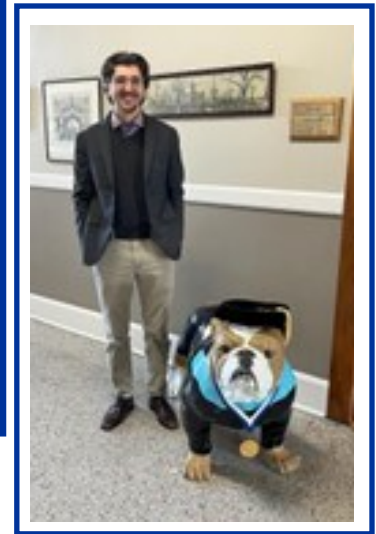


Chronicler

In the May Chronicler, we featured some of the graduates from our OSL family. Congratulations to these additional 2024 Graduates.

C. Matthew Forck

Matthew is the son of Chris & Matt Forck, grandson of Bob & JoAnn Bringolf, and brother of Natalie Forck. He graduated May 19 from Drake University. Matthew's majors are Mathematics for Secondary Education and Secondary Teacher Education, with minors in Mathematics and History. He will also have endorsements in 5-12 Mathematics, K-12 Computer Science, and 5-12 Basic Social Sciences with focuses in Psychology and Economics. Matthew will student teach Algebra this fall at SE Polk.

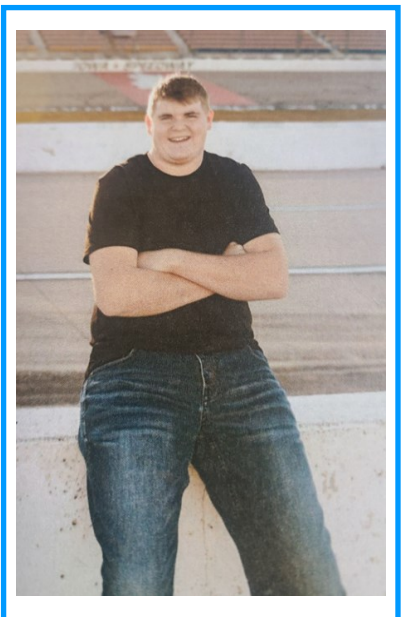


KIERAN ROBY

Kieran is the daughter of Jerry and Christina and sister to Noelle and Karsten. She graduated from Baxter High School. Her plans for after graduation are to work full time with the family business at The Hideout, while continuing to study & practice art.

KARTER SMEAD

Karter is the son of Scott & Sabrina Smead and grandson of Jo Moses. He graduated from Lynnville-Sully on May 18th. In the fall, Karter will be attending Cornell College in Mount Vernon with a football scholarship.



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Message from Pastor Picard

At altar guild meetings (in Knoxville) this year we have been studying hymnody. In the context of said discussions, someone asked me, "can you recommend some good songs for one to choose to be used at their funeral?" The thought behind the question was that it is helpful to pre-plan your own funeral so as to save the survivors the burden of doing so when the time comes. I won't rehearse my entire response. But here are the main points.

1. Is it necessary to pre-plan your own funeral service? Traditionally, service planning and execution has resided within the duties of the pastoral office. If an individual doesn't have a pastor, then, by all means, they had better plan for their funeral. But the best plan would be...get a pastor. Belong to a church. But, if you do have a pastor, you might want to think about whether your pre-planning is assisting or hand-cuffing (micro-managing) the pastor. The ideal would be to trust that the pastor can do his job and to permit him to do so.

2. People want to personalize their funeral service...put their stamp or signature on it. Song selection becomes a part of this effort. But, remember, there is a higher function to the funeral service. Your funeral service is NOT your last chance to say something about yourself and who you are to the world. The funeral service is intended to offer solace and comfort to the survivors. Being dead, you are not in a prime position to spearhead this project. The comfort comes post-mortem, and you're the mortem. When a pastor crafts a service he will ideally take into consideration all sorts of factors that you (the some day to be deceased, now, presently, in pre-planning mode) cannot in advance of your death. For example, the sort of grieving that occurs when someone passes suddenly and unexpectedly is profoundly different from the grieving that comes after a slow, lingering death. You can't know how your death will hit your loved ones as you pre-plan...because your death hasn't happened yet. The message of a funeral service should be seen holistically. The readings, sermon and songs are all ideally concerted to deliver in unison and harmony the gospel message most necessary and appropriate for the moment.

3. If your confidence in your pastor is so low that you don't feel that you can count on him to comfort your survivors adequately, that might be an excellent litmus test for you to prompt your reflection over whether you are at the right church and with the right pastor. There are fundamental questions that you can ask yourself about your pastor. One of them is: 'Could I pour out my heart to this man?' A second is: 'When I die, will this man bring comfort to those whom I love?' Hopefully he can and he will. Don't hand-cuff him.

4. Be aware that your pastor wants to serve you well. Be aware, as well, that it is difficult to be asked to provide a service and not allowed the latitude to do so. The pastor doesn't want to draw lines in the sand just for the heck of it. He doesn't want to draw lines at all. He knows that death is an extremely sensitive and emotional time. This makes the situation all the more delicate. The pastor doesn't want to upset people. But he also wants to perform his office well and with integrity. He has to think, as well, about what precedents could result from a given instance. Pastors worry constantly about giving in a little here...fudging on that over there...and, pretty soon, you can't get the livestock back in the barn.

A pastor I know was recently told by the family, after having agreed to conduct a funeral service, that for the closing song they had selected "Highway to Hell" by AC/DC. (This is not a lie!). He was, further, invited to come up front and air-guitar the song with the family as their final salute to their loved one. The pastor declined to do the air-guitar. But he did do the funeral and "Highway to Hell" was the closing song. You think to yourself--'that is an extreme and ridiculous case.' Yes. But it happened. (In Newton, Iowa no less!). And it's not as anomalous as you think. A funeral director told me just yesterday that he had a funeral at his chapel recently at which the family elected to close the service with "Another One Bites the Dust". The culture is going that way. And the trouble is, there is no universal agreement as to where that line lies over which we should not cross.

5. Finally, I don't want to be scolding in tone. It's not heretical or evil to have hymn preferences picked out for your funeral. But, if you do, why not talk it over with the pastor in advance? Don't wait until after you're dead to stick him with some selections that he is not comfortable with.

6. My best advice is--the best pre-planning for your funeral that you can do is...know your pastor, and trust him.

Call Meeting

on Wednesday, May 29, 2024
at 6:30 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

The slate will include 3 pastors.

This meeting is open to all voting members of the church. If you are a member and would like to participate in the Call Meeting but have not voted in over one year, the voter assembly will be asked to re-establish you as a voter before the meeting.

Please make plans to attend!



- ◆ Call Meeting @ 6:30pm - May 29 - in sanctuary
- ◆ Confirmation Sunday - June 2
Bible Class/Sunday School will be at **9:30am** and we will be changing **Divine Worship to 11:00am.**
- ◆ LWML 'Clean Sweep' – 9am June 5
- ◆ Share & Care Meeting – 9am Thurs June 6
- ◆ Father's Day - June 16
- ◆ LWML District Convention (Cedar Rapids) – June 21-22

LWML 'Clean Sweep' – one conversation led to another and a date was set for **Wed June 5 @ 9am** with a one hour timeclock to tackle the LWML file cabinet materials – we hope to identify, reorganize and discard outdated materials. Anyone interested in helping is invited to join us that morning!

We also agreed to add a second hour (or work simultaneously) to start on the same clean up for the 'orange' classroom – there are a lot of Sunday School/youth related supplies that just need to be cleaned out, recycled, donated, etc. If you have a passion for that work – join us, also on Wed June 5 @ 9am.

These tasks may take additional workdays, but we're excited to get started.
Questions or comments? Contact Julie 521-3473.



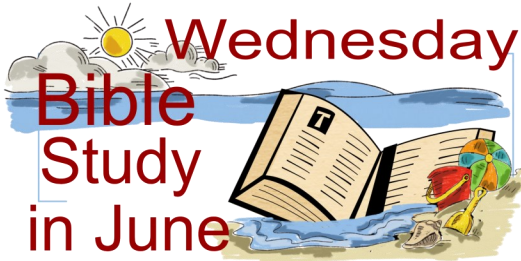
A Trip to the
Ball Game



Save the Date! Sunday August 18, Game time 1:08pm
50 tickets have been reserved for another OSL Iowa
Cubs baseball outing. Watch for details and signups to
follow in July.



Wednesday Bible Study in June



Bible Study held on Wednesday afternoons will be **CANCELLED** for the month of June. Pastor Picard will be away on vacation two weeks in June and has a conflict on one of the other Wednesdays. Watch for an announcement on when this activity will resume.

Confirmation Sunday ...

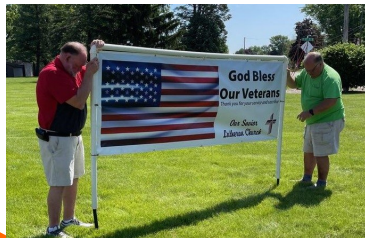
Will be held on Sunday, June 2 when this year's class will be confirmed. Students are Will and Gabe McKinney and Hayden Dunkerson. Worship service will be at **11:00 am** that Sunday. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!



Kieran Roby on Graduation Sunday, May 19.



Thank you to Ron and Julie Dlouhy and Randy Ervin for putting up the sign on the church lawn for the Memorial weekend.



LWML Iowa East District Convention June 21-22

District Convention is about 3 weeks away and Julie, Pat, and Carole are packing up the car for the drive to Cedar Rapids. There are 3 mission organizations that are recognized in the convention's ingathering (Gifts from the Heart). And we have plenty of room in the car for us and any donations we can bring to convention.

The 3 mission projects are:

*Lutheran Interparish School

(Williamsburg) – monetary donation towards a gym renovation (checks to "Lutheran Interparish School")

*Swaddling Clothes Inc (St John LC, Marengo) – baby/toddler clothes up to size 7, diapers, wipes, blankets, books, or monetary donation (checks to "Swaddling Clothes mission")

*Community Lutheran School -Preschool to grade 8 (Readlyn) – HE laundry detergent, boys/girls underwear 3T and 4T, postage stamps, 1" 3-ring binders with clear cover insert, lined loose leaf paper, Kleenex, compasses, Crayola watercolor paints, pipe cleaners, dry erase markers and erasers, copier paper, or monetary donations for storage room remodeling project (checks to "Community Lutheran School")

Do you have anything you'd like to send along with us? Any OSL donations for us to take to Cedar Rapids can be dropped from now until June 18 – look for the familiar collection box in the narthex. If you would like to send a monetary donation for any of the 3 organizations, give the check(s) to Pat, Carole or Julie sometime before June 18. Questions? Contact Julie @ 641-521-3473.