



Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

News for Sunday, September 20, 2026

Join us for at 9:00 a.m. for Worship

Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

Tri-Church Confirmation Class – St. John's at 11:00 a.m.

Click [HERE](#) for the 9:00 a.m. Worship bulletin

Click [HERE](#) to watch the Livestream

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Craig Green, Tricia M., Ken & Stephanie, Richard J., Callahan McCallister, Brock Woessner, Lori Dewey, Michelle Klinger, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, and Phyllis Jacobson.

During this time of transition if you have an emergency, please call Sue in the church office or one of the council members who will contact the pastor that is covering during that time.

September Tri Church Activities & Meetings

20 – Confirmation @ St. John's, 11 am – 2 pm

27 – Birthday Buddies Cookout @ LSSI Group Home, 4 pm

28 – WELCA CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out), at Azul Cantina 5:30 pm
(RSVP to Judy Bartel at 815-751-6768)

NOTE: No Tri Church Leadership Team meeting in September

LSSI Trunk or Treat

On October 17th, LSSI is hosting a trunk or treat for their youth and families served by their foster care program at Nachusa. They are looking for donations of candy, individual snack packs, and juice boxes. Please bring any donations by October 4th. There is a basket at the back of the sanctuary.

The Loaves and Fishes Breakfast Program at First United Methodist Church, Sterling, serves hundreds of meals each week day! Plastic grocery sacks are needed. Please place your plastic grocery bags donations in the box at the back of the sanctuary.

We give thanks for Tri Church Birthday Buddies! Residents of LSSI Group Homes birthdays are celebrated by Immanuel, St. John's and St. Paul on a rotating schedule. A small gift, cards and cupcakes are shared with residents and volunteers who join in the celebration. We are in our third year of this partnership with LSSI and it has been a mutual blessing to all involved. What a gift it is to share life and God's love together!

While birthday parties continue for the residents of the LSSI Sterling Group Home and Partnership House, a special activity in the fall is becoming a tradition. **This year on Sunday, September 27th beginning at 4 pm, Tri Church will be hosting activities for the residents with a cookout to follow at 4:45 pm at the Group Home** (104 6th Avenue, Sterling).

You are invited to join in sharing time and a meal with our nine Birthday Buddies. If you plan to attend, please let Deb Keaschall know at 815-718-5237 or email debkeaschall@gmail.com. Please bring a lawn chair as we will be outdoors.

LSSI is very grateful for the Tri Church partnership with the Birthday Buddy program. Whether you have helped plan a birthday party, shop for gifts, attend a party, signed or sent a card - thank you for making these residents feel special and recognized on their birthday. **We are church together!**

LOMC Fall Retreat – November 20–22, 2026 – Choose Your Adventure!

This year, we're offering three flexible options for the LOMC Fall Retreat—pick the one that works best for you!

Option 1: Friday to Saturday

- Arrive: Friday at 6:00 PM
- Depart: Saturday at 4:00 PM

Option 2: Saturday Only

- Arrive: Saturday at 9:30 AM
- Depart: Saturday at 4:00 PM

Option 3: Saturday to Sunday

- Arrive: Saturday at 9:30 AM
- Depart: Sunday at 9:00 AM

Open to all middle and high school students!

Sign up with Miss Gabby ASAP to let us know if you'd like to go.

ELCA Youth Gathering – Last Call!

Minneapolis, Minn., June 28–July 2, 2027

The 2027 ELCA Youth and young adult Gathering is just around the corner, and this is your final chance to be part of this life-changing experience!

Open to:

- Youth in grades 8–12 (as of fall 2026)
- Young adults ages 18–35

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, grow, and be inspired. Contact Miss Gabby before Nov. 1 to secure your spot!

Children's Offering

The September Children's offering will go to towards The Buddy Bag program. Be assured that every penny donated goes only to the cost of purchasing the food. All administrative costs are covered separately.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday, September 22

Pastor Mark will be in the office
BBT at Benny's in Sterling at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, September 24

Church office will be closed in the afternoon

Friday, September 25

Church office will be closed in the morning

Next Sunday, September 27

Worship service at 9:00 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.
Birthday Buddies cookout at the LSSI Group Home – 4:00 p.m.

Next Week – September 27

Worship Assistants

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Stacey Avelar
Acolytes – Avelar family
Greeters – Bob & Judy Bartel
Ushers – Keith Peugh, Dan Dir
Reader – Keith Peugh
Sound – Bradyn Arians
Communion Assistant – JoAnn Garcia
Altar Guild – Ann Beswick, JoAnn Garcia
Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*