Parish Visitor

August 2026

Thoughts from Vicar Travis Brincks

alking on Water… and Trusting Again
August's gospel readings keep circling back to trust. Trusting God when life feels steady is one thing. Trusting God when the wind picks up, the calendar gets full, and the budget looks tight is another.

One of the gospel readings for August is Peter stepping out of the boat to walk on water with Jesus. He actually does it… for a few steps. Then he notices the waves, gets scared, and starts to sink. Jesus grabs him and asks, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31, NRSVue) It's honest. Our faith is real, but it gets shaky.

Rainforest Falls VBS gave us a front-row seat to simple, steady trust. Under jungle vines and bright colors, kids spent a week learning five truths: God is Creator, God knows Everything, God is our Safe Place, God is Love, and God is Forever. Over and over, they answered with one line: "Wow, God." Before they were asked to do anything for God, they were invited to see who God is and rest there.

That's not a bad pattern for the rest of us in August.

These weeks bring quieter Sundays, travel, school prep, field work, and meetings. We feel like we're juggling a lot. Instead of staring at the waves, Jesus invites us to keep our eyes on him: the One who feeds crowds with almost nothing, listens to persistent prayers, and stays in the boat even when the storm hits.

Trust for us looks pretty down-to-earth:

- Showing up for worship when we can.
- Praying for our neighbors and town.
- Teaching and encouraging kids and youth.
- Giving and serving as we're able.

This August, my hope is that we'll hear Jesus say, "Come," take one small step of faith, and remember how often he has already reached out, grabbed our hand, and pulled us back up.

See you on Sunday.

— Vicar Travis Brincks

Faith Lutheran Church

700 Locust Street
P.O. Box 448
Odebolt, IA 51458

Odebolt Church (712) 668-4515
Bethel church (712) 675-4222

Email: faithluth@netins.net

Website: faithlutheranodebolt.org

Church office : (712)668-4515

Church Secretary
Shayna Brincks

Office Hours:
Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Worship times

Faith Fellowship
10:00a.m.-10:30a.m.

Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

Sunday School will resume
in the Fall Enjoy the Summer

Faith's Church Council and Officers

Vicar:
Travis Brincks

President:
Rick Schroeder

Vice President:
Paul Neumann

Secretary:
Jeri Skaren

Treasurer:
Tami Hemer

Student Loan:
Ruth Oxendale

Officers:
Kallie Fertig
Dean Roeder
Steven Roeder
Diane Hemer

Financial and Church Secretary:
Shayna Brincks

Please continue to pray for: Mary Pridie's Sister Nancy, and Son Troy, Kathy Drake, Zoey Bengford, Julie Litzenberger, Adam, Emily, and Lainey Hemer, Keith Davis, Pam Hansen, Steve Bengford, Jim Wareham, Karen Wareham, Dawn Roeder, Jeri Skaren, Rick Schroeder, Allen Reimers, Danny Dean, Jeff Fineran, Taylor Hemer, Brad, Margaret Ann, and Mervin Buller, Nancy Kohnekamp, Rhonda Elmquist, Gary Carlson, Margaret Hubiak, Nancy Gress, Jerry and Ardie Buller, Kevin Stockwell, Jack Hogue, Jane Hogue, All of our Military men and woman that have been deployed and families, families of missing people, individuals and families dealing with addiction, children in abusive situations, the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel and the people of the Middle East, the people of Sudan who have been experiencing war and starvation for many, many months, and all those suffering from natural disasters.

Fellowship
Everyone is welcome for fellowship There is still time to sign up for bringing refreshments for fellowship on Sundays.

In-Service Sign-Up
Please review the sign-up sheet in the narthex for available opportunities to assist during services throughout the coming year.

August Council Schedule
Joint Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12, 2026. At Faith Lutheran Church fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m.

Vicar Travis Is Ready
Vicar Travis is ready to bring communion to you or to drop in for a very short visit. All you have to do is reach out to him at (712) 830-7976, or you may leave a message at the Faith office at (712) 668-4515. But he has to hear from you first.

Giving Opportunities
Optional opportunities of giving other than in the offering plate.
Faith: Simply Giving and the Give Plus app are two online giving opportunities. Information about these options are on the Faith website, faithlutheranodebolt.org. Offering envelopes can be sent to Faith Lutheran, PO Box 448, Odebolt, Iowa.
Noisy Offerings
The Faith Noisy Offerings will be given to a chosen mission. We will receive the Noisy offering of loose change on Sunday, August 30, 2026

Updating Contact Information
You will find a form attached to fill out. There will be forms in the Narthex and a basket to put forms that are filled out in. You my also Mail or Email the form back to Faith Lutheran Church. Email: faithluth@netins.net

What's Happening In the Synod
Check out the Water Life Journal, the Western Iowa Synod Newsletter. You can find the newsletter and other Synod information by going to the Western Iowa Synod at wisynod.org.

Food Pantry Needs
Please Remember to help fill the grocery cart with non-perishable food and paper products. Jesus said. "that we should love our neighbors. Some of our neighbors are in great need of these items which will be derived to the Sac County Family Development Center in Sac City. Items needed are for August are Baking Items: Flour, sugar, soda, vanilla, cake mixes. Items can be placed in the shopping cart at Faith.

The Gift Of Food
The Mobile Food pantry is available every third Thursday of the month. The Community Basket Mobile Food Panty will be in Arthur at the Community Center on Thursday, August 20, 2026. Volunteers are welcome to help at 3:00 p.m. to set up and with distribution that begins at 4:30 p.m.
Community Basket – Ida Grove– Site Pantry hours 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Thursday of every month.

Knotty Ladies
The Knotty Ladies meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays. The Knotty Ladies will meet on the 3rd and 17th of August at 2:00 p.m. in the church basement. The Knotty Ladies are in need of sheets for the backs of quilts. The quilts may be washed frequently against rocks or hard surfaces so the sheets need to be durable. Requesting washable fabric such as cotton blends or light– weight flannel with no stains or holes. Size: Double, Queen, King, or fitted king (no twin size) Color: Any color except white. Do you have good quality cotton or cotton-blend fabric of any size that you don't plan to use? If so, please leave it in the church store room or the kitchen. The Knotty Ladies will use it for quilts which will be given to needy people locally and to Lutheran World Relief. We also give a quilt to a high school senior at graduation time and donate a quilt to the Odebolt Specialty Care bazaar.
Thank you for your help.

Rainforest Falls came to Faith Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School 2026
Rainforest Falls VBS was a wonderful week of faith, fellowship, and fun as children gathered to explore the nature of God. Each day, campers learned a new Bible point—God is our Creator, God knows everything, God is our safe place, God is love, and God is forever—through songs, Bible adventures, crafts, games, snacks, and meaningful God Sightings. We are grateful for the volunteers, leaders, churches, families, and community members who helped provide meals, teach lessons, lead activities, and create such a joyful experience. We had 32 Campers and 25 Volunteers. Operation Kid to Kid: kids learn about a special mission project, called Operation Kid to Kid. This year participants at Rainforest Falls will collect money to provide families in Central America with fruit trees for food and financial stability. This partnership between Group Publishing and World Vision engages kids in meaningful service. This year we decided to use our collected funds to help our own local families by donating our funds collected to our local food pantry. All funds raised will stay local. Thank you to everyone who supported this special week and helped remind our children that they are known, loved, and held forever by God.

Confirmation Classes Begin Soon!
On August 19th at 5:30PM, there will be a Parent/Student Informational Session covering student expectations and requirements. Classes will meet weekly on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year.

Blessings For our Kids
Blessings of School bags and supplies will be on Sunday, August 23, 2026
Blessing of Bibles for our Confirmation kids will be on Sunday, August 30, 2026

June Attendance
6/28/2026-22
July Attendance
7/5/2026-17
7/12/2026-22
7/19/2026-24

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Larry Beckman	04
Kate Johnson	04
Mandy Ransom	06
Taytum Mandernach	06
Tyler Schroeder	10
Candy Streed	12
Jean Jones	13
Theresa Riessen	13
Kyle Witzke	16
Eric Riessen	17
Larry Hoaglund	22
Joan Hoaglund	27
Tami Hemer	30
Dave Hemer	30

Baptismal Anniversaries

Eric Hemer	13
Cyrus Hemer	15
Ranell Drake	17
David Ekstrom	19
Timothy Skaren	19
Conner Hemer	20
Dylan Hemer	20
Kallie Fertig	20
Madison Hemer	24
Katie Schroeder	25
Todd Hoaglund	29
Larry Allen	30
Kristi Chase	31

Wedding Anniversaries

Kurt & Kallie Fertig	01
Dave & Diane Hemer	03
Tracy & Jeri Skaren	04
Travis & Shayna Brincks	07
Paul & Elaine Neumann	19
Terry & Ruth Oxendale	26
Rick & Kris Schroeder	31

Lectionary for August 2026

Sunday, August 2, 2026
First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5
Psalm: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5
Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

August 9, 2026
First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18
Psalm: Psalm 85:8-13
Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

August 16, 2026
First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Psalm: Psalm 67
Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

August 23, 2026
First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6
Psalm: Psalm 138
Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

August 30, 2026
First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21
Psalm: Psalm 26:1-8
Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21
Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28

2 Corinthians 5:17 – "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here!" Embrace the fresh start of the school year