



FROM THE PASTOR

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

This is one of the most loved and familiar hymns we sing on Sunday. I’ve always said that music is the “glue” that holds the worship service together. I thought I would write about the background of this beloved hymn.

Like many authors of music, this one was written as the result of experiences regarding grief. Joseph Medicott Scriven was born of a wealthy family in Dublin, Ireland in 1820. At the age of twenty-five, Scriven left Ireland and moved to Canada, due to religious differences with his family. In addition, he experienced the tragic death of his fiancée, who died in a drowning accident the night before they were to be married.

When Scriven arrived in Canada, he began a totally different way of life. Employed as a teacher and tutor, he dedicated himself to serve his students and community. Scriven patterned his life after Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. He gave generously of his few possessions, literally the shirt off his back. It was said that he never refused anyone in need of help, so Scriven became known as the local Good Samaritan.

The words of the hymn came from a poem that he had written to his seriously ill mother back in Ireland. He wanted to offer her comfort and remind her of the never-failing heavenly friend.

Certainly, this hymn still provides comfort and serves as a reminder that Jesus is our never-failing heavenly friend.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” Philippians 4:6

Peace and Blessings,
Pr. Cindy





Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday means Easter BREAKFAST! The famous OSLC Easter Breakfast will be held from 8-9:30 am on Sunday, March 31st before Easter worship at 10:00. Please sign up on the youth bulletin board if you are able to donate what we need to cook a delicious breakfast! Free will offering. See Hannah with questions!

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to our recent youth fundraisers! The spaghetti dinner and Pies for Palms were both a great success! We appreciate all of your support!!

THANK YOU to all who donated pies for Pies for Palms! We had so many yummy pies for everyone to pick from!

Phil and Andy's Pantry – April

Our local missions are in need of personal Hygiene products! Help us fill our cart with some of the items needed....

Bath Soap	Towels	Razors
Shampoo	Shaving Cream	Lotions
Deodorant	Tooth Paste	Tooth Brushes
Feminine Hygiene Products		



Or any other items you feel would be needed.
We will collect these items for the month of April.

Did you know? April 5th is National Self-Care day!

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), taking time for self-care has been shown to have a positive effect on both mental and physical health!

- Taking time to do things for yourself have been proven to reduce stress levels, lower risk for illness, and increase energy
- What can I do to care for myself?
 - ✓ Exercise regularly - just 30 minutes of low impact exercise per day (like taking a short walk around the block) can boost mood and improve health.
 - ✓ Prioritize your sleep- especially by reducing blue light from phones, TVs, or computers right before bed.
 - ✓ Practice gratitude; remind yourself daily of the things you are grateful for and focus on the positives!
 - ✓ Try a relaxing activity - read a book, watch a TV show you enjoy, pick up a new craft!
 - ✓ Stay connected with friends and family

Readers

April 7 – Rachael Sindelar

April 14 – Derek Sindelar

April 21 – Nancy Trout

April 28 – Korver Sindelar

**Readers can pick up their reading in the
“Reader” mailbox located between the offices
in the back hallway

Assisting Ministers

April 7 – Jeremiah Miller

April 14 – Hannah Plummer

April 21 – Nancy Greer

April 28 – Jeremiah Miller

Prayer for Pastor

April 7 – Dave Case

April 14 – Therese Plummer

April 21 – Ardy Erickson

April 28 – Diana Emig

May 5 – Arnold Strottman

Acolytes

April 7 – Korver Sindelar

April 14 – Hailey Clapp

April 21 – Evelyn Fiester

April 28 – Lexi Flockhart

Ushers/Greeters

April 7 – Sue Clapp, Al Johnson

April 14 – Dave Sampson, Marv Houg Tom Zuber

April 21 – Strottman’s

April 28 – Fiester’s

Serving Our Congregation

Cindy McKenzie – Interim Pastor

Sue Clapp– Congregation President

David Sampson – Treasurer

Therese Plummer – Parish/Financial Secretary

Forrest Green – Music Director

Terri Hodge – Bell Choir Director

Hannah Plummer – Children & Youth

Ministries Director

ELCA Conference of Bishops calls for cease-fire in Gaza **/stands in solidarity with migrants.**

Dear ones of the Southeastern Iowa Synod,

As I returned from the ELCA Spring Conference of Bishops (COB) meeting, I find myself filled with gratitude for the opportunity to serve with you, the Southeastern Iowa Synod, and for the mission that we share with the whole ELCA—all congregations/ministries, all synods and church wide partners. Together we share the Good News of God through Jesus Christ.

This Spring meetings of the COB found us engaged in new learning, deliberate dialogue, shared work, completing projects, receiving many reports, worshipping, praying and feasting together, celebrating bishops completing their terms, engaging with wise and compassionate churchwide staff.

I took the opportunity to chat with Presiding Bishop Pro Tem Burk and let him know that we in Southeast Iowa give thanks for his ministry and support him in prayer as he tends his role.

I comment to you the press release that outlines in more detail the highlights of our meeting. Thanks for our partnership in the Gospel and for your ongoing prayers.

Youth of the Month

My favorite color is
GREEN

I have 2 dogs
ALLIE & AXEL

When I grow up, I want to
be a
DOCTOR

My favorite sport is
SOCCER

My favorite school subject
is
RECESS

My favorite TV show is
PAW PATROL

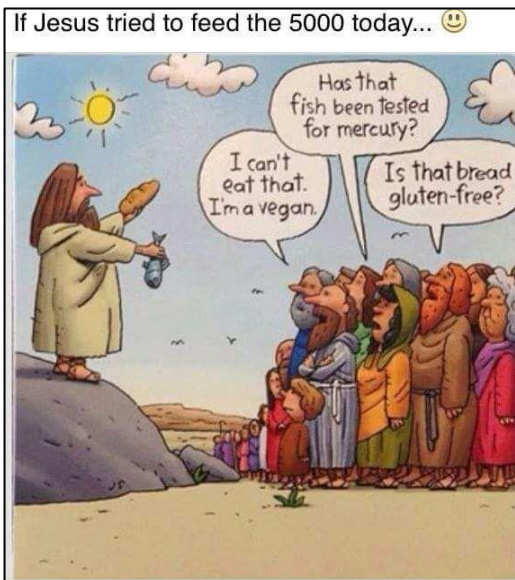
I'm good at
FIXING STUFF

If I had a superpower, it
would be
SPIDERMAN

WILLIAM



Humor



Southeastern Iowa Synod

Many of you were in attendance during our Palm Sunday service and had the pleasure of listening to Pastor Dan Kuckuck preach and then after service talk to us about the Southeastern Iowa Synod. I personally do not know a whole lot about our Synod and thought I would share some of the information I found with all of you.

The Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA is a network of congregations and ministry partners who are called to share God's love in Jesus Christ. The Southeastern Iowa Synod is comprised of 135 congregations in 38 counties in the southeastern part of the state. The synod is home to several of Iowa's population centers, including the Des Moines metro area, Ames, Cedar Rapids, Davenport and Iowa City, as well as small cities such as Marshalltown, Clinton, Muscatine, Ottumwa, and Burlington. Congregations range from remote country parishes, rural settings, and large urban churches. Together we are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ, walk together with the people of our congregations and equip, nurture and serve our communities and the world.

SYNOD Council Members (*denotes term-end year*)

- Pastor Rodney Bluml (2024)
- Alan Fabel (2026)
- Pastor Jodi Hinrichs (2024)
- Jessica Hotchkiss (2026)
- Pastor Tim Jacobsen (2026)
- Pastor Aleese Kenitzer (2026)
- Rodney Kern (2024)
- Renee Sneitzer Kooker (2026)
- Abby La Plante (2024)
- Braeden O'Connor (2024)
- Justin Paul (2026)
- Sue Stamm (2026)
- Area 4-Open Seat (2024)

The Office of the Bishop exists to oversee the proclamation of the Gospel, to serve with and among the many congregations, ministries, and ministry partners of the synod, and to share in mission within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The Office of the Bishop staff (synod staff) focuses our shared work through:

- proclaiming the Good News of God through Jesus Christ
- equipping rostered ministers, professional lay ministers, and all baptized leaders in
- congregations with resources, tools, connections, vitality, and partnerships
- accompanying congregations, ministries, rostered ministers, ministry candidates, and
- congregational leaders in the regular ministry of challenges, joys, and transitions.
- celebrating mission and ministry.

Pray for peace on the National Day of Prayer at sunrise, lunch or after work.

Prayer Walk for Peace at Prairiewoods

Thursday, May 2

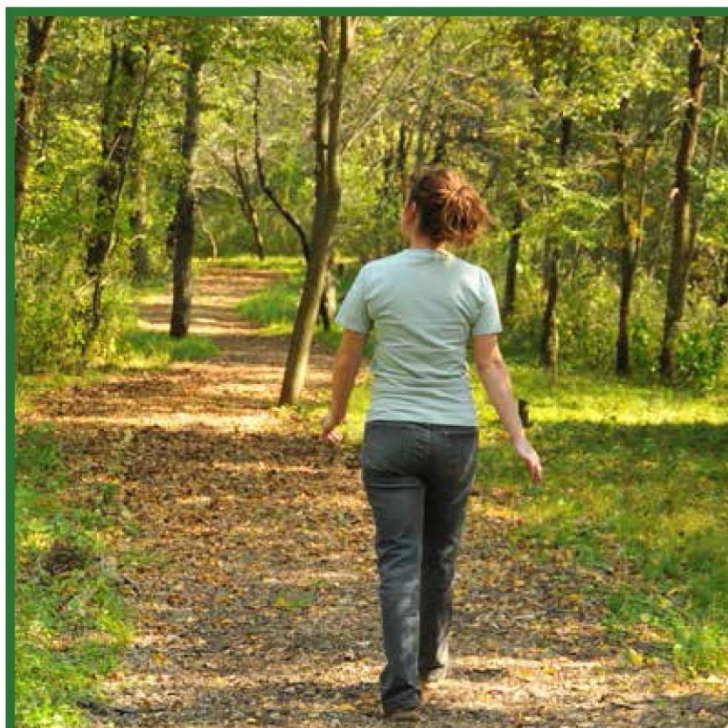
6:15–7 a.m.,

12:15–1 p.m. or 5:15–6 p.m.

You are invited to join us in a Prayer Walk for Peace on the grounds of Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center. The world is aching for peace: peace in our world, our community, our relationships and ourselves. Join us on a Prayer Walk for Peace on the National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 2. (Choose from a sunrise walk from 6:15–7 a.m., a midday walk from 12:15–1 p.m. or an after-work walk from 5:15–6 p.m.)

Please wear tennis shoes or other appropriate footwear. We will meet outside of the Guest House. In the event of rain, we will gather inside the Center. Everyone is welcome, and registration is not necessary. A free-will offering will be accepted.

For more information, contact Prairiewoods at 319-395-6700 or www.Prairiewoods.org.



Images from Spaghetti Dinner 3-10-24



Palm Sunday Service 3-24-24





Visit by Pastor Dan Kuckuck,
Assistant to the Bishop

Pies for Palms Fundraiser 3-24-24

