

Northeastern Iowa Synod Weekly Newsletter

July 16, 2026

Office Closed
Friday, July 17

FOR THE FUNERAL OF

Rev. Dr. Steven Ullestad



Rev. Dr. Steven Ullestad

The Rev. Dr. Steven Ullestad, 73, of Cedar Falls, IA died peacefully on Sunday, July 12, 2026. Rev. Ullestad was elected bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod in 1992, and served until his retirement in 2020. Our continued thoughts and prayers are with the Ullestad family.

Obituary



small church

=

small impact.

Small Church Does Not Mean Small Impact

Youth Ministry Consultants is leading a national project called The Small(er) Church Listening Project, focused on learning from leaders serving in small(er) churches - churches with less than 250 in worship.

This initiative is focused on listening to leaders serving in small(er) churches- contexts that often get overlooked in youth ministry research and resourcing.

They've put together a survey to help shape future resources and support by learning what's working, what's challenging, and what support is needed. Please consider taking the survey below.



Theological Conference 2026: Bridges & Tables

Rostered leaders, SAMs, and ministry partners across Northeastern Iowa are invited to gather for the 2026 Fall Theological Conference, held October 4–6, 2026, in Cedar Falls at St. John’s Lutheran Church. This year’s conference centers on the theme “Bridges and Tables,” inviting us to explore how God forms community through story, relationship, and shared life.

Register

Grants

Your Story Matters



Sacred Discoveries - Augustana University Microgrant Application Opening Soon

Are you interested in being part of a larger storytelling initiative for young adults? If so, check out this microgrant opportunity supported by Augustana University and the Sacred Discoveries' Storytelling Initiative. Microgrants are available to fund projects that capture narratives that illuminate God's faithfulness and explore the questions, curiosities, and convictions that shape young adult faith. The application process will begin in September, but we encourage you to start brainstorming with your team to see if this might be for you. Learn more about this project and how you can apply.

[*Learn More*](#)

Grants are available from the Synod Outreach Fund

The Northeastern Iowa Synod is excited to partner with congregations and affiliated ministries eager to try creative and innovative ministries that engage the community around them. New *Outreach Fund Grants* are being made available from a fund that was dormant for a number of years and are available by application to the Synod's new "Mission Table."

[*Learn More*](#)



Prayers

Please join us in praying for the following leaders and ministries of the Northeastern Iowa Synod:

University of Iowa Campus Ministry, Iowa City; Iowa State University Campus Ministry, Ames; Treehouse Collaborative Campus Ministry, Cedar Falls; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls; St. John American Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls; Rev. Jason Davis; St John Lutheran Church, Charles City

Bishop & Staff Updates

- Meetings with Rostered Ministers
 - Staff attending trainings and conferences
 - WLECA Convention
 - Staff Meetings
-



Save
THE DATE

Mark your calendars for what's happening next!

Check out the events calendar on the website for detailed information on meetings and events.

Women of the ELCA Triennial Event

July 16-19, 2026

Des Moines, Iowa

**Sphere Humanitarian Charter & Minimum Standards in
Humanitarian Response**

July 28-30, 2026
Chicago, IL

Global Church Together Network
August 13, 2026 Online

Racial Justice Advocacy Network
August 13, 2026 Online

Global Church Together Network
September 10, 2026 Online

Racial Justice Advocacy Network
September 10, 2026 Online

Theological Conference 2026: Bridges & Tables
October 4-6, 2026
St. John Lutheran Church Cedar Falls, Iowa

Gathering Expedition
October 30-November 1, 2026
Camp Ewalu, Strawberry Point, Iowa

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering
June 28-July 2, 2027
Minneapolis, Minnesota

2028 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
August 7-11, 2028
Des Moines, Iowa

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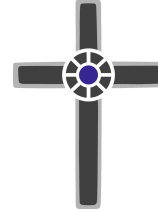
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