

Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches
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Address Service Requested

August Newsletter 2026



Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches

Newsletter—August 2026

Note from Vicar Kendra Kappler

As we move into August and start heading back into familiar routines around the church, we are also trying something new: our first joint worship service as a two-point parish! I hope you'll make plans to join us on August 9th as members of both congregations gather together for worship and a time of fellowship. It will also be a wonderful service opportunity as we pack backpacks for local schools!

When we think about the church and what "church" means, it's easy to think first about buildings. We picture the sanctuary where we gather for worship with familiar faces, the fellowship hall where we share meals and treats and stories, or the pew where we usually always sit on Sunday mornings. And those places are definitely meaningful, and they hold many treasured memories. However, Scripture reminds us that the Church is never simply a building. The Church is the people of God, who are gathered by Christ and sent into the world. Therefore, this means that even though the people of Willow Creek and Benton worship in different locations most Sundays, we are already one church in Christ. We share the same Savior. We hear the same Gospel. We come to the same baptismal waters and gather around the same Lord's Table. We are united by something far greater than geography or a building. The Apostle Paul writes, "There is one body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). We are united in Christ. Our joint worship services give us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate that unity in a visible way. It is a chance to put faces to names, reconnect with familiar friends, and meet brothers and sisters in Christ whom we may not know as well. It is an opportunity to remember that the ministry happening in our parish and throughout the world is bigger than any one congregation. As we gather around God's Word and Christ's Table, we will be reminded once again that God's grace is big enough for everyone. The table belongs to Jesus, and he is the one who welcomes us all.

I also know that bringing two congregations together also means stepping outside of our usual routines. We may sit in unfamiliar pews, sing alongside voices we don't hear every week, have conversations with people we have never met, or worship in a different space than we're accustomed to. But really, I think that's part of the gift! God often works through moments that invite us beyond what is familiar, reminding us that our comfort is found not in a particular place, but in the presence of Christ, who promises to be with us wherever two or three are gathered in his name.

My prayer is that this first joint worship service will be more than simply an event on the calendar. I pray that it is a meaningful time of connection. I pray it will be an opportunity to strengthen relationships, deepen our appreciation for one another, and continue growing together as one parish. God has brought our congregations together for a reason, and I look forward to discovering the many ways the Holy Spirit will continue to work through us in the months and years ahead. What a joy it is to gather as one body, united in Christ's love!

God's Blessings to You! 😊

Vicar Kendra Kappler
605-951-8841
kappler2002@gmail.com

“PARISH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”



SUMMER HOURS FOR WORSHIP

Sunday, May 31st to Sunday, September 6th
Willow Creek – 8:30am worship, no Sunday School

Benton – 10am Worship, no Sunday School

Communion – every Sunday

Joint Worship - Aug. 9th at Willow Creek, 10am

Backpack Sunday, No service at Benton.



August Campfires – Aug 9th, 6pm, Location TBD

**August 23rd, 6pm at Wade and Angie Mulder
25947 468th Ave. Sioux Falls**



The series is entitled "Grounded in Connection" and it focuses on how relationships are the cornerstone of who we are as people of faith. We learn and grow through relationships. Looking at the following stories, we'll explore the joys and complexities of relationships and be reminded how God shows us the way of connection, mercy and grace.

Week One: July 12 - Adam and Eve - Genesis 2:4-22

Week Two: July 19 - Ten Commandments - Exodus 20:1-21

Week Three: July 26 - Widow at Zarephath - 1 Kings 17:8-16

Week Four: Aug 2 - Esther and Mordecai - Esther 4

Week Five: Aug 9 - Peter's Betrayal and re-entry - John 18 and 21



Have a fantastic year!!!!!! 2026-2027



Sunday, August 9th, 2026

**Benton and Willow Creek Lutheran
Churches**

"Joint Worship Service"

10am

at Willow Creek Church

(No worship service at Benton)

"Backpack Sunday"

**All Kids, bring your school
backpacks to worship on Sunday
8/9, at Willow Creek for a special
Backpack blessing.**

**Following worship we will be putting
together backpacks and having the
kids decorate cards to place in
each backpack. Backpacks will be
donated to the local schools that our kids attend.**

Treats and coffee will follow.

Willow Creek Lutheran Church
24795 470th Ave
Dell Rapids, SD 57022
(Approx. 9 miles north of Crooks)

**The Children's Offering for the month of July will go towards the
cost of the backpack supplies.**

Thank you.

There will be three more Joint Worship Services throughout the year. More to come.

Thank you, The Parish Worship/Music Committee.



REMINDER!!! ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEWS: All Willow Creek & Benton Announcements for the weekly bulletin should be **emailed by Tuesday at Noon** each week
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.bentoneica.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>

Benton, Vanco - Here is the site link for your online giving tiles.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEX9>

Vanco users- you may have to create a new account. If you don't want to do that, you may email Dennis Aker with your changes, daker@alliancecom.net

Baltic Food Bank Needs List: updated 8/1/26

Hearty soups, crackers, sugar (white, brown, powdered), oil, juice, tea or coffee, cereal, breakfast bars, canned fruit, ramen, chicken/tuna helper, condiments (mayo or miracle whip, ketchup, barbeque sauce), salad dressings, pancake mix and syrup, pasta or rice sides, spaghetti sauce, pasta, Jell-O and pudding, cake/brownie/muffin mixes, dish soap, laundry soap, personal hygiene products (tissues, bar soap or body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental picks or floss).

The Baltic Food Bank, 550 3rd Street, is open to all residents of Baltic and Crooks. It is open the second Wednesday of every month from 6:00-7:00 p.m., as well as the fourth Sunday of every month from 10:30-11:30 a.m., as well as by emergency appointment by calling 605-529-5032.

Food donations can be dropped off at: Baltic School Commons, Baltic City Hall, Baltic Lutheran Church, East Nidaros Lutheran Church, or West Nidaros Lutheran Church.

Monetary donations can be sent to: PO Box 244, Baltic, SD 57003.

Thank you for supporting families in your community!



If you are out and about and would like to visit with some great people, the following Church Members would love to have a call, visitors or bot

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

Maureen Eide
Orchard Hills
200 W 10th St
Dell Rapids, SD 57022
605-940-0315

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

“WILLOW CREEK NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”

Willow Creek Church Council Members – 2026

President – Katie Hoekman Vice President- David Olson
Secretary-Mary Mesner Treasurer-Kevin Hoekman
Trustee-Jarod Deters, Sandy Zwart Deacons-Kevin Jackson, Steve Bazata

Education Committee-Kim Bazata, Lyndsey Koepp
Worship & Music Committee- Paul Mesner, Courtney Hansen
Mission Committee- Steve Schmidt, Phyllis Koepp, Pat Nytroe
Cemetery Committee- Craig Dybedahl, Keith Warne, Matt Dybedahl Paul Sunderman
Auditing Committee- Kris Smart, Linda Linge, Ann Sunderman

Willow Creek - WORSHIP TEAMS

Duties are listed at the church - this includes helping throughout the service, coffee, cleaning up.

Team 1 - Tim & Lisa Rave, Pat Nytroe, Rick & Sandy Zwart, Phyllis Koepp, Chad & Alyssa Warne, Steve & Sherri Tokeim

Team 2 - Kevin & Katie Hoekman, Jarad & Brenda Deters, Shane & Beth Warne, Zach & Jayni Schroeder, Courtney Hanson & Kevin Jackson

Team 3 - Craig & Bonnie Dybedahl, Justin & Lindsey Koepp, Jay & Tina Soderquist, Jordan Schemmel, Melissa Dellman, Linda Linge

Team 4 - Jason & Erin Mitzel, Paul & Mary Mesner, Andy & Laura Berg, Keith & Shiloh Warne, Steve Schmidt, Shawn & Danielle Geigle

Team 5 - Terry & Kris Smart, Ken & Debbie Mader, Steve & Kim Bazata, David Olson, Matt & Sarah Dybedahl

Coffee is not served at Easter or Christmas, but the TEAM still must help guide the worship.

Aug. 2nd, Team 4 – Communion- altar

Aug. 9th Team 5, Communion, **Backpack Sunday, Joint Worship, 10am**

Aug. 16th Team 1, Communion -continuous

Aug. 23rd Team 2, Communion - continuous

Aug. 30th, Team 3, Communion – continuous



**Happy 90th Birthday to “Maureen Eide” August 10th.
Many Blessings, Maureen.**



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.

“BENTON NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS”



*Summer Hours – starting May 31st, please join us for coffee and treats before worship,
Coffee – 9:15am, Worship 10am*

BENTON WORSHIP TEAMS FOR AUGUST 2026 (team leaders are listed)

Aug. 2nd, First Team – Doug & Sandy, Communion

Aug. 9th, Second Team – Roger & Linda, BACKPACK SUNDAY/JOINT WORSHIP AT WILLOW CREEK,

Aug. 16th, Third Team – Cheryl & Connie, Communion

Aug. 23rd, Fourth Team - Butch & Lori, Communion

Aug. 30th, Fifth Team – Russ & Becky, Communion

BENTON WORSHIP TEAMS – updated 5/2026

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), Joe & Jayna Backus (Boston,& Brystal), Jordan Person, 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, Nash), Dave & Faye Gilderhus, 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, Judy 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), Kay Peterson, Evan & Lenae Schnaidt (Elliot, Elizabeth), Jim Leines

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), Christopher & Sara Rokeh (Kipton, London), Mike & Holly Ralston (Sam and Will)

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

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

BENTON WORSHIP SERVICE DUTIES EACH SUNDAY

ALL DUTIES FOR THE TEAMS ARE POSTED ON THE FRIDGE DOOR IN THE KITCHEN AND THE BULLETIN BOARD BY THE ENTRANCE TO THE SANCTUARY.

Team Members - Should be the last to leave the church to make sure all lights, computers, screens – everything is off.

Please call your team leader if you are unable to help on your assigned weekend.

Team Leaders-

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Doug & Sandy Larson 605-360-5912 | 4. Butch & Lori Oseby 605-359-5537 |
| 2. Roger & Linda Person 605-351-0959 | 5. Russ & Becky Schmidt 605-360-1697 |
| 3. Cheryl Schoer 605-366-6562, Connie Foster 605-359-7859 | |



August Birthdays

2026

1	Ashlyn Koopman	18	Brett Opland
1	Kim Stroschein	18	Payson Foster
2	Jane Akerman	21	Billie Leim
3	Leighton Gregersen	23	Maria Kendle
4	John Hegge	23	Rhett Freudenthal
4	Sarah Cleland	24	Eva Paulson
5	Erica Opland	25	Rhonda Jongewaard
5	Paul Mesner	26	Chaylee Gilpin
6	RoSchell Vinzant	29	Ronae Foster
10	Maureen Eide, 90th	29	Gary Jongewaard
12	Colin Strong	29	Nash Jongewaard
12	Lucas Meyerink	31	Bailee Kristin Elison
12	Andy Berg	31	Lois Bryan
13	Robert Gregersen		
13	Michael Amundson		
14	Evan Dybedahl		
15	Larry Person		
16	Michelle Kretzschmar		
16	Delight Eisinger		
16	Steve Haugen		

Back to School Word Search

y j f c h a l k b o a r d v m
i z h t f q g u u m u s i c z
v f c e d c t d p s y g j u z
w r b a x n e s b s u a y g e
t e y c f r s s c h o o l m t
r a b h l t t e s i t u y w f
f d x e u u h c b g e r o u i
o i d r n c p o g h p n r u l
t n i t c t p u m p a a c f l
s g s b h o x c q e u b p e h
g k o d u l l s h u w s n d f
m x m h x s z g c o i o y p q
a g o g r e c e s s a z r t j
t s p e l l i n g a e n g k j
h p j p q j l y p l n c v a m

chalkboard

spelling

homework

test

teacher

science

school

quiz

reading

recess

lunch

bus

music

math

gym

AUGUST 2026

BENTON AND WILLOW CREEK CHURCHES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
Back to School						8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
COMMUNION Willow Creek Worship, 8:30am, Coffee/treats to follow, Team 4 Benton Worship 10:00am, Doug & Sandy, Coffee/Treats at 9:15am Benton Committee Meetings following worship	9am Quilting at Willow	Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.				8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
COMMUNION JOINT WORSHIP AT WILLOW CREEK, 10AM, BACKPACK SUNDAY Coffee/treats to follow, Team 5 Campfire, 6pm @ TBD  Blessing of the Backpacks	9am Quilting at Willow	CHURCH COUNCIL, 6:30PM Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office.		Tri-Valley, first day of school		8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
COMMUNION Willow Creek Worship, 8:30am, Coffee/treats to follow, Team 1 Benton Worship 10:00am, Cheryl & Connie, Coffee/Treats at 9:15am	9am Quilting at Willow Newsletter info due to church office by noon	Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office. Baltic, first day of school	West Central, first day of school	Dell Rapids Public, first day of school		8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
COMMUNION Willow Creek Worship, 8:30am, Coffee/treats to follow, Team 2 Benton Worship 10:00am, Butch & Lori, Coffee/Treats at 9:15am CAMPFIRE, 6PM @ Wade & Angie Mulder	9am Quilting at Willow Church Booked, Strochein Family Reunion at Benton	Bulletin Announcements due by noon in Church office. Church booked, Strochein Family Reunion at Benton	Brandon, first day of school			8:30am Men's Coffee at Willow
30	31					
COMMUNION Willow Creek Worship, 8:30am, Coffee/treats to follow, Team 3 Benton Worship 10:00am, Russ & Becky Coffee/Treats at 9:15am	9am Quilting at Willow					