

Fredsville Lutheran Church

January 2026

Connect with us



The Rev. Lee R. Gable, Pastor



32756 150th Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613



319-989-2065



www.FredsvilleLutheran.org



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@Fredsvillelutheran



YouTube @Fredsvillevideos

Upcoming Events

- Jan 1 - Office Closed
- Jan 7 - Confirmation Class
- Jan 14 - Confirmation Class
- Jan 24 - Meet & Greet Iowa Faith & Climate Network
- Jan 25 - Deaconess Irene DeMaris Exec Director of the Iowa Faith & Climate Network will visit Fredsville
- Jan 25 - Council Meeting

Reminders

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 15 after worship.

The snow date
will be the following week

HAPPY
New Year

JANUARY 2026



Birthdays

Kaylee Nielsen - 1
Jan Andersen - 4
Drew Petersen - 5
Zachary Nicholson - 7
Gavin Hines - 12
Jason Yearous - 12
Merlyn Petersen - 13
Kathleen Heide - 17
Jered Lotts - 18
Christa Lotts - 19
Joanne Hanson - 20
Klayton Kruger - 20
Angela Syhlman - 22
Gavin Opoien - 23
Cameron Foust - 26
Scott Griffiths - 26
Jeffery Reinicke - 26
Becca Aronson - 28
Jeff Intlekofer - 29
MacKenzie Nuss - 31
Ann Hilliard - 31



Prayer List

- **Jerry Christensen**
 - recovering from a fall
- **Catherine Petersen**
 - recovery
- **Deana Peters** (SIL of Jana & Cory Hermann)
 - diagnosed with Breast Cancer

These names were received by the church from the individual or their family and have consented to have their names released to the Fredsville congregation. Please do not hesitate to contact the church office (319-989-2065) to be included in our weekly prayers or contact Pastor Lee.



Pastoral Pondering ... Rooted, Growing, and Changing

I recently shared this trip down memory lane on social media and thought you might enjoy this view of life as we enter this new year. (Please read with Ephesians 3:14-21)

This Blue Spruce has been at my parents' house for most of my life. Now decades later we are both taller (more the tree than me), a little bigger around the middle, and we both have a balding spot. We have endured many good days and storms along the way. Times of new growth, branching out in new directions. Balanced with seasons of rest and renewal for the season of life ahead.

We have also both grown in ways that we cannot see, below the surface. Our "roots" are deeper, wider, and stronger now. We are anchored in good soil. We are still here, growing in this season of life, as we are towards what we are becoming.

I think this reflects in our lives and our life together. We all change as we grow and grow as we change. There is beauty in that. We are growing towards who we will become, as individuals, family, community, and more. We are also growing in ways we cannot see, anchored in the good soil of God's grace that helps us weather the changes and challenges, that are ahead in this life together.

As we enter this new year may there be more good days than storms. May we experience growth, branching out in new directions, while also receiving the rest that we need. May we be deeply rooted and grounded in the Love of God that gives us life, in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, season by season, generation by generation. May we grow towards the Kingdom for which we pray.

May the Peace of Christ be with you always...

Pastor Lee



Planting a tree, Brother, Me, & Dad



Me and that same tree still growing and changing



A Word From Fredsville's Council President

Happy New Year Fredsville!

The new year has now begun and with it comes the opportunity for new beginnings. A time to reset and move forward. No matter what last year brought into your life, it has come and gone, and we now look forward to a new year and a new start. Remember the good things and blessings. Remember what got you to today so you can make tomorrow even better. Life is good!

So, take a deep breath. Take the first step. Put those dreams in motion. New beginnings can be hard and challenging but now is the time we can wipe the slate clean. Start over. Be hopeful. Be ambitious. Take a chance to be a little uncomfortable and do those things you have been thinking about doing. Step out of your comfort zone for just a moment and take the opportunity to change the course of your life. Remember, "For nothing will be impossible with God", Luke 1:37.

Look forward to what lies ahead with joy and excitement. The new year can be a new beginning. A time to start a new journey or pathway or a time to continue to progress forward on all those good things you started last year. A time to organize and prioritize what is meaningful to you. Hope for change or hope for strength to continue on.

Every year in January, I reevaluate what I did well last year and what I need to do differently this year. I plan my financial goals for the year, plan my fun time, and my home projects. It's a time to evaluate all those things I should have done and figure out what limited my ability to do those things. For me it's a time of reflection and rejuvenation.

Well, here we go-- It's 2026! Be adventurous my friends. Do the things that fulfill you and make you happy. Remember, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13.

May the new year bring new beginnings and a year full of wonderful surprises along the way. God Bless you and may this year be an amazing new beginning for all of you.

Brenda-

happy new year



Q&A
By: Sue Green
Snow Removal Team
January 2026

With all the snow that we have gotten so far this winter, I wanted to make sure that you know who takes care of keeping the driveway and sidewalks cleared off at Fredsville. Thus, I am repeating the Q & A about the Snow Removal Team that I wrote a few years ago.

Having the driveway and sidewalks cleared off after it snows is something that most of us take for granted when going to church. Who does this work at Fredsville? The SNOW REMOVAL TEAM! Eric Andersen and Dan Crotty head up this team. Scott Griffith and Pastor Lee are often involved as well. Eric kindly answered my questions.

Q: Who takes the responsibility for deciding if there is enough snow to move and when to move it?

A: It's a group decision based upon the amount of snow and the activities that are going on at the church.

Q: Do you get paid? If so, is it by the hour or by the job? Does the church also pay for the fuel to run your tractors/snow blowers?

A: We do it solely for the fun of it.

Q: How long have the three of you been moving snow at Fredsville? Does it always take all three of you to move the snow?

A: My Dad had done it for years, and I and others helped him. Then it transitioned into the current group. We are always open to any others that would want to be involved in any way. The amount of snow, the size of the drifts, the schedule at the church and our personal schedules determines if all three of us will be working at moving the snow. Oftentimes, Pastor Lee will hand scoop sidewalks and by the doorways.

Q: Do you have a backup if one of you is gone?

A: Jerry Jones and/or his equipment have helped when needed. There have been others that have also helped as needed. Anyone that is interested in helping or as a backup is welcome to contact any of the snow team members.

Q: Whose equipment do you use? If it is Dan's or Scott's - how do you get your equipment over to Fredsville?

A: We use my tractor with a snow blower and my wheel loader. For me, it's a short drive. Dan brings his utility tractor with a snow blower and/or a blade and/or a brush to the church on a trailer. There are plenty of snow shovels around for the handwork.

Q: How long does it take to clear off the parking and sidewalks at Fredsville? Do you also clear the path around the perimeter of the cemetery?

A: A small snow can be cleaned up in a couple of man hours, most take 3 or 4 hours and some will take 8 man hours or more. We also try to keep the path around the cemetery open. For graveside services, we'll have it cleaned up better.

Q: What was the worst storm(s) that you have had to clear in recent history?

A: Saturday night snowstorms are the worst. It's much easier to get a weekday snow cleaned up in time.

A question for Dan:

Q: How long have you been working with Eric on snow cleanup?

A: 10-12 years. At that time, I got the snow removal equipment that I use now. I have a utility tractor which is great for doing the sidewalks and up close to the building. I offered to help Eric as my equipment complimented the equipment that Eric had to use. (Note: For those of you that didn't grow up in Dike, Eric and Dan not only grew up in church together but also were classmates.)

A question for Scott:

Q: You are the "new kid on the block". What made you want to help out with the snow removal?

A: I enjoy helping the guys when I am able to. I know an extra hand is always nice to make the job go a little quicker and if it is a large snow event it can take quite some time. It is always fun playing in the snow with equipment that has a heated cab. ☺

It wouldn't be a Q & A if I didn't ask the three fellows what their favorite Bible verse is:

Scott Griffith: Joshua 1:9 "Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the Lord your God, am with you wherever you go."

Dan Crotty: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Eric Andersen: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

Thank you!

Thank you Eric Andersen, Dan Crotty, Scott Griffith, & Jerry Jones for unselfishly giving of your time, equipment and fuel to keep the driveway and walks clear of snow! We greatly appreciate you using your "snow removal talent" so we can attend Fredsville Lutheran Church!



Images are from December 2025

FREDSVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Council Minutes

Date: Sunday December 7, 2025

Call to Order: Brenda Cooper, President

Council meeting was opened with a prayer led by Pastor Lee

Secretary's Report: Approved previously via email.

Attendance: Abby Brekke & Roy Steffan absent. (This meeting summary was prepared from a recording)

Financial Report: Financial statements were distributed.

- Building Fund: \$20,104.54
- General Fund: \$39,878.82
- Memorial Fund: \$8,269.40
 - Todd raised concerns regarding the low Interest and Dividend Income of only 2.0% ytd return. For reference, the S&P 500 is currently at 16.4% ytd. To put this in perspective, if Fredsville had this return it would be \$159,581 versus \$25,840.

New Business

2026 Budget:

- 2.8% COLA applied.
- Media Tech removed; Media Recorder/Editor added.
- Budget approved unanimously.

Endowment Allocations

- Total approved: \$35,200 including scholarships.

Solar & Utility Update

- Solar credit rate dropped, causing higher bills.
- Production slightly lower this year.
- Summary to be shared at annual meeting.

Jubilee Conference Vote

- Motion passed to join the Jubilee Conference

Council Membership & Nominations: Three members conclude terms in February (Tom, Todd, and Brenda). Members identified potential nominees.

Property Committee

- HVAC issues; seeking multiple bids.
- Parsonage window evaluation.
- Forming mowing-bid committee.

Pastors Report:

Worship

November included several special services: All Saints with a new funeral pall dedication, Confirmation Sunday for six youth, a Veterans/Armistice Day prayer service, and two baptisms. Pie Sunday took place Nov 23. Heavy snowfall canceled worship on Nov 30. Advent worship has shifted to ELW Setting 4, and volunteers decorated the space. The Christmas Program is planned for Dec 14, Christmas Eve worship at 5:30pm on Dec 24, and Lessons & Carols on Dec 28.

Pastoral Care

Pastor led worship twice at Westview Estates, offered communion, attended a visitation, and led a graveside service for a family from Colorado. While busier with office work, Sue Green provided additional visits and updates. He has supported the Koch family after Denise's death and responded to ongoing pastoral needs.

Education

Confirmation continues smoothly, focusing on Mark and transitioning to Matthew. Weekly Bible study remains active and engaged. Sunday School is in full Christmas Program preparation mode, with Pastor assisting on scenery, costumes, and props.

Spiritual Formation & Professional Development

Pastor completed regional boundary training on gender justice with multi-state synod groups. He also contributed to Iowa Faith & Climate Network planning and board work. A recent article highlighted Fredsville's Care of Creation efforts, and the Network's Executive Director will visit in January.

Evangelism / Mission / Outreach / Stewardship

Bryson completed planting for his Eagle Scout Pollinator Garden. Pastor has worked with CFU to gather data about solar panel impact and has been in touch with Senator Grassley's office about IRA funding progress. He participated in multiple NEIA Candidacy Committee meetings due to an increase in candidates and met with the Endowment Committee and Property Team to review solar energy information, upcoming repairs, and project prioritization.

Ecumenical / Community Involvement

Fredsville took part in Dike's Razzle Dazzle event with a Christmas-themed Plinko game, candy canes, coloring pages, and solar information. The event generated many warm interactions with families and community members.

Administration

The church hired a new secretary, Ashely Graas, who is catching on quickly. Reviewed the copier lease and recommended an upgrade, which was completed Dec 1.

Council Representatives for the following Committees:

- 1.) Finance: Todd Mikkelsen
- 2.) Property: Tony Norton & Keene Petersen
- 3.) Social Ministry: Brenda Cooper, Wanda Nielsen, & Keene Petersen
- 4.) Christian Ed: Abby Brekke
- 5.) Mutual Ministry: Brenda Cooper
- 6.) Cemetery: Roy Stefan
- 7.) Endowment: Tom Verhulst
- 8.) IT: Amy Camarata

Closing Prayer: The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting: January 25, 2026

*Save
The
Date*

**Annual
Meeting
Feb 15**



Community EVENTS



Saturday, January 24, 2026 3:00-5:00PM

ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries, 2422 College St, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Come learn more about our vision to empower people of faith and spirituality to take bold action for a just, healthy and sustainable future for all. We'll share exciting updates on what we're doing, what we've accomplished, and where we're headed.

Enjoy light refreshments, good conversation, and the opportunity to support our growing movement at ThreeHouse! Your support helps us nurture environmental leadership, advocate for climate justice, and build strong interfaith partnerships across Iowa. This is a free event but donations are warmly encouraged to sustain and grow our impact. Stay tuned as we will also have a silent auction that includes environmental and climate friendly experiences in the Cedar Valley as well.

Parking is limited at ThreeHouse so valet parking will be available to those who need it.

Sunday, January 25, at Fredsville

Deaconess Irene DeMaris, Executive Director of Iowa Faith & Climate Action Network will be at Fredsville to join us for worship.

Website : <https://iowafaithandclimate.org/>



Mary and Martha fun for all

Friday, Feb 20, and Sat., Feb. 21, 2026

Celebrating and learning and doing.

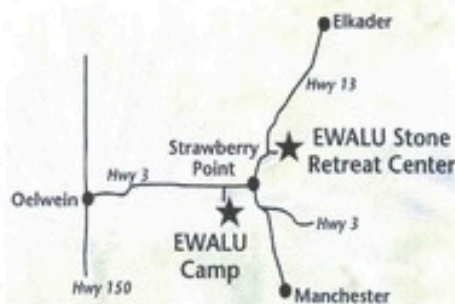
YOU and your friends are invited to a retreat to celebrate all the Marys and Marthas! This is a Celebration of YOU!

Who is welcome? Any woman who belongs to the ELCA and their friends.

A Woman, a Christian, a helper, a doer, a listener, a learner.

Activities: Bible board games, mixer game, puzzle, **bring your own** crafting projects (everything is welcome including: quilting, bandage rolling, knitting & crochet, etc.)

EWALU STONE RETREAT CENTER



The Stone Center is located just 2.5 miles north of Strawberry Point on Highway 13.

Friday, Feb. 20th

Arrive any time after 4 p.m.

Join us for a soup supper, hymn sing, games, puzzle, and crafting time.

The overnight stay and meals for the two days are \$45.

Beds, bedding, and towels included (You may have to share a room.)

What to bring: comfortable clothes, craft projects are optional, and yourself with a joyful heart.

Saturday, Feb. 21st

Come for the day.

Breakfast and coffee at 8 a.m.; noon meal, Bible study, hymn sing, crafting time and lots of fellowship

Afternoon speakers: Family Resource center, Guttenburg

Welcome is at 9 a.m., Day ends at 3 p.m.

Day only rate for meals and building usage is \$20

Registration deadline: Monday, Feb. 16th

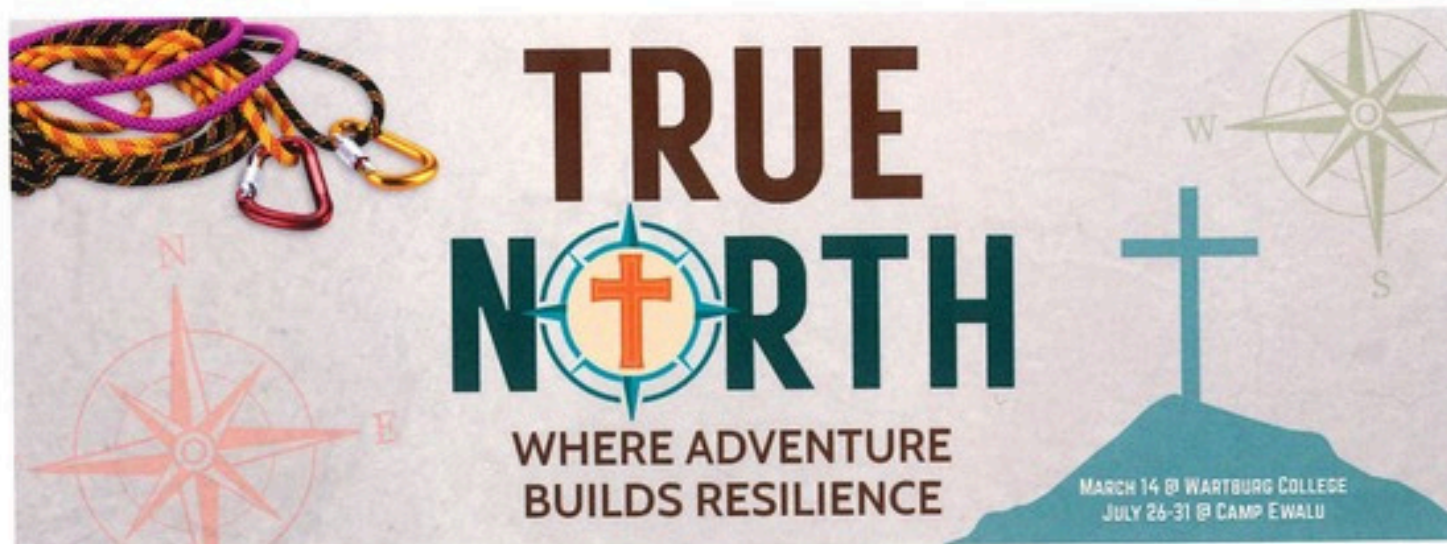
Location: EWALU Stone Center, 35124 Hwy 13, Strawberry Point, IA
which is 2.5 miles north of **Strawberry Point**. Handicap accessible facility.

hosted by Your Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Board

Ladies, this is the perfect mid-winter break! I've attended these retreats in the past and found them uplifting, inspiring and fun. Interested in joining me or have questions, contact me at 319-404-7991 or audreystefan25@gmail.com.

Further information and registration forms are available at the church office.

- Audrey Stefan



Dear Congregational Leaders,

We are thrilled to announce the launch of **True North**—Ewalu's new high-school immersive experience—both as a single-day spring event at Wartburg College and a full-week summer camp beginning in 2026.

We would love to have your youth in grades 9-12 join us for the **True North Spring Event at Wartburg College in Waverly on Saturday, March 14**. This single-day event will be modeled after a reality TV game show—think a combination of "Survivor," "The Amazing Race," and "The Summit"—with youth working together in teams to achieve tasks, complete service projects, and grow in their faith along the way. *The True North program is tailor-made to build resilience, leadership, and community-mindedness in young people, growing them into people of faith and character.* (Poster enclosed!)

At the same time, we hope that you consider the **full-week True North summer program July 26-31, 2026, at Camp Ewalu** as an alternative to your typical mission or service trip. The five-night (Sunday to Friday) True North program will deepen the experience of the Spring Event with a full day of service, a day-long adventure experience, and extensive team-building and leadership training, as well as deeply moving faith connections and professional debriefing led by trained staff. *True North is purpose-built for your youth to come home desiring to connect deeper with their faith and to serve and lead in your congregation and community.* For the summer program, students can sign up together as a youth group or they can attend as an individual. (Brochure enclosed!)

Registration opens on December 1 for both the single-day True North spring event (for groups of 2+, with an adult chaperone) and the True North summer camp. Sign up through our website, where you can find more details about both programs: www.Ewalu.org/TrueNorth. Group registration is available through the Ewalu office by emailing office@ewalu.org or by calling 563-933-4700.

We'd love to see your youth take part in True North this year! Please contact us with any questions.

Frank Johnson
Ewalu Executive Director
Frank@ewalu.org

Emily Dreessen Tull
Ewalu Program Director
Program@ewalu.org

BABY

ANNOUNCEMENT

Marin and Mark Faust welcome - Natalie Joyce Faust born on December 3 at 12:25 pm. She was 21.5 inches and weighed 9 pounds 4 ounces.



May God's Blessings of Love embrace this family



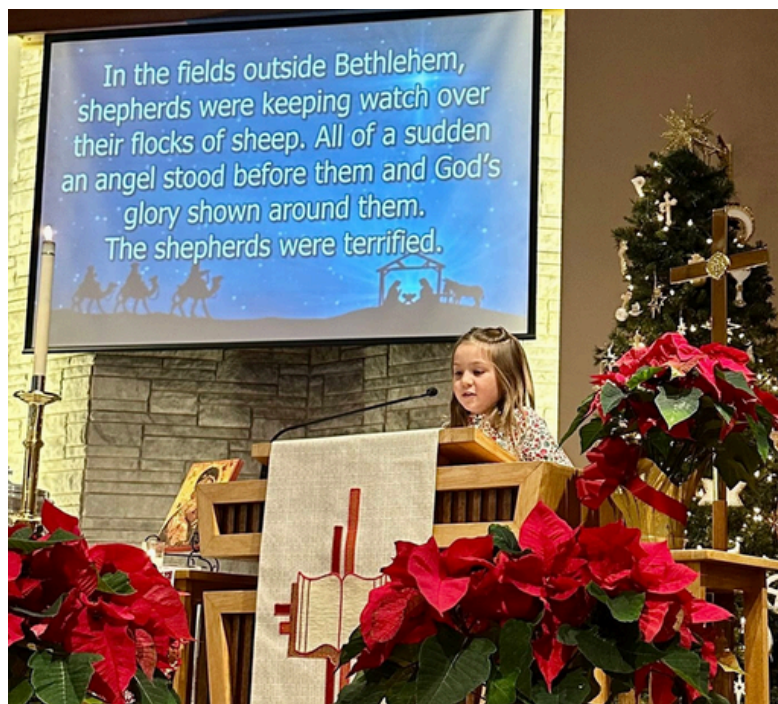
Christmas

EVE



A comment made by a four-year-old, overheard at Fredsville's Christmas Eve Service: **"Mommy, why are there so many candles at church tonight? Is someone having a birthday?"**

Answer: **"Yes, we are celebrating Jesus's birthday."**



Blessing Our Neighbors: Fall Grant Recipients

Fredsville Endowment Committee Fall Grants

The Fredsville Endowment Committee met on November 11 and a total of \$23,000 was granted to 15 charities. The following charities are the charities and how much they received.

Alive and Running \$1,000	House of Hope \$1,500	New Aldaya \$2,000
Dike Food Pantry \$1,000	Iowa Faith & Climate Network \$1,000	Three House \$500.00
DNH PTO \$1,000	LSI - Center in Waterloo \$2,000	Northeast Iowa Food Bank \$4,500
Fellowship Christian Athletes \$1,000	Lutheran Disaster Response \$1,000	UNI Panther Pantry \$1,000
Peoples Clinic \$1,500	New Hartford Comm. Church Food Pantry \$1,000	Wartburg Seminary Scholarships \$1,000

In addition, \$2,200 was allocated to two Fredsville Missions: Fredsville Quilters - \$1,000 and Fredsville's Little Food Pantry - \$1,200.



\$23,000
To
15 DIFFERENT
CHARITIES

Supporting Our Students: Spring Scholarship Recipients

Fredsville College Scholarships Awarded

Fredsville Scholarships were awarded to 11 college students to be applied to their spring college expenses. An additional scholarship was awarded this past spring for a student that graduates this fall.



11 Students
AWARDED
SCHOLARSHIPS

Thank You Notes

Dear Fredsville Family,

Thank you so much for the Care Package. Thank you for the college scholarship from the Endowment Funds. I appreciate the support as I study my career path. I am grateful for the support I have received throughout the years at Fredsville. Thanks again!

Love,
Mariah Asche

Dear Fredsville Lutheran Church,

Warm greetings to you from Wartburg Theological Seminary, where we eagerly anticipate the coming of the Christ child, in whom the Word is made flesh, in whom God has bound Godself in love to the entire creation. Rejoice!

As we prepare our homes and our hearts for the many blessings that come with these joyous seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, we welcome the opportunity to thank you for the blessing of your generosity as well.

Thank you so much for your gift to Wartburg Seminary. Your Faithful giving makes possible Wartburg's formation of future leaders of the church. The same God who comes to us anew this Christmas Eve continues to do a new thing in the world - with the support of your gifts, your prayers, and your engagement.

We give thanks to God for you and your partnership with us in this important work for the sake of the gospel in the world.

Rejoice! Love, the Lord, is on the way!
In Christ

The Rev. Kristin Johnston Largen, Ph.D. - President, Wartburg Theological Seminary

Dear Fredsville Lutheran Church,

On behalf of those whose lives will be touched by your generosity, I write to say thank you for your grant of \$1,500 to help with Emergency Accommodation funding. These funds will be used to help individuals and families that need 1-3 nights of shelter and do not qualify for other programs.

We are grateful for support from friends like you. Your contribution will further the Clinic's very serious mission of providing access to affordable, compassionate, high-quality healthcare for all.

Please accept our sincere thanks.

Christine Kemp - Chief Executive Officer - People's Clinic

Thank You Notes

Fredsville Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the very generous donation to our organization! This was definitely not expected, but very much appreciated!

Thanks,
Troy Belmer - Alive & Running



Fredsville Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift to FCA. We are truly grateful for your support and for choosing to partner with this ministry. Because of your generosity, we are able to walk alongside coaches and athletes, build intentional relationships, and disciple them in their faith.

Thank you for being part of what God is doing through FCA.

With gratitude,
Northeast Iowa FCA Staff



Dear Fredsville Lutheran Church Members,

On behalf of NewAldaya Lifescapes, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of \$2,000 in December 2025. Your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve. As a community caring for many residents who rely on Medicaid, your gift helps us bridge the gap between the true cost of care and what Medicaid reimburses.

Your kindness and generosity directly advance our mission: enhancing lives through individual care in a home empowered by God's love.

We would love to keep you informed about the impact of your support. Please feel free to reach out if you'd like to learn more about how your gift is making a difference or explore ways to stay involved with our mission in the future.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and for being a valued partner in our mission. We look forward to continuing this meaningful relationship.

With sincere appreciation,
Dawna Scheff, CPA - Chief Financial Officer

Thank You Notes

Merry Christmas Fredsville Lutheran!

Thank you for your support and your partnership! We appreciate you more than you know! Thank you for loving our families, for opening your doors, and hearts, and for being willing to carry on the mission in any way you have available!

Sincerely,
Karin Rowe - House of Hope



Fredsville Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the generous gift of \$1,500 on 12/9/2025! You are supporting programs that give single mothers and women who age out of foster care the tools they need to thrive in our community. Last fiscal year, 91% of our participants left the program with housing, transportation, childcare, employment, and a sustainable financial plan! Even more women are graduating from House of Hope as homeowners, creating generational wealth that can break cycles of poverty.

House of Hope's Framing Home program is a path to homeownership for single mothers in partnership with Heartland Habitat for Humanity.

House of Hope is completely funded by the community with local grants, individual financial contributions, in-kind donations, volunteers, and fundraising events (no state or federal government funding!). Your gift will have a generational impact, as cycles of poverty and homelessness are broken for good! Thank you for investing in our community and House of Hope women and families. Please let me know if you want to learn more about House of Hope or schedule a tour of our building.

Sincerely,
Dusky Steele - Development Director



Merry Christmas, from our family to yours!

As mother nature slows down for the approaching winter, we are reminded to reflect on life's blessings. We have tremendous gratitude for family, good health, and strong relationships. We hope this letter finds you in good spirits, and good health for the holiday season.

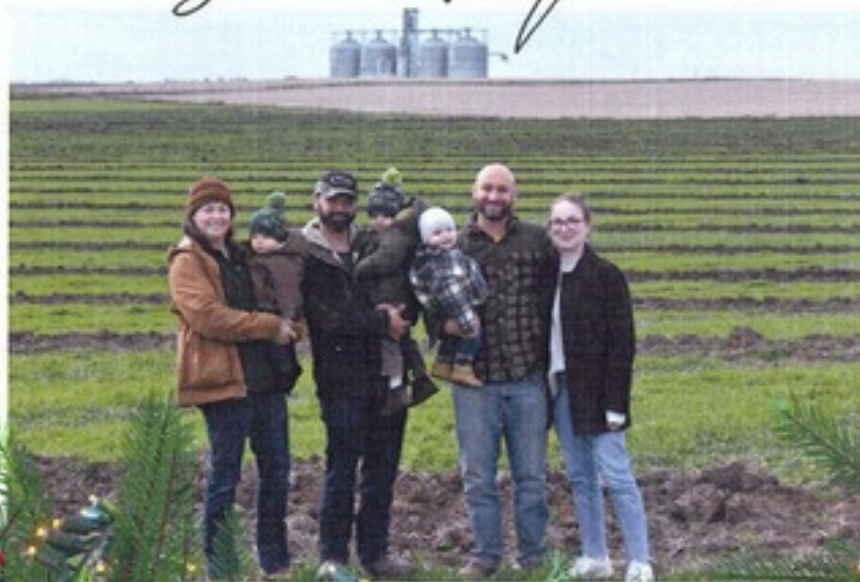
The Kruger Family is certainly in good spirits, with our little boys growing each day. Klay and Lauren's little guy (Henry, 11 months) is now standing up and practicing sounds for his first words. Mom and Dad are impressed with Henry's adaptability, and hope that holds for an upcoming long flight to South Africa. Kody and Vanessa's children are growing fast as well. Kaden (1 yr 9 months) is loving being able to help dad with yardwork, and Konnor (10 months) loves to watch from the window and smile at everyone passing by.

2025 was a year that kept us on our toes. We had a nice early planting window, but pounding rain around Easter created a hard crust on the soil surface. Corn emerged successfully, but many of our early planted beans required replanting. Throughout the summer, we had exceptional growing conditions, and the crops looked as good as I have ever seen them. Unfortunately, conditions also proved conducive for heavy disease pressure. Overall, soybean yields were phenomenal, but the corn was limited by late season disease pressure. At this time, grain prices have rebounded a bit but are still not at profitable levels we would like to see.

Thank you for your partnership to continue working with the Kruger Family. We greatly value this relationship, and we will work hard to be good business partners, and responsible stewards of the land. Once again, we were able to establish a cover crop on every farm we manage. We've continued to see big benefits with the cover crop, as well as drainage tile this year. We believe both practices help us preserve and improve the land we are farming. Pictured below is a drainage tile investment we were able to make this fall, along with a well establish cereal rye cover crop.

Merry Christmas From the Kruger Family,

Kody *Klay*



Worship Readings, Prayers, & Introductions from SundayandSeasons.com

Sunday, January 4 - 2nd Sunday of Christmas

White

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

- Jeremiah 31:7-14 - Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock
- Psalm 147:12-20 - Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)
- Ephesians 1:3-14 - The will of God made known in Christ
- John 1:1-18 - God with us: the incarnation of the Word

Sunday, January 11 - Baptism of our Lord Sunday

White

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Prayer of the Day

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- Isaiah 42:1-9 - The servant of the Lord brings justice
- Psalm 29 - The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)
- Acts 10:34-43 - Jesus' ministry after his baptism
- Matthew 3:13-17 - Revelation of Christ as God's servant

Sunday, January 18 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Green

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

- Isaiah 49:1-7 - The servant brings light to the nations
- Psalm 40:1-11 - I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)
- 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 - Paul's greeting to the church at Corinth
- John 1:29-42 - Revelation of Christ as the Lamb of God

Worship Readings, Prayers, & Introductions from SundayandSeasons.com

Sunday, January 25 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany **Green**

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

- Isaiah 9:1-4 - Light shines for those in darkness
- Psalm 27:1, 4-9 - The Lord is my light and my salvation. (Ps. 27:1)
- 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 - Appeal for unity in the gospel
- Matthew 4:12-23 - Revelation of Christ as a prophet

Sunday, February 1 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany **Green**

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, you confound the world’s wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- Micah 6:1-8 - The offering of justice, kindness, humility
- Psalm 15 - Lord, who may abide upon your holy hill? (Ps. 15:1)
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 - Christ crucified, the wisdom and power of God
- Matthew 5:1-12 - The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes

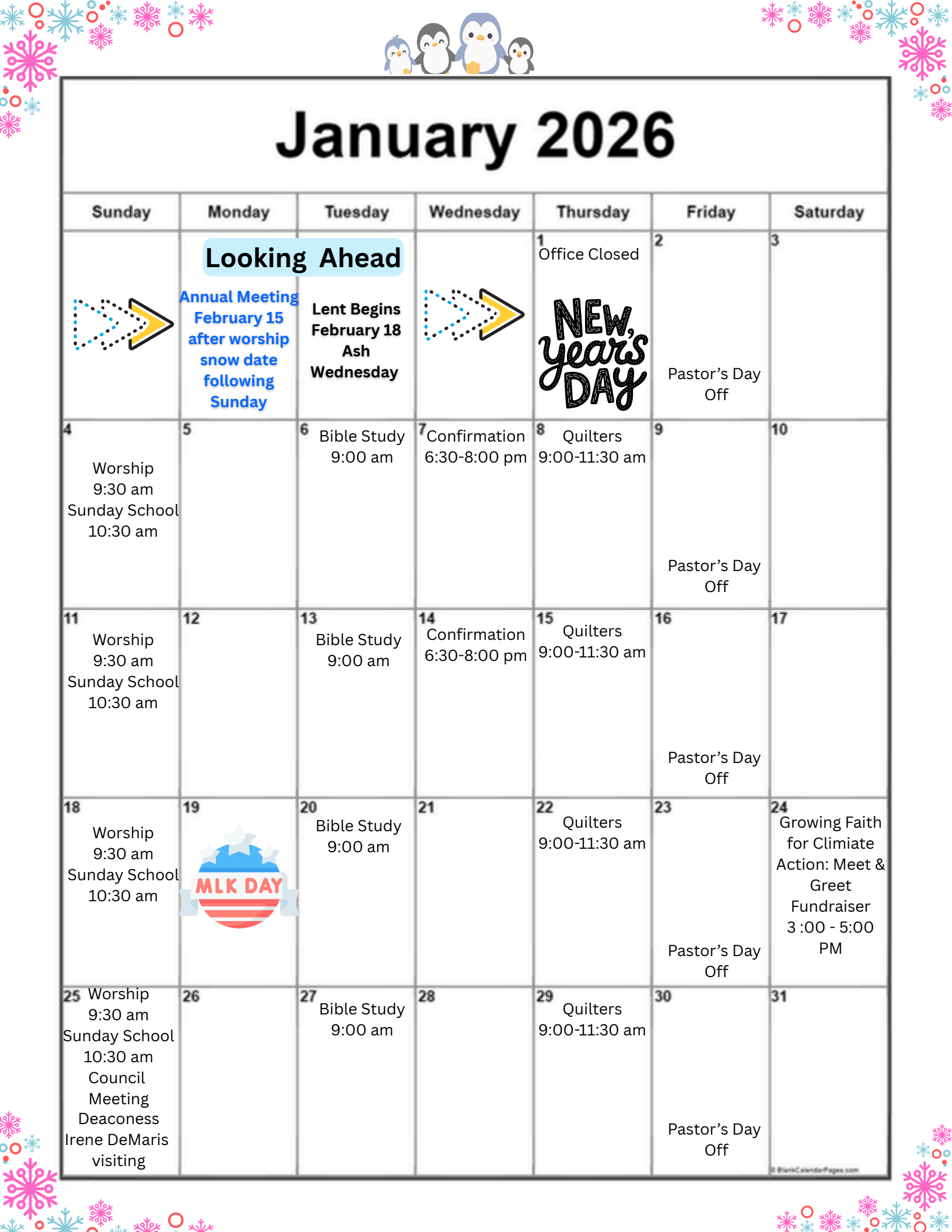
Sunday, February 8 - 5th Sunday after Epiphany **Green**

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.




Prayer of the Day

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

- Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] - The fast God chooses
- Psalm 112:1-9 [10] - Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16] - God’s wisdom revealed through the Spirit
- Matthew 5:13-20 - The teaching of Christ: salt and light



January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Looking Ahead Annual Meeting February 15 after worship snow date following Sunday	Lent Begins February 18 Ash Wednesday		NEW year's DAY	Pastor's Day Off	
4 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	5	6 Bible Study 9:00 am	7 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 pm	8 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am	9 Pastor's Day Off	10
11 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	12	13 Bible Study 9:00 am	14 Confirmation 6:30-8:00 pm	15 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am	16 Pastor's Day Off	17
18 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am	19 	20 Bible Study 9:00 am	21	22 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am	23 Pastor's Day Off	24 Growing Faith for Climate Action: Meet & Greet Fundraiser 3:00 - 5:00 PM
25 Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Council Meeting Deaconess Irene DeMaris visiting	26	27 Bible Study 9:00 am	28	29 Quilters 9:00-11:30 am	30 Pastor's Day Off	31