

# The Gearhart Gazette

JASON GEARHART - HOUSE DISTRICT 64

To read Jason Gearhart's full newsletter, go to [gearhartforiowa64.com](http://gearhartforiowa64.com) to subscribe.

To the People of House District 64 It's week 11! Here are the things that took place this week:

The information in this newsletter attributed to other legislative committees is provided for general updates and does not necessarily reflect the views or positions of Representative Gearhart.

### Iowa is #1 in Affordability

Although Iowans have seen a rise in inflation like everyone else across the country, we're winning when it comes to affordability. Recently, the nonpartisan Common Sense Institute released its report on affordability in America. The report examines how states have been affected by the post-pandemic rise in inflation. It compares household incomes to a list of essential expenses to compare people's purchasing power. This report ranks Iowa as the #1 state for affordability.

Iowa households spent \$9,000 more on basic expenses (housing, utilities, groceries, health and car insurance, gas, and childcare) in 2025 than in 2019. While that's

cating their biofuel gallons sold. If documentation is not provided in the report, the taxpayer may not claim Iowa's biofuel tax credits, ensuring accountability.

### Agriculture Bills Within the House Ways and Means Committee

There are several agricultural or natural resource-related bills that reside in the House Ways and Means Committee, with two of the bills passing full committee on Tuesday. These bills were not subject to last week's second funnel deadline.

### IDALS Iowa Farm Act (Bundled Bill). House File 2340,

in February, passed the House Agriculture Committee and has a companion bill in the Senate. The bill includes 12 divisions and 60 sections and is widely supported by agriculture and agribusiness constituencies. Topics include: biodiesel, Choose Iowa program, beginning farmers, butchery revitalization, animal health, weights and measures, grain dealers/warehouse audit reports, milk haulers, hauling of implements of husbandry, agricultural tourism, above ground storage tanks, eliminating the grain handling excise tax, eliminating sales/use tax for honeybees, farm retirement rental

On Monday, the Iowa Senate took up HF 2643, the pro-biofuels bill, and passed it 47-0. The bill now heads to the Governor. HF2643 supports biofuels and agriculture by ensuring full compliance and better implementation of Iowa's ethanol and biodiesel tax credits (HF 2643). Farmers across Iowa and the nation have identified support for ethanol and biodiesel as a top priority this year. For over a decade, sellers of biofuel have been required to file a report indi-

income, and veterinary practice grants and tax reductions.

**Special Plates for the National Wildlife Turkey Federation.** HF 297 authorizes the Iowa DOT to offer a NWTFF license plate for grants to Iowa NWTFF chapters with appropriate projects.

**Farm-to-Table and Raw Milk.** HF 2444 passed the House Agriculture Committee in February. The bill expands the ability for Farm-To-Table events to take place, providing for an annual permit and the ability to sell their homemade products on-site. The second half of the bill provides new opportunities for dairy farms to market and sell raw milk and raw milk products.

**Right to Repair II - All Farm Equipment.** HF 2709 passed the Agriculture Committee in February. The bill provides the freedom to farm for Iowa farmers through the right to repair their own agricultural equipment.

### House Passes Three Department of Education Bills

On Tuesday, the House passed three Department of Education bills with bipartisan support.

SF2220: Gifted and Talented Identification, Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Coursework, and Advanced Math Pathways

The bill strengthens the minimum requirements of talented and gifted programs to ensure program consistency between districts, uniform identification procedures covering K-12, and greater uniformity of talented and gifted services provided to students.

The bill provides that any student in grade 4 or higher who scores in the advanced performance level/exceeds grade-level expectations in the statewide assessment in ELA and/or Math will be automatically enrolled in the next most rigorous course or program, with the ability for families to opt out.

The bill supports all districts in developing middle school advanced mathematics pathways designed to enable students to be prepared for, enroll in, and master Algebra I as early as the beginning of middle school and at least by the end of 9th grade, as well as provides consistent criteria for the identification of students who are placed in advanced math pathways.

The bill aligns the student assessments to the corresponding content and level of the course the student is enrolled in.

The bill moves the statewide science assessment to grade 11 from grade 10 to make sure students receive instruction in all tested science concepts.

### HF2725: Preparing to Implement Workforce Pell

This bill authorizes the Department of Education to access wage data necessary for implementation and compliance with the new federal Workforce Pell program.

This bill implements a statewide student ROI indicator with an aligned analysis and reporting framework for all public postsecondary education programs as a condition of participation in state-funded scholarship and grant programs.

### HF2230: Strengthening Teacher Preparation

This bill provides stronger preparation to support English learners and students with disabilities by establishing minimum statewide training expectations for all teacher candidates in those areas and requiring hands-on practicum experience.

This bill requires teacher prep programs to administer an end-of-program assessment that will be used for program improvement and targeted remediation and support. It is not a graduation requirement or required for licensure.

### Non-Teaching Staff Grows to 53% in Iowa School Districts

Save Oregon Schools is an organization "providing objective research & news to help equip parents, guardians, and community members with the information necessary to make informed decisions and advocate for what really matters to them."

Get the latest updates from Gearhart by following him on Facebook. Reach out via email at [jason.gearhart@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:jason.gearhart@legis.iowa.gov) or give him a call at 563-608-7026.



## United Methodist Churches

Serving Strawberry Point, Lamont, and Aurora  
Lisa Schroeder, Pastor

LAMONT: Every Sunday in Lamont at 9:00 am except the 2nd Sunday. SUNDAY SCHOOL at 10:15 am every Sunday in Lamont. UMYF is the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in Lamont at 6:30 pm. AURORA: 2nd Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday evening worship in Aurora TBA. STRAWBERRY POINT: Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m.



LamontAuroraIowaUmc.com  
Lamont Iowa Church

**Emanuel Lutheran** - Strawberry Point  
Sunday at 9 AM

**Bethany Lutheran** - Elkader  
Sunday at 10:30 AM  
Wednesday School at 6 PM  
Pastor Rev. Kate Johnson

**St. John Lutheran Church** - Dundee  
214 South Main Street, Dundee, IA  
January-June 10:30 AM;  
July - December 8:30 AM

**Peace Lutheran Church** - Ryan  
504 Franklin St, Ryan, IA  
January - June 8:30am  
July - December 10:30am

**Mission in Christ (NALC)**

Worship - Saturday at 4 PM  
312 E. MISSION ST | STRAWBERRY POINT, IA

### Blessed Trinity Cluster

Weekend Mass Schedule  
Saturday at 4 PM - **St. Mary, Manchester**  
Sunday at 7:30 AM - **St. Mary, Manchester**  
Live Stream - Sunday at 7:30 AM Mass

Sunday at 9:30 AM - Rotating between Immaculate Conception, St. John & St. Patrick  
April 5, 2026 - Immaculate Conception, Masonville  
April 12, 2026 - St. Patrick, Ryan (+)  
April 19, 2026 - St. John, Delhi

## Church services sponsored by the following businesses and professionals

Design, Installation, Service, & Maintenance  
Lil' Bit of Country  
RV Park  
Experience the beauty of Northeast Iowa  
WALLY & DANA ROWCLIFFE  
563-933-2081  
LB0CSTOVES21@GMAIL.COM  
417 W Mission Street | Strawberry Point, IA

**BROWN'S WELL SERVICE**  
Water & Septic Systems and Excavating  
Arlington  
Since 1978 563-633-3365  
TIME OF TRANSFER  
SEPTIC SYSTEMS INSPECTIONS

**Arlington Heating & Cooling**  
Bob Berry  
563-633-6505

**Strawberry Hardware**  
Do it Best  
- Tools - Paint - Plumbing - Lawn - Housewares - Electrical - Heating - Farm - Garden - Sporting Goods  
563-933-4505  
Strawberry Point, IA

**CLAYTON DRUG**  
Ask your Clayton Drug Team about FREE Local Area Delivery  
Elkader - Strawberry Point - Sumner  
563.933.4762

**BACKBONE INSURANCE LLC**  
Steve Cook | Lisa Timmerman  
Pam Vaske | Melissa Fedeler  
STRAWBERRY POINT: 563-933-2087  
ARLINGTON: 563-920-9020  
WWW.BACKBONEINS.COM  
GRINNELL MUTUAL

**Circle of Life Caregivers**  
In Your Home or Ours  
"Private Quality Senior Care"  
Including Transportation, Shopping & Cleaning Services  
Serving NE Iowa  
[circleoflifecaregivers@gmail.com](mailto:circleoflifecaregivers@gmail.com)  
Ph. 563-933-6235

**HAIR BY LEX**  
-HAIRSTYLIST-  
LEXIE BOGE  
CALL/MESSAGE TO BOOK APPOINTMENT  
563.608.4692  
Envy Salon  
117 E Main St, Manchester, IA

**Support LOCAL Businesses**

**CITIZENS STATE BANK**  
563-933-2213  
[www.mycsb.bank](http://www.mycsb.bank)  
Strawberry Point, IA

**TIMMERMAN CONSTRUCTION INC**  
CONCRETE WORK FOR Residential - Commercial - Agricultural  
Farrowing, Nursery & Finishing Buildings  
Pits, Floors, PVC Pull Plug Flush Systems  
Walls, Floors, Sidewalks, Driveways & Basements  
Wedgcor Steel Buildings  
Strawberry Point, IA  
563-933-6440

**C. Wicks Construction**  
563-880-7247  
New construction • Remodeling

## One in Faith Parish Sunday Services

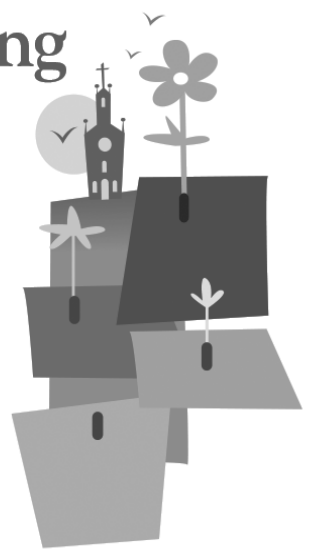
St John, Arlington -8:30 a.m.; Hope, Elkader -8:30 a.m.  
St Paul, Volga - 10:30 am; St Sebald, rural Strawberry Point - 10:30 a.m.  
Worship services and devotions will continue to be recorded and put on Pastor Margaret's and One in Faith's Facebook pages.

## Community Bible Church

Bruce Klett, Pastor  
Sundays Service 10:15 a.m.  
Adult Small Group and Sunday School 9-10 a.m.  
1st Sunday of each month Communion and Pot Luck

# The Meaning of Easter

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."  
1 Peter 1:24-25 NIV



Easter is the oldest and arguably the most important celebration in the Christian church, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion and death. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs after the vernal equinox, leading some to suggest that the holiday has pagan roots. This idea is reinforced by the fact that the name of the holiday is connected to the Anglo-Saxon word "Eostre," which was the name of the goddess of Spring. The fertility symbols that have somehow accreted onto the modern holiday, such as eggs and rabbits, adds further credence to that view. However, early celebrations of Easter were clearly not about these pagan fertility symbols, but were intended to commemorate Jesus' rising from

the dead and ascending to heaven after his death. That the celebration takes place at a time when the cold, seemingly dead earth comes back to life at Springtime is perhaps a fortuitous reminder that there is something of a resurrection built into nature. The seed must die and be buried in the earth in order to spring back to life. Early Christians were encouraged by Jesus' resurrection to believe that by dying with Christ in their heart they might, like the seeds in Spring, rise to new life in heaven.  
-Christopher Simon

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Starmont Community School District  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
Proposed STARMONT School Budget Summary  
Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027

Location of Public Hearing: High School Conference Room	Date of Hearing: 04/13/2026	Time of Hearing: 06:30 PM			
The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 26/27 school budget at the above noted location and time. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of the revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy of the details will be furnished upon request.					
	Budget 2027	Re-est. 2026	Actual 2025	Avg % 25-27	
Taxes Levied on Property	1	3,533,756	3,370,904	3,036,715	% 7.9
Utility Replacement Excise Tax	2	40,817	42,144	40,159	% 0.8
Income Surtaxes	3	59,676	58,792	62,622	% -2.4
Tuition\Transportation Received	4	405,000	405,000	656,737	
Earnings on Investments	5	203,708	216,679	322,545	
Nutrition Program Sales	6	175,000	178,515	156,763	
Student Activities and Sales	7	130,700	130,760	174,424	
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8	308,925	371,156	301,281	
Revenue from Intermediary Sources	9	0	0	1,927	
State Foundation Aid	10	4,393,179	4,376,786	4,525,512	
Instructional Support State Aid	11	11,639	0	0	
Other State Sources	12	810,200	810,765	854,147	
Two Tier Assessment Limitation Replacement	13	54,707	54,707	51,676	
Title I Grants	14	212,000	224,000	111,129	
IDEA and Other Federal Sources	15	410,000	412,000	729,394	
Total Revenues	16	10,749,307	10,652,208	11,025,031	
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	17	0	0	0	
Transfers In	18	215,000	215,000	215,877	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	19	0	0	56,836	
Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	0	0	12,320	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	10,964,307	10,867,208	11,310,064	
Beginning Fund Balance	22	6,398,351	7,661,634	8,094,151	
Total Resources	23	17,362,658	18,528,842	19,404,215	
*Instruction	24	7,455,000	7,153,054	6,648,208	% 5.9
Student Support Services	25	360,100	346,967	272,844	
Instructional Staff Support Services	26	490,000	358,145	407,206	
General Administration	27	422,000	406,283	394,006	
School Administration	28	421,000	408,290	393,305	
Business & Central Administration	29	228,500	213,616	196,742	
Plant Operation and Maintenance	30	1,048,000	1,005,922	948,906	
Student Transportation	31	902,000	713,175	686,161	
*Total Support Services (lines 25-31)	31A	3,871,600	3,452,398	3,299,170	% 8.3
*Noninstructional Programs	32	530,000	507,852	481,901	% 4.9
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	33	530,000	378,000	526,465	
Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges)	34	216,300	215,600	210,088	
AEA Support - Direct to AEA	35	234,438	208,587	257,821	
*Total Other Expenditures (lines 33-35)	35A	980,738	802,187	994,374	% -0.7
Total Expenditures	36	12,837,338	11,915,491	11,423,653	
Transfers Out	37	215,000	215,000	215,877	
Other Uses	38	0	0	103,051	
Total Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses	39	13,052,338	12,130,491	11,742,581	
Ending Fund Balance	40	4,310,320	6,398,351	7,661,634	
Total Requirements	41	17,362,658	18,528,842	19,404,215	
Proposed Property Tax Rate (per \$1,000 taxable valuation)		10.79302			

**Edgewood Bible Church**  
Edgewood, Iowa  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Worship

**theStone Church**  
Pastor Mark Moyer  
In person Sunday Services  
9:00 AM & 10:30 AM Service  
18175 222nd St - Manchester, IA

**Grace Evangelical Free Church**  
Sunday - 10:30 AM Worship  
27802 Highway 13 S  
Elkader, IA 52043

E-Mail Changes/Updates:  
If there are changes/updates to any of the listed services or if you would like a church service added, please e-mail us at [pressj@iowatelecom.net](mailto:pressj@iowatelecom.net)