Parish Visitor
July 2026

Thoughts from Vicar Travis Brincks

A Cup of Cold Water in July

Jesus says, “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.” (Matthew 10:40, NRSVue) In a few words, Jesus ties simple acts of hospitality to the very heart of God. He adds that even “a cup of cold water” given to “one of these little ones” will not lose its reward (Matthew 10:42, NRSVue). Welcome matters, and Jesus notices even the smallest act.

Matthew 10 comes as Jesus sends the disciples out on a mission. They will travel light and depend on the hospitality of others. Their ministry will hinge on whether someone opens a door and says, “Come in.” Jesus honors those who receive them: to welcome a disciple is to welcome Jesus himself and the God who sent him. An ordinary act of making room becomes a holy moment.

Jesus also pays attention to small gestures. He does not mention a feast, but a simple drink for a tired traveler. That is good news for every quiet, behind-the-scenes disciple who wonders if their work matters. A warm greeting at the church door, a kind word in the pew, a carefully set-up coffee hour, a well-kept building—these are not just niceties. Done in faith, they are ways of receiving Christ.

In July, our lives are scattered with vacations, fairs, and games. It is easy to assume church can drift too. But this might be one of the best times to practice welcome. A “cup of cold water” could be a literal drink for someone working outside. It could be a patient conversation with a lonely neighbor, a gentle word to a stressed cashier, or a text to someone from church you have not seen in a while. Small things, but in Jesus’ eyes, they matter.

We also remember that we are sometimes the ones who need welcome. When we step into a new place, walk through illness, or face change, we know how much a simple greeting can mean. That experience can soften us and make us more willing to extend the same kindness.

As summer continues, I invite you to watch for the “little ones” among us—children, newcomers, and quiet saints. Let us see each person as one in whom Christ comes to us. And let us trust the promise still spoken to the church today: “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me.”

-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

Financial and Church Secretary:
Shayna Brincks
Kallie Fertig
Dean Roeder
Steven Roeder
Diane Hemer

Please continue to pray for: 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 Buller, Margaret Ann Buller, Mervin Buller, Nancy Kohnekamp, Rhonda Elmquist, Gary Carlson, Margaret Hubiak, Nancy Gress, Ardie Buller, Kevin Stockwell, Jack Hogue, Jane Hogue, Lou Goedhart, 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.

JulyCouncil Schedule
No Council meeting for July

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, July 26, 2026

Updates
If you need to add information to the newsletter or update address, email or phone in our church records, you can email: faithluth@netins.net. You may also contact Vicar Travis Brincks at Faith office at 712-668-4515

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 July are Personal Care Items: Condiments; Ketchup, Mustard, Pickles, Salt, Pepper. 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 Ida Grove at the United Methodist Church on Thursday, July 16, 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 6th and 20th of July 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 is Coming to Faith Lutheran Church for Vacation Bible School 2026

We are still looking for volunteers for V.B.S. if you are interested please talk to Linda O'Tool.
Odebolt Community VBS Invites Children to Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God
A summer kids' event called Rainforest Falls will be hosted at Faith Lutheran Church from July 12 to July 16, 2026. Odebolt Community VBS is a joint venture between Faith Lutheran, First Presbyterian, St Martin Catholic, and United Methodist churches all of Odebolt. At Rainforest Falls, kids explore the nature of God—discovering who God is and how much he loves them! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour a light supper with yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies, and test out science-fun experiments they'll never forget. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Canopy Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 7:40 p.m. each evening.
Kids at Rainforest Falls will join a missions effort to provide funds to our local area food banks to help feed families.
Rainforest Falls is for kids from age 5 (completed PK) to 6th grade. Older youth may be much needed helpers. Each evening will run from 5:30 p.m.to 8:00p.m. each day beginning with a light supper. For more information, call 712-668-4515.

Psalm 103:22 – "Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul."
~God knows everything (Wow, God!)
The Kids will explore that God knows them completely,
including their thoughts, fears, and joys.
During the week of V.B.S 2026

June Attendance
6/7/2026-23
6/17/2026-17
6/21/2026 Joint service- 9

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Caden Mickelson	July 1
Mackenzie Neville	July 2
Bryson Roeder	July 2
Jess Neville	July 2
Ranell Drake	July 5
Alan Peine, Jr.	July 6
Mindi Nees	July 8
Madison Hemer	July 11
Austin Neville	July 13
Kaytlin Maddix	July 14
Timothy Skaren	July 14
Eric Hemer	July 15
Dylan Hemer	July 17
David Ekstrom	July 21
Harrison Leinbaugh	July 21
Jerilyn Ekstrom	July 23
Evan Reis	July 24
Todd Hoaglund	July 30
Lance Ladwig	July 31

Baptismal Anniversaries

Brittany Steinkamp	July 7
Dalton Hemer	July 10
Lacie Onken	July 28
Kara Reis	July 29
Alan Peine, Jr.	July 31

Wedding Anniversaries

Jay and Sue Hemer	July 1
Greg and Mary Neville	July 2
Larry and Beverly Beckman	July 28
Larry and Traci Allen	July 30
Eric and Courtney Hemer	July 30

Lectionary for July 2026

Sunday, July 5th
Zechariah 9:9-12
Psalm 145:8-14
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday July 12th
Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday July 19th
Isaiah 44:6-8
Psalm 86:11-17
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday July 26th
1 Kings 3:5-12
Psalm 119:129-136
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52