



*First English Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*



# The Parish News

**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**  
**Maintenance—Custodian**  
**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**  
**712-262-5598 Phone**  
**712-262-8396 Fax**

**Website —**  
**[www.spencer-church.com](http://www.spencer-church.com)**

**E-Mail —**  
**[felc5598@gmail.com](mailto:felc5598@gmail.com)**

**Preschool**  
**712-262-3699**

**IGLLS**  
**712-262-8237**

## Honoring Pastors and The Fourth Commandment: Martin Luther and the Augsburg Confession

Dear friends of Christ and members of FELC and CTK, as we embark on calling a pastor, I want to take time to remind everyone what we should expect. The pastor is not a hired hand. He is called by God to serve, but not every pastor serves in the way his local congregation might expect. Every pastor serves differently because we all have different God-given gifts. My concern is that, after leading as your shepherd for almost 30 years, you (and perhaps I) are too comfortable in who we are and what we have become as a congregation. Changes are coming! And change isn't always bad, but change can be difficult. So, what should we expect? In order to answer that question I want to spend several Newsletter articles addressing the pastor and the public pastoral office he holds.

In the Lutheran tradition, the pastoral office is not merely a functional role but a divine institution through which God gives His gifts. Because of this, Martin Luther and the Lutheran Confessions consistently teach that pastors are to be honored under the Fourth Commandment—*“Honor your father and your mother.”* This commandment extends beyond the family to all those whom God places in authority for our good, including spiritual fathers.

Luther's writings and the Augsburg Confession make clear that honoring pastors is not optional courtesy but obedience to God's command. Luther's Understanding of the Fourth Commandment and pastors also extends to all spiritual authorities. In the Large Catechism, Luther teaches that the Fourth Commandment covers not only biological parents but all who exercise God-given authority: **“Besides your parents, there are other people in the place of parents...such as pastors, teachers, and government officials.”** Luther repeatedly calls pastors **“spiritual fathers”** because they give birth to Christians through the Word and sustain them through preaching and the Sacraments.

Pastors fall under the Fourth Commandment because they are God's instruments — called to share God's word and help their people grow in their spiritual lives. Disregarding the man who holds the pastoral office is a sin—not unlike the disobedience of a child who challenges his/her parental authority. Ultimately, if believers in Christ disobey any earthy authority, we directly disobey Jesus because He is the ultimate authority who has commanded us all to submit to those God has placed over us in order to love and care for us. If we refuse to submit to our earthy authorities, we cannot submit to God! Failure to submit to the Lord is a great sin of rebellion and one that leads to unbelief and a falling from the saving faith.

So, it must be repeated. The authority God gives to pastors does not come from them, but from God, who has bestowed on them spiritual leadership. God has placed a heavy responsibility on pastors because they are personally responsible for the spiritual condition of every member underneath their care. The pastor is also responsible for how the people he serves live out their faith. If the congregation is serving the Lord poorly, God holds the pastor accountable. God also holds the lay people accountable for how they make ministry difficult on their pastor! He is the shepherd—called to redirect the sheep to God's Word and to faithful service to the Lord. In God's eyes, care for the soul is much more important than care for the body. That is why God commands churches to honor their pastors.

Luther frequently emphasizes that pastors are to be honored because they preach and teach Christ's Word—and not because of the pastor's own personal merit. Indeed, pastors are fallen sinners too and fall short of the glory of God, just like the people he serves. **Martin Luther** writes in his **Commentary on Galatians**, "**Pastors are 'fathers' because they beget children through the Gospel.**" He cites 1 Corinthians 4:15, "*For in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.*" To dishonor a pastor is to dishonor the office through which Christ speaks.

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Paul Kaldahl



May Guild Topic: "Overflowing in Comfort" p.16 2026 Spring Quarterly

**Meetings, Thursday, May 7th**

**Esther & Naomi Guild— 9:30 a.m. at FELC**

Hostess — Vickie Godfredsen      Topic—Nancy Hartmann

**Sarah Guild—6:30 pm** Hostess — Ranae Kehoe    Topic— Karen Buchholz, Sherry Kaiser

**Lydia Guild—No Meeting in May**

Pray for Mothers

Lydia: FELC Birthday Cards for May sent out



# Stewardship

Week	Attendance			Communion			Offering	Sunday School	
	Early	Late	Total	Early	Late	Total	(Regular & Electronic)	Kids/Adults	SS Offering
Apr. 5 Sunrise			108			82	\$ 2,884.00 to LERT		
Apr. 5 Easter	262	126	388	202	63	265	\$	No Class	\$ 0.00
Apr. 12	138	65	203		—		\$	4 /	\$ 0.00
Apr. 19	163	77	240	125	60	185	\$	9 /	\$ 1.00
Apr. 27	144	73	217		—		\$	8 /	\$ 1.00

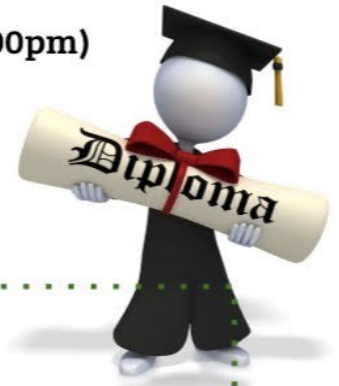
May

2026

Yes, my soul, find rest in God;  
my hope comes from him.  
Truly he is my rock and my  
salvation; he is my fortress, I  
will not be shaken.  
**Psalm 62:5-6**

**Wednesday Nights: High School Grades 9-12 (STARTS @ 7:00pm)**

- ★ 5/6 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ 5/13 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ 5/20 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren
- ★ 5/27 - Led by Wendy Rees & Laura Hallgren



**Youth Usher Dates/Times**

- Sunday, May 3 8am service
  - sign up through Band app to help serve/clean up coffee/donuts
- Sunday, May 10 8am service
  - sign up through Band app to help serve/slean up Senior Recognition

**Servant opportunity for young adults age 18- 30**

- Orange Nation Young Adult Servant Event
- July 23-26, 2026 at Camp Restore Detroit
- contact Janet ledema 712-260-5347 for more information
- registration deadline is May 6

**Stay informed with BAND:**

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

**SENIOR RECOGNITION & Breakfast**

**Sunday May 10, 9:30-10:30**

**Fellowship Hall**

**9:45-Message given by**

**Pastor Kaldahl**



**May, 2026**

## *Confirmation Service* *Sunday May 3rd 10:45 a.m.*

**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

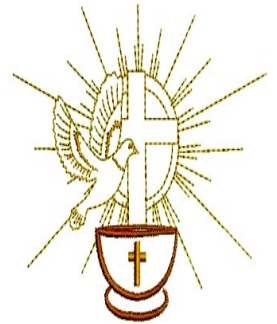
Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

**Eli Charles Norgaard**—Son of Ben & Becky Norgaard

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

**Hannah Alexis 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.



Commit to the Lord  
whatever you do,  
and he will  
establish your  
plans.

Proverbs 16:3



## *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

*Whatever*  
**YOU DO,**  
**DO IT**  
**WITH** *All*  
**OF**  
**YOUR**  
*heart*  
**COLOSSIANS**  
**3:23**

**Members present:** Leonard Langner, Jon Stricker, Libby Stricker, Paul Salton, Dan Knaak, Doug Kading, Jody Schendel, Amber Christianson, Corey Langner, Pastor Kaldahl, and Karen Hargens.

Pastor Kaldahl opened with devotions.

L. Langner called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

L. Langner add an item under New Business: #3, approval of line of credit with Farmers Bank.

P. Salton made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, C. Langner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Secretary's report** – The minutes from March 2026 were reviewed. D. Knaak made a motion to approve the secretary's report. A. Christianson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's report** – Libby Stricker

**General Fund** at 4/16/26

**Preschool Fund** at 4/16/26

P. Salton made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, A. Christianson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approve bills** – No bills.

**IGLLS** – Leonard Langner

The March 26<sup>th</sup> pasta supper went well, serving over 200 meals. Enrollment for '26-'27 stands at about 165. There are two applicants for the open teaching position next year. The review of the food service went well, everything passed. The official report will come out soon. This inspection happens every five years. The school's current construction loan will soon be converted to a mortgage, with monthly payments to be \$7,150/month.

**New Horizons** – Doug Kading

The board has set aside \$10,000 for the chiller fund and \$10,000 for the sound system. The funds will remain in the account until such time as the funds are needed. There is one vacancy on this committee.

**Board of Elders** – Paul Salton

Kelly Hartmann is still working on the sound system. Assimilation Sunday was last Sunday, April 12. Considering holding a welcome night for Christ the King members. The list of dedicated offerings was approved. There are still three vacancies on the board of elders.

**Board of Trustees** – Jon Stricker

The board has received two bids for painting the EFIS on the outside of the church, one from Larsen Painting and one from Custom Coating. Waiting for a possible third bid.

**Preschool Board** – Corey Langner

For next year we currently have 28 3-year-olds with a waiting list of 8 and 25 4-year-olds.

Celebration Sunday went over well. We served around 180 people. We had about 65% of the kids participate.

Preschool staff contracts are in process and will be completed by the end of the month.

We will be assessing the need for Wednesday afternoon childcare for next year. If it is needed, we will need to find someone to do it.

Staff appreciation weeks are coming up at the end of April and beginning of May.

We will be running an ad for the preschool assistant job in the Shopper for a couple weeks. We will also post on Facebook.

**Board of Education** – Amber Christianson

Julie Chalstrom has joined the board. VBS is planned and ready to go. Working on GIFT directors for next year. Sunday School is winding down. Summer Sunday School will be combined classes.

**Board of Youth** – Jody Schendel

LYF meets Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm - Wendy Rees leads, studying Apologetics. Laura Hallgren leads games. We had many members donate eggs toward the youth Easter Breakfast fundraiser. Thank you for your generosity! ALL YOUTH ACTIVITY \*\* Sunday, April 12 at 2:00 pm. Delivered the coasters & sun catchers made by our youth to shut-ins. Games and pizza to follow. Was a good experience for all.

Senior Recognition, Sunday, May 10, 9:30-10:30. Message by Pastor Kaldahl. Invitations emailed out to families with Seniors in the congregation.

Lori Gamble, Carter Meyer, Khloe Dorman-Heath and Jasmine Doede will attend Youth Lead, April 24-26 at Hidden Acres in Dayton, IA. Youth Lead is a workshop to help equip teens to develop and use their leadership skills as they serve Christ within their congregations and communities.

**Board of Christian Life/Outreach** – Doug Kading

The Orphan Grain Train trailer is already half full. As soon as it is full, it will be delivered to Ida Grove. Gift cards will be sent to college students for finals week. Senior Fun and Family Day is planned for April 21 from 1-3 p.m. Discussion about a request that's been made to help individuals that need assistance from the parking lot into church on Sunday mornings. Working on how to let elders/ushers know that assistance is needed.

**Pastoral items:** Confirmation is wrapping up. Been making calls to Christ the King members as well as other new members interested in FELC.

**Old Business:**

1. Kelly H. working on the sound system.
2. Discussion about the Christ the King property, pros and cons. After discussion, P. Salton made a motion that FELC not receive the Christ the King property, D. Kading seconded the motion. Motion carried with one dissenting vote. This will be the resolution that is brought before the voters assembly for their vote.
3. P. Salton gave an update on the call process. All collected names of potential assistant pastors will be sent to the District for President Egger's review.

**New Business:**

1. Reviewed and confirmed voters meeting agenda.
2. Discussion about holding a fall stewardship campaign/debt reduction campaign. Discussion, but no clear direction. Will revisit this issue.
3. L. Stricker made a motion that we renew our line of credit with Farmers Bank up to \$50,000, C. Langner seconded the motion. Motion carried. The interest rate would be 8 percent if we borrow against the LOC. This matter will now go before the voters meeting for their approval.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Hargens  
Council Secretary

# THOSE WHO SERVE—May, 2026



## 8:00 A.M. Services

	<b>May 3</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>May 31</b>
<b>Elder</b>	Tom Roti Ken Schroeder	Mark Rees	Gaylin Fey Jeff Chalstrom	Ken Schroder	Jeff Chalstrom
<b>Acolyte</b>	Laura Harman	Hudson Frankenstein	Hannah Stickrod	Cade Chalstrom	Reegan Homby
<b>Organist</b>	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Pat Millard & Diane Higgins	_____	Linda Tewes & Sherri White	_____	_____
<b>Ushers</b>	# 1 LYF	# 1 LYF	# 3 Tom Roti	# 3 Tom Roti	# 5 Tom Miller
<b>Service Builder</b>	Corey Langner	Kelly Hartmann	Amber Christianson	Ranae Kehoe	Corey Langner
<b>Presenter</b>	Dan Knaak	Bob Cody	Lori Gamble	Ranae Kehoe	Dan Knaak
<b>Sound Board</b>	Abbey Ruden	Dan Knaak	Bruce Gamble	Kelly Hartmann	Abbey Ruden
<b>Live-Stream</b>	Matt Ruden	Matt Ruden	Alex Halverson	Matt Ruden	Matt Ruden

### Confirmation Service

## 10:45 A.M. Services

	<b>May 3</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>May 17</b>	<b>May 24</b>	<b>May 31</b>
<b>Elder</b>	Jerry Enderton Cole Brenden	Paul Salton	Travis Harman Paul Salton	Cole Brenden	Jerry Enderton
<b>Acolyte</b>	Grant Langner	Mia Fuhrman	Eli Norgaard	Karson Koenecke	Grant Langner
<b>Ushers</b>	# 4 Jerry Enderton	# 6 John Hargens	# 6 John Hargens	# 10 Mark Bergstadt	# 10 Mark Bergstadt
<b>Organist</b>	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl	Kristin Kaldahl
<b>Presenter</b>	Michael Schauer	Charlie Peterson	Jerry Enderton	Michael Schauer	Steve Hallgren

# May

# 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1 Pastor's Day Off</b> Jennie Williamson Concert In AM—Sanctuary for IGLLS 5:00 Meal-Fellowship Hall 6:30 Jennie Williamson Concert—Sanctuary	<b>2</b>
<b>Preschool Registration May 4-8 Monday-Thursday 8:00—4:30 Friday 8:00—Noon</b>						
<b>3 Confirmation</b> 8:00 Divine Worship w/ Communion 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Confirmation Service w/Comm 12:00 Confirmation Reception—Emily Holt F. Hall / Kitchen 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study	<b>4</b> 6:00 Preschool Bd  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">             IDW Spring Pastor's Conference—Algona           </div>	<b>5 8:50 Preschool Fire Drill</b>	<b>6 8:50 Preschool Disaster Drill</b> 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:20 IGLLS Chapel 8:30 Finance BD 10:00 Ladies B. Study-Conf Rm 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 7:00-8:30 LYF	<b>7</b> 9:30 Esther / Naomi Guild at FELC  2:00 IGLLS F. Hall 6:30 Sarah Guild—FELC	<b>8 Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>9</b> 8:00-Noon Senior Breakfast Prep & Set-up Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
<b>10 MOTHER'S DAY</b> 8:00 Divine Worship 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:00 Senior Breakfast 9:30 Senior Recognition <b>No Sunday School / Bible Class</b> 10:45 Divine Worship 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study  	<b>11</b> 9:00-10:30 IGLLS Fellowship Hall  7:00 Elders	<b>12 9:00 Pastors' Winkle</b>  7:00 Board of Trustees 7:00 Board of Education 8:00 pm Worship Service SMU	<b>13 Last Day PS M/W 3-yr-olds</b> 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:20 IGLLS Chapel 8:30 Finance BD <b>No Ladies B. Study-Conf Rm</b> 9:45 Preschool Chapel 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 2:15 IGLLS 4th Pen Pals F. Hall 6:30 IGLLS TK-2 Concert Sanctuary 7:00-8:30 LYF	<b>14 Last Day Preschool T/Th 3-yr-olds</b> 7:00 Spirit Lifters 9:45 Preschool Chapel 5:15 Bd. of CL/CO 6:30 IGLLS 3-8 Spring Musical- Gym/Sanctuary	<b>15 Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>16</b>  Mary Peterson Graduation Recep- tion F. Hall / Kitchen  1:00 Missionaries— Mock Family at Mission Central
<b>Julie vacation—May 12-15 (Shane's Graduation)</b>						
<b>17 8:00 Divine Worship w/ Comm.</b> 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Sunday School / Bible Class 10:45 Divine Worship w/ Communion Afternoon Faith Staedtler Graduation Reception—Fellowship Hall 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study	<b>18</b>  5:30 IGLLS Annual Meeting Gym	<b>19</b> 10:30 PS Graduation 4/5 yr. olds Miss Tammi 1:00-2:30 Senior Fun—BCLO 3:30 Clover Kids-Gym 6:30 Board of Youth  8:00 Worship Service SMU	<b>20 Last Day PS 4 yr. old's</b> 6:30 Men's Bible Study 8:20 IGLLS Chapel 8:30 Finance BD 10:00 Ladies B. Study-Conf Rm 10:30 PS Graduation 4/5 yr. olds Miss Leah 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 7:00-8:30 LYF	<b>21</b> 7:00 Spirit Lifters  <b>PS Teacher's Workday</b>  7:00 Church Council	<b>22 Pastor's Day Off</b> Noon—PS Staff End of Year Lunch-Sammy's  <b>PARISH NEWS DUE</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:00 Divine Worship 9:00 Fellowship w/ coffee & donuts 9:15-Noon Childcare in the Nursery 9:30 Bible Class No Sunday School 10:45 Divine Worship 5:00 Langner's Home Bible Study	<b>25 Memorial Day</b> No School IGLLS Offices Closed  	<b>26</b>  8:00 Worship Service SMU	<b>27 6:30 Men's Bible Study</b> 8:30 Finance BD 8:30 IGLLS Closing Chapel 10:00 Ladies B. Study-Conf Rm 10:00 IGLLS K-Graduation / F. Hall 2:00 Worship Service on SMU 5:00 IGLLS 8th Grade Graduation Sanctuary, F-Hall & Kitchen 7:00-8:30 LYF	<b>28 IGLLS Last Day</b>  7:00 Spirit Lifters  12:30 IGLLS Dismissal	<b>29 Pastor's Day Off</b>	<b>30</b> 8:00-Noon Baby Shower Kaitlyn (Essick) Todd Fellowship Hall
<b>31 8:00 Divine Worship</b> 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					<b>Summer Office Hours</b> <b>Begin May 26th</b> <b>Monday - Thursday</b> <b>8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.</b> <b>Friday 8:00 a.m. to Noon</b>	

# May Birthdays



May 1 Gloria Nielsen  
May 4 Cade Elsenbast  
Rick Petersen  
May 5 Chris Abel  
Rev. Virgil Ewoldt  
Kyren Glackin  
Maggie Norgaard  
May 6 Than LoVan  
May 7 Alex Fuhrman  
Wyatt Higgins  
Andrea Langner  
May 8 Shana Manteufel  
Gracelyn McCarty

May 9 Debbie Claus  
Calvin Halverson  
Mila Loehr  
Abbey Ruden  
May 10 Samantha Snyder  
May 13 John Hodgkin  
Troy Huisenga  
Brynlee Kladstrup  
Diane Stein  
May 15 Anson Kladstrup  
Kaydence Rutter  
May 16 Christopher Higgins  
Tammy McKeever  
Doug Rutter  
May 18 Grace Butler  
Mallory Salton  
May 19 Katie Jensen  
Karen Rutledge  
May 20 Doug Kading  
Allison Nolin  
Donna Ott  
May 22 Jada Fuller  
May 23 Lori Erichsen  
Katie Scott  
Konnor McKeever



May 24 Jon Kohnekamp  
Oliver McClain  
Tom Roti  
May 25 Nolan Abel  
May 26 Tanya Stein  
May 27 Morgan Beachler  
May 28 Kaetlyn Menkler  
May 29 Doug Adams  
Lora Elsenbast  
May 30 Jan Johnson  
Kendrix Satter  
Kay Wilson  
May 31 Camry Gonzalez  
Abigail Young

# & Anniversaries

May 2 Troy & Cinda  
Halverson  
May 5 Joe & Than  
Lovan  
May 9 Craig & Deb  
Hinkeldey  
May 11 Rick & Karen  
Adams  
May 16 John & Libby  
Stricker  
May 17 Dr. Liz Kressin &  
Dr. Rex Jones



May 17 Paul & Hilary  
Becker  
May 18 Mark & Jennifer  
Jensen  
May 21 Ed & Briana  
Simmons

May 22 Leigh & Amanda  
Winterboer  
May 24 Keith & Mary  
McCloud  
May 28 Steve & Laura  
Hallgren  
May 29 Austin & Shyanne  
Johnson  
May 29 Tim & Ruth  
Obermeier  
May 30 Doug & Kelly  
Adams



**THE MAY '26 PARISH NEWS**  
**First English Lutheran Church**  
**1311 East 18th Street**  
**Spencer, IA 51301**

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