

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## Faith Lutheran Church Parish News



August 2026

Vol. 56 No.8

### What is Synod Anyways?

*“Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity.” – Psalm 133:1*

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

We are blessed to be a member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. You’ve probably heard me and others talk about the LCMS. But what exactly is the synod? And why does it matter? Having just experienced the 69<sup>th</sup> convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, I want to share about our church body.

The LCMS was formally founded on April 26, 1847. The founding included pastors and congregations from Missouri, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and Indiana. These Christians were devoted to the Holy Bible, and to the Book of Concord as a clear and true confession of the Christian religion. From the outset our church body has been devoted to clarity of both confession and mission, seeking to share the Good News of Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead.

The term ‘synod’ is a Greek word that means ‘walking together.’ Our churches voluntarily walk together in both doctrine and practice. This means that if you attend a sister LCMS church, the service and the preaching are going to be all fairly similar, with some differences and distinctions here and there.

The congregations, circuits, and districts of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod believe, teach and confess that the Bible is the inspired and inerrant Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16). This means that we hold Scripture to be the final authority for what we believe, how we conduct our services, and how we as Christians are called to live humbly before God and one another. This truth is incredibly liberating because God’s Word is “the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).

Like any church body filled with sinners we still struggle together to confess God’s Word rightly, and practice it faithfully. And yet we press on trusting Jesus’ promise to His disciples: “On this rock [the confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God], I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

Rejoice, and be glad O Lutheran brothers and sisters. For you have the inheritance of the clear confession of Christ crucified and risen from the dead. God sends you pastors to absolve you, to remind you that you are baptized and beloved in Christ. Heaven meets earth when Jesus gives us His body and blood to eat and to drink. And you have been brought up to fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

How good and pleasant indeed it is when brothers and sisters dwell in unity, working together to strengthen our common confession and mission. I am thankful for your partnership in the Gospel. And I am thankful that together we are a part of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Pastor Batchelder

## August, September, and October 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).

**Vacation Bible School (July 13-16): ‘Thank You’** to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School such a wonderful week! We are especially grateful to our amazing volunteers who gave their time and energy to share the love of Jesus with our children. ‘Thank You’ also to everyone who donated food, supplies, Thrivent Action Team funds, or Choice Dollars. Your generosity helped provide meals and made this event possible. We are truly blessed by your support!

**Lutheran Family Service (LFS)** achieved their spring fundraising goal. And Faith met their challenge of having 10 households donate \$10 or more to the Grow With Us – Go With Us campaign. (We had 15 households participating and a total of \$350 was raised.) So, gift cards will be delivered soon to over 35 pastors’ wives. Their goal was to reach 250 new partners who had never supported LFS before and they totaled over 300 new partners. And their goal was to raise \$43,000, and they totaled nearly \$50,000. So, LFS thanks our Faith members who gave a financial gift for this appeal.

**Faith is leading Prairie Ridge Devotions on Sunday, August 16 at 2:30pm.**

**Board of Lay Ministry meets on Sunday, August 30 at 7:45am.**

**Catechism:** There will be a Catechism Orientation meeting on Sunday, August 30 following the Service. Families with 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade children are encouraged to join us for Catechism class this year. First day of Catechism will be Wednesday, September 2 from 6:30pm - 7:45pm.

**One or two volunteers are needed** to visit with students and promote Faith Lutheran Church. Please let Pastor know if one of these dates will work for you:

**Dordt University** - A Taste of Sioux Center Welcome will be on **Thursday, August 27 from 12:30-3:30pm.**

**Northwestern College** - Welcome to the Neighborhood: Orange City Area Community Fair will be on **Thursday, September 3 from 11:00-1:30pm** (set up begins at 9:00am-you may leave and come back). Location – Rowenhorst Student Center – 4-court area (indoors). Lunch will also be served in this area during this time which you can purchase for \$10 via cash or credit card. Registration Deadline is Friday, August 14.

**Sunday School Teachers Needed:** The Board of Education is looking for Sunday School teachers for the 2026–2027 school year! We are thankful for those who have already volunteered to help, but we still have openings to fill:

- Pre-K–2nd Grade: Sept-Nov only
- 3rd–5th Grade or 6th–8th Grade (Pam has agreed to teach whichever class is remaining after a volunteer is found)
- Two substitute Sunday School teachers

If you would be willing to teach or help with Sunday School this year, please contact Jesa at (712) 539-2855. Whether you can commit to the whole year or just a portion of it, we would appreciate your help!

## Church News Continued....

**Lutheran Braille Workers:** If you are interested in helping with the Lutheran Braille Workers mission here at Faith, please see Pam Vlieger! She is the point person and needs two additional helpers: one to help with the scheduling of volunteers and one to help with the materials inventory/shipping. Plus, we will need about seven volunteers; this will be to get us started. She expects that our volunteer numbers will change from time to time. She's hoping that once word gets out about this mission, that we will have no problem getting plenty of volunteers!!! There will be ONE day of training with the LBW trainers. After that, we will train volunteers as they present themselves. Thank you in advance for your help.

**Youth Group and College/Young Adult Bible Study** will be starting up in September. More information will be coming.

**Rally Day:** Sunday School classes will resume on Sunday, September 13.

**The Church Council** meets on Sunday, September 13 at 7:45am.

**Faith Women's Luncheon** will be held at noon on Tuesday, September 15 at Merendero Aguascalientes.

**Stewardship Sunday, October 18:** Join us as we have Rev. Keith Haney, assistant to the District President in human care and stewardship, preach on the biblical basis of stewardship, as well as leading Bible class on the topic. Pastor Haney will be in town Saturday; October 17<sup>th</sup>; and invites us to join him for a meal to brainstorm ideas for how we can be faithful stewards of God's creation (Psalm 24:1, Genesis 1:28)

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

## **Faith Lutheran Church Council Minutes – July 19, 2026**

In attendance: Kerby Huss, Chairman; Kevin Rueter, Director of Stewardship; and Paula Koller, Secretary.

Absent: Aaron Fink, Patti Van Skike, Jesa Pace, Jason Overmohle, and Pastor Batchelder

**Constitution states that a quorum for council meetings shall be two thirds of the members.**

**Some Board reports were discussed, but no business took place since there was not a quorum.**

**Next meeting** will be September 13 at 7:45am.

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Koller, Council Secretary

# Treasurer's Report

## Balance Sheet

**6/30/26**

|                          | General Fund | Restricted fund | Net Position |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>            |              |                 |              |
| Cash in Bank             | \$ 31,891.49 | \$60,030.82     | \$ 91,922.31 |
| Due from Gen. Fund       | \$ -         |                 |              |
| Due from Res. Fund       | \$ -         | \$ -            | \$ -         |
| Investments/CD           | \$ -         |                 | \$ -         |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>      | \$ 31,891.49 | \$60,030.82     | \$ 91,922.31 |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>       |              |                 |              |
| Payroll Taxes            | \$ (437.56)  | \$ -            | \$ (437.56)  |
| Due to Gen. Fund         | \$ -         | \$ -            | \$ -         |
| Due to Res. Fund         |              | \$ -            |              |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b> | \$ (437.56)  | \$ -            | \$ (437.56)  |
| <b>NET POSITION</b>      | \$ 31,453.93 | \$ 60,030.82    | \$ 91,484.75 |

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

| INCOME                   | Income             | Budgeted        | Difference         |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| General Fund             | \$ 23,917.29       | \$ 20,163.00    | \$ 3,754.29        |
| Building Fund Loan       | \$ -               | \$ -            | \$ -               |
| <i>Total Income</i>      | \$ 23,917.29       | \$ 20,163.00    | \$ 3,754.29        |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>          | <b>Expenses</b>    | <b>Budgeted</b> | <b>Difference</b>  |
| Missions                 | \$ 1,765.00        | \$ 2,425.00     | \$ (660.00)        |
| Lay Ministry-Salaries    | \$ 13,813.55       | \$ 13,252.00    | \$ 561.55          |
| Lay Ministry-Other       | \$ 841.82          | \$ 626.00       | \$ 215.82          |
| Stewardship              | \$ -               | \$ 25.00        | \$ (25.00)         |
| Evangelism               | \$ -               | \$ 67.00        | \$ (67.00)         |
| Christian Educ           | \$ -               | \$ 279.00       | \$ (279.00)        |
| Properties               | \$ 2,183.15        | \$ 3,406.00     | \$ (1,222.85)      |
| Public Relations         | \$ -               | \$ 83.00        | \$ (83.00)         |
| Building Fund Loan       | \$ -               | \$ -            | \$ -               |
| <i>Total Expenses</i>    | \$ 18,603.52       | \$ 20,163.00    | \$ (1,559.48)      |
| <b>INCOME - EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$ 5,313.77</b> | <b>\$ -</b>     | <b>\$ 5,313.77</b> |

### General Fund YTD (Actual vs. Budget) as of 6/30/26

| INCOME                   | Income             | Budgeted        | Difference         |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| General Fund             | \$ 121,172.93      | \$ 120,982.00   | \$ 190.93          |
| Building Fund Loan       | \$ -               | \$ -            | \$ -               |
| <i>Total Income</i>      | \$ 121,172.93      | \$ 120,982.00   | \$ 190.93          |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>          | <b>Expenses</b>    | <b>Budgeted</b> | <b>Difference</b>  |
| Missions                 | \$ 14,550.00       | \$ 14,550.00    | \$ -               |
| Lay Ministry-Salaries    | \$ 79,766.45       | \$ 79,523.00    | \$ 243.45          |
| Lay Ministry-Other       | \$ 4,309.65        | \$ 3,744.00     | \$ 565.65          |
| Stewardship              | \$ -               | \$ 150.00       | \$ (150.00)        |
| Evangelism               | \$ 98.38           | \$ 398.00       | \$ (299.62)        |
| Christian Educ           | \$ 649.26          | \$ 1,676.00     | \$ (1,026.74)      |
| Properties               | \$ 16,094.16       | \$ 20,439.00    | \$ (4,344.84)      |
| Public Relations         | \$ 256.36          | \$ 502.00       | \$ (245.64)        |
| Building Fund Loan       | \$ -               | \$ -            | \$ -               |
| <i>Total Expenses</i>    | \$ 115,724.26      | \$ 120,982.00   | \$ (5,257.74)      |
| <b>INCOME - EXPENSES</b> | <b>\$ 5,448.67</b> | <b>\$ -</b>     | <b>\$ 5,448.67</b> |

### Restricted Fund - June

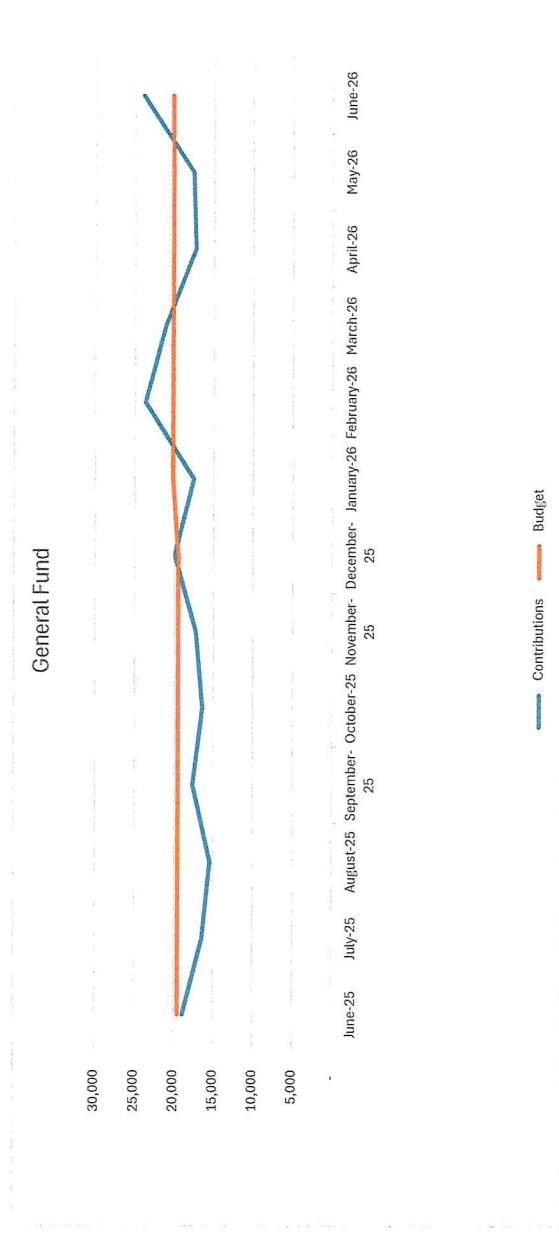
| Accounts         | YTD Balance         | Income              | Expenses            | YTD Balance         |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ATLAS / CFE      | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| Bldge Imp Fund   | \$ 39,579.05        | \$ 1,905.00         |                     | \$ 41,484.05        |
| Camp Fund        | \$ 130.00           |                     |                     | \$ 130.00           |
| Catechism        | \$ (227.44)         |                     |                     | \$ (227.44)         |
| Cong Assist F    | \$ 2,414.85         | \$ 20,000.00        | \$ 20,000.00        | \$ 2,414.85         |
| Easter Lily      | \$ (558.36)         |                     |                     | \$ (558.36)         |
| Family Cr Ctr    | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| Food Pantry      | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| Genesis House    | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| Habitat 4 Hum    | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| Interest         | \$ 2,668.22         | \$ 18.71            |                     | \$ 2,686.93         |
| Luth for Life    | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| L World Relief   | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| Memorials        | \$ 3,587.26         |                     |                     | \$ 3,587.26         |
| Mid-Sioux        | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| Misc             | \$ 950.71           | \$ 170.00           | \$ 170.00           | \$ 950.71           |
| Missions         | \$ 1,615.34         |                     |                     | \$ 1,615.34         |
| POBLO            | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| Seasonal Décor   | \$ (126.80)         |                     |                     | \$ (126.80)         |
| SS Missions      | \$ -                | \$ 23.48            | \$ 23.48            | \$ -                |
| SS Xmas Prog     | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| Thrivent Fin     | \$ 1,497.96         | \$ 711.00           |                     | \$ 2,208.96         |
| VBS Missions     | \$ -                |                     |                     | \$ -                |
| Youth Activities | \$ 5,865.32         |                     |                     | \$ 5,865.32         |
| <b>TOTALS</b>    | <b>\$ 57,396.11</b> | <b>\$ 22,828.19</b> | <b>\$ 20,193.48</b> | <b>\$ 60,030.82</b> |

Noted items:

7/8/2026

## Stewardship Report - June 2026

| General Fund        | June-25 | July-25 | August-25 | September-25 | October-25 | November-25 | December-25 | January-26 | February-26 | March-26 | April-26 | May-26  | June-26 | 12 Month<br>Running Total |
|---------------------|---------|---------|-----------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------------------------|
|                     | 18,851  | 16,395  | 15,420    | 17,624       | 16,402     | 17,265      | 19,917      | 17,542     | 23,673      | 21,095   | 17,327   | 17,619  | 23,917  |                           |
| Contributions       | 19,467  | 19,467  | 19,467    | 19,467       | 19,467     | 19,467      | 19,467      | 20,167     | 20,163      | 20,163   | 20,163   | 20,163  | 20,163  | 224,196                   |
| Budget              | (616)   | (3,072) | (4,047)   | (1,843)      | (3,065)    | (2,202)     | 450         | (2,625)    | 3,510       | 932      | (2,836)  | (2,544) | 3,754   | 237,784                   |
| Over/(Under) Budget |         |         |           |              |            |             |             |            |             |          |          |         |         | (13,588)                  |
|                     |         |         |           |              |            |             |             |            |             |          |          |         |         |                           |
| Building Fund       | June-25 | July-25 | August-25 | September-25 | October-25 | November-25 | December-25 | January-26 | February-26 | March-26 | April-26 | May-26  | June-26 | 12 Month<br>Running Total |
|                     | 3,628   | 2,125   | 10,356    | 2,510        | 2,540      | 4,099       | 2,845       | 1,755      | 1,365       | 1,730    | 1,440    | 1,296   | 1,905   |                           |
| Contributions       |         |         |           |              |            |             |             |            |             |          |          |         |         | 33,966                    |



## AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

| Anniversaries |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1             | Keith & Tonya Huss         |
| 4             | Eric & Heather Hofmeyer    |
| 5             | Dave & Ronda Aalbers       |
| 6             | Karl & Julie Bahrke        |
| 10            | Mitch & Barb Bengard       |
| 11            | Aaron & Nicole Fink        |
| 23            | Pastor & Hannah Batchelder |
| 24            | Jordon & Jesa Pace         |
| 24            | Rob & Pam Reints           |
| Baptisms      |                            |
| 6             | Morgan Vlieger             |
| 11            | Jhett Pace                 |
| 15            | Bella Romano               |
| 16            | Caden Katt                 |
| Birthdays     |                            |
| 2             | Aaron Fink                 |
| 2             | Davis Korver               |
| 5             | Jaxson Pace                |
| 6             | Ronda Aalbers              |
| 10            | Richard Brennan            |
| 12            | Ruth Katt                  |
| 12            | Janeil Stelling            |
| 14            | Greg Beernink              |
| 15            | Harper Kramer              |
| 19            | Evan Overmohle             |
| 21            | Aubrey Fink                |
| 24            | Scott Bahrke               |
| 25            | Cody Brennan               |
| 30            | Val Boggs                  |
| 30            | Pam Reints                 |

## SERVING IN AUGUST 2026

|                         |                                             |                             |                      |                                    |                      |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Altar Guild             | Ali Hagen, Micah Hagen, and Pam Vlieger     |                             |                      |                                    |                      |
| Counters                | Dave Boggs, Howard Vlieger, and Pam Vlieger |                             |                      |                                    |                      |
| Lay Minister            | Jordon Pace                                 |                             |                      |                                    |                      |
| Ushers                  | Volunteers Requested                        |                             |                      |                                    |                      |
|                         |                                             |                             |                      |                                    |                      |
|                         | Aug 2                                       | Aug 9                       | Aug 16               | Aug 23                             | Aug 30               |
| Acolyte & Cross Bearer  | Volunteers Requested                        | Volunteers Requested        | Volunteers Requested | Volunteers Requested               | Volunteers Requested |
| Greeters / Coffee Hosts | Jim & Bonnie Juffer                         | Barb Greiner & Paula Koller | Neil & Patty Bracker | Hannah Batchelder & Marlene Tullar | David & Megan Kramer |
| Projectionist           | Aaron Rees                                  | Jordon Pace                 | Mike Blankenfeld     | Sam Clausen                        | Scott Bahrke         |
| Altar Colors            | Green                                       | Green                       | Green                | Green                              | Green                |

*Contact the office if your name is missing from the Celebrations List*

### 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                             | Vacant          |              |
| Lay Ministry                           | Aaron Fink      | 712-294-4344 |
| Properties                             | Jason Overmohle | 712-541-3315 |
| Public Relations/<br>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.

# August 2026

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

|                                                                                                                                     | Monday    | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday                                            | Friday    | Saturday  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                                                                                                                     |           |           |           |                                                     |           | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>2</b><br>9:00am Worship w Communion<br>10:15am Adult Bible Class                                                                 | <b>3</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>                                            | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>9</b><br>9:00am Worship w Children's Msge<br>10:15am Adult Bible Class                                                           | <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>13</b>                                           | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b> |
| <b>16</b><br>9:00am Worship w Communion<br>10:15am Adult Bible Class<br>2:30pm Prairie Ridge Devotions                              | <b>17</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>20</b>                                           | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b> |
| <b>23</b><br>9:00am Worship w Children's Msge<br>10:15am Adult Bible Class                                                          | <b>24</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>27</b><br>12:30-3:30pm Welcome<br>Dordt Students | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b> |
| <b>30</b><br>7:45am Bd of Lay Ministry Mtg<br>9:00am Worship w Communion<br>10:15am Catechism Orientation<br>(No Adult Bible Class) | <b>31</b> |           |           |                                                     |           |           |