

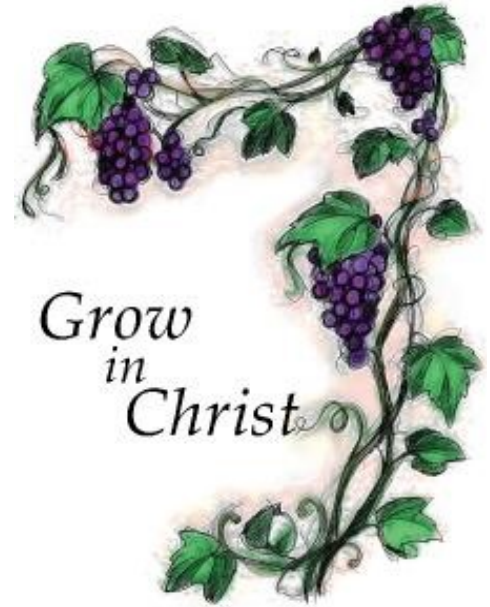
The Grape

Vine

Faith Lutheran Church
Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

July 2026

Happenings in & around the Parish



Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. Explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

Faith Lutheran Church

Sunday-Thursday, July 26-30, 2026 5:15-8:00 PM

WARNING:

DEADLINE
Newsletter

APPROACHING

Tuesday, July 15

4th of July JOINT Communion
Worship Service for EVERYONE
 Faith & Lake Hanska will be hosting a JOINT Communion Worship Service at Lake Hanska County Park (10977 County Road 11, Hanska) on **Sunday, July 5th**.
 Coffee & Rolls will be served at 9:00 AM in the shelter with the Communion Service beginning at 10:00 AM, down by the lake. Bring your own chairs or a blanket. Some tables are available. There will be transportation available to get to & from the parking lot to the shelter and service site.



Join Us For Worship!

If you are searching for a church home or are currently a member, we want to extend a warm welcome to you. Faith & Lake Hanska observe the "Open" communion policy - for all people in Christ are welcome at our Lord's Table.

With July comes our country's 250th anniversary of its independence from Great Britain. It also marks the 125th anniversary of the town of Hanska! It will also be the 50th celebration of the service at Lake Hanska County Park on the 5th of July. All of these are indeed celebrations we can be proud of and should celebrate with gusto.

But amidst all of the fireworks we can't forget our weekly celebration of worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I realize this celebration doesn't always come with oohs and aahs of fireworks, picnics and bugs in the park, but it's something that comes to us because Jesus gave us independence from our sins and the grave on that lonely hill on a wooden cross over 2000 years ago!

Independence and town founding's or moving a service outdoors all come with work, cost, and sometimes loss of life (bugs in the case of the park service!). So, with all the effort of those whose results we celebrate, why is it that we at times find it so hard to celebrate on Sunday mornings? Especially during the summer? I know many answers to that question and I'm not judging anyone's choices. Summer in Minnesota is fickle; you need to take what you can take when you can take it. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that – as long as we remember to thank our Lord for what it is we have.

Let me give an idea that I have found grounds me each day, summertime or otherwise. I try to remember to pray the Lord's Prayer, another prayer thanking him for the day and keeping me through the night. And then I sing to myself our welcome song – it reminds me of God's presence.

God is here today – as certain as the air I breathe – as certain as the morning sun arises – as certain when I sing he'll hear my song! No matter where we are on Sunday morning or any other morning – our God is always near and here.

Happy birthday USA, Hanska and the service in the park!

Just one of you in Christ - *Ralph*

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JULY

DATE	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Sunday, July 5 6 th Sunday after Pentecost	Zechariah 9:9-12	145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Sunday, July 12 7 th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 55:10-13	65:1-13	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Sunday, July 19 8 th Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 44:6-8	86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Sunday, July 26 9 th Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 3:5-12	119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

C h u r c h C o u n c i l s

Faith

Lori Pietsch
Randy Gustafson
 Stacy Reed
 Randy Gustafson, Arlo Feder
 Jane Piepgras, Kathy Guyer
 Ben Odegard, Chad Becker,
Pam Bocoock, Stacy Reed
 Lori Pietsch, Cindy Lehman,
 Sherri Gustafson, Mary Feder
 Steph Odegard, Tammy Krebs,
 Julia Young, Patty Young

President
Vice President
Secretary
Financial Secretary
Treasurer
Trustees

Deacons

Board of Education

WELCA Coordinator Bonnie Lilleodden

BOLD NAMES = Joint Executive Board

Lake Hanska

Melissa Engelhart
 Jim Lilleodden
 Cheryl Doe
Bonnie Lilleodden
Beth Kral
 Brian Kjelshus,
 Norman Skarphol
 Pam Kjelshus,
 (Position Open)



Lake Hanska
NO MEETING
Faith
 7:00 PM
 Thursday, July 9



Vital Statistics

Attendance **Offering**

Faith

May 17 1st Communion	55	\$ 825.00
May 24	24	\$ 856.00
May 31	30	\$ 1,524.00
June 7	30	\$ 1,500.00
June 14	38	\$ 2,064.00

Lake Hanska

May 17 1st Communion	64	\$ 1,167.00
May 24	20	\$ 399.00
May 31	23	\$ 681.00
June 7	19	\$ 1,370.00
June 14 Settlers Svc.	37	\$ 976.00



Faith Altar Guild

July:
 Need someone for July 12

August:

September:
 Barb & Bruce Nelson

October:
 Julie & Mark Hoeft
 Chelsea Hoeft
 Sarah Hoeft

November:
 Cindy & Brian Lehman

December:
 Arlo & Mary Feder
 Lori Pietsch

January 2026:
 Sherry Gustafson
 Angie Becker

Social Media for our Churches

Faith:

Website: www.faithlutheranmadelia.org
 Facebook.com/FaithLutheranMadelia

Lake Hanska:

Facebook.com/Lake Hanska
 Lutheran Church

Men's Morning Out

Saturday, July 11th and 25th
 8:30 AM
 Dean Neumann's

Ruth Bible Study

Monday, July 20th
 9:00 AM
 Lake Crystal American Legion

Happenings in the Parish recently

Funerals

Weddings 6/20 Megan Guck & Thomas Michels (LH)

Baptisms 6/13 Marley Jane Piepgras (F)
 6/13 Rhett James Klause (F-NM)
 6/13 Wesley Conner Klause (F-NM)



CONFIRMATION CORNER ~

Looking forward to September!

**50TH Annual
 Madelia Park Days
 July 10th-12th**

**UPDATES at
www.visitmadelia.com
 and on Madelia Chamber
 Facebook page.**



On Friday and Saturday, Mary Feder, Barb Overlie and Ralph Flitter attended the SW MN Synod Assembly at Gustavus Adolphus College. The theme for this year's meeting was "Grounded in Hope". In the words from Bishop Dee in the E-News June 12th.

"You gathered for last weekend's Synod Assembly, you lived out these powerful words from St. Paul's letter to the early Christians in Rome. From prayerful worship to lively table conversations, joyful singing and generous sharing, serving one another and extending hospitality, all these fruits of the Spirit were present among Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly Voting Members."

Friday began with four different workshops led by the guest speakers and Bishop Dee and others. Following that Q & A sessions were held for people to get more information on the three resolutions to be voted upon. After the workshops we gathered for worship at Christ Chapel with a message from Bishop Dee and Holy Communion which Ralph helped to serve.

Saturday began with worship and the commissioning of the SAMs (see related article). Then began the nuts-and-bolts meetings and speakers. The most exciting and energizing speaker was Rev. Joseph Yoo, an Episcopal Priest from Houston. He gave two bible studies on parables with a refreshingly new slant on them. We highly enjoyed him and he is the first speaker we ever remember receiving a standing ovation! On bible studies!

The new compensation guidelines, the 2028 budget, and constitution changes all passed.

The assembly was adjourned. Next year's assembly will be very important as a new bishop will be elected at that time.

Submitted by: Ralph Flitter, lay minister, Mary Feder and Barb Overlie voting members.

Pictured here is Ralph at his commissioning.



At the request of congregation leadership, Ralph has been authorized by the synod bishop to preach and preside for Holy Communion. Ralph is a SAM but is not an ordained pastor. This authorization is granted in accord with the ELCA's guiding statement, *The Use of the Means of Grace*, which says, "In witness that this sacrament is a celebration of the Church, serving its unity, an ordained minister presides in the service of Holy Communion and proclaims the Great Thanksgiving. Where it is not possible for an extended period of time to provide ordained pastoral leadership, a synod bishop may authorize a properly trained lay person to preside for a specified period of time and in a given location only."

News From Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

July 5th Worship Service with Communion at Lake Hanska County Park ----- Our 50th year of worshipping at the County Park site with worship service on Sunday, July 5th will be held at Lake Hanska County Park at the main shelter area. It will begin with coffee, juice and rolls at 9:00 AM. There will be rides available to get to the service site. Watch for rangers for those rides. Please bring your lawn chair and or blanket for seating. Only a few tables are available for seating. The worship service will begin at 10:00 AM. In case of weather or bug issues, services will be held at the Lake Hanska Lutheran Church. Watch for a sign at the park entrance. We hope that you will be able to come join us, the weather app now says low 70's with a light breeze. A great way to enjoy a beautiful Sunday morning.

Our Church Building --- Our church building will be used this year for 3 more weddings besides other worship and events. Please help keep our building neat and clean by helping to keep the carpets and bathrooms clean. Call Melissa Engelhart at 920-836-9564 if you can pitch-in.

Food Shelf Report - We delivered 23 lbs. of products last month. We are so grateful to deliver goods at the end of each month. It is so easy to drop any non-perishable groceries, cleaning supplies, or hygiene supplies into the box provided in the Narthex of the church.

WELCA Quilters Report - 4 quilters met on Wednesday, June 3rd for another fun get-together. They prepared 3 more quilts. We'd love for you to come join us. If you have any materials in good shape, or donating cash to buy more materials as our resources for funds are limited. If interested, we do also sell our quilts for \$25 each.

Bible Study -- Ralph Flitter leads us in a more in-depth look of the Gospel from the worship the Sunday before we meet. Everyone (men-women-Faith Lutheran members and non-members) are welcome to join us. You do not have to do quilting if you come for the Bible Study. We will enjoy coffee and treats (optional: bring a treat to share) during the study. We look forward to seeing you.

Lawn Mowing Time ---- This time is here. Please respect your time slot. **If for some reason you can not mow during your time slot,** Please trade with another person to keep our property looking excellent all summer. Thank you for your help.

Lawn Mowers -- This is on a 2-week schedule

June 26-July 10: Mike Paulson and Bradley Paulson

July 11-July 23: Paul Evjen and Jeff Pladsen

July 24-August 13: Brian Kjelshus and Collin Kjelshus



On Saturday June 6th, at the SW MN Synod Assembly, these twelve SAM's were commissioned by Bishop Dee Pederson.

You may recognize Rosene Hermanson-Olson and Karen Koeder who have served as pulpit supply for us along with our own SAM - Ralph.

Ralph is very happy that you do not expect him to wear that Alb each Sunday!



Join us for the
Madelia Bike Safety Event

Bring your bike and helmet for a fun evening focused on bike safety! Kids are invited to learn bike safety basics, practice safe riding skills, and get ready for a safe summer of biking.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
07/14/2026	6-7 pm	Madelia High School Parking Lot

Sponsored by
Minnesota Towing & Recovery



Scan here to register by July 7th



MADELIA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

PARK DAYS

MADELIA, MINNESOTA

July 10-12, 2026

FRIDAY

FOOD TRUCKS
GRAND PARADE
IV PLAY
FIREWORKS

FREE
ADMISSION



SATURDAY

RIVERS EDGE ART & MORE FAIR
FOOD TRUCKS
BEAN BAG TOURNAMENT
KIDS PEDAL PULL & FUN ZONE
5K RUN/WALK
LIVE MUSIC



SUNDAY

FIREMEN'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST
MENS GOLF TOURNAMENT



SCAN FOR SCHEDULE,
MUSIC AND UPDATES
www.visitmadelia.com



madeliaareachamber

OUTSIDE FOOD, BEVERAGES AND
COOLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN
WATONA PARK EVENT SPACE



50th 4th of July Communion Worship Service
Sunday, July 5th

taking place at Lake Hanska County Park
(10977 Cty. Road 11, Hanska - Main entrance, Park Shelter/Beach area)

9:00 AM with Coffee, Juice, and Rolls (shelter)

10:00 AM - Worship Service with Communion (by the lake)

Jace Steven Chute, son of Jennifer Chute, a member of Lake Hanska,
will be baptized during this worship service

Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets

(a few tables will be available for seating)

Plenty of parking available - Rides provided to the shelter if needed

* Designated offerings will go to the respectful congregation

* Cash offerings will be gifted to local Food Shelves

Please pray for ALL serving in the Military
~ both here and abroad ~

JONAS Eldridge JAC Gunderson KADEN Johnson
ANDREW McCumber ANDREW Peterson



Prayer Concerns


**** Please help us to keep updated on our prayer concerns ****

*Let us know as peoples' health situations change by calling the church office (642-8500)
or by emailing faithofficemadelia@gmail.com*

July 2026

Faith ~ Lake Hanska

God's People... Leading Others to the Love of Jesus

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Month of July Cell Phone Courtesy Month Dog Days of Summer National Picnic Month National Blueberry Month National Anti-Boredom Month National Grilling Month National Hot Dog Month National Ice Cream Month National Park & Recreation Month National Watermelon Month		1 NO Lake Hanska Quilting	2 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F)	3 As a Sabbath practice-Ralph is taking this day off	4 
5 JOINT COMMUNION 4TH OF JULY service 9:00 AM Coffee & Rolls 10:00 AM Service at Lake Hanska County Park w/Baptism 6th Sunday after Pentecost	6	7 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 11:15 AM Pray without Ceasing/Living Meadows 1:00 PM Coffee & Conversation/Living Meadows	8	9 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 7:00 PM Faith Council meeting	10 As a Sabbath practice-Ralph is taking this day off	11 8:30 AM Men's Morning Out <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Madelia Park Days For information, check out: www.visitmadelia.com </div>
12 COMMUNION 9:00 AM Lake Hanska 10:30 AM Faith 7th Sunday after Pentecost	13	14 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 11:15 AM Pray without Ceasing/Living Meadows	15 	16 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F)	17 As a Sabbath practice-Ralph is taking this day off	18
19 9:00 AM Lake Hanska 10:30 AM Faith 8th Sunday after Pentecost	20 9:00 AM Ruth Bible Study	21 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 11:15 AM Pray without Ceasing/Living Meadows	22 3:30-5:30 PM Madelia Food Shelf Open House	23 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F)	24 As a Sabbath practice-Ralph is taking this day off	25 8:30 AM Men's Morning Out
26 9:00 AM Lake Hanska 10:30 AM Faith 9th Sunday after Pentecost	27	28 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F) 11:15 AM Pray without Ceasing/Living Meadows	29	30 10:00 AM Chair Yoga (F)	31 As a Sabbath practice-Ralph is taking this day off	
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> Community Vacation Bible School Theme: Rainforest Falls 5:15 - 8:00 PM </div>					

Faith Lutheran Church

306 Abbot Ave SW ~ Madelia, MN 56062
 Phone: 507-642-8500
 Facebook.com/Faith Lutheran Madelia
 Website: www.faithlutheranmadelia.org
 E-mail: faithofficemadelia@gmail.com

Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

17923 115th St ~ PO Box 65 ~ Hanska, MN 56041
 Phone: 507-439-6635
 (FB) Lake Hanska Lutheran Church

Synod Authorized Minister Ralph Flitter

Cell Phone: 507-317-4204 E-mail: flitteralph@gmail.com



The Grape Vine

Faith ~ Lake Hanska
Main Office Address
306 Abbot Ave SW
Madelia MN 56062

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

~ July ~

Worship Schedule

July 5: 9:00 AM Coffee/Rolls-10:00 AM JOINT at Lake Hanska County Park (10977 County Road 11)
12, 19, 26: 9:00 AM @ Lake Hanska
10:30 AM @ Faith

Faith Office Phone: 507-642-8500
Lake Hanska Phone: 507-439-6948
Faith Email: faithofficemadelia@gmail.com
Ralph Flitter Email: flitteralph@gmail.com



Office hours:

Joyce: Every afternoon except Friday
You can email the office with any information or questions.

You can call Ralph at 507-317-4204, Joyce at 507-642-8500,
your church president:

Faith: Lori Pietsch 507-317-4634 **Lake Hanska:** Melissa Engelhart 952-836-9564
or email the church at: faithofficemadelia@gmail.com
or Ralph at: flitteralph@gmail.com
for your church needs or assistance.

Lake Hanska ~ July ~ 9:00 AM In-Person & LIVE on Facebook

Communion is the 1st & 2nd Sunday of every month

Ushers: 5 & 12: Jordan Lilleodden, Mike Lilleodden
19 & 26: Larry Stoesz, Tori Raatz

Altar Committee: Lanna Raatz, Sue Stoesz

Reader

Accompanist

July 5, 2026 Barb Overlie 10:00 AM Joint service @ Lake Hanska County Park (w/Communion)
July 12, 2026
July 19, 2026
July 26, 2026



Faith ~ July ~ 10:30 AM In-Person & LIVE on Facebook

Communion is the 1st & 2nd Sunday of every month

Altar Guild: (need for the 13th)

Reader

Accompanist

July 5, 2026 Barb Overlie 10:00 AM Joint service @ Lake Hanska County Park (w/Communion)
July 12, 2026 Dorie Cummins
July 19, 2026
July 26, 2026

**** PLEASE HELP US BY SIGNING UP AND ADD TO OUR SERVICES ****