

FAITH NOTES



From The Pastor...

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America develops social teachings and statements that help us faithfully think about and discuss social issues in the context of faith and life. These statements are developed by a committee of lay and ordained members of the ELCA with diverse backgrounds and perspectives through a multi-year-long process of prayer, study of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and listening. The statements go through multiple rounds of revisions based on feedback from congregations and individuals and are eventually voted on at Churchwide Assembly.

Because these statements are grounded in real life social issues and systems, sometimes it is necessary to reconsider portions so that they continue to speak faithfully to our ever-changing social contexts. In 2022, the Churchwide Assembly, voted to reconsider the social statement entitled "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust." which was first adopted in 2009. This has happened in 2 stages:

- The first, which was approved in 2025, focused on editorial changes like adding clarifying language to name that the legal definition of marriage in the US has changed since the statement was written. This round of edits didn't so much change the content of the statement, but instead made sure it accurately reflected the context in which it is read.

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[@faithlutheranchurch-andover](https://www.youtube.com/@faithlutheranchurch-andover)

Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs.
9a.m.-1p.m.

Sunday School: 8:45 a.m.
Sundays Sept.-April

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

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- The second reconsideration that is currently underway is more substantive. It is focused on a section of the statement that has come to be known as, "bound conscience." This portion of the statement lays out four different convictions that Lutherans may faithfully hold about same-gender relationships based on Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. However, this part of the statement has often been confusing and misunderstood by members of the ELCA and so the reconsideration seeks to explore if/how the statement should be amended to more faithfully reflect Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, and how God is at work in the world.

The task force leading the reconsideration has released a study to foster conversation across the church and to generate feedback that will guide its work on this second reconsideration. While this study is grounded in the reconsideration of our Human Sexuality statement, the content of the study has a larger focus on the general concept of "Christian Conscience," or the ability for Christians to develop their own convictions, sense of right and wrong, or morality based on their interpretation of Scripture, Confessional documents, and life experience.

During the first session, we will explore this idea of bound conscience in depth and consider how it intersects with our call to be unified as one body in Christ. During the second session, we will think more about how our conscience informs our convictions and beliefs surrounding Human Sexuality. This study names that a key goal isn't for everyone to have the same opinion or reach the same conclusion, but to carve out space to explore our own conscience and to focus on how we are called to be church together amid our differences.

Bishop Amy Current is leading this two-part study for lay and ordained church members in our synod via Zoom on Wednesday, August 12, and Wednesday, August 19, from 6:30-8:00 PM. I will be in attendance and encourage you to join me as we learn together and offer our perspectives and feedback to the task force as they continue the important work of the reconsideration process.

All who attend these sessions are then invited to join me on **Thursday, August 20th at 10:00 am AND/OR after worship on Sunday, August 23rd** to debrief, ask questions, and process the experience together. If those times do not work for you or you need additional support or conversation, please do not hesitate to schedule a time to meet with me individually.

A link to join the meeting and digital copies of the study can be found on the Southeastern Iowa Synod website under the "Upcoming Events" tab. If you need a printed copy of the study, help accessing the link, or have any questions about the whole process, please do not hesitate to reach out.

In Peace,
Pastor Katie

Austin's Army Blood Drive is Friday, August 7th! Scan the QR code to schedule an appointment to donate. Contact the church office or Dawn Popelka if you are interested in setting up, tearing down, or providing a snack.



Pastor Katie will be on vacation August 10th-16th. Call the office for pastor needs during this time.

Mission

Statement:

"We are a welcoming people of God, striving to reflect Jesus Christ's love and grace, and open to the work of the Holy Spirit."

CHURCH COUNCIL

President: Tricia Perron

Vice President: Andra Eggers

Secretary: Jessica Howard

Treasurer: Jeanette Bennett

Worship: Kelli Parker

Faith Formation/Education:
Dawn Popelka

Property & Management:
Brad Peters & James Wilke

Stewardship & Outreach:
Barb Randolph

Community Life & Care:
Julie Peters

Our Blue Heron Cruise that was rained out during VBS has been rescheduled and all are invited! Join us at Rock Creek Marina on Thursday, August 20th. Be there by 5:15pm, boat leaves at 5:30pm. Only 24 seats available! Sign up in the entryway or contact Jamie in the office. This is a FREE event!



ANDOVER KINDERFEST

"RUN FOR THE HILL OF IT!"

SEPTEMBER 5, 2026



Andover Kinderfest Schedule of Events:

9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Run/Walk
 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Craft Fair
 10:00 a.m. Kickball Tournament
 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Kids Events
 6:00p.m.-9:00 p.m. Live Music
 (Matthew Kane &
 The Band Greenbrier)
 Fireworks following the Live Music

Location: Andover City Park

Faith will be hosting the annual ecumenical Bluegrass worship service on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. Bring your lawn chair!

- 4.5 mile, 2 Mile, & Kids Race (9 and under)
- Registration: 8:00 AM • Kids' Race: 8:45 AM • 4.5 mi & 2 mi: 9:00 AM
- \$35 until August 1st \$40 after • T-shirt Included • 9 & under free
- Get a \$5 discount when you sign-up 4 or more!
- Register at:



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Andrew Naeve
 4166 135th St
 Clinton, IA 52732



563-249-5839
 andoverkinderfest@gmail.com



Faith is hosting a Parents Night Out fundraiser as an opportunity to serve our community on Saturday, September 5, 2026, during Andover's Kinderfest from 5:45 p.m.-8:30 p.m. (during the band). Our goal is to provide a safe, fun evening for children 3 years old (potty trained) through 10 years old. The night will consist of dinner (6:30-7 p.m.), games, crafts, and a movie. Cost \$30 for first child. \$10 for each additional child. Payment to be made at check-in via check or cash only. Fill out the google form at <https://forms.gle/DxTNMGq9sUmueW4P8> to sign your child(ren) up!



The first day of Sunday School is September 13th! Children 3 years old - 6th grade are welcome to join us Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. to learn about God's stories and His love for us!

We will also have a Blessing of Backpacks during 10 a.m. worship this day! Students of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks or any other school supplies they would like to have blessed.



Pastor Katie and Megan continue to work together on the Curious Christian Children Cohort. This month's webinar was focused on Disability Ministry and Disability Justice. Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt invited us to think about how our church can do things to be inclusive to all people. We focused a lot on the importance of good theology and language surrounding disability. One of the most helpful insights for us was to distinguish the difference between "curing and healing," especially when we talk about Jesus' healing stories in the Gospels. "Curing," assumes that there is something within a person that needs to be fixed or helped, that there is something wrong. For those living with disabilities, who don't need or want to be "fixed," this language does much more harm than good. "Healing," on the other hand, focuses on wholeness and relationship. Healing isn't about changing something within a disabled person, but about removing the barriers that exist so that all people can participate and flourish in community, exactly as they are. One quote Megan loved that explains this was, "doctors might cure diseases, but communities can heal barriers." How can we, as a church, continue to form a safe, inclusive community for all and work to remove barriers? How can we, as individuals, reimagine how we think about and talk about disability? If anyone has any thoughts, opinions or comments about this topic and our congregational needs, please reach out to Pastor Katie or Megan!



The Clinton County Special Athletes will be hosting a drive-thru lunch on Thursday, August 13th at Plaza Bowling 1119 N 2nd St 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Meal will consist of cheeseburger, pasta salad, chips, cookie, and water for \$12.

Delivery is available for orders of 10 or more with free delivery in the town of Clinton.

They are also looking for cookie donations for the many meals that will be served.

Contact Katie Wilke at 563-357-5756 to discuss delivery or if you would like to make cookies.



Pastor Katie and Virginia Eggers traveled to Des Moines for the WELCA Triennial Gathering where they gathered with thousands of women. They listened to speakers, participated in service projects, worshiped together, and had a lot of fun!



Pastor Katie took her crocheting skills to the Clinton County Fair this year and earned herself a Reserve Best of Creative Arts purple ribbon! She crocheted a bird watching outfit for her porch goose.

Upcoming Dates:

9/13: Fall worship time changes to 10:00 a.m.

9/19: EWALU Quilt Auction
(Online Auction 9/14-9/20)

9/27: God's Work. Our Hands Event
with Zion Lutheran Church in Clinton
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.



Faith Lutheran Church Women News & Events August 2026



August 1 – 16 – Continue to gather school supplies.
(There will be a cart in front entry)

August 9- FLCW Fellowship
(Denise)

August 16: Board Meeting and Pack School Supplies after worship

Community Blood Drive
Hosted by Austin's Army

Friday, August 7, 2026
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Faith Lutheran Church

Appointments are encouraged, walk-ins accommodated!

Food canteen and help carrying in and out Red Cross Supplies are still needed.

There are sign up sheets in the Faith Lutheran entry way for food canteen supplies and help carrying in and out Red Cross Supplies.

Bring a toy to donate to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital

All are Welcome
Wednesday, August 5, 2026
Clinton Public Library and
Clinton County Jail Tour

8:45- Meet at Faith Lutheran to car pool if needed

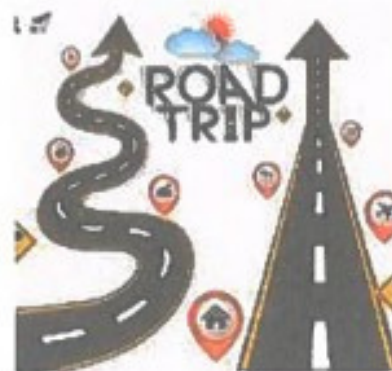
9:30 Meet at Clinton Public Library
306 8th Ave South
Clinton, IA 52732

9:30- Makerspace
10:30- Dawn Popelka to read Hank the Bank at Story Hour
11:00- Memory Lab
11:30- Library Building Tour

12:30- Lunch at Corner Deli

2:00- Clinton County Jail Tour by Megan Govier
241 7th Avenue North
Clinton, IA 52732

Sign up sheet in Faith Lutheran entry way.



2. Jessica Cram, Carl Hamilton, Nicole Pretz
3. Karleigh Hansen
4. Wilma Klus, Glenn Shoup
5. Elijah St. Ores, Liam St. Ores
8. Patrick Hess
10. Taylor Nelson, Karen Mangler
12. Kris Popelka
13. Adley Hansen
15. Alina Petersen, Cole Johnson, Larry Peters, Owen Luckritz
16. Jane Rathje
18. AJ Burmeister
19. Wesley Ehlers
20. Tristian Thi
21. Bette Petersen, Kadence Petersen, Robert Christiansen
22. Ava Friedrichsen, Tara Eggers
23. Marilyn Wilcke
24. Ashley Butt, Zackery Eggers
26. Hollie Johnson, Declan Peters-Moore
27. Kristi Seamer, Corbin Peters
28. Michael Hansen, Tanner Rickertsen, Josie Hoffman
29. Rachael Bennett, Denise Hermann, Larson Peters
30. Kaitlyn Hansen, Connor Rickertsen
31. Todd Randolph



Scan the QR Code
to give online



Council minutes are available to help you stay in the know. Join our email list for approved minutes to be sent to you by contacting the office.



5. Tony & Julie Langasek
7. Terry & Kathy Rickertsen
8. Brandon & Tara Hansen, Mike & Shawna Lorenzen
11. Kevin & Andra Eggers
14. Carl & Ardith Hamilton, Todd & Karen Mangler
16. Stan & Karin Harmsen
17. Tony & Luann Harris, Mark & Kristi Seamer
19. Kris & Dawn Popelka; Craig & Bri Fredrich
24. Michael & Tammy Hansen
27. Brad & Megan Peters
30. Andy & Renee Friedrichsen, Gary & Tracy Frahm

Faith Lutheran Church has a prayer chain that sends prayer requests to a list of people for those who invite prayers upon themselves or others. In respect of people's privacy, we ask that you get permission from them before adding their name to the prayer chain. If you would like to be added to the list to pray, please contact the office.

Please notify the office for any new contact information. Information can be emailed to flcandover@gmail.com

Do you have a special event or announcement? Please contact the church office if you would like the announcement in the weekly announcements or newsletter. Due to policies set in place, you **must** contact the office.