



Purpose Statement

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

News for Sunday, October 4, 2026

Join us for at 9:00 a.m. for Outdoor Pet Blessing Worship

Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship time with Pastor Jana – 10:00 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: Mary Ann DeJonge, 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.

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.

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.

St. Paul Trunk or Treat

Join us for our beloved annual Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 31st, from 3:30–5:30 p.m. in the church parking lot! We're kicking off the fun an hour before the city-wide trick-or-treating begins and we'll be wrapping up around 5:30 p.m. to make sure none of the little ones miss out on their own trick-or-treating adventures. Anyone who'd like to come out and decorate their trunk can sign up on the clipboard on the back table. If you don't want to decorate a trunk, but still want to come help out, we'd love some assistance serving apple cider slushies. We will also be collecting candy and other Halloween goodies to hand out. Donations can be put in the basket in 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.

October Tri Church Activities & Meetings

- 4 – Confirmation @ Immanuel, 11 am – 2 pm
- 5 – Menz Group @ St. John's, 6 pm
- 6 – WELCA Evening Gather Bible Study @ St. John's, 6 pm
- 7 – Confirmation Service Night @ Wesley United Methodist, 7 pm
(Packing Buddy Bags; 2200 16th Ave., Sterling)
- 20 – WELCA Morning Gather Bible Study @ Immanuel, 9 am
- 21 - WELCA Quilting for Lutheran World Relief @ St. Paul, 9 am
- 21 - WELCA Family Group Meeting @ St. Paul, 5:30-7 pm
- 26 – WELCA CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out), 5:30 pm
(RSVP to Judy Bartel at 815-751-6768)
- 26 – Tri Church Leadership Meeting @ St. Paul, 6 pm

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!

Have you started your Christmas shopping? In looking toward the upcoming Holiday Season, we are looking for someone to lead the Christmas decorating team. Nancy Eilers has held this position for several years and has decided to step down. If you feel that is something you are interested in, please talk to Nancy or Sue in the church office. Thank you for prayerfully considering this.

Children’s Offering

During the month of October, our children’s offering at worship is going toward Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) Holiday Hope Chest. LSSI offers children and their families gifts for Christmas through the purchase of gift cards to specific vendors. Thank you for helping young people served by LSSI have gifts for Christmas this year! More information will be coming in regards to purchasing gift cards/gifts on your own.

THIS WEEK

Monday, October 5

Menz Group at St. John’s – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 6

Pastor Mark will be in the office

WELCA Tri Church Bible Study at St. John’s – 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 7

Tri-Church Confirmation Buddy Bag packing at Wesley UMC – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 8

Council Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, October 11

Worship service at 9:00 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School at 10:15 a.m.

Next Week – October 11

Worship Assistants

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Volunteer Needed

Acolytes – Arians family

Greeters – Dan Dir, Carolyn Duncan

Ushers – Diane Yoeckel, Nancy Beck

Reader – Not needed

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistant – Nancy Beck

Altar Guild – Ann Beswick, JoAnn Garcia

Coffee Fellowship – Duncans