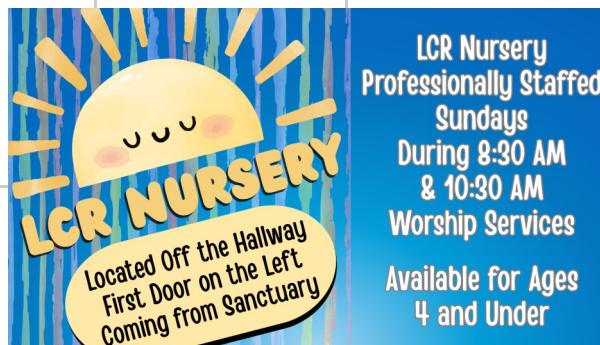


Sun	6:30 Alc. Anon. (weekly) Girl Scouts (Feb. 15th)	Mon	6:00 Boy Scouts (wkly)	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4th Epiphany 8:00 Fellowship Time 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Fellowship, Matthew Study 9:40 Sun. Sch, 7th-12th Fellowship 10:30 Contemp. Worship 1:00 Candy Bar Bingo	2 9:00 Comforting Hands Quilters	3 9:00 Esther Book Study 6:30 Esther Book Study, Painting Group 7:00 Wed. Band rehearsal	4 9 Mission of Hope prep 11:00 Scripture Study 1:00 Rebecca Mary Martha Circle 5:10 Kid's Choir rehearsal 5:30 Fellowship Time 6:00 Wednesday Worship	5 8:00 MoH luncheon 10:00 Walking Group 11:00 Social Concerns Team 6:30 Ringers rehearsal 8:00 Sun. Band rehearsal	6	7		
8 5th Epiphany 8:00 Fellowship Time 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 Fellowship, Matthew Study 9:40 Sun. Sch, 7th-12th Fellowship 10:30 Contemp. Worship 12:00 Middle School Beats & Treats	9 9:00 Comforting Hands Quilters 1:00 JAM Bible Study	10 9:00 Esther Book Study 6:30 Esther Book Study, LCR Book Group 7:00 Wed. Band rehearsal, P.E.O. Women's group	11 11:00 Scripture Study 5:10 Kid's Choir rehearsal 5:30 Fellowship Time 6:00 Wednesday Worship	12 10:00 Walking Group 6:30 D. Dennis Sm. Grp, Ringers rehearsal 8:00 Sun. Band rehearsal	13 12:00 Gatherings 1:15 Cribbage	14 ❤️ ❤️		
15 Transfiguration 8:00 Fellowship Time 8:30 Traditional Worship 9:30 LCR Valentine's Breakfast 9:40 Sun. Sch, 7th-12th Fellowship 10:30 Contemporary Worship 3:00 PEP 55+ Hootenanny!	16 9:00 Comforting Hands Quilters	17 9:00 Esther Book Study 6:30 Esther Book Study, Painting Group, Church Council 7:00 Wed. Band rehearsal	18 Ash Wednesday 7:30 Imposition of Ashes 11:00 Scripture Study 5:00 Soup Supper 6:00 Ash Wed. Worship w/Communion & Ashes ~ no kid's choir, WNL, Conf. ~ 7:30 EDGE Youth	19 10:00 Walking Group 11:00 Social Concerns Team 1:30 Blood Drive 6:30 Ringers rehearsal 8:00 Sun. Band rehearsal	20	21 7:00 Wartburg Rosenchor Ensemble concert Council Retreat		
22 1st Lent 8:00 Fellowship Time 8:30 Traditional Wrshp + Rosenchor 9:30 Fellowship, Matthew Study 9:40 Sun. Sch, 7th-12th Fellowship 10:30 Contemporary Worship 12:00 Pastor Nate's Brown Bag: "Luther's Theology of Love" TBA High School Fellowship	23 9:00 Comforting Hands Quilters	24 9:00 Esther Book Study 6:30 Esther Book Study 7:00 Wed. Band rehearsal	25 11:00 Scripture Study 5:20 Kid's Choir rehearsal 5:00 Soup Supper 6:00 Lent Worship	26 10:00 Walking Group 6:30 D. Dennis Sm. Grp, Ringers rehearsal 8:00 Sun. Band rehearsal	27 12:00 Gatherings 1:15 Cribbage	28		
			Wed Youth Events 6:00 Wed. Night Live 7:15 Confirmation 7:30 EDGE Youth	Wed Music Events 5:20 Children's Choir 6:15 Galileans rehearsal 7:00 Choir rehearsal				

CANDY BAR BINGO!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
1 - 2 PM
FREE TO PLAY!



LCR Nursery
Professionally Staffed
Sundays
During 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM
Worship Services
Available for Ages 4 and Under

Ash Wednesday

Traditional Ash Wednesday Worship will be held the evening of the 18th, with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes. You may also receive ashes from 7:30-8:30 am.

A Lenten Pilgrimage

Have you ever noticed that Jesus was always on the move? During Lent this year we'll follow him as he travels from the beginning of his ministry in Nazareth to its culmination at Jerusalem. Join us on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm.

Marion Churches Blood Drive

Share your love with others in our community by donating 'the gift of life.' You can sign up at LCRmarion.org or contact Bob Wolter to pick your appointment time.

Soup Suppers

This February is all about SOUP! You can sample a variety of delicious soups at our 5 pm suppers on Wednesdays in Lent. You can also bring in canned soup for our neighbors at the Churches of Marion Food Pantry.

Rosenchor Ensemble concert

Enjoy beautiful voices raised in song on Saturday evening the 21st, and then again at 8:30 worship the next day.

Valentine's Breakfast

Who doesn't love a real breakfast? Skip the soggy bowl of cereal and spend the morning eating a full Valentine-style breakfast with your church family.

PEP 55+ Hootenanny

Singing is an awesome way to get happy! Come to the church on the 15th and sing along to all the old-time classic tunes :-)

Playing the hazards

Romans 5:3-5

³ And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

The only thing certain in the game of golf is that you start on the tee box and stop when the ball goes in the hole. Golf is a game played from tee box to pin and whatever happens between your tee shot and your final putt is anyone's guess.

You could hit a perfect shot 250 yards straight only to discover that's right where the course designers decided to put a pond. Or worse. You can hit a perfect 40 yard wedge shot and land on the green, but if conditions are against you that ball is going to roll right on past the pin and into a bunker.

When this sort of thing happens to me I tend to hear myself say "That's life." I do that in order to appear calm and collected to my playing partners. Deep down I vacillate between wanting that shot back and wanting to go back home.

And it's true. That IS life and I'm not the first to notice the self discovery that is made by most of us who golf. We can practice, we can prepare, we can have the best gear, and even the best swing and none of that changes anything when you are dropping your ball and taking a penalty stroke.

And to make things worse, the more you pay to play a course, the more likely you are to encounter hazards. As it turns out golfers tend to WANT the struggle.

The hazards are a way of measuring growth and skill. To a beginner like me, the hazards of the course are a curse. To a seasoned player the hazards of the course are a predictable measure of skill. A ball that lands in a bunker is simply dealt with. With a few adjustments to stance and swing the sand doesn't have to be a hazard at all.

And perhaps that's the real insight.

There are many ways to understand the struggles we face in our lives.

To be fair, some struggles don't fit into a golf metaphor - and they shouldn't. The struggles that result from abuse should not be endured by any person for any reason. That kind of struggle is a violation, not a lesson. That kind of struggle deserves my personal attention, not a newsletter article, and I am available for any of you if you need an advocate.

And, some struggle can be redemptive, or at least instructive.

Of all the insights provided by scripture, perhaps none is more accurate to my experience than the Apostle Paul (above). The struggle always instructs. And knowledge earned tends to be better than knowledge learned.

Peace! - Pastor Nate



Thanks to Marcia Edwards
for 17 years of
Volunteer leadership!



Four Corners...
how low can you go??!



LCR youth take to the
skate floor in January >>

Hearing the Still Small Voice

As of this writing, the temperature is well below zero, the wind is blustering, and I find myself wanting to hibernate under the comfort of many thick blankets. There are moments though, when the wind dies down. I find it quiet and still, almost uncomfortably so.

I am part of a couples Bible study. Most of us have kids in their late teens or early twenties. We have often lamented how our children wake up, grab their phone and begin walking around the house entertained by reels or YouTube videos. In their world, silence is almost non-existent.

As parents, we often ask this question, 'where is there space for our kids to hear the still small voice of God to guide their steps?' Perhaps that is also a question for each us... do we have times of solitude that allow God to speak into our lives?

Habakkuk 2:20 says it plainly. 'The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.'

Silence provides an opportunity to reflect, ponder, and hear God's gentle leading in our lives. The world seems determined to rob us of this much needed time of repose, time to just breathe and listen.

I love the way the traditional service offers some time for silent reflection... be on the lookout for some times of quiet reflection in the Contemporary service as well. As Christians, we need to provide space to hear the still small voice of our Creator.

- Ralph Kendrick, Contemporary Worship Leader



Madelyn Olson showered us with Epiphany cupcakes!



LCR teens sorted your Advent donations.

So many thanks to those who donated and those who delivered items to our four organizations.

A graphic for the 'CEDAR at 60' campaign. It features a large image of a modern building with a large glass front. To the left, text reads 'CLOSING THE GAP' and 'Help us minimize borrowing to finish the Cedar Lodge project! Make a gift now: www.Ewalu.org/Cedar-Lodge-Project'. To the right, a circular logo says 'Generation to Generation' and 'CEDAR at 60'. Below the building, a progress bar shows 'NEW GOAL: \$3.4 million' with a dashed line at \$2.1 million 'already raised in first phase of campaign'. To the right, icons and text list campaign goals: 'Hospitality & Accessibility', 'Food Service & Dining Experience', 'Living Conditions for Summer Staff', and 'Environmental Stewardship'. The date 'Updated: December 26, 2025' is at the bottom right.

EWALU
Camp & Retreat Center
37776 Alpha Ave
Strawberry Point, IA 52076
563-933-4700
www.ewalu.org

Camp Ewalu is a year-round ministry
that primarily serves over 200 ELCA
congregations in Eastern Iowa.
563-933-4700
www.ewalu.org

LEARN MORE & MAKE A GIFT
See details about the project, make a
gift online, and follow our progress at
www.ewalu.org/cedar-lodge-project

