

FAITH NOTES



From The Pastor...

This month marks the 250th anniversary of the United States of America and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. As we approach this milestone, I've found myself reflecting on the significance of anniversaries. The way they make us feel, the expectations we have around how they should or shouldn't be commemorated, how they can both help us to remember the past and cast a vision for the future.

Anniversaries are far more complicated than we make them out to be. Partly because an anniversary can mark so many different things. They can mark joyful occasions: weddings, relationships, birthdays, holidays, work milestones, and farm anniversaries. Celebrations that fill us with gratitude or pride. But they can also mark less joyful dates like deaths, diagnoses, and natural disasters. Remembrances that bring to the surface grief or regret. Sometimes what was once a joyful anniversary becomes painful after a loss or big change.

Anniversaries are almost never just happy or sad but are a mixture of many complicated and seemingly incompatible feelings that come with reflecting on our past and imagining our future. Each time an anniversary rolls around, we are asked to hold together our gratitude and grief, joy and regret, pride and longing, all at the same time.

And our country's semiquincentennial is no different.

This is a celebration. An expression of gratitude for all the wonderful things that have happened throughout our history. For the many people who sacrificed everything, even their lives, to make our home what it is today.

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1364 Washington St.
P.O. Box 57
Andover, IA 52701

Phone: (563)682-7629

Email:
flcandover@gmail.com

Website: flcandoveria.com

Instagram: faith.andover

Facebook: Faith Lutheran
Church-Andover

YouTube:
@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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But at the same time, as anniversaries often do, this milestone also invites us to reflect on the ways that we as a country have also fallen short of serving the common good. We grieve the horrific harm done to the many indigenous people who called this land home before we did. We regret the harm done to those who were not regarded as equal when the Declaration of Independence was first signed and who were then forced to fight their way into being included. We acknowledge the harm done to those who continue to suffer from the systemic injustice our country still fails to repair to this day.

Looking back over 250 years, there is much to celebrate and much to lament. Much to be proud of and much to seek forgiveness for. But the good news is, as people of faith, as Lutherans, we have lots of practice living within contradictions faithfully.

Our faith urges us to “call a thing what it is,” to be honest about the ways human systems are both beautiful means through which God is at work in the world AND broken and sinful, always in need of redeeming. And our faith promises that the Holy Spirit continually transforms us and the communities to which we belong, bringing us closer to the vision of abundant life we know is possible through Jesus Christ.

As we mark this milestone in our country’s history and cast a vision for the next 250 years, I pray that we lean into these gifts of our faith.

That we strive to honor the complexity of emotions that come with remembering. And that we lean into the unity found in our identity as children of God.

-Pastor Katie



ELCA



Welcome back to the Curious Christian Children Corner of our newsletter! Our cohort had the first of our monthly Zoom learning sessions! We were joined by Brother Steve Jerbi, OEF (Order of Ecumenical

Franciscans), who is an expert in organizing, mission development, and leadership formation. He spoke about how an important first step when we are undertaking a new project or trying to bring about change (big or small), is to identify our own personal values. Those things, the ideas, beliefs, and behaviors that we hold as cornerstones of our lives. A good next step would be to then learn about the values of the people around us, especially people who are joining us in our projects. But that isn’t an easy task! We don’t often just go around asking people what their core values are. Thankfully, he gave us some tools to help us have conversations that lead to this kind of deep sharing. And this all brings us back to the “why,” of the program. What values do we have, as individuals and as a church, that have led us to prioritizing the inclusion of children in our worship and church community?

Some of Pastor Katie’s core values are Compassion, Inclusion, and Silliness. Some of Megan’s core values are Relationships, Kindness and Integrity.

Did you know you can receive our monthly newsletter through email? Help us save on postage by filling out a form in the entryway and place it in the offering box or email Jamie in the office, flcandover@gmail.com, and let her know you want to be added to the newsletter email list or if you no longer wish to receive news from Faith. Be sure to check your spam folder as our email tends to find its way there.

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



Miles Threshers is celebrating 50 years!

The Brian Galusha Memorial Run/Walk will be held Saturday, July 18th. Sign up at <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/IA/Miles/BrianGalushaRunWalk>

They will host their Ecumenical Worship Service on Sunday, July 19th at 8:30 a.m. at the Miles City Park. Pastors Katie and Eric Jensen will lead the Mountain Matins service again this year. There will be a music rehearsal on Sunday, July 12th at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's in Preston. Remember to bring a lawn chair!

There will be NO worship at Faith that day.

Andover Kinderfest is back!

Mark your calendar for Saturday, September 5, 2026!

Follow the Andover Kinderfest Facebook page for details and schedule of events.

Faith will be hosting the annual ecumenical Bluegrass worship service on Sunday at 9 a.m.

Donate Blood In Honor of Austin Popelka

In January 2021, Austin was diagnosed with stage 4 favorable histology wilms tumor. He underwent surgery to remove the tumor and his left kidney, which was followed by a roadmap of radiation and chemotherapy. We're grateful that he continues to have stable scans. It's been a journey where he continues to have to do brave things at the University of Iowa Children's Hospital. During treatment, Austin received many lifesaving blood transfusions. Yet Austin is not the only one to have needed blood. Young or old, oncology, surgery, or accidents, the journey to needing a blood transfusion does not discriminate.

Join us in being brave and give the gift of life!



Community Blood Drive

Hosted by Austin's Army

Faith Lutheran Church

1364 Washington Street
Andover, IA 52701

Friday, August 7th, 2026

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Appointments are encouraged, walk-ins accommodated!
To schedule, scan the QR Code below or visit RedCrossBlood.org and search sponsor code AustinsArmy.

The heat is on to find lifesaving donors! Come to give blood in August and get a \$20 Amazon Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/August for details.

Presenting donors will also receive a coupon for a free pint of Culver's custard!

Back by popular demand are the brave cards! IF YOU DONATE BLOOD, bring the address of someone you want to let know you were thinking of while you donated blood! Bring a toy to donate to the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital in honor of Pediatric Awareness!



American Red Cross



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Our sympathies to the family of Linda Mussmann on the loss of her son, Arnie.

The Family of Lester Marshall would like to thank those who showed any kindness to our family during Les' illness and passing.

Special thanks to Pastor Katie for her visits, prayers and help with coordinating the funeral; to all of those who helped in any way with the funeral and luncheon; and to those members and friends who visited, sent cards or just took the time to pray on our behalf. It was all very much appreciated.



-Phyllis Marshall & Family

Faith Lutheran Church Women News & Events July 2026

July 2026

Gather School Supplies to deliver in August.

July 16 – 19

2026 Triennial WELCA Gathering
Iowa Convention Center
Des Moines, IA

“I am Worthy” based on Psalm 139:14

We are blessed to have Virginia Eggers represent Faith Lutheran and as SWO Vice President at this special event.



**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!

To schedule visit RedCrossBlood.org and search sponsor code AustinsArmy

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.

A special thank you to all Faith Lutheran women and men who helped make VBS a huge success. It takes a village to provide these wonderful Faith lessons to our youth.

**Times and seasons change,
but not the ways of friendship.**



We had an incredible week on our Riverboat Ezekial! We touched the lives of 61 kids and raised over \$500 in offering to support the Living Lands and Waters organization! Check out our Facebook page and website for more photos from the week. Thank you to EVERYONE who attended, supported, prayed and guided these kids during VBS!





1. Carolyn Naeve
2. Terry St. Ores, Ronda Naeve
3. Valerie Spooner, Dianna Feddersen
5. Ben Petersen
6. Ray Naeve
7. Annie Petersen
8. Tait Wilson
9. James Perron, Leta Hull
10. Kipp Zubrod, Mackenzie Kelly, Emma Garien
11. Ruthann Caven
12. Lane Lorenzen
13. Bob Levetzow
16. Billie Jo St. Ores, Alexis Ehlers, Julie Bott, Alyvia Schumacher
17. Greg Kelly
18. Patti Krogman
19. Jim Jacobs
21. Allen Christiansen, David Bennett
23. Rick Jacobs
24. Zachery Hamilton
25. Sherril Johnson, Adam Friedrichsen
26. Glorianne Greve
30. Mark Seamer
31. Wayne Harmsen, Tricia Perron

Scan the QR Code
to give online



13. Ken & Tricia Perron
17. Bryan & Denise Hermann
20. Allan & Roberta Naeve
24. Mike & Kim Gay
28. Rick & Michelle Jacobs
29. Randy & Marcy Wilcke

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.

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.

We are half way through 2026! If you would like a copy of your giving statement so far for this year, contact Jamie in 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.