



Purpose Statement

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

News for Sunday, September 27, 2026

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

Sunday School at 10:15 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, 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.

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!**

September Tri Church Activities & Meetings

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

Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Jana Howson, will be our worship leader and proclaimer of the Word on Sunday, October 4th. Pastor Howson is the synod support leader for the search and call process for a new pastor for our congregation. We hope you can be here to welcome her to St. Paul Lutheran Church! (Pastor Luepke will be officiating at a wedding service on the weekend of the fourth.)

Pet Blessing Oct 4

During outdoor worship on Sunday Oct 4, we will be worshipping with all God's creation, including our pets! You are invited to bring your dog, cat, horse, fish or any pet to receive a special blessing for the animals and attend worship with you. (In case of inclement weather, the Pet Blessing will be canceled).

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.

Fellowship Time Guest Speaker – October 11

After our worship service on Sunday morning, October 11th, we will have the opportunity to meet Pastor Pius Yugi, a pastor of Cross and Cornerstone Ministries in Kenya. Among the service ministries of this church community have been establishing food resources, water wells, homes for those in need and now establishing a much needed medical clinic in his village with ongoing construction.

Pastor Yugi has some established relationships in Sterling and Freeport and is seeking out church communities with whom to share about the ministry in which he and this congregation in Kenya are involved in.

While St. Paul, through the Northern Illinois Synod, has established companionship ties with the North Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania and the Arcot Lutheran Church in India, we are giving Pastor Yugi an opportunity to share with us about his ministry efforts. We will introduce him during the morning’s time of worship.

You are encouraged to attend, learn, and grow from connecting with one of our Christian brothers from Africa. The presentation on Sunday, October 11th, starting about 10:15, is scheduled to last about 30 minutes.

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

Monday, September 28

CLEO will meet at Azul Cantina at 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 29

Pastor Mark will be in the office

Next Sunday, October 4

Outdoor Worship service with Pet Blessing at 9:00 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

Next Week – October 4

Worship Assistants

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Audrey & Cathy Cox

Ushers – Donna Kendall, John Renner

Reader – JoAnn Garcia

Sound – David Carrillo

Communion Assistant – John Renner

Altar Guild – Ann Beswick, JoAnn Garcia

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*