

## MIKE AND RHONDA UNGS

Mike and I live in Luxemburg and are members of the Holy Trinity Church of the St. LaSalle Parish.

Mike and I were a young married couple in the mid 1990s with two young daughters. We were both working full time jobs. Like all young couples were trying to be the perfect employees, the perfect parents and of the course the perfect couple. The harder we tried for perfection, the further we were removed from our faith.

Mike was the first to attend a CEW in Farley. He came home so excited and could not stop talking about his wonderful weekend.

I attended my first CEW a few years later in Dubuque. My life was changed forever with my new found knowledge of my faith. Mike and I were able to move forward in our lives with our new idea of what "perfection" really was meant to be. We now knew that we do not make ourselves "perfect"...only God makes us perfect.

Mike and I found ourselves with new friendships from our weekends that we still stay in touch with. We became more involved in our church and community events. We have instilled in our daughters the love of our Lord. We both agreed that our new moto in life would be...Let go and let God...as He is the one in control, not us.

We both agree that attending our CEWs have been one of the best things we have given ourselves in our lifetime and we highly advise everyone to attend also.



## DEANNA PLOESSEL

Have you been absent from church lately? Or are you attending, but not really feeling connected? My name is Deanna Ploessl. I'm a member of Holy Cross Parish and I can relate. I was very active in my parish but over the past few years I've become distant and absent at weekend mass. Back in 2011 I attended my first CEW and came back as a team member for 2012 so when I was asked to share my CEW story, I hesitated. I mean, how can I talk the talk if I'm not walking the walk, right? I felt I had little to offer by way of a testimonial since the strength of my faith has wavered so much. But after some reflection, I think maybe this testimonial is the Holy Spirit's way of giving me the nudge I need and may help deliver the nudge to someone else as well. Sometimes we simply just need to remember that God cares for us always - whether strong in faith or struggling to believe or somewhere in between. A CEW can be that reminder or igniter. It is a powerful, sacred experience when God meets us wherever we are. Whether it's your first time or you've been away for years, consider giving yourself the gift of a CEW and discover how this extraordinary weekend can build your strength, inspire your spirit and enrich your life.



# 2024 Farley-Epworth CEW



## **What is a Christian Experience Weekend (CEW)**

A CEW is a renewal weekend for adults, designed to enable you to more deeply experience yourself and your relationship with God and the Christian community.

## **How is the weekend structured?**

The CEW weekend is held at the Seton Catholic School & St. Joseph Church in Farley and begins on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and ends around 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. In order to maximize the CEW community experience, the team conducting the weekend and the candidates spend the entire time together, in one building, sleeping on mattresses and using sleeping bags.

## **What happens on a Christian Experience Weekend?**

A series of talks and activities are conducted by both religious and lay persons who enhance your awareness of God in your life and in the Christian community.

## **Who should attend?**

Anyone wishing to grow stronger in their faith, their personal relationship with God, and their Christian community. Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome.

**Location of the CEW Retreat is:** Seton Catholic School  
210 2nd Ave SE – Farley, IA

### **Women's CEW - Jan. 12-14**

**Director: Janet Stelken**

3345 197th St. • Dyersville, IA 52040

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### **Men's CEW - Jan. 19-21**

**Director: Gerald Morrison**

1685 26th St • Marion IA 52302

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