

# Will you rise to the challenge?

On Sept. 1, 2017 the Reverend Steven L. Ullestad had served as Bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod for an unprecedented 25 years.

For a quarter century, the Bishop has gently shepherded the synod through the farm crisis, disagreements over ecumenical agreements, disagreements over Vision and Expectations, and hundreds of call processes. Under his guidance, this synod has led the church in networks, youth ministry, job training, geographical parishes, and so much more. He is also a leading voice in health care policy and management in Northeastern Iowa.

St. Paul's, Postville, challenges each congregation of the Northeastern Iowa Synod to challenge their members to give \$25 per household to the Fund for Leaders.



Staff from the Northeastern Iowa Synod give Bishop Steven Ullestad a surprise celebration in honor of his 25-year anniversary as Bishop.

To celebrate these remarkable 25 years, the people of Saint Paul in Postville — where Bishop Ullestad was a member in the 1970s when his father was pastor there — have been challenged to give \$25 per household to the H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders. The congregation has also challenged the other 148 congregations

of the Northeastern Iowa Synod to do the same.

— *Pastor Mark Anderson*  
Assistant to the Bishop

*Opportunities to Support Young Adults in Global Mission*  
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## BETHANY LUTHERAN, ELKADER

Pastor Susan Friedrich, who serves Bethany, Elkader and Emanuel, Strawberry Point, shares the ways her daughter, Ellen, was supported during her year serving as a YAGM volunteer in Madagascar:

- Two Bethany members who own an ice cream trailer shared profits from ice cream sales on July 4 to support Ellen's YAGM expenses.
- The "Music for Madagascar" event featured a silent auction, concert and homemade pie and ice cream to raise nearly \$8,000 for expenses.
- A "Sending Off" service included Bethany members laying on hands to bless Ellen's service.
- Connections throughout the year included prayers, a birthday card signed by Bethany members, and a care package with lots of sunscreen.
- Ellen's newsletters, blogs and other posts were forwarded electronically and shared on Bethany's Facebook page. A picture of Ellen and a YAGM banner were displayed on the Bethany website.
- Friedrich shared updates about Ellen during worship and sometimes included Ellen's stories or experiences in her sermons, along with stories about Madagascar in the children's sermons.
- Friedrich and her husband visited Ellen in Madagascar and brought back video and audio recordings of Bible readings and hymns that were used in the Pentecost Sunday worship service at Bethany.
- Friedrich spoke at special events about the YAGM program and wrote an article for the local newspaper.
- Bethany and Emanuel welcomed Ellen home with a joint outdoor worship service, which included laying on hands, followed by a potluck.

Learn more about this year's YAGM volunteers at [www.neiasynod.org/yagm](http://www.neiasynod.org/yagm).