



# ZION PROCLAIMER

August 2025

## "Noble Note"

### Why We Do What We Do

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Psalm 122:1*

I have been having some great conversations lately about worship. This topic comes up a lot, and I love that! Whether it's through a connection to our Bible study conversations, a thoughtful observation shared after worship, or during a rabbit hole topic while visiting, I enjoy being able to connect the dots and answer the question, "Why do we do that?"

There have been lots of modern twists on why we go to church and why we worship the way we do. Some thoughts are that we go so Jesus can make us into a better person. Some think it's to give God our best and to feel God move within us. Still others think it's a waste of time because you can read your Bible and pray at home. But the point I like to guide people to is that we go in order to be present with Christ, to hear His words of forgiveness, so that God can serve us with His undeserved grace and mercy and love. In other words, we worship the way we do because it's focused on God's Word and His forgiveness and life delivered to us through the Word and Sacraments.

So to help me explain why we worship the way we do, I'd like to share a portion of an article written by an LCMS pastor, Rev. William Cwirla, which was used in the *Higher Things* magazine a few years ago. It's simple, yet deep and it allows us to view our worship service in a biblical and practical way. Enjoy, reflect, and share. I'd love to hear your thoughts on this sometime. The article is titled **Why the Liturgy? – Top Ten Reasons We Use Liturgy**. Rev. Cwirla writes:

**1. It shows our historic roots.** Some parts of the liturgy go back to the apostolic period. Even the apostolic church did not start with a blank liturgical slate but adapted and reformed the liturgies of the synagogue and the Sabbath. The western mass shows our western catholic roots, of which we as Lutherans are not ashamed. (I'd rather be confused with a Roman Catholic than anything else.) We're not the first Christians to walk the face of the planet, nor, should Jesus tarry, will we be the last. The race of faith is a relay race, one generation handing on ("*traditioning*") to the next the faith once delivered to the saints. The historic liturgy underscores and highlights this fact. It is also "*traditionable*," that is, it can be handed on.

**2. It serves as a distinguishing mark.** The liturgy distinguishes us from those who do not believe, teach, and confess the same as we do. What we believe determines how we worship, and how we worship confesses what we believe.

**3. It is both Theocentric and Christocentric.** From the invocation of the Triune Name in remembrance of Baptism to the three-fold benediction at the end, the liturgy is focused on the activity of the Triune God centered in the Person and Work of Jesus Christ. Worship is not primarily about “me” or “we” but about God in Christ reconciling the world to Himself and my baptismal inclusion in His saving work.

**4. It teaches.** The liturgy teaches the whole counsel of God – creation, redemption, sanctification, Christ’s incarnation, passion, resurrection, and reign, the Spirit’s outpouring and the new life of faith.

Every liturgical year cycles through these themes so that the hearer receives the “*whole counsel of God*” on a regular basis.

**5. It is transcultural.** One of the greatest experiences of my worship life was to be in the Divine Service in Siberia with the Siberian Lutheran Church. Though I spoke only a smattering of Russian, I knew enough to recognize the liturgy, know what was being said (except for the sermon, which was translated for us), and be able to participate knowledgeably across language and cultural barriers. I have the same experience with our Chinese mission congregation.

**6. It is repetitive in a good way.** Repetition is, after all, the mother of learning. Fixed texts and annual cycles of readings lend to deep learning. Obviously, mindless repetition does not accomplish anything; nor does endless variety.

**7. It is corporate.** Worship is a corporate activity. “*Let us go to the house of the Lord.*” The liturgy draws us out of ourselves into Christ by faith and the neighbor by love. We are all in this together. Worship is not simply about what “*I get out of it,*” but I am there also for my fellow worshippers to receive the gifts of Christ that bind us together and to encourage each other to love and good works (Heb 10:25). We are drawn into the dialogue of confession and absolution, hearing and confessing, corporate song and prayer. To borrow a phrase from a favored teacher of mine, in church we are “*worded, bodied, and bloodied*” all together as one.

**8. It rescues us from the tyranny of the “*here and now.*”** When the Roman world was going to hell in a hand basket, the church was debating the two natures of Christ. In the liturgy, the Word sets the agenda, defining our needs and shaping our questions. The temptation is for us to turn stones into bread to satisfy an immediate hunger and scratch a nagging spiritual itch, but the liturgy teaches us to live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

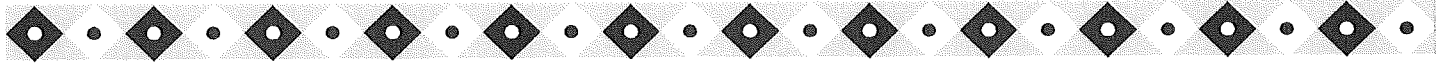
**9. It is external and objective.** The liturgical goal is not that everyone feel as certain way or have an identical “*spiritual*” experience. Feelings vary even as they come and go. The liturgy supplies a concrete, external, objective anchor in the death and resurrection of Jesus through Word, bread, and wine. Faith comes by hearing the objective, external Word of Christ.

**10. It is the Word of God.** This is often overlooked by critics of liturgical worship. Most of the sentences and songs of the liturgy are direct quotations or allusions from Scripture or summaries, such as the Creed. In other words, the liturgy is itself the Word of God, not simply a packaging for the Word. Many times the liturgy will rescue a bad sermon and deliver what the preacher has failed to deliver. I know; I’ve been there.

Ten is one of those good numbers in the Bible signifying completeness, so I’ll stop at ten. I’m sure there are more.

*In His Service,*

*Pastor Noble (but mostly featuring Rev. Cwirla)*



*Zion Lutheran Church*

*Box 59*  
Arcadia, IA 51430  
712-689-2441

*The Board of Elders meets monthly at the Church. Please feel free to contact any member of the Elder Board about any aspect of our ministry here at Zion.*

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**Jeff Luetje** Home 663-4591 Cell 712-830-5826

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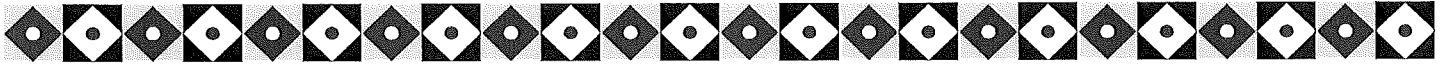
**Doug Ehlers** Home 663-4449 Cell: 712-830-0062

Email: [daehlers@westianet.net](mailto:daehlers@westianet.net)

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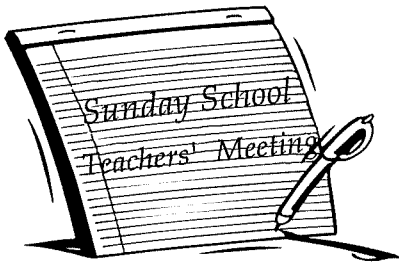
**CHURCH COUNCIL**

<b>President:</b>	Chris Toft	<b>Vice President</b>	Kevin Skinner
<b>Secretary</b>	Kathy Kraus	<b>Treasurer</b>	Mary Bruhn
<b>Bd Evangelism</b>	Shellie Lenz	<b>Bd Education</b>	Chad Wittrock
<b>Bd Stewardship</b>	Lajeane Shiney	<b>Financial Sec.</b>	Paulette Von Glan
<b>Trustees:</b>	Kyle Lenz, Dwight Ehlers, Curtis Ehlers		



**Sunday School begins on  
September 7, 2025  
9:00 am**

**MIDWEEK CLASSES:** Our Midweek Classes will be starting on **Wednesday, September 3 at 3:45 pm .**



We are looking for volunteers /helpers/ subs for this upcoming year. If you would be willing to help, please contact the church office.

**Church Council**

The August Church Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 10th at 11 am

**Youth Gathering**

**IDW YOUTH Gatherings**

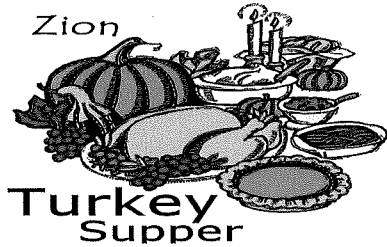
The Jr. Youth Gathering (6th-8th grade) will be held on October 18-19, 2025 at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. Cost is \$175 per person. (Church will pay 1/2 of reg fee) The theme is "Not Just Water" Titus 3:5



The Senior High Gathering will be held November 21-23, 2025 at Holiday Inn at the Airport in Des Moines. The theme is God's Calling Your Life (Ephesians 2:10) Cost is \$250. (Church will pay 1/2 of reg fee)



This reminder goes out endlessly, but sewing circle is **ALWAYS** in need of sheets, lightweight blankets, and **NEW** material for making quilt tops, middles and backs. A small group of ladies are the core of this worthwhile project. Quilt tops/backs are made at home and the quilts are tied at church. The VBS will be using this project again, and it anticipated that this year's group will assemble 40 or more quilts. This means that at least 120 tops, insides and backs are needed!!! The large pieces of material (especially sheets) speed up the job!



Please watch the bulletin and newsletters for more information. Scheduled date is Saturday, November 8th from 4-7 pm at the Westside Community Building.



**Sunday, August 24th**

**10:00 am**

**worship Service**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**Arcadia, IA**

Bring your backpack to church on Sunday, August 24th to have it blessed and we will put a tag on it.

### **National LCMS Youth Gathering**

The youth that attended the National LCMS Youth Gathering in July will give a presentation on their experience on Sunday, September 7th at 9 am (during Sunday School and Adult Bible Class).

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Rev. Paul Egger

Iowa District West, LCMS

[paul@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:paul@iowadistrictwest.org) / 515-576-7666

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### Pastoral sightings out and about...

Six of our district pastors were recently sighted on our Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska campus. 1000 high school and college students gathered for a Higher Things Event under the theme: "All Things New." Pictured left to right: Don Meyer, Carl Stenzel, Merritt Demski, myself, Thomas Batchelder and Alex Kaldahl.



Our opening Divine Service began with "Jerusalem the Golden." With Matins, Vespers and Evening Prayer each day,

we wrapped up "All Things New" Friday singing "Built on the Rock" and its final verse: Grant then, O God, Your will be done, that, when the church bells are ringing -- Many in saving faith may come where Christ His message is bringing, "I know My own; My own know Me. You, not the world, My face shall see. My peace I leave with you. Amen."

We slept in college dorms, ate college food, and navigated the college campus. Jesus Christ crucified and risen loved and blessed us as He continued, among us, making "All Things New."

Merritt offered three breakaways for high school and college youth: A Christian Approach to Infertility; Christian Care for LGBTQ Communities; and The Devil's Porn Strategy. Carl presented All Things New: Iron Curtain. All were well received. Thank you, men, for faithfully representing our district and bringing Jesus to our Synod's youth!

As angels sing,

President Paul Egger



## On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

August 2025

409 Kenyon Road, Suite B — Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501  
515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org)  
Contact email: [sue@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:sue@iowadistrictwest.org)

### SUPPORTING YOUTH IN THE CHURCH



As I am writing this, many of the youth of our district are making their way to New Orleans for the LCMS youth gathering along with many other LCMS youth across the nation and even internationally. As you are reading this, they will be back home. Our synod is blessed with a tremendous youth ministry department that seeks to support youth in our congregations. Your Iowa District West strives to do the same. A little over 400 youth and adults from IDW attended the gathering.

What happened when they were there? They had inspiring sectionals that encouraged them in their life and faith. They strengthened their relationships within their youth groups and with new and old friends. They served others through service projects in the local community. They had opportunities to participate in unique experiences in the New Orleans area. They made an impression on the local people as they were kind and polite. They attended worship with 20,000 other LCMS youth and adults in the Superdome. They had Bible study every morning with gifted pastors and commissioned church workers leading them.

Please pray for the youth in our churches. Take interest in them. Encourage them in their faith. If you had youth from your congregation attend the gathering, ask them what they learned and experienced. Our young people need adults to cheer them on and encourage them in their faith life.

Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President  
[rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org)

### IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (ILSTO)

A GREAT DEAL: For 2025, those who donate to ILSTO will receive a 75% state tax credit. Consult a tax advisor to see how this program can benefit you. Wouldn't it be great to help a student attend a Lutheran school instead of paying taxes? By reaching our goal, ILSTO would be able to assist more students attending Iowa Lutheran Schools: increase enrollment, provide ministry with the community, and share the Gospel with more children and their families. Now that's something to think about. Call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 for more information.

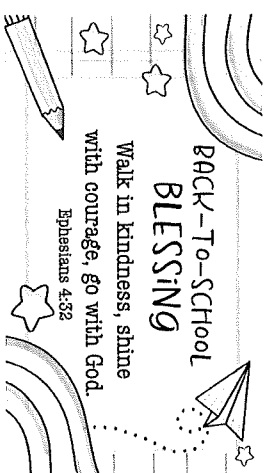
We are also keeping abreast of the possible Federal Tax credit that is in a bill waiting to be passed. In the current form, this would be a 100% Federal tax credit and would work similar to ILSTO. Watch for updates.

### PASTORS WIVES RETREAT

"Radiant & Restored" (Ephesians 5:8-9)  
Friday, October 10—Sunday, October 12  
Speaker—Renee Gibbs  
Camp Okoboji—Bethel Retreat Center  
Cost \$75

See detailed brochure in The Messenger.

The school year starts this month. Please keep students and teachers in your prayers.



### Calendar of Events

August 7...IDE & IDW Principals Conference, Gloria Dei, Urbandale  
August 8...Early Childhood Conference, Gloria Dei, Urbandale  
August 14...District Board of Directors, District Office, Fort Dodge  
August 26...New Pastor & Vicar Orientation, District Office, Fort Dodge  
September 22-23...District Pastors Conference, Fort Dodge  
September 23...Stewardship Training Workshop, District Office, Fort Dodge

For more information on Iowa District West activities,  
view *The Messenger* at [www.idwlcms.org/publications.php](http://www.idwlcms.org/publications.php)



# Update

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 20-26: YOUTH WEEK

July 27-Aug 1: FAMILY RETREAT I

Aug 3: OMELET BRUNCH: 9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM

Aug 3 - 8: FAMILY RETREAT II

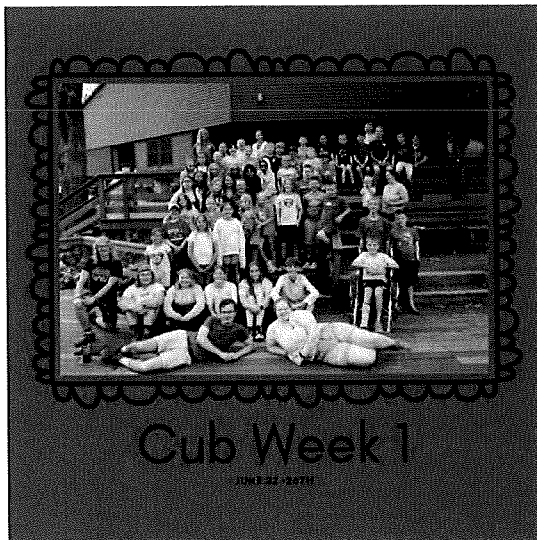
Camp Okoboji is pleased to announce the arrival of our new Discipleship Director, Jai Millen. Jai is no stranger to Camp, having attended as a youth, counseled, and served on the Youth Week staff over the years. Jai graduated from Iowa State University and later attended Concordia University, Nebraska where he received his certification as a Director of Christian Education (DCE). Welcome Jai!



## Thank You!

THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

- We are continually impressed by the operation of our monthly Omelet Brunches! Thank you to everyone who helps and volunteers to make them so successful. In July, we served more than 370 people!



### Summer Chaplain Schedule

Join us for worship - 9 am

July 27 - Rev. Dennis Martens - Jefferson  
August 3 - Rev. James Travis - Sioux City  
August 10 - Rev. Bryan Stecker - Waconia, MN  
August 17 - Rev. Joshua Lowe - Hawarden  
August 24 - Rev. Glen Emery - Fairbury, NE  
August 31 - Rev. Robert Zellmer - Lawton

Cub Week 1 was great fun this year with nearly 50 children attending, an increase over last year! We're grateful to the counselors and volunteers who helped make the week run smoothly.

# REFORMATION *HYMN FESTIVAL*

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**26** SUNDAY  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
OCT Carroll, IA  
2pm

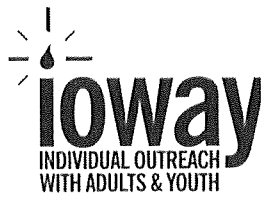
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Reception to follow  
There will be a freewill  
donation, which will  
go towards repairs for  
the church organ

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If you're interested in joining  
the choir in singing an anthem  
during the festival, or have any  
other questions, please  
contact Brie Roehrig  
(970) 227-0284





Julie Mann  
 IOWAY Director / Disaster Response Coordinator  
[julie@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:julie@iowadistrictwest.org)  
 515-408-9696

Summer is a great time to take a road trip, and it doesn't have to be to a super far destination to be worthy of time spent. One of my blessings as IOWAY Director is getting to travel throughout our beautiful district, and beyond, on a regular basis. I really enjoy coming to your communities, so feel free to reach out and get yourselves on my calendar. I love to hear what you're doing, or even better, roll up my sleeves and jump into the work alongside you.

In June, I was in the Council Bluffs area and stopped by to learn more about one of our LCMS RSOs (Recognized Service Organizations) that I only knew a little about, David's Harp. Pastor Sherrill was gracious enough after my visit to write the following to share with you all. David's Harp is a great resource to all of you who want to pass forward the joy of church music to the next generations.

"At our IDW Convention, our assembly was led in music by Pastor Sherrill and Pastor Frank from St. Paul's in Council Bluffs. Not only were they leaders for us, but they oversee an LCMS Recognized Service Organization called David's Harp: A Center for Musical Development. Just like they have a music conservatory as part of their church ministry in Council Bluffs, these pastors work with people all over the country helping other congregations start similar ministries in order to raise up the next generation of church musicians! To date, David's Harp has started about 20 music conservatories and many more are in the process of being established. But what is a "Music Conservatory" you may ask? A Music Conservatory is a place that focuses on a special, and possibly in depth, area of musical study, such as the piano. Children and adults alike come to these churches from inside and outside the



congregation for one-on-one instruction. The special joy of these conservatories is that they pair a Christian instructor with a student. These instructors act as mentors and guides for the student, not just in music, but also with the message of Jesus! The conservatory in Council Bluffs currently has 86 students, about a third of them are members of the church. This means that well over 50 students come to St.

Paul's each week from the community to be paired with a Christian mentor in order to create music that sings of Christ. What could be better!

If you are interested in learning more about the work of David's Harp and the parish based music conservatory contact Pastor Sherrill at [pastor.sherrill@davidsharpmusic.org](mailto:pastor.sherrill@davidsharpmusic.org) “

Other opportunities coming up:

1. Are you an Iowa State Fair goer? Willing to volunteer for 3 hours to share Lutheran Hour info and get a free ticket for the day? Dates are August 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 17 with shifts starting at 9 am

Please reach out to John Tews at [valleyinsjt@gmail.com](mailto:valleyinsjt@gmail.com) or 641-740-0126



2. LERT Basic Trainings

Friday, August 1, Immanuel Lutheran, Rockwell City, 5:00 – 9:30 pm, light dinner included

Sunday, August 24, St. Paul Lutheran, Carroll, 11:30 – 5:00, light lunch included

Make a profile and sign up for the event that best fits your calendar at [www.LCMS-LERT.org](http://www.LCMS-LERT.org)

\$35 registration, training for anyone 14 years old and up, all deployments are on a completely voluntary basis, variety of talents and skills needed – don't count yourself out

Questions? Please reach out to me at the IDW office



# August

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1  
Read  
1 John 1:1.  
Make motions to go with this verse.

2  
Read  
1 John 1:5.  
Pray for someone going through a tough time.

3  
Read  
1 John 1:7.  
Pray for families in your church.

4  
Read  
1 John 1:8-10.  
Set a timer for 5 minutes and silently pray to repent.

5  
Read  
1 John 2:9-11.  
Pray for Christians to truly love each another.

6  
Read  
1 John 2:17.  
What does the word abide mean?

7  
Read  
1 John 2:25.  
Memorize this verse.

8  
Read  
1 John 3:1.  
Tell everyone around your table "You are a child of God!"

9  
Read  
1 John 3:11.  
How do you show love to each person at the table?

10  
Read  
1 John 3:13.  
Pray for persecuted Christians around the globe.

11  
Read  
1 John 3:15.  
Which one of the Ten Commandments speaks to this?

12  
Read  
1 John 3:16.  
What is one thing you can do to serve your family today?

13  
Read  
1 John 3:17.  
Research a charity to serve.

14  
Read  
1 John 3:18.  
Memorize this verse.

15  
Read  
1 John 3:19-20.  
Draw a picture of your heart.

16  
Read  
1 John 3:24.  
How does this verse relate to Baptism?

17  
Read  
1 John 4:6.  
Brainstorm questions you have about God's truth.

18  
Read  
1 John 4:7.  
How do you feel loved?

19  
Read  
1 John 4:9.  
Ask an adult about a time they shared the Gospel.

20  
Read  
1 John 4:13.  
Draw a picture of the Spirit.

21  
Read  
1 John 4:15.  
Recite the Apostles' Creed.

22  
Read  
1 John 4:18.  
Pray about something that scares for you.

23  
Read  
1 John 4:19.  
Memorize this verse.

24  
Read  
1 John 5:1.  
Pray for the faith of a friend.

25  
Read  
1 John 5:4-5.  
Pick a song of praise to sing for this victory!

26  
Read  
1 John 5:6-8.  
What do we do in church that reflects these verses?

27  
Read  
1 John 5:11.  
Ask an adult about your faith heritage.

28  
Read  
1 John 5:13.  
Have a Bible show and tell.

29  
Read  
1 John 5:14-15.  
Create a list of things to pray for during nightly prayers.

30  
Read  
1 John 5:16-17.  
Pray for those who sin and do not know Christ.

31  
Read  
1 John 5:20.  
Yell: "Jesus is the Truth!"



# AUGUST

*Birthdays & Anniversaries*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b> <i>Ariel Backhaus Nick &amp; Kelsie Weier</i>	<b>2</b> <i>Damon Ehlers Kyle &amp; Brook Lenz</i>
<b>3</b> <i>Jon Branning Bonnie Schmitz</i>	<b>4</b> <i>Gary Erps Kiera Lupton</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Mark Hoffman</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Shelli Lenz</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>T.J. &amp; Megan Sterk</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Doug Ehlers</i>
<b>10</b> <i>Jenna Bauman Valerie Vetter</i>	<b>11</b> <i>Colton Neumann Brook &amp; Rachel Travis</i>	<b>12</b> <i>Brooke Lenz</i>	<b>13</b> <i>Barb Tapscott- Musfeldt Gene &amp; Carm Thiedeman</i>	<b>14</b> <i>Jazmyn Vetter</i>	<b>15</b> <i>Derek Schurke Logan &amp; Jessica Scott</i>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <i>Diane Schurke Kim &amp; Cindy Brockman Eric &amp; Trama Vetter</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Pastor Andy &amp; Anna Noble</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Joy Luetje Gary &amp; Mary Erps</i>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <i>Henry Segebart</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Dale Wittrock</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Tatyana Guy</i>	<b>27</b> <i>Deb Kraus</i>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Doug &amp; Judy Gronau Tim &amp; Erica Ruhland</i>	<b>30</b> <i>Casey Bruch Samantha Hinners</i>
<b>31</b> <i>Olivia Fleming</i>						



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:00 Bible Class 10:00 DW	4 7:00 Elders Meeting	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:00 Bible Class 10:00 DW/HC 11:00 Council Meeting	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:00 Bible Class 10:00 DW/HC	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:00 Bible Class 10:00 DW/HC 11:00 SS Volunteers Meet	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 Bible Class 10:00 DW/HC						

**USHERS**

Doug Schuette  
Doug Ehlers  
Wade Ragaller

Dan Wittrock  
Jeremy Ehlers  
Damon Ehlers

**Parish Circle**

Deb Owen  
Chancel Circle  
Carm Thiedeman & Kate Neumann  
Rodonna Neumann & Monica Neumann

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