

Northeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Abiding Places of Belonging

By Bishop Kevin Jones



At the Synod's C3 event on June 6, a participant asked where I saw the ELCA ten years from now. My answer was that the church will be smaller and leaner, but that I continue to see signs of hope.

I believe that the church will be around ten years from now, but I don't think I can accurately describe what it will look like.

In the nine days since the C3, I have spent 16 hours in my car. While I was driving across the rolling hills of rural Iowa and Illinois, the six-lane raceways of Chicago interstates, and through torrential rain and winds that tried hard to push me off the road, I had time to ponder this question. While I am still unable to accurately picture what the church will look like ten years from now, here are some general directions in which I believe we are heading.

Smaller and Leaner

The shrinking population of rural communities is the leading cause of declining membership and worship attendance in our congregations. In Northeastern Iowa, peak populations were in the late 1800s in most of our counties.

The long, slow decline has accelerated seeing median worship attendance drop from 98 to 48 among congregations in the Synod. Additionally, the median age of an ELCA member is estimated at 68. This means that almost half of all ELCA members are over the age of 68. In the next ten years we will see an increase in members removed by death or the inability to participate fully and support the congregation financially.

This does not mean the end of all small congregations. Ministry needs will continue in these smaller communities. Resilient congregations and members will find ways to care for one another and creatively address community issues together.

Lay Led/Pastor Supported

We have lived in a time when the ratio of pastors to congregations was higher than almost any other time in Christianity. For us, ministry is something done by a trained professional (pastor) that was supported financially and through volunteer labor by a congregation. Church has been pastor led/lay supported in our lifetime.

The declining number of active pastors, the decreasing size of congregations, and increasing costs associated with clergy compensation, is flipping this idea on its head.

Abiding Places of Belonging Continued...

In the future, congregations will be led primarily by members and be supported by clergy who focus on Word and Sacrament (pastors) and Word and Service (deacons). Every congregation will not have a pastor/deacon every weekend. Creative ways to share clergy among congregations are already being explored.

Abiding Places of Belonging

Most of the congregations in Northeastern Iowa were formed because people wanted the support of a community gathered around shared faith. These congregations became abiding places of belonging for individuals and families. Congregations that will still be around ten years from now will continue to be a place where people gather around the Good News of Jesus and the gifts of grace; where their authentic self is welcomed and valued; where their needs (physical, emotional, spiritual) are cared for; and where they can serve the needs of their neighbor and the world together.

The truth is, the Church will continue as the body of Christ, no matter what. This is true, not because of what we do, but because of who Christ is and the ways that the Holy Spirit continues to work in us, around us, and through us. Congregations and denominations have life spans and yet the Church has continued through them all. I have every confidence and hope that God will bless it long into the future.

A Grateful Heart

By Rev. Jennifer Thomas



As I near the one-year mark in this role, I find myself genuinely amazed at the generosity of this synod.

I have seen it reflected in your steadfast support for mission support, hunger ministries, disaster response, Pathways to Leadership, and offerings given “where needed most.”

Because of your generosity, lives are being changed. Neighbors experiencing food insecurity are finding nourishment. Communities recovering from disasters are met with care and hope. Emerging leaders are being encouraged and formed. And across our synod, people are encountering the authentic presence of Jesus through your witness.

Generosity does more than meet needs—it shapes who we are. As Rebekah Basinger, nationally recognized consultant, author, and educator reminds us, “generosity expands our hearts, deepening our compassion and drawing us further into God’s work.”

I see that expanded, faithful heart in you. Thank you for the ways your generosity is already making a difference.



Rev. Jennifer Thomas at Congregation Annual Meeting Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Dubuque

2026 C3 Conference: Abiding, Belonging, Creative, Collaborative, Congregations (A/B/C³)

C3 Gathering Recap: Connection, Learning, and Moving Forward

The recent C3 gathering offered a rich and energizing experience centered on collaboration, creativity, and faithful leadership in today's changing ministry landscape. We were grateful for outstanding presenters who challenged and inspired us with thoughtful, practical insights. Among them were Megan O'Toole, ISU Shrink Smart, who shared from her organization's work and perspective, and Bishop Kevin Jones, whose leadership and vision helped frame our time together. Sessions focused on adaptive leadership, innovation in ministry, and navigating change with purpose. The content emphasized both imagination and strategy—encouraging us to think boldly while also equipping us with tools to act wisely in our contexts.

Worship grounded our time together, creating space for reflection, renewal, and shared purpose. Through music, prayer, and liturgy, we were reminded of our call and identity as the church. A meaningful highlight was the recognition of our Certified Lay Assisting Ministers (CLAM), celebrating those who have completed all of the components of the synod's Lay Ministry Training Program. We give thanks to Lisa Ames-Kruse, Kerri Wilson, Julaine Jarvis, and Sondra Nelson for their commitment to serving Christ's church.

The network displays highlighted the breadth of ministry happening across the synod. These displays sparked ideas, shared best practices, and reminded us that we are not alone in this work. A special highlight was connecting with Mallory and learning more about the new website—an exciting resource that will help strengthen communication, storytelling, and access to tools for ministry.



Lunch and Workshop in Parish Hall



Musicians who participated in leading Worship



Network display tables outside the Sanctuary & Parish Hall

C3 Continued...

Looking Ahead

Follow-up information and next steps from the gathering are currently being developed by the Synod Council, Vice President Kate Stierman, and Bishop Jones. We look forward to continued guidance and resources as we build on the momentum of this time together.

We extend our sincere thanks to the planning team—Bishop Kevin Jones, Jan Glaspie, and Dena Gable—for their care, leadership, and vision in bringing this gathering together. We are also deeply grateful to those who served in hospitality and worship music leadership, whose gifts helped create a welcoming, meaningful, and spirit-filled experience for all.

As always, we're here to walk alongside you. Together, we are learning how to lead with intention, adapt with courage, and Shrink Smart—faithfully stewarding our ministries for the future.

June 2027 will be a synod assembly with a synod bishop election.



Gathering Worship at C3



Megan O'Toole with Shrink Smart leading mapping exercise



Alison Petitt with the Synod Staff handing out lunch



Bishop Kevin speaking about ELCA Congregations in NEIA

Ordination of Dorothee Caspari

Dorothee Caspari was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on May 27, 2026, at St. John Lutheran Church in Arlington where she served as a seminary intern. Bishop Bill Tesch was the ordaining bishop, since Pastor Dorothee has been called to serve as Pastor at Glyndon Lutheran Church, Glyndon, MN and Associate Pastor at Dilworth Lutheran Church, Dilworth, MN. Dorothee's fiancé, Pastor Matthew Rossler, preached the sermon. Pastor Steve Brackett provided a welcome and greeting as the representative from the Northeastern Iowa Synod.



Clergy present for the ordination of Dorothee Caspari on May 27, 2026 at St John Lutheran Church in Arlington



Bishop Bill Tesch and Pastor Dorothee Caspari celebrate, and Pastor Matthew Rossler preaching

Ordination & Installation of Craig Moss

Craig Moss was ordained at St. Paul Lutheran, Maple Leaf on Saturday, June 13, 2026. Craig served as a Collaborative Learner at St. Paul while attending Wartburg Theological Seminary online. Rev. Sarah Nye preached an interactive sermon. The sculpture on the table is a collection of prayers assembled by those in attendance.



Pictures above and below are clergy present for ordinator and installation of Craig Moss



Racial Justice Network Update



Juneteenth

What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the day when Union soldiers fully enforced the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas. News of the Union's victory in the Civil War two months earlier, and the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation more than two years prior to that, did not reach all parts of the nation at the same time. It was left up to Union forces to notify formerly enslaved people that they were now free.

This is certainly something to celebrate and commemorate. Here are some events taking place throughout the Northeast Iowa Synod.

Dubuque Multicultural Family Center Event Series:

This year's Juneteenth celebrations in Dubuque will take place over three days:

- **Friday, June 13:** History Retold, 5–8 p.m. at the Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Ave. Highlighting the history of Black culture through art, performances, fashion, and food.
- **Saturday, June 14:** Picnic in the Park, 12–4 p.m. at Jackson Park, 1500 Main St. Featuring a talent show, raffles, a bounce house, all-ages games, community and business booths, free food, food trucks, and door prizes.
- **Sunday, June 15:** Prayer and Praise, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. at Jackson Park. Celebrate with a variety of Dubuque congregations through word and song.

Additional details about the Juneteenth celebrations can be found by clicking the [Multicultural Family Center website](https://www.mfcdubq.org/calendar/juneteenth-celebrations) or <https://www.mfcdubq.org/calendar/juneteenth-celebrations>.

Waterloo/Cedar Falls: Cedar Valley Interfaith Council

3rd Annual Juneteenth Service of Repentance: The third annual service of repentance for Juneteenth will begin with a shared meal where we will listen to speakers, engage in constructive conversation and introspection, and of course fellowship with fellow justice-seekers.

After the meal, a service of worship will take place, focusing on the need for individual and corporate repentance for systemic racism that has influenced slavery, segregation, Jim Crow, and the contemporary struggle for voting rights and full participation in American democracy. Dr. Michael Blackwell has agreed to offer the primary message for this service.

- **Date and Time:** Thursday, June 18, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- **Location:** First Congregational UCC, 608 W. 4th St., Waterloo, Iowa

Juneteenth Continued...

Cedar Falls Human Rights Commission: Juneteenth Celebration Friday, June 19, 7:00pm at Overman Park in Cedar Falls

Waterloo, 31st Annual Juneteenth Celebration: Unity in the Community (visit [Cedar Valley Interfaith Council Facebook Page](#) to find more details)

- Thursday, 6/18 – Talent Show 6:30–8:30 at Gates Park Amphitheater
- Speakers, Music, Vendors, Raffles, & more at Sullivan Park – Friday 5:00–9:00, Saturday 1:00–8:00, & Sunday 2:00–8:00

March Against Fear Commemoration: On June 5, 1966, James Meredith began a march from Memphis, TN to Jackson, MS, intending to counter continued racism in the Mississippi Delta, and encourage African Americans to register to vote. After Meredith was wounded by a sniper on the second day of his walk, the 21 day march grew to be one of the largest demonstrations in the Civil Rights Movement in the South. Let's gather together to watch a film of the March Against Fear and the circumstances back in 1966, as well as in contemporary society. The ultimate purpose is to encourage people to vote. Doors open at 6:30.

- **Date and Time:** Thursday, June 25, 7:00–8:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Hawkeye Community College Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center, 120 Jefferson St., Waterloo, Iowa

Events to support those in the immigrant community:

River ARC in Waterloo is planning its third annual French Community Resource Fair for June 20, 2026, 10:00am to 4:00pm at Living Stone Church in Waterloo. This fair is designed to help immigrants and refugees better understand chronic illnesses, how they impact health, and the importance of preventive care as well as connecting immigrants with community resources and services. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/TheRiverARC/> or click [here](#).

The annual Latino ¡FIESTA! is scheduled for Saturday, July 18, at the Riverloop Amphitheater in Waterloo. The ¡FIESTA! features taqueria trucks, Latino food vendors, live entertainment, traditional dance performances, and children's activities. Here's an excellent opportunity to meet and support members of the Latino immigrant community. Admission is free. Learn more at <https://www.waterloocenterforthearts.org/fiesta> or click [here](#).

Looking for a small-group study resource? The Racial Justice Network highly recommends "Exploring Faith and Civic Life for the 21st Century: Inspired by the Freedom Riders of 1961," created by the Racial Justice Ministry Team of the Delaware–Maryland Synod. [This 5-session video series](#) includes discussion questions and resources for further exploration of each session, and can be adapted based on the needs of your group.



Updates & Events

The 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering: Imagine More

Mark your calendars! The Gathering 2027 is in Minneapolis, Minnesota from June 28 – July 2, 2027. It's not too late to join one of the many webinars available! Below is a list of the upcoming webinars taking place throughout the rest of 2026. You can register for the ones you are interested in attending, or view all of the webinars in 2026 and 2027 by going to:

<https://www.elca.org/gathering/gathering-2027/key-dates>.

June 22, 2026: Volunteering at the Gathering

July 16, 2026: A Leader's Guide to the Getting Ready Materials

August 17, 2026: What is SERVE?

September 24, 2026: Registration 101

October 13, 2026: What to Expect in Morning Worship

November 19, 2026: ENGAGE Programming Preview

December 14, 2026: Helping Your Group Navigate Community Life Well



Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering

2026 WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING



july 16-19, 2026 ✨ des moines, iowa

The Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will take place July 16–19 at the Iowa Event Center in Des Moines. Every three years women gather to worship, learn through workshops and service, and become inspired by the the incredible speakers.

The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is “I am Worthy.” The theme focuses on two verses from Psalm 139:14 “I am Worthy” and Psalm 139:14 “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

You can learn more about the event and register by visiting womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page or clicking [here](#).

Gathering Expedition

Friday Oct 30 (6:00 pm) to Sunday Nov 1 (10:30 am), 2026 at Ewalu.

Gathering Expedition is a weekend retreat where youth and their adult leaders step away from the noise to explore faith, purpose, and leadership. It's a time to pause, listen, and prepare for what God is doing next.

Young people are invited to discover their voice and practice leading alongside others. Through worship, service and shared learning, they will grow skills and confidence to live their faith boldly in daily life. This retreat will also serve as a stepping stone on the faith formation journey—building connection and momentum before the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering, where the shared experience peaks in a powerful churchwide celebration of faith.

Together we will learn from Lyle Griner (Relational Leadership Collaborative), Chaplain Maggie Falenschek (Wartburg College), Pastor Melissa Bills (Luther College), Bishop Kevin Jones (Northeastern Iowa Synod), and more! We invite youth to bring Halloween costumes for a dance and hayride on Saturday. There will also be time for adult leaders to ask Gathering questions and get help with registration.

Adults who are not bringing youth are invited to join us for "How to Empower Youth Leadership" with Lyle Griner on Saturday, 2:15–4:00pm. The cost is \$20 to attend. This workshop is included for adults attending the Expedition.

Register [here](#). You can also go to the events page on the Northeastern Iowa Synod website.



Grand View University Faith Forward Program

May 2026 Cohort

Grand View University recently started their third Faith Forward cohort in May of 2026. The Faith Forward program is designed to help congregations pass on the Christian faith to the next generation in the post-pandemic world. The program teaches families and congregations how to tell Biblical and family stories of God's mercy, grace, love, boundaries, protection, promises, and faithfulness.



Pictured above is the Faith Forward Cohort the started this May. In this photo are 20 new participants that joined. The participants represent 13 synods, including the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Those pictured from the Northeastern Iowa Synod include Melinda McVey, Craig Moss, Dan Hanson, and Jared McLey.

To learn more about the Faith Forward Program at Grandview University, check out their website at grandview.edu/faith-forward or follow them on Facebook at GVFaithForward.

Fall Theological Conference

Rostered leaders, SAMs, CLAMs, and ministry partners across Northeastern Iowa are invited to gather for the 2026 Fall Theological Conference, held October 4–6, 2026, in Cedar Falls at St. John's Lutheran Church. This year's conference centers on the theme "Bridges and Tables," inviting us to explore how God forms community through story, relationship, and shared life—especially across difference.

Throughout the conference, participants will engage with Rachel Kurtz, Joe Davis, and David Scherer, three leaders whose work weaves together music, storytelling, theology, and practical tools for ministry in a divided and complex world. Together, they will help us reflect on how bridges are built through listening, how tables become places of belonging, and how leaders are shaped to gather communities rooted in grace.

The conference begins Sunday evening, October 4, with a coffee house concert at 7:00 p.m., featuring music and storytelling in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Area youth groups are warmly encouraged to attend this concert, making it an intergenerational evening of reflection, hospitality, and joy.

A highlight of the conference will be Dinner Church, which will serve as the worship experience on Monday, October 5, at 5:00 p.m. Rather than a traditional service, Dinner Church brings worship, conversation, and a shared meal together around tables. Participants are invited to participate in dinner church, learning hands-on how such a model can nurture authentic community and meaningful connection in a variety of ministry contexts. Come ready not only to participate, but to imagine how Dinner Church might take shape in your own setting.

Whether you serve in a congregation, a shared ministry call, or another expression of rostered leadership, this conference offers space to be renewed, challenged, and inspired. You'll leave with practical ideas, deeper relationships, and a renewed vision for building bridges and setting tables where Christ already meets us—in our communities, our stories, and our shared ministry.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us this fall in Cedar Falls as we gather to learn, worship, and practice building community together.



Lay Ministry Training Program



Lay Ministry Training

Are you interested in learning more about the Northeastern Iowa Synod's Lay Ministry Training Program? Are you curious about how a lay person becomes a CLAM (Certified Lay Assisting Minister) or a SAM (Synod Authorized Minister) in the NEIA Synod? The Lay Ministry Training Program in the Northeastern Iowa Synod will begin its third year in the fall of 2026. Synod staff will be holding an informational webinar about this program on **Tuesday, June 23, 6:30–7:30pm**. To register click [here](#). You can also go to the events calendar on the Northeastern Iowa Synod webpage to register.

Training Program Overview

The Lay Ministry Training Program has several components, some of which are done in partnership with other synods. The entire program may be completed in the same 2-year period, or participants may choose to participate in individual components as their time allows. Participants are also welcome to take an individual Formation course.

Participants who complete both layers of this program will receive a Certificate of Completion and will be considered Certified Lay Assisting Ministers (CLAMs). Certified Lay Assisting Ministers are equipped to serve as Lay Ministers in the life and ministry of their congregation and the larger Church, and may be authorized to serve as Synod Authorized Ministers (SAMs) when a need arises.

UPCOMING EVENTS JUNE - AUGUST

June 2026

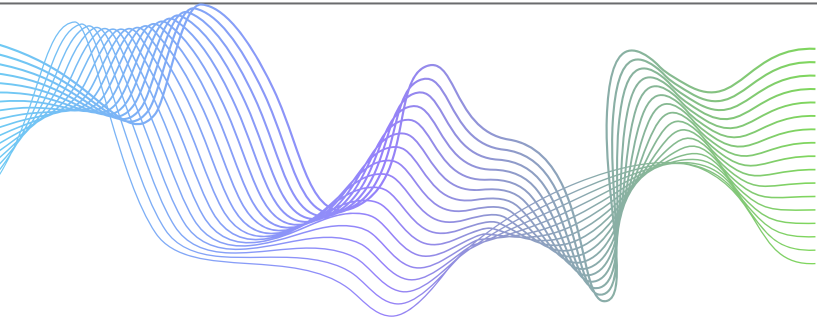
- **June 6, 2026** – A/B/C3 Conference
 - St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Waverly, Iowa
 - Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- **June 11, 2026** – Global Church Together Network
 - Zoom @ 1:30 p.m.
- **June 11, 2026** – Racial Justice Advocacy Network
 - Zoom @ 3:00 p.m.
- **June 23, 2026** – Northeastern Iowa Synod's Lay Ministry Training Program
 - Zoom 6:30 p.m.
- **June 25, 2026** – Congregational Presidents' Meeting
 - Time: 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

July 2026

- **July 9, 2026** – Global Church Together Network
 - Zoom @ 1:30 p.m.
- **July 9, 2026** – Racial Justice Advocacy Network
 - Zoom @ 3:00 p.m.
- **July 16–19, 2026** – Women of the ELCA
 - Iowa Event Center, Des Moines, Iowa
- **July 28–30, 2026** – Sphere Humanitarian Charter & Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response
 - Chicago, Illinois

August 2026

- **August 13, 2026** – Global Church Together Network
 - Zoom @ 1:30 p.m.
- **August 13, 2026** – Racial Justice Advocacy Network
 - Zoom @ 3:00 p.m.



Website Update

As you have likely noticed, the Northeastern Iowa Synod webpage is being updated. Our domain has not changed, but you may find things are slightly different than before. If you are struggling to find information or documents, please contact the synod office so we can point you in the right direction. Also, we would like the website to be a tool to better serve you. If you have ideas and / or suggestions, your input matters to us. Please contact Mallory Jensen at 319-352-1414 to discuss your ideas.

A few updates to the website you may find helpful:

- The calendar feature now provides more information including attached documents, access to Google Maps, and icons that allow you to make the event shareable or add to your calendar
- On the Congregations page, <https://www.neiasynod.org/congregations>, you can now access Google Maps. On the map are all the congregations that make up the Northeastern Iowa Synod.
- We will be adding a page for stories and best practices. Please contact Mallory Jensen in the Synod office if you have something within your congregation you would like to share.
- There is a link on the front page of our webpage that will direct you to all press release information issued directly from the ELCA. It is located near the bottom left of our home page.

Northeastern Iowa Synod Outreach Fund

The Northeastern Iowa Synod Outreach Fund exists to empower and support innovative ministry initiatives. These initiatives should extend beyond existing organizational boundaries, engage new populations, foster deeper connections between congregations and their broader context, and equip people to live out their faith.

Application Timeline

- There are three application cycles each year.
 - **Spring 2026** – Application Due March 1, 2026
 - **Summer 2026** – Application Due July 1, 2026
 - **Fall 2026** – Application Due Nov. 1, 2026
- Up to \$25,000 will be awarded during each cycle.
- Completed applications should be emailed to grants@NEIASynod.org. Applications submitted after the due date will be considered in the next cycle.

Types of Funding Available

- Project Support
- Matching Funds
- Events / Conferences
- Travel (eligible and ineligible expenses listed in attached application)
- Capital / Equipment Expenses (for innovative projects)

Learn More & Apply:

<https://neiasynod.org/download-category/cultivating-vitality/>

Congregations

Interviewing:

- Allison, St. James
- Arlington, St. John; Elkader, Hope (Littleport); Strawberry Point, St. Sebald; Volga, St. Paul (One in Faith Lutheran Parish)
- Cedar Falls, St. John (staff)
- Clarion, First & Congregational UCC
- Dows, First (part-time call)
- Dysart, Zion
- Janesville, Messiah (part-time call)
- Jesup, American, Rev. Susan Friedrich, interim
- Jewell, Bethesda, Rev. Jonathon Dolan, interim
- Joice, Bethany; Lake Mills, Winnebago; Northwood, Silver Lake; Albert Lea, Minn., Lunder (One in Christ Lutheran Parish)
- La Porte City, Zion (Jubilee)
- Lake Mills, Salem
- Leland, Our Savior & Garner, Faith (Miller) (part-time call)
- Mason City, Our Saviour's & St. Paul (part-time call)
- New Hampton, Trinity
- Roland, Bergen
- Sheffield, Zion St. John
- Thornton, St. Paul (part-time call)
- Toeterville, St. Peter & Carpenter, Deer Creek
- Waterloo, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (part-time call)

Self-Study:

- Charles City, St. John
- Decorah, Glenwood & Canoe Ridge
- Decorah, St. John's & Hauge (part-time call)
- Dubuque, St. John's
- Garnavillo, St. Paul & McGregor, First, Rev. David Tielbar, interim
- Hawkeye, Trinity (part-time call)
- Oelwein, Zion
- Washburn, Redeemer (part-time call)
- Waterloo, St. Ansgar (part-time call)
- Waterloo, Trinity (part-time call)
- Waterloo, Zion (part-time call)
- Waukon, St. John, Rev. Mark Oehlert, interim

Roster Changes:

- Rev. Linda Marlett, retired
- Rev. Karla Wildberger, retired
- Deacon Robert Haak, transferred from Northern Illinois Synod
- Rev. Kathryn Kleinhans, transferred from Northeastern Ohio Synod
- Rev. Clarence Baalson, deceased

Installations:

- August 9- Rev. Ron Poe, Bethlehem, Cedar Falls
- August 30- Rev. Beth Hurt, St. Peter, Eldorado & Ossian, Ossian
- Pending- Rev. Rodney Bluml, Lord of Life, Asbury



Prayers

Please join in praying for the following leaders and ministries of the Northeastern Iowa Synod and ELCA:

May 1–7, 2026

- H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders
- Rev. Paul Fohs
- Rev. Randy Baldwin
- Rev. David Burling
- Janice Kraabel
- Rev. Mark Oehlert
- Rev. Mike Wilker
- Eileen Delk
- Rev. Jim Magelssen

May 8–14, 2026

- Rev. Karla Wildberger
- Rev. Dale Halverson
- Rev. Jon Dolan
- Grand View University, Des Moines
- Mosaic, Omaha, Nebraska
- Wartburg College, Waverly
- Luther College, Decorah

May 15–21, 2026

- Lutheran Services in Iowa, Waverly
- Good Samaritan Society – St. Ansgar Center
- Rev. Laura Gentry
- Middle East Peace
- Rev. Tim Malek
- Good Samaritan Society – Waukon Center
- St. James Lutheran Church, Allison
- St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Arlington

May 22–31, 2026

- Rev. Dennis Hanson
- Rev. Nicole Woodley
- Leota Lenning
- Rev. Gary Johnson
- Rev. John Sheahan
- Rev. Elizabeth Retz
- Rev. Russ Leeper
- Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Asbury
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Belmond

June 1–7, 2026

- H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders
- Good Samaritan Society – West Union Center
- Rev. Roy Ott
- Rev. Gloria Friedrich
- Rev. Howard Wolfgram
- Good Shepherd Inc., Mason City
- Rev. Wayne Ellingson
- Rev. David Efflandt

June 8–14, 2026

- Rev. Melissa Bills
- Rev. Kyle Barton
- Deacon Jackie Schilling
- Rev. Tom Martin
- Rev. Kim Wills
- Rev. Dan Hanson
- Strawberry Point Lutheran Home, Strawberry Point

June 15–21, 2026

- Rev. Edy Santos
- Barb Feuerhak
- St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Belmond
- Middle East Peace
- Rev. Jay Ilten
- Deacon Lisa Kammerer
- Calmar Lutheran Church, Calmar
- Springfield Lutheran Church, Calmer

June 22–30, 2026

- Zion Lutheran Church, Castalia
- St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
- Rev. Joel Dahlen
- Rev. Michael Last
- Rev. Bob Hetrick
- Rev. Selvaraj Periannan
- Rev. Evan Meester
- Rev. Dennis Frank
- Fredsville Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls