

## CHRISTIE HORSFIELD

My name is Christie Horsfield. My husband Russ and I, along with our daughters, Kayla, Hanna and Sara are active members of the St. Elizabeth pastorate. Russ attended his first Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) in January of 2019. I made my first CEW in January of 2007. It wasn't easy at first to say yes to this weekend. We had many friends try several times to get us to the weekend. I finally said yes to a group of great gals. I am so glad I did. Russ surprised me, and made his first all on his own. He wanted to see what the hype was all about. CEW opened our eyes to see and appreciate the day to day encounters we have with God. We learned more about ourselves and our relationship with God. We are never alone. God is always right beside us and wants us to grow more in faith. Since our first CEW, you can find me singing in the church choir or distributing the precious blood/body of Christ. The CEW community has also shown us that we are never alone in our struggles. There are people out there always that have similar struggles as us and we can call upon them anytime.

I encourage anyone that wants to have a deeper relationship with God and find a deeper love of oneself, to attend the 2024 CEW weekend. It is one weekend that you will never regret.



## GRETCHEN RAMLER

Hello! My name is Gretchen Ramler. My husband Ryan and I live outside of Farley, with our three children John (11), Jase (8), and Ella (7), on the farm where I grew up. We are members of the St. Elizabeth Pastorate. I attended my first CEW when Ryan and I were engaged back in 2010. Myself, along with my sisters, Rachel and Megan, were encouraged to attend by our sister in law, Shirley. I was certainly hesitant at the time to commit as I was so busy with wedding planning and was living in Cedar Rapids at the time. Also, as a new nurse, working weekends was taking up my weekend enough the way it was. Either way, my sisters and I decided to say yes. Logic being: Any weekend with sisters is a weekend well spent. Looking back, I am so glad I said yes to that weekend. I was able to take the time to examine my independent relationship with God, not only prior to marriage, but prior to other life events such as becoming a mom and losing special people in my life. As each of these events in my life occurred, I would grow and matured not only in my life but in my relationship with God. I firmly believe that my CEW experience helped with my growth in every way. Since 2011 I have helped at CEWs but most recently the 2023 CEW. Being a part of this community is always such an eye-opening experience. As life changes, having consistency in your faith and the support of the CEW community is something that can make all the difference. Being able to share this experience with sisters made it even more special and something I will always be thankful for.



## ERIC LEHMANN

My name is Eric Lehmann and I live in Farley with my wife April, and our sons Jeffrey (13) and Jaxson (9). I attended my first CEW in 2023 and it was one of the best choices I've made in my spiritual journey. Growing up going to Seton for 8 years, Christianity and Catholicism was an everyday aspect of my life. As a child, you don't tend to grasp the importance of that relationship with our Lord. Once leaving the catholic school system, my faith took a backseat in my life. I spent the better part of the next 30 years going through the motions of life. However, as many will attest, God always makes a way back for you to Him and sometimes that comes in the form of a life changing moment. I made my way back to my faith and attending CEW was what one would call the "icing on the cake". The friendships I made during this weekend, the vulnerability to acknowledge your need for Christ and the humility have all added to my faith journey. The CEW community is a strong, supportive family that you will have for the rest of your life. I highly encourage anyone who's on the fence, looking for that next step in their journey or simply wanting to reinforce their faith to attend, I promise you will not regret it.



# 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

✉ [jstelken@iowatelecom.net](mailto:jstelken@iowatelecom.net)

☎ 563-590-4255

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

**Director: Gerald Morrison**

1685 26th St • Marion IA 52302

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