

## RELIGION

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

## Slow to speak



CLINT LOVALL

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SPIRIT LAKE

By the time you read this, I will have preached a sermon suggesting that we could all do a better job of staying silent. I'm not sure how it went yet, but I stand by the idea.

We live in an era of nonstop noise, endless voicing of opinions, and constant propaganda. Never before have so many voices had so much access to so many people, and I'm not sure it's going well. Everybody seems exhausted, on edge, angry or scared, and a few seem all of the above. It's not that the issues we face aren't important, exactly the opposite. They are so important that we should take time to think carefully and speak cautiously. Or maybe even consider not speaking at all.

Silence has a longstanding place among Christian virtues. People of faith have long recognized the human ability to damage relationships and neighbors with rash, hasty or harsh words. James (of the Bible) counsels us to "tame our tongues" warning that we can do great evil even with such a small thing. That hasn't changed, except that maybe it's gotten even easier to do. Now we can just type it up and send it, and the people we aim it at don't even need to be

anywhere close to us.

The Scripture challenges us to be silent when we might do damage, when we are being judgmental, when we might offend a brother or sister, when we are tempted to gossip, and when we are angry. And that's just for starters. In a noisy and angry world, full of noisy, angry words, Christians are called to guard what we say and speak carefully. Our algorithms may have us all convinced that people need to hear our opinions, but the Bible teaches otherwise. You can say the right thing, and still be wrong for saying it. As I often tell couples at their weddings, "You can be right, but if you hurt each other proving it, you aren't."

Perhaps the above mentioned James says it best when he instructs, "Brothers and Sisters, everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." I think we get that backward a lot. Far too often, we are quick to speak, quick to get angry, and slow to listen, which might feel good in the moment, but isn't good for our discipleship or our witness. As I hope I said Sunday in the sermon, "What people need to hear from Christians is not our opinions, but our savior." They need to hear Jesus, and if they don't hear him from us, they certainly aren't likely to hear him from the world. Before we speak or post or whatever else passes for communication in the moment we are in, pause to consider whether what you are about to say needs said, and more importantly, whether it reflects Jesus.

Blessings.

## AREA CHURCH LISTINGS

## ASSEMBLY OF GOD

**Foundation Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Nicholas Hanges, Senior Pastor  
1410 W. 18th St.  
712-262-6292  
foundationspencer.com  
• Sunday School K-12, 9 a.m.  
• Sunday Prayer/Fellowship, 9 a.m.  
• Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.  
• Kids Church Sunday, 10 a.m.  
• Wednesday All Ages, 6:30 p.m.

## BAPTIST

**Baptist Church, Sioux Rapids**  
Rev. James Marshall  
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.  
• Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

**First Baptist Church, Spencer**

Rev. Tim Smith  
1200 Grand Ave.  
712-262-1325  
firstbaptistspencer.com  
• Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.  
• Sunday Upward Look — KICD 1240 AM, 10 a.m.  
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
• Sunday AWANA, 4 p.m.  
• Sunday FBC Youth Group, 6 p.m.

## CALVARY CHAPEL

**New Life Worship Center, Spencer**  
Rev. Tracy Baugh  
1217 Fourth Ave. W.  
712-262-3125  
• Sunday Bible Church, 10 a.m.  
• Wednesday Prayer, 6:30 p.m.

## CATHOLIC

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Hartley**  
Rev. Kevin Richter  
260 N. Fourth Ave. W.  
712-928-2626  
• Primghar St. Athony, Sunday, 8 a.m.  
• Hartley St. Joseph, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Milford**  
Rev. Brian Hughes  
1305 Okoboji Ave.  
712-338-2274

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ruthven**  
Rev. Paul Kelly  
1801 Rolling St.  
712-852-3187

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Kevin Richter  
1111 Fourth Ave. W.  
712-262-3047  
• Saturday Service, 4:30 p.m.  
• Sunday Service, 11 a.m.

Livestreamed at:  
spencersacredheart.com/  
onlinemass

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Trinity United Church of Christ, Hartley**  
140 N. Fifth Ave.  
712-728-2889

## CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

**Spencer Family Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Larry Neiderhiser  
905 Fifth St. SW  
712-262-7298  
spencerfamilychurch.org  
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Kid's Church, 10:30 a.m.  
• Wednesday Life Group, 7 p.m.

## CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Spencer**  
1701 W. 11th St.  
712-262-6172  
• Sunday Sacrament Meeting, 10 a.m.  
• Sunday School; Primary and Youth Meetings, 11:10 a.m.  
• Sunday Men's Priesthood Meeting and Women's Relief Society, 12:10 p.m.

## CONGREGATIONAL

**Grace Congregational Church, Greenville**  
Rev. Tonna Parsons  
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.

## EPISCOPAL

**The Way Station, Spencer**  
Rev. Beth Preston  
120 W. Fourth St.  
712-580-5463  
revbethpreston@gmail.com  
• Sunday Service, 3 p.m.

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Spirit Lake**  
Rev. Carolyn Tuttle  
23rd and Zenith  
712-336-1117  
• Sunday Mass/Eucharist, 10 a.m.

**All Saints Episcopal Church, Storm Lake**  
Rev. Stacey Gerhart  
121 W. Marina Road  
712-202-6624  
• Sunday Eucharist, 10 a.m.

## EVANGELICAL FREE

**Riverside Evangelical Free Church, Linn Grove**  
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.  
• Ignite: 6:30 p.m.  
• Salt Youth: 7:15 p.m.

**CrossWinds Church, Spencer**  
Campus Rev. Jordan Gowing  
Rev. Dr. Kurt Trucksess  
1900 Grand Ave, Suite A  
712-584-3151  
spencer@crosswinds.tv  
• Sunday Worship, 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

## FIRST CHRISTIAN

**First Christian Church, Spencer**  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Pastor Interim  
915 Fourth Ave. SW  
712-262-2945  
• Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m.  
In-House and Facebook Live  
• Wednesday Kids Sunday School: 4:30 p.m.

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

**First Congregational Church, Peterson**  
712-295-7150  
• Sunday Worship, 8:45 a.m.  
• Sunday School, 10 a.m.

**First Congregational Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Dr. Shazzy Britz  
DCYM Katie Baltis  
1212 First Ave. W.  
712-262-4392  
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
• Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.  
• Sunday School, 4 years old to fifth grade, 9:30 a.m.  
• Adult Bible Study Tuesday, 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m.  
• Spencer Congo Youth Wednesday's, Middle School, 6-7 p.m., High School, 7-8 p.m.  
Livestream on YouTube  
All are welcome

## LUTHERAN

**Hope Lutheran Church, Evely**  
Rev. Dan Taylor  
206 N. Washington St.  
712-834-2767  
• Sunday Worship 10 a.m.  
• Sunday School and Adult Education, 9 a.m.  
Services livestreamed on YouTube at "Hope Lutheran Church — Evely, IA"

**Lost Island Lutheran Church, Graettinger**  
Rev. Peter Morlock  
• Sunday Service, 8:45 a.m.  
• Fellowship, 9:45 a.m.  
• Sunday School, 10 a.m.

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran, Hartley**  
Rev. Christopher Nitzel  
60 N. Central Ave.  
712-728-2711  
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.  
• Sunday School 10 a.m.  
• Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.  
• Confirmation, 11 a.m.  
• Choir Practice, 11 a.m.

**Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church, Milford**  
Rev. Tim Voth  
1204 L Ave.  
712-338-2355  
• Sunday Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.  
• Sunday School, 8:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.

**First Lutheran Church, Milford**  
1525 Three Cross Road  
Rev. Perry Aalgard, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Brian Jack, Associate Pastor  
712-338-4514  
3cross.org  
• Sunday Worship, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
• Sunday Fellowship, 9:30 a.m.  
• Education/Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Royal**  
Rev. Dr. Mark F. Wilms  
207 Church St.  
712-933-2229  
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.

**Zion Lutheran Church, Ruthven**  
Rev. Eric Patten  
• Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.

**First Lutheran Church, Sioux Rapids**  
Rev. Tonna Parsons  
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

**Bethany Lutheran Church-ELCA, Spencer**  
15 W. 14th St.  
712-262-2327  
bethluthspencer.com  
• Worship, 9 a.m.

**Christ the King Lutheran Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Michael McGinley  
500 Fourth Ave. SW  
712-262-2244  
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.  
• Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.  
• Services on Facebook, 9 a.m.  
Podcast released Sundays

**Faith Lutheran Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Ben Unseth  
2912 Highway Blvd.  
712-580-4316  
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.  
• Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.  
Services are streamed on YouTube  
ficspencer.org

**First English Lutheran Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Paul Kaldahl  
1311 E. 18th St.  
712-262-5598  
spencer-church.com  
• Divine Worship, also broadcast on 1240 AM

and 102.5 FM, 8 a.m.  
• Fellowship, 9 a.m.  
• Child care in the nursery, 9:15 a.m. to Noon  
• Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
• Bible Class, 9:40 a.m.  
• Divine Worship, 10:45 a.m.  
• Communion on first and third Sundays.  
Services & Bible Class livestreamed via website

**Riverview Terrace Chapel, Spencer**  
1501 St. Luke Drive  
712-262-5932  
• Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.

**St. Luke Home and Services, Spencer**  
Rev. Perry DeGroot  
1301 St. Luke Drive  
712-262-5931  
• St. Luke Lutheran Home Worship, 10 a.m.  
• Riverview Terrace Worship, 10:45 a.m.

**Trinity Lutheran Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Renae Behrends  
900 11th Ave. W.  
712-262-1287  
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.

## NONDENOMINATIONAL

**Faith Community Church, Milford**  
805 Okoboji Ave.  
Rev. Jennifer Hesebeck  
faithcommunitymilford.com  
fcc@milfordcomm.net  
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.

**The New Light of the Lakes Friends Church, Okoboji**  
• Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Service, 10:30 a.m.  
• Group Bible Study, 5 p.m.

**Living Word Outreach Ministries, Spencer**  
Rev. Barb Dean, Lead Pastor  
Rev. Mark Feauto, Associate Pastor  
905 10th Ave SE  
712-262-9545  
livingwordspencer.org  
• Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.  
• Livestream also available on the website, Facebook and YouTube.

**River's Edge Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Tim B. Frasher  
Pastor Joseph Leggett  
701 E. 18th St.  
712-580-3013  
• Sunday School, 9 a.m.  
• Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

**Spirit Life Fellowship, Spirit Lake**  
Rev. Eric Holdeman  
2504 Enterprise Ave.  
712-336-0114  
• Sunday School, 9 a.m.  
• Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

## RELIGION BRIEF

## POPE LEO XIV FACES CRISIS AS A TRADITIONALIST GROUP PLANS BISHOP CONSECRATIONS WITHOUT CONSENT

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Leo XIV is facing his first major crisis with traditionalist Catholics: A breakaway group attached to the traditional Latin Mass announced plans to consecrate new bishops without papal consent in a threatened revival of schism.

The Swiss-based Society of St. Pius X, which has schools, chapels and seminaries around the world, has been a thorn in the side of the Holy See for four decades, founded in opposition to the modernizing reforms of the 1960s Second Vatican Council.

In 1988, the group's founder, Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, consecrated four bishops without papal consent, arguing that it was necessary for the survival of the church's tradition. The Vatican promptly excommunicated Lefebvre and the four other bishops, and the group today still has no legal status in the Catholic Church.

But in the decades since that original break with Rome, the group has continued to grow, with branches of priests, nuns and lay Catholics who are attached to the pre-Vatican II traditional Latin Mass.

For the Vatican, papal consent for the consecration of bishops is a fundamental doctrine, guaranteeing the lineage of apostolic succession from the time of Christ's original apostles. As a result, the consecration of bishops without papal consent is considered a grave threat to church unity and a cause of schism, since bishops can ordain new priests. Under church law, a consecration without papal consent incurs an automatic excommunication for the person who celebrates it and the purported new bishop.

**Maple Grove Church of God, Sutherland**  
Rev. Michael Hyde  
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.  
• Sunday School, 11 a.m.

## PENTECOSTAL

**Faith Pentecostal Church, Spencer**  
1700 11th Ave. SW  
712-262-3368  
fpcspencer.com  
Rev. Brad Wallace  
Rev. Dale Hodges  
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
• Wednesday Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

## REFORMED

**Good News Community Church, Okoboji**  
Rev. Brandon Morrow  
1010 Julia St.  
712-332-5698  
• Sunday Worship Services, 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.  
• Fellowship, 10:15 a.m.

**Hope Church, Spencer**  
Pastor James Runcorn  
919 Grand Ave.  
712-262-3016  
• Sunday Worship, 8:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.  
• Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

## SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

**Seventh Day Adventist Church, Spencer**  
1910 10th Ave. E.  
712-262-5766  
• Saturday Sabbath School, 9:45 a.m.  
• Saturday Worship, 11 a.m.

## UNITED METHODIST

**Calvary United Methodist Church, Arnolds Park**  
Rev. Chris St. Clair  
209 N. Okoboji Grove Road  
712-332-2447  
• Saturday Worship, 6 p.m.  
• Sunday Lakeshore Worship, 7:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

**Dickens United Methodist Church, Dickens**  
Rev. Donna Gray  
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

**United Methodist Church, Evely**  
Rev. Michael Eeten  
301 N. Ochevedan  
712-834-2501  
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

**Community United Methodist Church, Gillett Grove**  
Rev. Donna Gray  
• Sunday Worship, 10:15 a.m.

**United Methodist Church, Hartley**  
361 Eighth Ave.  
712-928-2649  
• Sunday Church School/Confirmation Classes, 9:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

**United Methodist Church, Langdon**  
Rev. Chris St. Clair  
• Sunday in-house and Facebook Live Worship, 11 a.m.

**First United Church, Sioux Rapids**  
Rev. Dr. Mike Currier  
Rev. Karen Currier  
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.  
Church of Christ, Spencer  
Contact Jeff Cookinham  
1304 St. Luke Drive  
712-262-2294  
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Bible Study, 11:15 a.m.

**First United Methodist Church, Peterson**  
Rev. Tyler Thomsen  
103 E. Third St.  
• Sunday Worship, 9:15 a.m.  
• Sunday Fellowship, 10:15 a.m.  
• Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.

**First United Methodist Church, Royal**  
Rev. John Batterton  
408 Church St.  
712-933-2489  
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

**United Methodist Church, Ruthven**  
Rev. Kathy Kluis  
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

**First United Methodist Church, Sioux Rapids**  
• Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

**Grace United Methodist Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Michael Slininger  
311 Second Ave. W.  
712-262-5970  
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.

**Zion United Methodist Church, Spencer**  
Rev. Michael Eeten  
• Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
• Sunday Worship, 10:45 a.m.

**United Methodist Church, Terril**  
Rev. Terry Luiken  
302 S. State St.  
712-853-6549  
• Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.

**Trinity United Methodist Church, Webb**  
Rev. Kari A. Etherington  
• Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m.  
• Fellowship, 10:30 a.m.

This page is proudly sponsored by the following merchants

**MIDWESTERN MECHANICAL, INC.**  
PLUMBING & HEATING  
FIRE PROTECTION  
SERVICE, RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL  
712-262-1206 • Fax (712) 262-1209  
3905 4th Ave. W. • Spencer, IA 51301  
See you in church on Sunday.

**DEL'S GARDEN CENTER**  
For everything that grows and blooms.  
262-4912 • 262-4917

South Ridge Heights (Apartments for Rent) (712) 260-1950  
Riverview Terrace (Assisted Living) (712) 262-5932  
Promoting Independence & Security  
The Highlands (Independent Suites) (712) 262-5404  
St. Luke Lutheran Home (Skilled Care Center) (712) 262-5931

**JCL**  
Janitor's Closet, Ltd.  
SOLUTIONS  
Spencer, IA • Sioux Falls, SD • Yankton, SD  
502 Southmoor Drive • Spencer  
262-8300

YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION  
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED  
**Shopper**  
310 EAST MILWAUKEE • SPENCER, IA  
SPENCERDAILYREPORTER.COM • 712-262-8610

**GROW WITH US**  
PROVIDING YOU WITH ALL THE BEST IN NEWS, SPORTS, CLASSIFIEDS, PUBLIC NOTICES AND MORE!  
CALL TODAY TO SUBSCRIBE 712.262.6610  
Subscribe Today for EXCELLENT COVERAGE YEAR ROUND