



Cambridge Lutheran Church ELCA
319 W. Court St.
Cambridge, IL 61238

August 2026
Volume 62 No. 8
Making Christ Known for 150 years
1875-2026

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Worship begins at 11:00am

Ministers	The whole congregation!
Interim Pastor	Stacy Christianson
Council Vice President	Heather Usrey
Council Secretary	Jason Gustafson
Parish Secretary	Emily Galle
Director of Music	Susie VanWynsberghe

CAMBRIDGE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

We are ordinary people who come together to share our joys and burdens, grow in faith, serve our world and have fun as a community, by **making Christ known.**

Church Telephone: 309-937-5798

Church e-mail: cambluth@gmail.com

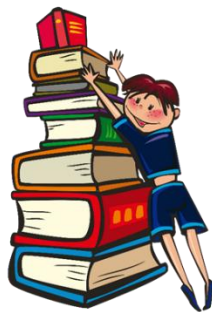
Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/cambridge.lutheranchurch/>



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 11:00am Worship	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 11:00am Worship Bless the Backpack	10	11	12	13 5:00-7:00pm Ice Cream Social at College Square Park	14	15
16 11:00am Worship	17 First day of School	18	19 6:00pm Discernment Committee	20	21	22
23 11:00am Worship	24	25	26 6:00pm Life/Mission Committee	27	28	29
30 11:00am Worship	31					

Back to School

It's that time of year again. The first day of student attendance will be on Monday, August 17th. Please be watchful of children crossing the streets and on bikes.



Bless your Backpack

Please bring your backpack to church on August 9th for a blessing of the backpack.

*From the
Pastor's
Desk*



*The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your
steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.~
Psalm 138*

We gathered after worship to do *Prayers for Our Church* devotion, and this was part of the passage that we read together. Why do we gather for worship? It is because we have an innate need to offer our praise and thanksgiving to the God who claims us and gives us everything we need. The need to gather with others, to lift our voices in song and praise to God- this is at the core of what it means to be a Christian. But I wonder if we truly believe all of God's promises.

On good days, sure we believe that God's steadfast love will guide us and use us for God's will in this world. During our moments of joy, we hold onto the promise that God will give us everything we need for our lives of faith. But what about when things get overwhelming?

During our conversation after worship, the idea was expressed that there is a difference between hope and faith. We know this. But sometimes it is hard to express the difference. So, in simple terms faith is a belief that something is true and hope wants something to be true. Faith carries certainty, hope carries uncertainty.

We have faith that God will forgive us our sins. We have faith that there is an eternal home for us. We have faith that God has claimed us as beloved children.

We hope that God will lead the church into being the Body of Christ. We hope that the love we share in this world is enough to lead people to Jesus. We hope that we are a loving, welcoming community that shares God's love throughout the world.

Faith is about God being the constant. Hope is about us being able to set aside ourselves- our agendas, our disagreements, our pride- to find a common ground to do God's work. Faith relies on God's perfect love and forgiveness. Hope relies on our brokenness not getting in the way of God's perfection.

It is my hope that we can continue to live in the steadfast love of God as we gather for our praise and worship. Knowing that we are but human trying to discern God's love for us and how best to live out our call as Cambridge Lutheran Church. But through it all, I have faith that God loves us and that Jesus died on the cross so that we will have forgiveness. It is my hope that the Holy Spirit directs us to do God's will in this place. But I have faith that God has called and claimed us as beloved children and loves us beyond all measures of human understanding.

May you have the faith to know the love of God and trust in the forgiveness of sins. And may you have the hope to be the child of God you have been created to be.

In Christ's peace,
Pr. Stacy



NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS WE ARE WORTHY.

This is the bible study for Morning Marthas this fall, Pastor Sara Oldon-Smith has a three part study that reminds us that our value comes from the simple fact that we are God's beloved children. This was the theme of the ELCA Triennial gathering in Des Moines this July. It helps to know that we belong to a community of women, past and present, who are also worthy. We need not wonder if we are worthy. The only question is how, together with God, we will use that worthiness in the world and in Cambridge Lutheran Church.

Join us on Wednesday, Sept 2 at 9:30 in fireside room for brunch and how we are all worthy.



WELCA enjoyed lunch at Sunshine Café and fellowship at Diane Hasson's new condo.

Missing from the picture is Johnna Olson and Emily Galle

Congregation Council Highlights – July 9, 2026

The Congregation Council met on July 9, 2026. Present were Pastor Stacy Christianson, Heather Usrey, Jason Gustafson, Kyle Markey, and Johnna Olson. Charlene Wells was absent.

Highlights from the meeting include:

Summer Worship Attendance

Heather shared that summer worship attendance has remains steady.

Life & Mission Committee Update

Jason Gustafson provided an update on the work of the Life & Mission Committee since it began meeting in May. The committee continues to focus on strengthening congregational life, encouraging volunteer engagement, and expanding outreach opportunities.

Pastor's Ministry Update

Pastor Stacy shared updates on the congregation's discernment process, the development of the church devotion book, and the weekly 10-minute devotional time following Sunday worship.

Altarpiece Restoration Project

The 50% down payment has been made for the restoration of the historic altarpiece. The congregation is now awaiting a scheduled start date from the restoration firm.

Property Improvements

Several maintenance projects have been completed, including replacement of the east-side gutter, new sanctuary ceiling fans, replacement of the boiler room storm door glass, and operation of a basement dehumidifier during the summer. Kyle will also investigate crack sealing for the church parking lot.

Education Ministry Planning

The Education Committee will meet to discuss and reimagine what Sunday School could look like in the coming year.

Music & Worship

Council discussed creating a more formal Altar Guild volunteer schedule and recruiting additional volunteers.

Financial Update

Council reviewed the May and June financial reports. Offerings through June totaled \$18,827, compared to the anticipated \$24,125 for the year to date. Offerings are behind \$5,298 at mid-year.

Thank You Received

Council received a thank-you card from Talan Fransene expressing appreciation for the graduation cake reception, cards, gifts, and well wishes received from the congregation.



Rally Day 2026

Join us for a Rally Day celebration!!! On September 13th we will begin our Sunday School year. Watch for further information.

Confirmation Students

Plans are being made for this falls/winters Confirmation Class. If you would like your child to be part of this class and your child is entering 7th grade, please contact Pastor Stacy at pastorstacy1217@gmail.com or the church office at cambluth@gmail.com.



Ice Cream Social

The Life and Missions Committee will be at the
Cambridge Car Cruise'n Event
at College Square Park
Thursday, August 13th
from 5:00 to 7:00pm.

If you would like to volunteer to
serve ice cream please contact the office.
Thank you

Altar Guild

An Altar Guild team is being formed. If you would like to learn how to set paraments, prepare communion and cleanup after worship, please talk to

Pr. Stacy. We will be offering a training session, if needed, and set up a schedule for weekly worship once we have volunteers in place.

Life & Mission Committee Highlights – May & June 2026

The Life & Mission Committee held its first two meetings in May and June as it began establishing priorities for strengthening congregational life and serving our community.

Highlights from the meetings include:

Committee Purpose Established

The committee affirmed its purpose: to strengthen congregational life, care for one another, encourage participation and stewardship, and serve our community through outreach and mission.

Outreach Priorities Identified

The committee selected several mission initiatives to focus on, including ongoing Food Pantry Birthday Cake Kits, an October hygiene and household products drive for the Food Pantry, and exploring additional ways to support local organizations such as Cambridge Schools and Hillcrest Home.

Fellowship & Community Events

Planning is underway for an Ice Cream Social during the August Cruise-In, Rally Day in September, and Trunk or Treat this fall. Additional fellowship ideas, including potlucks, trivia nights, bingo, and family movie nights, will continue to be explored.

Caring for Our Congregation

The committee has begun sending cards to individuals included on the congregation prayer list as another way to provide encouragement and care.

Volunteer Opportunities

The committee continues to look for ways to help members share their time and talents through worship, fellowship, outreach, and service opportunities.

The committee is excited to begin this new ministry and looks forward to helping Cambridge Lutheran Church continue to grow in fellowship, service, and community outreach.

KRÄFTSKIVA/CRAYFISH & SWEDISH MEATBALL DINNER



In Augustana's BREW BY THE SLOUGH
in the Gerber Building,
at 3435 9-1/2 Ave, Rock Island IL

Sat. August 15, 2026

5:00 PM Socializing & punch

5:30 PM Dinner Served

Weather permitting, we'll be on the patio!

Enjoy an evening of Swedish food, fellowship, and tradition as we celebrate the end of summer with family and friends — just like they do in Scandinavia! The menu will feature traditional Swedish favorites, including crayfish, meatballs, shrimp, salad, and all the trimmings. Whether you're a longtime ASA member or attending for the first time, we hope you'll join us for a good time with our favorite crustaceans!

COST Adults: \$24, Children (12 and under) \$12

RESERVATIONS are due August 5th. Please make checks payable to "ASA" and mail your reservation details (name, # Adults/children, your email & phone) and payment to: Kimberly La Palm, 5025 Kesler Rd NW, Cedar Rapids IA 52405, OR email reservations to kimberlylapalm@augustana.edu.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to our own Ruby Beam,

2026 Jr. Miss Henry County!

We are so proud of you!



Dear Cambridge Lutheran Church members,

Thank you for the cake reception celebrating my graduation, I am incredibly grateful for your cards, warm wishes, and generous gifts. I look forward to using them toward building my future career!

Talan Fransene

Cambridge Lutheran Church Congregation:

Thank you for the gift bag and cake reception. It was very thoughtful and will help when I go into college this August

Addie



Aaron Jacobs August 1st
Emma Steider August 2nd
Gretchen Jones August 6th
Harvey Johnson August 26th
Dea Conrad Curry August 28th



Chad & Sara Humphrey	August 4 th
Ken and Susan Beam	August 25 th
Ron and Kathy Reed	August 26 th
Doug and Kerry Spivey	August 29 th

***THANK YOU to the Newsletter Ladies for taking time out
of your busy day to organize and mail the newsletters.***

We SO appreciate your help!