Greetings Decorah Lutheran,

 As we turn the calendar to August, there are quite a few events on the horizon that will shift our daily and weekly schedules. School returns by the end of the month for both teachers and students, fall sports and activities get started, and, my personal favorite, the faith formation programming at Decorah Lutheran shifts back into our weekly activities. As we get ready for these ministries to get going, there are a few things that I want to highlight as part of our programming this year.

 First, on Wednesday, August 27, we will have a Faith Formation Kickoff night from 6-8pm. At this event, we will spend time joining together in worship, having a meal, and exploring the different faith formation ministries at Decorah Lutheran. During this event, kids ages 3 years old through senior in high school and their families will have the opportunity to meet their Sunday School teachers, confirmation guides, and youth group leaders. In addition, they will be able to see the classrooms and spaces where they gather each week and hear about what they will be learning throughout the year.

 Second, there are some changes to be aware of this year. The Sunday school ages will now be 3-year-olds through 5th grade. The 6th graders, instead of Sunday School, will be invited to join Ace for the new 6th, 7th, and 8th grade youth group that will meet weekly on Sunday mornings.

 Third, in addition to the weekly women’s, men’s, and adult Bible studies offered throughout the year, Pastor Kowitz will continue to offer a Bible study on Wednesdays at 1pm starting on September 3rd. I will also be offering a new Bible study that will meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 6:30pm starting on September 2nd.

 Finally, in addition to the many faith formation events throughout the year such as First Communion, Confirmation, the Christmas Program, and Graduate Recognition Sunday, we have a few special events to highlight for the coming faith formation year.

* October 17-19 at EWALU, 6th-9th graders are invited to be part of the Dirty Feet Retreat. This retreat happened in previous years at EWALU and is returning this year.
* Decorah Lutheran will host Christian musician AGAPE\* on Wednesday, November 5th from 6-8pm. We will have food, fellowship with other churches in the area, and music and conversation with AGAPE\* that night.
* We will have a Faith Formation Carnival on Sunday, May 17, 2026 following worship. We will have games, prizes, and treats to celebrate the end of the faith formation programming year for all who taught and spent time learning throughout the year together.

 We are excited for the upcoming faith formation program year and to spend time learning and growing in our faith together with kids and adults of all ages.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric