

# -Church News-

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH-ELCA**  
*Bethesda Lutheran Church*  
439 Main, Jewell

**Sunday**  
9:00 am Worship, with Holy Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays  
Live-stream on Facebook  
10:00 am Fellowship  
10:15-11:00 am Sunday School during the school year  
10:15-11:30 am The Wired Word adult forum

**Monday**  
1:00-2:00 pm Lord’s Cupboard is open on 1st Monday of each month  
3:00 pm Worship service broadcast on Channel 14, CCS (Stratford cable)  
5:00-6:30 pm Lord’s Cupboard is open each Monday

**Tuesday**  
12:00 pm Tuesday Together Time – Community potluck  
3:00 pm Worship service broadcast on Channel 14, CCS (Stratford cable)

**Wednesday**  
3:30-5:00 pm Wednesday Kids  
5:30-7:00 pm Confirmation meal and classes during school year  
6:00-7:00 pm H.S. Youth Group – during school year

**Friday**  
Church Offices are closed

**Saturday**  
Pastor’s Day Off

**JEWELL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
*Rev. Bob Miller, senior pastor:*  
515-859-3855  
*Rev. Kerry Oliver, associate pastor:* 515-689-3941  
537 Main - Jewell, Iowa  
email: jewellunitedchurch@gmail.com  
Facebook: Jewell United Church of Christ

**Sunday:** 9 a.m. Worship (Communion first Sunday of the month).Worship is live--streamed on our Facebook page. Fellowship time following service.  
**Monday:** 5 pm BASE exercise group  
**2nd Tuesday:** 10 am Women’s Fellowship  
**2nd/4th Thursdays:** 1 pm Piece-makers quilting and sewing group

**VICTORY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
*Pastor Ernest Amstalden*  
Phone 515-827-6015  
Jewell, Iowa

**Sunday**  
9:00 am Coffee and Fellowship @ the Center  
10:00 AM Worship Celebration

**ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*Phone 515-826-3312*  
*Pastor Craig Benson*  
www.stpauls-afc.org  
Rural Jewell, Iowa

**Sunday**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:15 am Fellowship time  
10:45 am Worship Service

**Wednesday**  
7:00 pm Women’s Bible Study  
Services available online  
https://stpauls-afc.org

**SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*Pastor Craig Benson*  
Phone 515-899-2396  
www.salemchurch-afcc.org  
Rural Radcliffe, Iowa

**Sunday**  
9:00 am Worship Service  
10:00 am Fellowship Time  
10:30 am Sunday School for all ages

**Wednesday**  
6:00 pm Confirmation Class  
7:00 pm Youth Group  
Services available online  
https://www.salemchurch-afcc.org

**ST. CECILIA’S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
*Fr. Don Czapl, Pastor*  
2900 Hoover Ave. - Ames, Iowa  
www.stceciliaparis.org

**Saturday**  
5pm Mass

**Sunday**  
8:30:10:30am Mass; 5pm Espanol

**SAINTS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
14238 500th Ave. - Rural Gilbert  
sppgilbert.net

**Saturday**  
8:30 a.m. Mass

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*Pastor Jon Rollefson*  
1629 DeWitt St.  
Ellsworth, Iowa

**Sundays:**  
8:30 AM Prayer Group  
9:00 AM Worship  
Live stream on Facebook and YouTube

**Tuesdays:**  
9:30 AM Community Coffee  
3:45 PM Friends of Jesus (Grades K-3rd)  
6:30 PM Small Group

**Wednesdays:**  
3:45 PM Friends of Jesus (Grades 4-6th)  
5:30 PM Confirmation

**Saturdays:**  
7:00 AM Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study

**ELLSWORTH Co-op Telephone**  
836-4431

**Rent this space for \$30.00 for month. Call 515-290-7907**

**Reliance State Bank**  
515-733-4396  
Member FDIC

**Heartland Co-op**  
827-5431 / 328-2315 / 826-3225

**Church News Reminder**  
Please supply church information by 5:00 p.m. Monday. Include Friday of the current week through Thursday of the following week. Mail to PO Box 130, Jewell IA 50130 or e-mail: shrecnew@globalccs.net. If you have questions, please call 515-827-5931. Thank you.

*This space is devoted to the churches of the area, their services, activities and contributions to the community and spiritual life in the South Hamilton area.*

**South Hamilton Record-News**  
A Heart of Iowa Publishing, Inc. Newspaper - (USPS 605-820)  
Published every Wednesday at 602 Main Street, Jewell, Iowa.  
Entered as periodical matter at the Post Office in Jewell IA 50130, under the act of Congress March 3, 1897. Periodicals postage paid at Jewell, Iowa. Postmaster send address changes to:  
South Hamilton Record-News, P.O. Box 130, Jewell IA 50130  
Phone: (515) 290-7907  
Email: shrecnew@globalccs.net

**Publisher and Editor:** Scott Ervin, Iowa Newspaper Association Member  
**Office Assistants:** Jane Baldus and Donna Erickson  
Official newspaper for: Hamilton County, Ellsworth, Jewell, Stanhope & the South Hamilton Community School District.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**  
**Hamilton and surrounding counties \$34**  
**Snowbirds \$35 State of Iowa \$38 Out-of-state \$40**  
OFFICE HOURS: Mon & Tues 8:30-5pm Closed Wednesday for printing  
Thurs 8:30-4:30pm Fri 8:30am-noon Closed during noon hour  
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## Iowa House and Senate Reach Agreement on State Budget

The 110th day of the 2025 Iowa Legislative Session was May 2, so most per diem expenses paid to members have ended. However, members of the General Assembly must work until we pass a balanced state budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

This week the Iowa House, Senate and Governor agreed on total spending of \$9,425 for Fiscal Year 2026. This figure is an increase of \$478.1 million, or a 5.34 percent increase over the current year’s spending level.

Through negotiations, House Republicans fought hard to secure several wins in this budget. One of our priorities was \$14 million to raise paraprofessionals’ salaries.

This week Budget Subcommittee Chairs from the House and Senate are working to finalize the details of each budget. The funding breakdown among the various budget subcommittees is:

Adm & Reg. ....\$73,714,090  
Ag. & Nat Resources .....  
.....\$46,605,670  
Econ Dev. ....\$40,337,127  
Education ..\$1,033,076,216  
Health & H Service .....  
.....\$2,469,514,264  
Justice System & Judicial Branch .....\$924,933,800  
State Aid to Schools & Other Outstanding Approp. ....  
.....\$4,837,312,672  
**TOTAL .....\$9,425,493,839**

I serve as House Economic Development Budget Subcommittee Chair, and on Wednesday, my Senate counterpart and I reached an agreement. This budget provides funding for the World Food Prize and Council of Governments (COGS). Because I know how important COGS are to our area, I worked hard to keep them fully funded. I also worked to keep language in the budget bill that provides \$1.25 million for rural grocery store grants provided the Senate passes HF 1032.

Although the House was not in session on Friday, I went to the Capitol to encourage my Senate colleagues to pass HF 1032. More than 40% of independent grocery stores have closed in communities with populations less than 1,000. Profit margins are extremely thin for small grocery stores, so one freezer or cooler breakdown could cause them to close their

doors. Studies show that areas with local grocery stores have less obesity and fewer ill-health effects. I want to keep Iowans – and Iowa communities – healthy by establishing an independent rural grocer grant program.

**Floor Action Week 17**  
Week 17 was our first week of legislative “overtime.” We debated only on Thursday and passed the following bills:

· Grain Indemnity Program Updates (House File 999) – modernizes the state grain indemnity program. Vote 79-3.

· IDALS Code Clean Up (HF 998) – contains Iowa Code clean up that the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship in Fort Dodge is requesting and recommending. Vote 83-0.

· Iowa Education Reform Bill: Teacher Salaries and Preparation (HF 787) – modifies the calculation of teacher salary supplement district cost per pupil to ensure it meets minimum salary requirements, including costs associated with retirement contributions. It also updates pre-student teaching field experience requirements, reducing the minimum hours for teacher intern preparation programs. Vote 83-1.

· Pediatric Palliative Care Centers (HF 933) – a bounce-back bill. The House passed it earlier and then it was technically amended by the Senate. Vote 84-0.

· School Bus Driver Instruction (HF 395) – makes it easier to qualify as a licensed school bus driver. Vote 64-20.

· Property Tax Exemption in Disaster Areas (HF 1013) – provides for a partial property tax exemption for certain disaster related housing. Vote 78-5.

· Department of Revenue Technical Bill (HF 976) – makes numerous technical changes. Vote 84-0.

· DAS State Contracts (HF 952) – updates rules concerning events on the grounds surrounding the Capitol. Vote 58-26.

· Real Estate Brokerage Agreements (SF 314) – cleans up last year’s real estate brokerage bill to clarify which properties are exempt for the required agreements. Vote 84-0.

· NICS Cleanup (SF 462) – strikes language that results in duplicate records in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Vote 8-0.

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## -Obituaries-

### Shirley Stapleton



A Memorial Service for Shirley Stapleton, 76, of Jefferson will be held at 4:00pm Friday, May 16, 2025 at First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson, Iowa. The family will greet friends at First Presbyterian Church from 2:30pm to 3:50pm Friday prior to the service. Memorials are suggested to Main Street Matters in Jefferson or the First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson, or your chosen charity

Shirley Ann (Thoreson) Stapleton was born January 16,1949, to Beryle (Twedt) and Curtis Thoreson in Jewell, Iowa. She transitioned from this life to the next on May 9, 2025. Growing up on the family farm north of Ellsworth, she developed a strong work ethic and a passion for service. Friends and acquaintances in Jefferson would find it hard to believe that she was a quiet, even shy child; as an adult her dry sense of humor and pithy quips became her signature characteristics.

As a youth Shirley was active in Girl Scouting, eventually working as a summer camp counselor and director at Lakota Girl Scout Camp. Her youth was adventurous as a primary driver of “the Crutch,” a blue Chevy station wagon that shuttled siblings, cousins, and friends to school and on harmless exploits.

Following graduation from South Hamilton High School she continued her education at the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in Special Education. She began her teaching career in the Jefferson School District where she taught students with special needs for almost four decades.

On June 24, 1989, Shirley married Craig Stapleton and in December of 1990 they welcomed David. Shirley and David lost Craig in February of 2008. Throughout the years Shirley has honored Craig’s memory as she created and donated quilts to the Jefferson Rotary Club auction, organized the Greene County Relay for Life event many times, created displays in the window of the Masonic Lodge, and filled an Ideal stock tank (the family business) in her front yard with seasonal floral displays.

In addition to a full teaching career, Shirley was active in P.E.O., Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, Community Players of Greene County, and the Jefferson Matters design committee. Shirley was a founding member of the “Why Not Us,” a women’s investment group that restored a corner

building on the Jefferson square. Active as a deacon, choir member, and “funeral lady” at First Presbyterian Church, Shirley’s passion for children extended to years of work with the middle school group Christ’s Kids. In her spare time, she enjoyed quilting, reading, knitting, gardening, traveling, attending the theater, eating out with friends, and spending time with David and extended family.

Shirley is survived by her son David, sisters Arlie (Jay) Willems and Teresa (Mike) McCormack; her “bonus” sister Jackie (Gary) Hatcher; sisters-in-law Lynn Steele, Ann (Ken) Schmidt, Jane (Jerry) Maher, Sue Grenier, and Lori Thoreson; Uncle Don Twedt and Aunt Betty McClain; nieces and nephews Nate (Maggie) Willems, Megan Zuazua, Spencer Willems, Torin (Brittany) McCormack, Garrett (Jennifer) Schmidt-McCormack, Mackenzie (Nate) Gilman, Adam Coyne, Katy (Kelly) Calvert, Mary Tejada, Meredith (Robert) Dohmen, Matthew (Andrea Jensen) Steele, Jody Flores, Jenny (Michael) Middleton, Jayson (Kelly) Feaker; many great and great, great nieces and nephews, and numerous cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband Craig, parents Curt and Beryle Thoreson, brother Vernon Thoreson, mother-in-law and father-in law Mary and Henry Stapleton, brother-in-law J.R. Grenier, niece Jackie Coyne, and beloved aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Shirley enjoyed wide circles of friends, too numerous to list, some as close as family. She will be remembered lovingly as a tower of strength for her family and a true servant to her church and community, and for her quick wit and her dedication to children of all ages and abilities.

“When the lessons we have been sent here to teach have all been taught , . . then we go home.” (Curt Thoreson, June of 1987, to his niece Barbara as she mourned her father.)

Services by Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home and Cremation Care, Jefferson, Iowa

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