

RELIGION

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Showers of blessings



JAMES KESSLER

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAKE PARK

Ezekiel Chapter 34, Verse 26 — “And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will send down showers the showers in their seasons they shall be showers of blessings.”

Springtime is coming into summer, ah, what a great time for showers of blessings. Now as I am writing this column, we just received a shower of blessing, to ensure the crops get a good start of developing a strong root base, to carry them throughout their time of need to produce an abundance of various crops to harvest.

So how does the rain showers at any time create showers of blessing for our spiritual growth?

For me, those showers create in me faith that God is good, God

knows when all things need showers of blessing. Everything needs showers along with you and me, these showers provide us humans and all Gods creations that breathe needs water from above to survive.

These showers of blessing not only sustain our bodies to keep us healthy but also feeds' our spiritual faith growth. Some of you may say “What? How can that be, to feed our spiritual side of life?”

Let's think about how we feel toward ourselves and others, when we are hot, thirsty, cannot swallow, sweaty and feel icky. We are irritable: What is our attitude toward the person in the mirror, or toward our family, friends or strangers? Not that pleasant.

But what is our attitude like once we clean up and get a drink of water? Amazing how our attitude changes, we feel like a different person more like who we want to be and are. Gods' showers of blessing are awesome for all living creation.

Yes, those blessings create work — mow the grass, pull weeds, trim the bushes and trees. After all that work what happens? We step back and survey what we had just accomplished, we have a

sense of pride, accomplishment, everything looks so good.

So, it is with our spiritual side of life in our faith. Suddenly we realize our faith takes the same type of pruning. We have to pull out Satan's cluttering of bad thoughts and selfishness — desires of only thinking of our wants instead of what God wants each of us to show and love.

We realize that our faith has been watered to grow and be spread amongst others, sharing Gods' love for all.

Those showers of blessing revived our faith in God's word, that his love is for everyone, and our growth in his word is to shower others with his blessing of love, peace and grace! Yes grace, when we have showered ourselves, freshened up, we are always more gracious toward those we meet.

The grace then encourages them to be more graceful, kind and loving to those they interact with, helping them to spread the showers of love to others that keeps the showers of blessing flowing.

Our showers of blessing can be small and shared often, which is the promise of God's love. As the song says, showers of blessing we need.

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
• Primgar 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. Vicar Susan Rohan
• 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.
• Monday Bible Study,
6:30 p.m.
• Wednesday Bible Study,
9:30 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, Everly
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 — Everly, 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
Vicar Susan Rohan
• Sunday Service, 9 a.m.

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

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 the YouTube channel
flcspencer.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. Andrew Loomis
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.
• Sunday School, 10 a.m.
• Sunday Adult Bible
Study, 10:45 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 Worship, 9 a.m.
Memorial Day to Labor Day

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

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.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Spirit Lake
Lakes Area Senior Center
2101 Zenith Ave.
www.uuokoboji.com
• Sunday Service, second
and fourth Sunday, 10 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, Everly
Rev. Michael Eeten
301 N. Ocheyedan
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 Battern
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 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.

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