</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Payroll Taxes	\$ (218.72)	\$ -	\$ (218.72)
Due to Gen. Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Due to Res. Fund		\$ -	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ (218.72)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (218.72)</b>
<b>NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$ 26,140.16</b>	<b>\$ 57,396.11</b>	<b>\$ 83,536.27</b>

### General Fund (Actual vs. Budget) - May

INCOME	Income	Budgeted	Difference
General Fund	\$ 17,618.84	\$ 20,163.00	\$ (2,544.16)
Building Fund Loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 17,618.84	\$ 20,163.00	\$ (2,544.16)
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
EXPENSES	Expenses	Budgeted	Difference
Missions	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 2,425.00	\$ (975.00)
Lay Ministry-Salaries	\$ 12,375.90	\$ 13,252.00	\$ (876.10)
Lay Ministry-Other	\$ 1,080.58	\$ 626.00	\$ 454.58
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ (25.00)
Evangelism	\$ -	\$ 67.00	\$ (67.00)
Christian Educ	\$ 286.86	\$ 279.00	\$ 7.86
Properties	\$ 2,861.86	\$ 3,406.00	\$ (544.14)
Public Relations	\$ -	\$ 83.00	\$ (83.00)
Building Fund Loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$ 18,055.20	\$ 20,163.00	\$ (2,107.80)
<b>INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ (436.36)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (436.36)</b>

### General Fund YTD (Actual vs. Budget) as of 5/31/26

INCOME	Income	Budgeted	Difference
General Fund	\$ 97,255.64	\$ 100,819.00	\$ (3,563.36)
Building Fund Loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 97,255.64	\$ 100,819.00	\$ (3,563.36)
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
EXPENSES	Expenses	Budgeted	Difference
Missions	\$ 12,785.00	\$ 12,125.00	\$ 660.00
Lay Ministry-Salaries	\$ 65,952.90	\$ 66,271.00	\$ (318.10)
Lay Ministry-Other	\$ 3,467.83	\$ 3,118.00	\$ 349.83
Stewardship	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ (125.00)
Evangelism	\$ 98.38	\$ 331.00	\$ (232.62)
Christian Educ	\$ 649.26	\$ 1,397.00	\$ (747.74)
Properties	\$ 13,911.01	\$ 17,033.00	\$ (3,121.99)
Public Relations	\$ 256.36	\$ 419.00	\$ (162.64)
Building Fund Loan	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$ 97,120.74	\$ 100,819.00	\$ (3,698.26)
<b>INCOME - EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 134.90</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 134.90</b>

### Restricted Fund - May

Accounts	Prior Mo	Income	Expenses	YTD Balance
ATLAS / CFE	\$ -			\$ -
Bldge Imp Fund	\$ 38,284.05	\$ 1,295.00		\$ 39,579.05
Camp Fund	\$ 130.00			\$ 130.00
Catechism	\$ (227.44)			\$ (227.44)
Cong Assist F	\$ 2,549.85	\$ 65.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,414.85
Easter Lily	\$ (558.36)			\$ (558.36)
Family Cr Ctr	\$ -			\$ -
Food Pantry	\$ -			\$ -
Genesis House	\$ -			\$ -
Habitat 4 Hum	\$ -			\$ -
Interest	\$ 2,654.57	\$ 13.65		\$ 2,668.22
Luth for Life	\$ -			\$ -
L World Relief	\$ -			\$ -
Memorials	\$ 3,487.26	\$ 100.00		\$ 3,587.26
Mid-Sioux	\$ -			\$ -
Misc	\$ 1,004.20		\$ 53.49	\$ 950.71
Missions	\$ 1,615.34			\$ 1,615.34
POBLO	\$ -			\$ -
Seasonal Décor	\$ (126.80)			\$ (126.80)
SS Missions	\$ -			\$ -
SS Xmas Prog	\$ -			\$ -
Thrivent Fin	\$ 1,553.21	\$ 25.00	\$ 80.25	\$ 1,497.96
VBS Missions	\$ -			\$ -
Youth Activities	\$ 5,865.32			\$ 5,865.32
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 56,231.20</b>	<b>\$ 1,498.65</b>	<b>\$ 333.74</b>	<b>\$ 57,396.11</b>

Noted items:

# JULY CELEBRATIONS

Anniversaries	
12	David & Megan Kramer
18	Austin & Lacey Reitz
18	Howard & Pam Vlieger
22	Neil & Patty Bracker
27	John & Karen Streff
31	Howard & Janice Gayer
Birthdays	
1	Jhett Pace
2	Brad Konz
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
<i>Contact the office if your name is missing from the Celebrations List</i>	

# SERVING IN JULY 2026

<b>Altar Guild</b>	Barb Greiner and Paula Koller			
<b>Counters</b>	Marcie Jellema and Pam Vlieger			
<b>Lay Minister</b>	Dave Boggs			
<b>Ushers</b>	Eric Hofmeyer, Conner Huss, and George Plendl			
	<b>July 5</b>	<b>July 12</b>	<b>July 19</b>	<b>July 26</b>
<b>Acolyte &amp; Cross Bearer</b>	Volunteers Requested	Volunteers Requested	Volunteers Requested	Volunteers Requested
<b>Greeters / Coffee Hosts</b>	Volunteers Requested	Howard & Pam Vlieger	Aaron & Nicole Fink	Jason & Heather Katt
<b>Projectionist</b>	Sam Clausen	Scott Bahrke	Julie Bahrke	Carrina Huss
<b>Altar Colors</b>	Green	Green	Green	Green



## 2026 Church Council

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


## 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.

Pastor Thomas Batchelder  
 Cell 952-381-4093  
 Email [pastorbatchelder@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbatchelder@gmail.com)  
 Pastor's Office Hours:  
 7:30am -12:00pm Monday - Thursday  
 (afternoons or evenings by appointment)  
 Secretary in on Tuesday & Thursday.

# July 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
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Independence Day 
<b>5</b> 9:00am Worship w Communion 10:15am Adult Bible Class 8:00pm Young Adult Bible Class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 7:45am Board of Lay Ministry Mtg. 9:00am Worship w Children's Msge 10:15am Adult Bible Class 5:30 - 7:30pm Vacation Bible School	<b>13</b> 5:30 - 7:30pm Vacation Bible School	<b>14</b> 5:30 - 7:30pm Vacation Bible School	<b>15</b> 5:30 - 7:30pm Vacation Bible School	<b>16</b> 5:30 - 7:30pm Vacation Bible School	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 7:45am Church Council Mtg 9:00am Worship w Communion 10:15am Adult Bible Class <i>Guest Preacher: Rev. Sharp</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
69th LCMS National Convention in Phoenix AZ (July 18-23)						
<b>26</b> 9:00am Worship w Children's Msge 10:15am Adult Bible Class 8:00pm Young Adult Bible Class	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	