



First English Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

The Parish News

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Rev. Paul E. Kaldahl, Jr.
 Pastor

Kristin Kaldahl
Emily Bernau
 Organists

Julie Moran
 Office Manager

Tammi Harrison
 Preschool Director

Ruth Obermeier
 Preschool Secretary

Trevor Loehr
 Custodian / Maintenance

Tony Kladstrup
 Custodian

Sunday
Worship Services
8:00 & 10:45 A.M.
Fellowship
9:00 A.M.
Nursery 9:15-Noon
Sunday School &
Bible Classes
9:30-10:20 A.M.

1311 E. 18th Street
Spencer, IA 51301
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www.spencer-church.com

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felc5598@gmail.com

Preschool
712-262-3699

IGLLS
712-262-8237

Dear friends and family of FELC, Alleluia! Christ is risen! His resurrection is not merely a moment in history—it is the beating heart of our faith. St. Paul proclaims in 1 Corinthians 15 that “if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.” But then Paul announces the Gospel in all its glory: “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead.” Everything rests on that “in fact.” Everything.

And everything Christ did—He did **FOR US**. That little phrase, **FOR US**, is the golden thread running through Scripture and beautifully sung in the hymn “**O LOVE, HOW DEEP**” (LSB 544). Stanzas 5 and 6 capture the Gospel with stunning clarity: **For us by wickedness betrayed / For us, in crown of thorns arrayed**.

Notice the grammar of grace. The first two verbs—betrayed and arrayed — are passive. These were things done to Jesus. He was handed over. He was mocked. He was crowned with thorns. He received the world’s hatred, the soldiers’ cruelty, and the devil’s malice.

But then the hymn shifts: **He bore the shameful cross and death / For us He gave His dying breath**. Now the verbs are active. Christ was not a victim swept along by forces beyond His control. He bore the cross. He gave His life. As He Himself said, “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord.” His suffering was not accidental. It was intentional. It was willing. It was—**FOR US!**

And then stanza 6 lifts our eyes to Easter joy: **For us He rose from death again / For us He went on high to reign / For us He sent His Spirit here / To guide, to strengthen, and to cheer**.

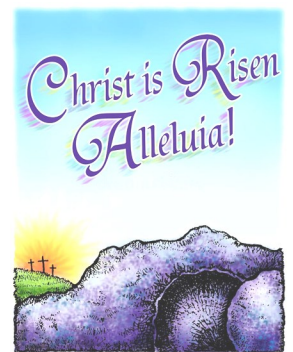
Here is the full sweep of salvation: Christ died **for us**. Christ rose **for us**. Christ lives **in us**. Christ reigns **for us**. Christ sends His Spirit **for us**. And this is exactly what Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 15. Christ’s resurrection is not simply proof of His power—it is the guarantee of our resurrection. Because He lives, we shall live also. Because He rose bodily, we too will rise bodily. Because He reigns, nothing—not sin, not death, not the grave—can separate us from His love.

Easter is not just Christ’s victory. It is your victory in Him. So as we celebrate the empty tomb, let us hear again the hymn’s refrain echoing through every line—**FOR US!** Christ’s entire saving work—from His betrayal to His resurrection, from His ascension to the sending of the Spirit—is God’s love in action **FOR YOU!**

May the risen Christ guide you, strengthen you, and cheer you with the unshakable hope that because He lives, you too shall live.

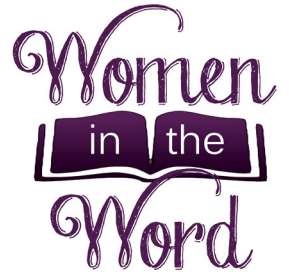
Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In Christ’s Service,
 Pastor Paul Kaldahl



April, 2026

The Ladies Morning Bible Class will resume on Wednesday, April 8th, at 9:30 in the Confirmation Room. We will continue with the CPH book, "Will the Real Jesus Please Stand UP? (12 False Christs)." We will begin with Lesson 5, which was cancelled last fall due to weather. Sign up in the Opportunity Corner or contact Bonnie Ewoldt 712-330-5255.



Older Adults



Retirees 55+ Are Invited for a time of fun and fellowship on Tuesday, April 21st, in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00-3:00. Please bring a board game or cards to share and your thoughts about starting a new senior group at FELC. Light refreshments will be served, and Pastor Kaldahl will offer a devotion. Sponsored by the Board of Christian Life and Outreach.



Orphan Grain Train Collection - Sunday, April 12 through Sunday, April 26 the Board of Christian Life and Outreach is collecting donations of clothing (all ages), quilts/blankets, food, and medical supplies/equipment to support people in need globally and domestically. Key items include new underwear, shoes, bicycles, toys, and Bibles. Donations should be brought to the east parking lot of First English Lutheran Church in manageable bags (medical equipment, bicycles, and sewing machines do not need to be bagged). Everything may be placed into the trailer marked with the sign ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN.

BREAKDOWN OF ACCEPTED ITEMS

CLOTHING: Gently used or new clothes for infants, children, women, and men.
ONLY NEW underwear is accepted

LINENS AND BEDDING: Quilts, blankets, comforters, sheets, and towels

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT: Wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, canes, hand crank hospital beds, and other supplies

OTHER ITEMS: English/Spanish Bibles, toys, bicycles, and sewing machines

FOOD: Fortified rice meals, & non-perishables like pasta, canned fruit, cereals

ITEMS TO AVOID

No items with religious, camouflage, or military symbols, no old "Portals of Prayer" booklets, old hymnals, or used underwear



Saturday, April 11th—9:30 a.m.

LWML Meeting

Devotions— Esther/Naomi Guilds

Serving —Sarah Guild

Program— TBA

Sunday, April 12th—9:15 a.m.

Lydia Guild Bible Study

—Led by Lori Gamble

Disperse birthday & anniversary cards to be sent out to members in May.

April 29th – Confirmation Questioning Night
Serve Potluck—6:30 p.m.

Pray for FELC Members and Outreach



2026

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Wednesday Nights: High School Grades 9-12 (going back to 7pm start)

- ★ 4/1 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ 4/8 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ 4/15 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ 4/22 - Are You Smarter Than A Confirmand (6:30pm)
 - 6:30-8:45pm
 - pizza & pop provided
 - compete for prizes
- ★ 4/29 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren



Combined LYF/JLYF Activity (6-12th)

- 4/5 - serve Easter breakfast
 - ◆ sign-up through the Band app or <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/21697562070/false#/invitation>
- 4/12 - deliver suncatchers to shut-ins
 - ◆ meet at FELC at 2pm
 - ◆ games, pizza following deliveries
 - ◆ wrap-up around 5pm

Youth Usher Dates/Times

- none

SAVE THE DATE:

- Sunday, May 10
 - Senior recognition celebration
 - 9:30-10:30am

Stay informed with *BAND*:

- download the BAND app from your phone's app store
- join the FELC Youth group for future communications



April, 2026

Confirmation

Students to be Confirmed on Sunday, May 3rd at the 10:45 am service

Cade Kenneth Chalstrom—Son of Jeff & Julie Chalstrom

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Skye KellyAnn Glackin—Daughter of Tom & Kylee Glackin

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Emily Alexis Holt—Daughter of Steve & Laura Hallgren

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Julia Lea Kaiser—Daughter of Aaron & Chrisy Kaiser

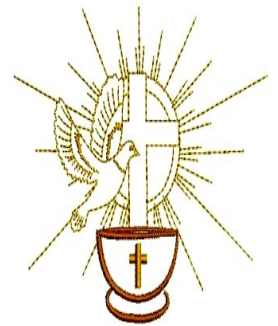
Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Eli Norgaard—Son of Ben & Becky Norgaard

Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Hannah Stickrod—Daughter of Brian & Veronica Stickrod

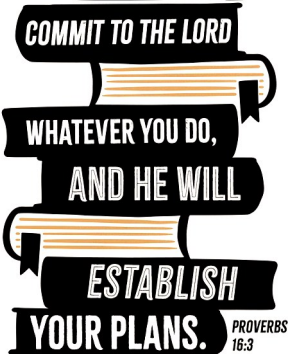
Isaiah 43:1 But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.



Senior Recognition

Sunday, May 10th 9:30-10:30 a.m.

The congregation is invited to join us as we honor the graduating seniors, Class of 2026. Breakfast will be served at 9:30 with a short message by Pastor Kaldahl.



Jackson Bergstadt, son of Mark & Shelly Bergstadt
Scott Dorman-Heath, son of Shari Dorman
Ray Kaiser, Son of Aaron & Chrisy Kaiser
Mary Peterson, daughter of Charles & Tabatha Peterson
Faith Staedtler, daughter of Heath Staedtler & Nicole Staedtler
Isabelle Young, daughter of Jason & Dr. Amanda Young



April, 2026

Church Council Minutes
Thursday, March 19, 2026 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Leonard Langner, Jon Stricker, Libby Stricker, Dan Knaak, Doug Kading, Janet Iedema, Amber Christianson, Corey Langner, Pastor Kaldahl, and Karen Hargens.

Pastor Kaldahl opened with devotions.

L. Langner called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

J. Iedema made a motion to approve the agenda as printed, D. Knaak seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Secretary's report – The minutes from February 2026 were reviewed. C. Langner made a motion to approve the secretary's report. A. Christianson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report – Libby Stricker

There was discussion about using some of the money in the debt retirement checking account to make an extra payment toward the principal amount on the LCEF loan. D. Kading made a motion to make a \$25,000 payment toward the LCEF loan balance. A. Christianson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approve bills – No bills.

IGLLS – Leonard Langner

Enrollment for next year currently stands at 165. Angie Frederich, food service administrator, is preparing for the audit on April 14-16. IGLLS is now able to submit free and reduced lunches. The school is in need of another teacher for next school year. Concordia has been contacted to help find candidates. Many potential students and their families have been touring the school. Science fair and pasta supper is being held March 26. Nine IGLLS archers qualified for the state tournament that begins March 27.

New Horizons – Doug Kading

Next meeting will be April 6, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Board of Elders – Dan Knaak (for Paul Salton)

Unity Sunday is set for Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026. April 12, 2026 is assimilation Sunday for new members. The elders will be serving the Lenten Meal on March 25. The call committee has completed the congregational profile. The profile will be submitted to IDW. Kelly H. continues to work on the sound system. The elders will have a bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Discussion if an elder could be available to light the candles and turn on the sound system for funerals.

Board of Trustees – Jon Stricker

Working on getting quotes from contractors to paint exterior EFIS. The trustees have compiled a list of items that could be done by volunteers. Please contact the elders for a list of those items and check with Trevor before starting on those projects.

Preschool Board – Corey Langner

The 3-year-old class for next year is full and a waiting list has been compiled. The 4-year-old class is not quite full. The omelet meal on March 8 went well. FamilyFest was successful. The ad to fill Ruth Obermeier's position is nearly ready to post. Working on job descriptions for preschool employees over the next few months, specifically Ruth and Tammi's positions.

Board of Education – Amber Christianson

Working on GIFT for next year. The board has secured playtime and mealtime directors. Next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2026

Board of Youth – Janet Iedema

Some of the high school youth have joined in the choir for the Lenten season. Carter Meyer, Khloe Dorman-Heath, and Jasmine Doede will be attending Youth Lead at Hidden Acres on April 24-26, with Lori Gamble. Sunday, April 12 the youth will be delivering sun catchers/ coasters to shut-ins followed by games and pizza. Are you Smarter Than a Confirmand is set for Wednesday, April 22. Easter breakfast preparations are in the works. Senior recognition is Sunday, May 10, 9:30-10:30. CROWDER with special guest Jason Gray, a Christian concert, will be Friday, July 24, at Arnolds Park.

Board of Christian Life/Outreach – Doug Kading

Will be collecting for Orphan Grain Train April 12-26. There will be a trailer in the parking lot to collect items in. The list of items needed is posted in the Herald. Items must be bagged. Cody and Aurelie Mock will be at Mission Central on Saturday, May 16 at 1:00 p.m. The board will assist the elders keeping the records up to date with new members and baptisms. Reminder about the Veterans breakfast on November 8, 2026, between services. Change in time for the Senior Fun and Fellowship time on April 21. Time will be 1:00-3:00 instead of 2:00-4:00.

Pastoral items: Pastor is busy with all of his usual duties.

Old Business:

Sound system processor – Kelly H. working on this project.

New Business:

1. CTK property – council discussed possibilities. Will revisit this again next month.
2. Safe deposit box inventory – L. Langner and D. Knaak did an inventory. They identified some items that could be disposed of. The council agreed. There was a picture CD from 2007 that contained documentation of the contents of the building. There will be an updated version made and put in the safety deposit box.
3. Spring voters meeting date: April 19, 2026, at 1:00 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Hargens



Week	Attendance			Communion			Offering (Regular & E-Giving)	Sunday School	
	Early	Late	Total	Early	Late	Total		Kids/Adults	SS Offering
Mar. 1	126	86	212	99	65	164		5 /	\$ 1.00
Mar. 8	129	319	448	—				no class	\$
Mar. 15	44	No Late Service— Blizzard				42		no class	\$
Mar. 22	117	77	194	—				/	\$
Mar. 29	Palm Sunday / Unity Sunday								
Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday	210		151			\$1,525.00 to Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School		
Feb. 25	Mid Lent II	135					\$ 775.00 to Lutheran Family Service		
Mar. 4	Mid Lent III	148					\$ 963.00 to Concordia Univ.-For the Sake of the Church		
Mar. 11	Mid Lent IV	135					\$ 694.00 to Lutheran Family Service		
Mar. 18	Mid Lent V	102					\$ 588.00 to Lutherans for Life		
Mar. 25	Mid Lent VI	153					\$ to Local Care Fund		

THOSE WHO SERVE – April, 2026



	Easter			
8:00 A.M. Services	Apr. 5	Apr. 12	Apr. 19	Apr. 26
Elder	Ken Schroeder Jeff Chalstrom	Mark Rees	Ken Schroeder Gaylin Fey	Mark Rees
Acolyte	Skye Glackin	Reegan Hornby	Cade Chalstrom	Hudson Frankenstein
Organist	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl
Ushers	# 7 Mike Morfitt	# 7 Mike Morfitt	# 9 Ken Chalstrom	# 9 Ken Chalstrom
Altar Guild	Melinda & Mark Herda		Karen Hargens & Dan Knaak	
Builder	Corey Langner	Kelly Hartmann	Amber Christianson	Ranae Kehoe
Presenter	Michael Schauer	Bob Cody	Lori Gamble	Ranae Kehoe
Sound Bd	Dan Knaak	Bruce Gamble	Bruce Gamble	Kelly Hartmann
Livestream	Alex Halverson	Matt Ruden	Matt Ruden	Alex Halverson



	Easter			
10:45 A.M. Services	Apr. 5	Apr. 12	Apr. 19	Apr. 26
Elder	Paul Salton Jerry Enderton	Paul Salton	Travis Haman Cole Brenden	Cole Brenden
Acolyte	Karson Koenecke	Cannon Caven	Hana Loehr	Emily Holt
Organist	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl
Ushers	# 10 Mark Bergstadt	# 2 Paul Salton	# 2 Paul Salton	# 4 Jerry Enderton
Presenter	Steve Hallgren	Charlie Peterson	Jerry Enderton	Steve Hallgren

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Elders: Tom Roti, Jerry Enderton
Acolyte: Emily Holt
Ushers: # 5 Tom Miller
Organist: Kristin Kaldahl
Altar Guild: Melinda & Mark Herda
Presenter: Lori Gamble
Sound Board: Bruce Gamble
Builder: Ranae Kehoe
Livestream: Matt Ruden



Good Friday, April 3, 7:30 pm

Elders: Jeff Chalstrom
Acolyte: Mia Fuhman
Ushers: # 6 John Hargens
Organist: Kristin Kaldahl
Altar Guild: Melinda & Mark Herda
Presenter: Ranae Kehoe
Sound Board: Abbey Ruden
Builder: Ranae Kehoe
Livestream: Matt Ruden



Easter Sunrise, April 5, 6:00 a.m.

Elders: Travis Haman, Tom Roti
Acolyte: Laura Haman
Ushers: # 5 Tom Miller
Organist: Kristin Kaldahl
Altar Guild: Melinda, Mark & Pat
Presenter: Jerry Enderton
Builder: Corey Langner



HE IS RISEN



April



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. + JOHN 11:25</p>			<p>1 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:20 IGLLS Chapel 8:30 Finance BD 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 7:00 Choir 7:15 Confirmation Class 7:00-8:30 LYF</p>	<p>2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 am Spirit Lifters 7:30 pm Divine Worship w/ Communion</p>	<p>3 No School IGLLS or Preschool GOOD FRIDAY 7:30 pm Divine Service</p>	<p>4 8:00-Noon Easter Breakfast Prep</p>
<p>5 EASTER SUNDAY 6:00 Easter Sunrise w/ Communion 6:45-10:45 Easter Breakfast 8:00 Easter Festival w/ Communion No Sunday School /Bible Class 10:45 Easter Festival w/ Communion</p>	<p>6 Offices Closed Easter Holiday 4:00 New Horizons Mtg. 6:00 Preschool Board</p>	<p>7 <i>10:15 PS Fire Drill</i> 7:00 Bd. of Trustees 8:00 Worship Service on SMU</p>	<p>8 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:20 IGLLS Chapel 8:30 Finance BD 9:30 Ladies Bible Study 9:45 Preschool Chapel 11:30 Preschool Staff Meeting 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 7:00-8:30 LYF 7:15 Confirmation Class</p>	<p>9 <i>10:15 PS Disaster Drill</i> 7:00 Spirit Lifters 9:45 Preschool Chapel 7:00 Elders</p>	<p>10 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>11 9:30 LWML Spring Meeting 10:00 Camp Okoboji Annual Meeting 12:30 Lunch</p>
<p>12 New Member Welcome 8:00 Divine Worship 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:00 Lydia Guild 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School / Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship 2:00 All Youth Activity 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study</p>	<p>13 5:00 Bd. of Youth</p>	<p>14 9:00 Winkle at St. John's Sanborn 3:30-4:30 Clover Kids 8:00 Worship Service on SMU</p>	<p>15 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:20 IGLLS Chapel 8:30 Finance BD 9:30 Ladies Bible Study-F. Hall 11:30 Preschool Devotions 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 7:00-8:30 LYF</p>	<p>16 7:00 am Spirit Lifters 7:00 Church Council</p>	<p>17 Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 8:00 Divine Worship w/ Communion 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship w/ Communion 1:00 Spring Voter's Meeting 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study</p>	<p>20 No School IGLLS or Preschool Inservice</p>	<p>21 1:00-3:00 BCLO Senior Fun & Fellowship w/ Games/Snacks 8:00 Worship Service on SMU</p>	<p>22 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:20 IGLLS Chapel 8:30 Finance BD 9:30 Preschool Chapel 9:30 Ladies Bible Study-F. Hall 11:30 Preschool Devotions 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 6:30 Pizza LYF & Confirmands 7:00 LYF & Confirmands (7 & 8) "Are You Smarter than a Confirmand?"</p>	<p>23 PARISH NEWS DUE 7:00 Spirit Lifters 9:45 Preschool Chapel</p>	<p>24 Pastor's Day Off M/W 3's PS Make-up Day Bridal Shower Setup-Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>25 10:00-Noon Bridal Shower—M. Warburton Kitchen Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>26 8:00 Divine Worship 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School / Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 8:00 Worship Service on SMU</p>	<p>29 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:20 IGLLS Chapel 8:30 Finance BD 9:30 Ladies Bible Study-F. Hall 11:30 Preschool Devotions 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 6:30 Confirmation Potluck & Questioning Night (7th & 8th) 7:00-8:30 LYF 8:30 Confirmation Pictures</p>	<p>30 7:00 Spirit Lifters</p>	<p>Grow In Grace 2 PETER 3:18</p>	



Happy Birthday



April 1	Emilee Buchholz Priscilla Brooks Jon Schendel	April 11	Jordan Hallgren	April 20	Timothy Ackerman Victoria Bern
April 2	Karen Willrett	April 12	Matthew Nolin		Dr. Sam Butler Bev Skinner
April 3	Bev Hinkeldey Elizabeth Wempe	April 13	Alisa Brant Stephanie Zahrt	April 21	Lori Kramer Kellie Krieger
April 4	Bryan Kladstrup Tony Kladstrup Alexander McCloud	April 14	Melia Christianson Levi Rees		Tom Miller Deb Shriver
April 6	Rex Harbaugh Seth Staydohar	April 15	Amelia Caven LeAnne Hamrick Kelli Larsen	April 22	Steven Crew Addilyn Miller Kaitlyn Todd
April 7	Mark Bergstadt Ben Wiest	April 17	Leland Chalstrom Corley Hamrick Monty Hansen Sarah Kladstrup Walker Klein Vicki Laurent	April 24	Angie Schauer
April 8	Maddisyn Studer			April 26	Jim Echtenkamp Allie Millsap Zayla Ruisenor
April 9	Gabriel Mackey Megan Schauer Brian Stickrod Rhonda Westphal	April 18	Adlee Erdmann	April 28	Randy Essick
April 10	Alan Erichsen Noah Simmons	April 19	Kellie Suaza Zandra Zahrt	April 29	Carly Bergstadt Max Carstens Karen Hargens William Jensen
				April 30	Keith McCloud



April 2	Clark & Mary Abel	April 9	Tom & Margaret Wuggazer	April 28	Clark & Jolene Zahrt
April 5	Dan & Katie Scott	April 19	Jerry & Rosa Lee Enderton	April 29	Roger & Vickie Godfredsen
April 7	Christian & Kasey Kladstrup	April 27	Gabe & Rachel Ruisenor	April 30	Doug & Sharon Kading
		April 28	Kirby & Karen Fields		



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Confirmand & Graduate Lists

Those Who Serve for April

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