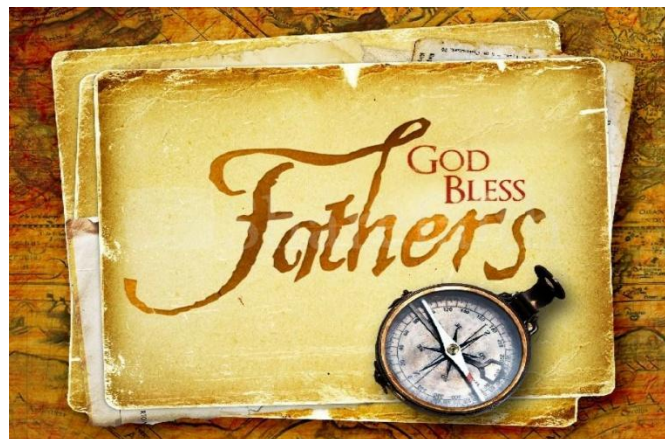


Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches
46784 257th Street, **PO Box 706**
Crooks, SD 57020
B & W Office- (605) -543-5384
bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com
Address Service Requested

June Newsletter 2025



Fathers Day, June 15th, 2025

Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches

Newsletter—June 2025

Note From Vicar Kendra Kappler

Matthew 14: "When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the lake, they were terrified and cried out in fear. ... But Jesus said to them: 'Take heart! It is I. Don't be afraid.' ... Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind and storm, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. ... And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down."

As I have met and visited with several people in the past month, we can all see how life has a way of throwing storms at us. We go through unexpected hardships, overwhelming fears, and moments where we feel like we are drowning. We become anxious and worried. We have doubts and questions that make us feel like our faith is faltering. We have those moments where we just plain don't know what to do or where to go from here.

This happened to the disciples in Matthew 14. They were caught in a storm, straining against the wind and waves in the middle of the night. They were exhausted and afraid. But it was in this storm when they saw Jesus appear to them, walking on the water. And Jesus reassured them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Peter is always known for being the bold disciple, so when Jesus asks him to come out onto the water, Peter steps out in faith. But then, fear started knocking at the door, and Peter noticed the wind, the waves, and the storm that was all around him. His focus turned away from Jesus, and he suddenly couldn't see past the storm he was in. He quickly began to sink.

And, how often does this happen to us? We start strong. We trust God, and we know that God is faithful and present. However, as soon as difficulties arise, it is so easy to focus on the storm rather than the Savior. It is so easy to focus on our fears, anxieties, and worries. The fear of failure, the weight of uncertainty, the struggles of daily life. All of it starts to pull us down, and we feel like we are sinking.

But here's the beautiful truth: Jesus immediately reaches out his hand. Peter's faith may have faltered, and he may have started to sink, but Jesus did not let him go. Even in Peter's worry and doubt, Jesus caught him. Jesus never abandons us to drown in our doubts and questions, and he holds us even when our faith seems to be slipping, calling us back to himself and reaching out his hand. Sometimes we think we need to have it all together before we can come to God. Sometimes we feel like we cannot be honest. Maybe we feel like we need to pretend. But, Jesus meets us right here where we are no matter what we are facing or feeling. Jesus is quick to catch us even when our faith feels fragile.

Then, the passage says that when Jesus got into the boat, the storm stopped and the wind died down. Sometimes, the storms in our lives do not disappear immediately. Maybe they never seem to end at all. But, faith is not about never struggling or never facing hard times. No, faith is about knowing who to call out to when we do. When we do face struggles, fears, anger, confusion, sorrow, burdens, and the storms of life. And, Jesus' presence brings peace in the middle of them just like when Jesus stepped into the boat. Because we all have moments when we feel like we're sinking. Maybe it's stress, grief, doubt, or a situation that feels too overwhelming to handle. But the same Jesus who walked on water still reaches out to us today. He doesn't wait for us to have perfect faith. He doesn't scold us for struggling. He doesn't get upset by our fears and failures. Instead, He extends His hand and says, "I've got you. It is I, do not be afraid."

Gracious God, we come before you knowing that fear and doubt can easily distract us from you. When the storms of life come, help us to keep our eyes fixed on you. When we feel afraid or worried, help us to remember your presence and your promises that never fade. We thank you for always reaching out your hand, even when we begin to sink. Guide us and remind us that we were never meant to face life's struggles and fears alone. You are with us, always. Strengthen our faith and help us to trust you in all we do. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

God's blessings to you!

Pr. Kendra ☺
kappler2002@gmail.com
(605) 951-8841

“PARISH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”

Sunday Worship Time Change for Summer – Sunday, June 1st, time changes!!!

Willow Creek – 8:30am Worship, no Sunday School

Benton- 10am Worship, coffee, treats and fellowship, 9:15am, no Sunday School



“Campfires”

Starting in June we will once again start our campfires.

These are held every two weeks on Wednesday evening starting at 6:30pm.

There is a sign up sheet at Benton if you would like to host a Campfire.

Hosts – furnish the meat and bottled water, all others bring a dish to pass and lawn chairs.

These Campfires are open to all members of our Parish. We have a great time just visiting.

First Campfire - June 4th – Roger and Linda Person will be hosting

June 18th, July 2nd, July 16th, July 30th – are all open for hosting

COMMUNITY VBS – VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, Mark your calendars!

Join us for VBS at the Crooks Elementary School on Friday, July 11th, 2025, 8:30 am to 11:30am, FREE

More information will be available soon for registration and volunteers. Hosting churches are West Nidaros, Willow Creek and Benton Lutheran Churches.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY-

Hello, I hope this message finds you well.

My name is Isabella, and I'm reaching out on behalf of **Lutheran Social Services** to warmly invite your congregation to be part of the upcoming **Festival of Cultures** on **Friday, June 14** in Sioux Falls.

I received your contact information from Jen Dreiske, who spoke highly of your community. I'm excited to extend this invitation to join us in a day filled with celebration, connection, and community.

The Festival of Cultures is a joyful event that honors the rich diversity of our city through music, dance, food, and fellowship. This year's festival will be larger than ever, and we're in need of volunteers to help make it a success. There are many ways to get involved—from setup and greeting guests to helping with activities, vendor support, and more.

Volunteers will receive:

- A food voucher to enjoy a meal from one of our amazing international food vendors
- A drink voucher
- A Festival of Cultures, t-shirt to wear during the event

It's a fantastic way to meet new people, try delicious foods, create meaningful memories, and contribute to a welcoming community where everyone feels they belong.

If anyone from your church is interested in volunteering, they can sign up here: <https://lsssd.org/get-involved/events/festival-of-cultures/festival-volunteer-registration.html>

Feel free to share the link with others who may be interested. If you have any questions or need more information, I'd be happy to help.

Thank you for all the ways you serve your congregation and community. We hope you'll consider being part of this special day.

Warm regards,

Isabella Chow Community Outreach Coordinator

Lutheran Social Services Multi-Cultural Center

C: 605-809-7236

P: 605-731-2044

300 E. Sixth Street. Suite 200, Sioux Falls, SD 57103

REMINDER!!! ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS: All Willow Creek & Benton Announcements for the weekly bulletin should be **emailed by Tuesday at Noon** each week, and Newsletter Announcements by the **15th of each month**. Thank you! (bentonwillowoffice@gmail.com)



OFFERINGS - WAYS TO GIVE:

If you are unable to attend services but would like to give, we have made some convenient ways to continue your offerings. We appreciate your faithfulness, Thank you.

MAIL : Benton PO Box 706 Crooks, SD 57020

Willow Creek 24795 470th Ave Dell Rapids, SD 57022

ELECTRONIC GIVING Check the websites giving image.

www.wclcdellrapids.org & www.bentonelca.org

BENTON'S 'TEXT TO GIVE'

1: Text "give" to the number **1-605-205-7789**. The automated response will direct you to the webpage. Once the system has your number stored, this will be a simple way to give right during the offering time!

2: The donations webpage through your browser is

<https://bentonchurch.breezechms.com/give/online>



FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

Primary needs assessed for this month:

white sugar, brown sugar, Knorr sides, spaghetti sauce, Ramen noodles, sloppy joe mix, peanut butter, canned vegetables, brownie mix, flour, oil, boxed potatoes, taco seasoning, jelly, peanut butter, pancake mix, boxed pasta, body wash, Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo and conditioner, laundry soap, dish soap.

Please, No expired food, thank you.

Donations can also be dropped off at Baltic City Hall, Baltic School Commons, or in the entry way of Baltic Lutheran or East Nidaros Church. Monetary Donations – Mail to PO Box 244 Baltic SD 57003

"BENTON NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS"

Benton Worship Teams:

June 1stth, 2025, First Team—Doug & Sandy (communion)

June 8th, 2025, Second Team—Roger & Linda (communion), New Members/Baptism

June 15th, 2025, Third Team, Cheryl & Connie

June 22nd 2025,Fourth Team—Butch & Lorri

June 29th, 2025, Fifth Team – Russ & Becky



Coffee Fellowship

***Every Sunday at Benton, coffee and treats are served before worship.
Great time for fellowship!!!! (starts 45 minutes before worship).***

Benton Church Council Members 2025

President- Dan Larson

Vice President-Wade Mulder

Secretary- Maria Kendle

Treasurer- Dave Vinzant

Other Members of Council- Roger Person, Gary Jongewaard, Julie Person, Nate Stroschein, Sandy Schuette, Amanda Schuette

Mission- Maria Kendle

Evangelism-Roger Person and Gary Jongewaard

Education-Amanda Schuette

Stewardship-Dan Larson

Worship-Julie Person

Property-Gary Jongewaard and Wade Mulder

BENTON WORSHIP TEAMS – updated 5/1/25

Newest members have been added to the 5th Sunday.

Below is a list of the members of each Worship Team. It may look like we always have enough help but due to everyone being so busy, often not enough people show up to help. As you can see each Sunday there is quite a bit of responsibility. Please try to help us out with your assignment. If you are not assigned a Sunday, please call the church office so we can add you. You will never be alone on your Sunday, there is always someone to help.

First Sunday – Leaders – Doug and Sandy Larson: Wade & Angie Mulder, Garrison Mulder, Bryant & Lori Filler, Nate & Kim Strosheim, Shannon Lofswold, Dave Phelps, Dave & Dixie Rogness, Chantel Olson, Dan & Laura Larson (Dawson & Dominick), Barb Opp, Joe & Jayna Backus (Boston,& Brystal), Jordan & Tammy Person (Justin & Jessalynn), Edna Haase, Rocky & Jackie Foster (Marin, Hadlee, Payson & Conlin)

Second Sunday - Leaders Roger & Linda Person: Jolene Izadaness, Keith & Lisa Johnson (Tyler & Trey), Patty Mork, Gary & Rhonda Jongewaard (Gabrielle), Dave & Faye Gilderhaus, Dennis & Cheryl Aker, Todd & Maria Kendle & Brittany (Braylynn & Nora), Lynda Fonder, Kari Vosburg, Bob & Sandi Schuette, Eric & Amanda Schuette (Ethan & Audrey), Lee & Julie Person (Connor), Gwyn & Joyce Reiners

Third Sunday- Leaders Connie Foster & Cheryl Schoer: Jim & Jackie Johnson, Ashton Benson (Riley), Kenny & Linda Benson, Judey Bernards, Susie Schmidt (Nolan, Blake & Logan), Scott & Bonnie Mews, Tom & Barb Lanning, Pat & Noel Ahl, Darryll & Jan Lason, Ryan McNamara & Lacie Foster (Bridger, Sutton & Leighton)

Fourth Sunday –Leaders Butch & Lori Oseby: Larry Person, Dale & Pat Benson, Derry & Jan Benson, Tyler & Melissa Klein (Blakeley, Cooper, & Shiloh), Ron & Judi Person, Ronae Foster (Dalton & Tori), Jamen & Jackie Benson (Trevor & Brady), John & Jenny Mohr (Landon, Lilli, Jaxton & Jace), Trevor & Annie Freudenthal (Jace, Rhett & Liam)

Fifth Sunday – Leaders Russ & Becky Schmidt, Matt & Amy Schmidt (Emmitt), Scott & Natalie Lind, Cam & Sharon Lind, Jeremy & Taylor Hubers (Ava and Liam)

Volunteers are needed when we have special services (Lent, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve.....)

BENTON WORSHIP SERVICE DUTIES EACH SUNDAY

- Unlock doors, turn on lights
- Make Coffee & Snacks for fellowship before worship (start at 45 minutes prior to worship time), clean up
- Greeter at main door
- Hand out bulletins
- Reader – first and second lesson
- Ushers- turn on sound system, remove covering from piano, count all people present during service, communion, collect offering...
- Light Candles before service, extinguish at end of service
- Update Hymn board with hymn numbers if needed (if not already completed)
- Camera & AV people - one to record service for Facebook, second to run the screen for the service, help with communion
- Make sure all doors are locked when leaving (all outside doors)
- Shut off all lights
- Winter-clear snow if needed from the walkway.



***If you are out and about and would like to visit with some great people,
the following Church Members would love to have visitors.***

Dorothy Rogness
4709 E 6th St
Apt. #301
Sioux Falls, SD 57110
605-321-0714

Keith & Caroline Halverson
26026 469th Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57107
605-332-6201

Russ & Irene Midden
#302 Bernadine Place
Hartford, SD 57033
605-370-7368

Fran Alberty
4001 S. Marion Rd. Apt. #31
Sioux Falls, SD 57106
605-543-5312

“WILLOW CREEK NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”



Save the date!!!

Willow Creek 150th Anniversary – September 13-14, 2025.

The 150th Anniversary will be here soon and is scheduled for September 13-14, 2025.

- Please let any committee member know if you have given 'Save The Date' Cards to anyone so that we can ensure they are sent a letter with details and meal ticket purchase options.
- Urgent Need: We need photos of church events from 2000 to present. We do not have ANY! Please forward photos to Kevin Hoekman at treasurer.wclc@gmail.com as soon as possible. We are looking for photos of Christmas programs, Confirmation, Construction projects, COVID services in vehicles or with masks, any other interesting photos related to our congregation. Please include a description of the photos provided and names of people in the photos.

Willow Creek Church Council Members – 2025

President – Katie Hoekman
Secretary-Mary Messner
Trustee-Jarod Deters

Vice President- David Olson
Treasurer-Kevin Hoekman
Deacons-Chad Warne & Steve Bazata

Willow Creek - WORSHIP TEAMS

Assigned Sundays are listed on the calendar below and in the bulletins.

Please let the office know if the team members have changed.

TEAM 1: Tim and Lisa Rave, Kevin and Katie Hoekman (*Anna, Peter, Esther, & Elijah*), Phyllis Koepp, Zach and Jayni Schroeder (*Otto*)

TEAM 2: Craig and Bonnie Dybdahl, Mary & Paul Mesner, Pat Nytroe, Andy and Laura Berg (*Claire & Ben*), Steve and Sheri Tokheim

TEAM 3: Linda Linge, Terry and Kris Smart, Eric and Jenna Smart (*Louisa & Lilah*), Jared and Brenda Deters, Jay and Tina Soderquist (*Mya & Grace*)

TEAM 4: Justin and Lindsay Koepp (*Faith & Sawyer*), Ken & Debbie Mader, Shane and Beth Warne, Nancy Offerman, Steve Schmidt, Austin and Shelby Schmidt (*Lily & Elliot*)

TEAM 5: Rick and Sandy Zwart, Jason and Erin Mitzel (*Max*), Steve and Kim Bazata (*Kael & Mack*), David Olson (*Levi*)

Coffee is not served either Easter or Christmas.

June 1st Team 3, Communion

June 15th Team 5,

June 8th Team 4, Communion

June 22nd Team 1

June 29th, Team 2



MEN'S COFFEE- Join us Saturdays at 8:30am at Willow Creek for food, coffee, and fellowship.



QUILTING LADIES - Join us on Mondays at 9am as we enjoy quilting and fellowship at Willow Creek



Congratulations to all our Graduates!
Clair Berg, Addisson Geigle, Elizabeth Dahl, Levi Kretzschmar,
Dawson Larson, Landon Schenkel



June 2025 Birthdays

1 Cheryl Aker	15 Brionna Joppa
1 Bonnie Mews	15 Lynne Norton
1 Jill Hagen	15 Jared Opland
1 Steve Hartman	15 Richard Snoozy
3 Rick Zwart	16 Gary Thompson
5 Jolene Izadshenass	18 Susan Martens
5 Susie Schmidt	20 Matea Strong
6 Amy Chabra	21 Jaxton Mohr
7 Connie Foster	23 Fran Alberty
8 Bonnie Sondegaard	24 Jaimie Ellison
8 Evan Nelson	24 Justin Person
9 Polly McGreevy	25 Kevin Hoekman
10 Adam Hegge	25 Stacey Koopman
10 Brayden Koopman	25 Bonnie Pinnerud
11 Dennis Aker	25 Liam Freudenthal
12 Jake Sunderman	26 Zachery Schroder
13 Elizabeth Schnaidt	27 Mya Soderquist
13 Laura Berg	
13 Jacob Paulson	
14 Braxton Geigle	
14 Dorothy Rogness	

JUNE 2025		SUMMER WORSHIP TIME CHANGE JUNE 1ST	BENTON AND WILLOW CREEK CHURCHES			
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
COMMUNION Willow Creek Worship, 8:30am, team 3 Benton Worship 10am, Doug & Sandy, Fellowship/Coffee 9:15am	9am Quilting at Willow	<i>Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.</i>	CAMPFIRE, 6:30pm Hosts-Roger & Linda Person			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
COMMUNION - New Members/Baptism Willow Creek Worship, 8:30am, team 4 Benton Worship 10am, Roger & Linda, Fellowship/Coffee 9:15am	9am Quilting at Willow	CHURCH COUNCIL, 6:30PM <i>Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.</i>				8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
FATHERS DAY Willow Creek Worship, 8:30am, team 5 Benton Worship 10am, Cheryl & Connie, Fellowship/Coffee 9:15am	9am Quilting at Willow <i>Info for newsletter due to church office</i>	<i>Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.</i>	Campfire, 6:30PM host to be determined			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Willow Creek Worship, 8:30am, team 1 Benton Worship 10am, Butch & Lori, Fellowship/Coffee 9:15am	9am Quilting at Willow	<i>Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.</i>				8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
29	30					
Willow Creek Worship, 8:30am, team 2 Benton Worship 10am, Russ & Becky, Fellowship/coffee at 9:15am						

Name: _____

Date: _____

Find the words listed. Words may appear forward, backward, up, down or diagonal. Words may overlap and cross each other. When you have found a word, be sure to circle it and cross it off the list.



Word Search

BARBECUE
BEACH
BUTTERFLY
FATHER'S DAY
FIREFLY
FLIP-FLOPS
GERANIUM
HAT
HONEYSUCKLE
ICE CREAM
IRIS
JUNE
LEMONADE
LIGHTNING
LILY
PEONY
PICNIC
ROSE
SANDCASTLE
SHORTS
SOLSTICE
SUMMER

P	S	T	L	R	S	A	N	D	C	A	S	T	L	E	B	K	L	T
O	E	H	F	P	L	K	R	S	U	M	M	E	R	F	B	L	V	L
T	S	U	I	F	D	T	N	P	W	P	R	K	I	R	I	S	T	Z
K	S	N	R	B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	K	L	E	E	N	N
N	A	D	E	K	R	P	Q	J	E	N	J	D	Y	S	P	L	Y	T
A	L	E	F	N	Y	F	T	S	U	R	T	K	O	N	M	K	F	C
T	G	R	L	H	M	E	A	A	W	N	C	R	C	A	Q	C	M	R
G	N	S	Y	M	R	U	H	T	H	I	E	S	E	X	W	U	S	S
N	U	T	P	Y	L	C	C	R	H	K	M	R	N	L	J	S	U	O
I	S	O	M	C	D	E	Q	K	V	E	C	M	T	U	F	Y	N	L
N	L	R	Y	V	P	B	D	A	T	E	R	L	I	L	S	E	D	S
T	E	M	M	G	T	R	C	G	C	Y	J	S	I	N	L	N	R	T
H	M	T	S	Y	M	A	L	I	T	G	T	P	D	T	G	O	E	I
G	O	C	R	H	T	B	T	K	Q	W	F	R	R	A	W	H	S	C
I	N	M	I	I	O	Y	V	H	Y	L	M	L	N	B	Y	K	S	E
L	A	Q	O	N	C	R	C	L	O	M	U	I	N	A	R	E	G	T
W	D	N	Q	B	C	A	T	P	N	O	L	E	M	R	E	T	A	W
Y	E	T	M	L	E	I	S	S	V	G	J	K	K	M	B	R	D	Q
N	N	W	B	B	P	R	P	Y	Q	Y	N	O	E	P	P	P	R	R

SUNDRESS

SUNGLASSES

SUNSCREEN

SWIMMING

TANK TOP

THUNDERSTORM

VACATION

WATERMELON

