

History of Living Waters Retreat Centers

Living Waters Retreat Centers began as a quest for a retreat farm within the Northeastern Iowa Synod. The initial proposal was made to the Synod Council in September of 2000 and the Synod Council appointed a task force in November of 2000.

The farm aspect of this ministry has been difficult to bring to fruition. Alternative proposals have come forward to fulfill the following goals:

- To provide a safe haven for rest and relaxation.
- To renew oneself physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- To retreat for a period of time.
- To walk quietly with God.
- To relate to Creation.
- To have privacy and yet not be isolated.
- To come to a greater self awareness in a quiet and peaceful setting.

How to apply

Application for attending a Living Waters Retreat Centers site may be made by contacting the Northeastern Iowa Synod office at 319-352-1414.



Living Waters Retreat Centers Affiliation



In addition to the four Living Waters Retreat Centers presented in this brochure, others sites may make application through the Northeastern Synod office.



"I thirst..."

John 19:28b

Affiliated with Northeastern Iowa
Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America
319-352-1414

Mission Statement

*To provide a safe place
and context for retreat,
relaxation, and renewal
for persons in ministry
and their families*

Refresh, Renew, Rejoice

Living Waters Retreat Centers

Home Park House Retreat Site

Pastors, spouses, families needing a place apart. Home Park House Retreat Site in Waterloo is available without charge for up to two weeks. Reservations preferably two weeks in advance.

- Upstairs with private entrance, deck, bath, sheets, pillowcases, TV, Kitchenette, with cooking utensils to do your own cooking.
- Laundry, workout room, hot tub (4 PM – 8 PM).
- 6 blocks from Byrnes Park, swimming, 18 hole golf course.
- 1 mile from hiking / bike trails; also nice Blvd walk.
- 1.5 miles from Waterloo library; 5 miles to UNI; Hawkeye Comm. College

Big Spirit Lake House Retreat site

Pastors, spouses, families needing a place apart for a Sabbatical one month minimum \$55 per day – sleeps 14 people.

See brochure for amenities and other details.

Cedar Hill

Cedar Hill is located along South Bear Creek in Highlandville, Iowa on the northern edge of Winneshiek County. Cedar Hill offers a place to get away and relax in addition to having opportunities for camping, hiking, biking, canoeing, fishing and hunting on the 240 acres of farmland and timber plus the thousands of acres owned by the Department of Natural Resources in the surrounding area.

In nearby Decorah, visitors can spend some time at Luther College for study and reflection as well as sample Norwegian Culture at Vesterheim or Czechoslovakian Culture in Spillville.

Pastor David and Elayne Werges own and operate Cedar Hill and have opened their home to those who need a place for rest and renewal.

Suggested costs per room:

- \$50 per day
- \$300 per week
- \$125 per weekend

See brochure for amenities and further details.

Sojourn Way

Sojourn Way is located on a Mississippi River ridge top overlooking the beautiful Paint Creek Valley and adjacent to the Yellow River State Forest. It is a quiet and peaceful setting with plenty of opportunities for hiking and enjoying nature.

Sojourn Way Guest House has two bedrooms, kitchen, bath facilities and a deck overlooking the scenic Paint Creek Valley.

Pastors Galen and Helen Beth Kuhens, ordained clergy of the ELCA, direct Sojourn Way. Helen Beth is a certified Spiritual Director. Galen is a retired pastor with broad interests. Together they provide a context for listening and conversation.

Suggested retreat costs per room:

- \$50 per day
- \$300 per week
- \$125 per weekend

See brochure for further details and other retreat programs.