Parish Visitor
November 2026

Thoughts from Vicar Travis Brincks

Giving Thanks in a Time of Change

November invites us to pause and give thanks. This year, we do so with much on our hearts. We give thanks for the life and activity of Faith Lutheran Church. We also give thanks for Bethel Lutheran Church as its members prepare for a difficult goodbye.

Bethel has voted to close the church. The congregation will gather for its final service in April. That decision brings sadness, even as it gives us a clearer sense of what lies ahead. Knowing the next step does not make it easy.

For the people of Bethel, this is personal. This church holds memories of people we love and moments we will never forget. We remember where our families sat. We remember voices that once joined ours in worship. We remember those who cared for the church and helped us learn what it means to follow Jesus.

Over the coming months, we will have time to remember and give thanks. We will also continue to worship and care for one another. April will come, but we do not need to rush past the time we still have together.

There is room for different feelings during these months. Some may feel sadness. Others may feel relief after carrying heavy responsibilities. Some may struggle to put their feelings into words. We can listen without expecting everyone to experience this closing in the same way.

Bethel's closing does not erase its ministry. The people who have worshiped and served here have made a difference. What they taught, the care they offered, and the faith they shared will remain part of people's lives.

At Faith, we give thanks for the activity and fellowship that continue to bring the congregation together. Thank you to everyone who gives time, takes on responsibilities, and helps others feel welcome. Much of that work happens quietly. It deserves our gratitude.

As we take part in Faith's worship and activities, let us keep paying attention to the people around us. Take time to visit. Notice who is missing. Invite someone to join you. Remember that someone can come to church carrying concerns that others cannot see.

Our two congregations do not need to be in the same situation to care for each other. We can celebrate what is happening at Faith while honoring the grief at Bethel. We can give thanks without asking anyone to set aside their sadness.

As your vicar, I am grateful to serve you through this season. We have conversations ahead, memories to share, and decisions still to make. We do not have to face them alone.

Jesus Christ remains faithful to his people. His love for us does not depend on how much we accomplish or how long we keep a building open. We belong to him through grace. That promise holds as we gather now, and it will hold beyond April.

This November, please keep both congregations in your prayers. Give thanks for the people of Bethel and Faith. Reach out to one another with patience and care as we live through these coming months together.

If you have anything you would like to see the church do, or concerns, don't hesitate to shoot me a call or email.

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

Worship Service
9:00 a.m.

Faith Fellowship
10:00a.m.

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

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 Son Troy, Kathy Drake, Julie Litzenberger, Lainey Hemer, Keith Davis, Steve Bengford, Jim & Karen Wareham, Dawn Roeder, Jeri & Tracy Skaren, Rick & Kris Schroeder, Allen Reimers, Danny Dean, John & Jeff Fineran, Brad, Margaret Ann, and Mervin Buller, Nancy Kohnekamp, Rhonda Elmquist, Gary Carlson, Margaret Hubiak, Nancy Gress, Jerry and Ardie Buller, Kevin Stockwell, Jack and 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.

September Council Schedule
Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 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, November 29, 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.

Grateful,
Thankful and Blessed

Sunday School Class theme is "Pop" WITH PRAISE !
Give Thanks To The Lord! Psalm 107:1
All children ages 3 and up are welcome. Sunday School meets at 10:00 a.m.
We have been having a good start of our Sunday school year. We started with a great turn out of kids on rally Sunday for our "Pop with Praise". We did games, experiments, bible story and crafts. We have been using the series: Bible curriculum learning lab this year. We have been learning about the stories of David the last few weeks. It is the time of year to start getting ready for our Christmas program. We will start working on our program during part of our Sunday school time in the near future. Our Christmas program will be during church on Sunday December 20th. I want to invite all children ages 3 and up to come and enjoySunday school and also be a part of our Christmas program. Hope to see you Sunday mornings at 10:00 (after church service).
Stephanie Roeder

Confirmation Classes
Classes will meet weekly on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year. At Faith Lutheran Church from 4p.m.-5:30p.m.

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 delivered to the Sac County Family Development Center in Sac City. Items needed for November are Soups and Stews, any no perishable foods are welcomed as well as paper and higine products there is a great need for out food at the pantries. Items can be placed in the shopping cart at Faith. Thank you!

The Gift Of Food
The Mobile Food pantry is available every third Thursday of the month. Although for the Month of November The Community Basket Mobile Food Panty will be in Odebolt at St. Martins Catholic Church on Wednesday, November 4, 2026. Volunteers are welcome to help at 2:00 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 Gathering on the 2nd and 16th of October 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. If you are interested in helping and you are not able to attend the meeting time with the ladies. Squares for making quilt tops and fabrics for the squares are available at the church. If you have any questions please contact Elaine Neumann or Elaine Harden.

Tour Of Steeples
December 4, 2026 3PM-7PM and December 5, 2026 9AM-3PM
Over 20 Churches in the Siouxland area. Al free will donations will be split between the Siouxland soup kitchen and warming shelter. There will be a flyer posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

- 20+ Siouxland area churches will be open to the public for you to come and go.
- This 2-day event is free to the public. A free will donation can be made at any participating church on the tour to benefit the Siouxland Soup Kitchen and The Warming Shelter. (each church will have a map with the list of churches to take on your tour.
- For a full list of participating churches, check out Tour of Steeples on Facebook or by scaning the QR code on the flyer.

Veterans Day

Veterans Day is a national observance honoring all U.S. military veterans, both living and deceased, for their service in times of war and peace. It reflects gratitude for those who risked their lives to defend the nation, recognizing their courage, sacrifice, and role in safeguarding peace. The holiday began as Armistice Day in 1919, marking the 1918 ceasefire that ended World War I, and was renamed in 1954 to honor veterans of all American wars.

Updating Contact information

If you have not yet fiiled out the contact form please do as we are updating the our system.
Thank you!

New opportunity's Winter Clothing Collection

We are collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves from now through December.
Please place donations in the blue tub in the narthex.

Christmas Craft Afternoon

Everyone is welcome! Bring your family, invite a friend, or come on your own for an afternoon of paper folding and Christmas ornament making. Create festive decorations from hymn book pages while enjoying hot chocolate, apple cider, and Christmas goodies. Saturday, November 21, 2026. From 1–4 p.m. At Faith Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. The entry fee is $5 All proceeds will go to help our local food pantries. We will also collect dry goods, paper goods, hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for our local food pantries to help meet needs during the difficult months ahead.

The pictures below offer ideas for decorations and gifts you can make from hymn book pages.

HAPPY Thanksgiving

Heartfelt Harvest

"Not what we say about
our Blessings,
But how we use them.
is the true meaning of our thanksgiving".

-W.T. Pukiser

What are you thankful for Today? This Week? This Month? This year?
What have you done to help someone?

Attendance

September Attendance

September 27th	31

October Attendance

October 4th	38
October 11th	39
October 18th	25
October 25th	32

CELEBRATIONS

Faith November Birthdays

Lincoln Neville	November 1
Beverly Beckman	November 2
Jim Wareham	November 6
Bev Roe	November 12
Austin Steinkamp	November 13
Jim Bendixen	November 20
Rick Schroeder	November 20
Bradley Mickelson	November 22
Colton Hemer	November 26

Faith November Baptisms

Allen Ekstrom	November 2
Carl Hemer	November 2
Dave Hemer	November 2
Bryan Mickelson	November 3
Earl Zoch	November 5
Bristol Hemer	November 10

Faith November Anniversaries

Jim and Karen Wareham	November 12
Clayton and Taytum Mandernach	November 12
Dean and Dawn Roeder	November 26

Lectionary for November 2026

Sunday, November 1st All Saints Day
Readings and Psalm
First Reading: Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm: Psalm 34:1-10, 22
Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, November 8th the 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Readings and Psalms
First Reading: Amos 5:18-24
Psalm: Psalm 70
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday, November 15th the 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Readings and Psalm
First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, November 22nd Christ the King
Readings and Psalm
First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a
Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Year B
Sunday, November 29th The first Sunday of Advent,
Readings and Psalm
First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel: Mark 13:24-37