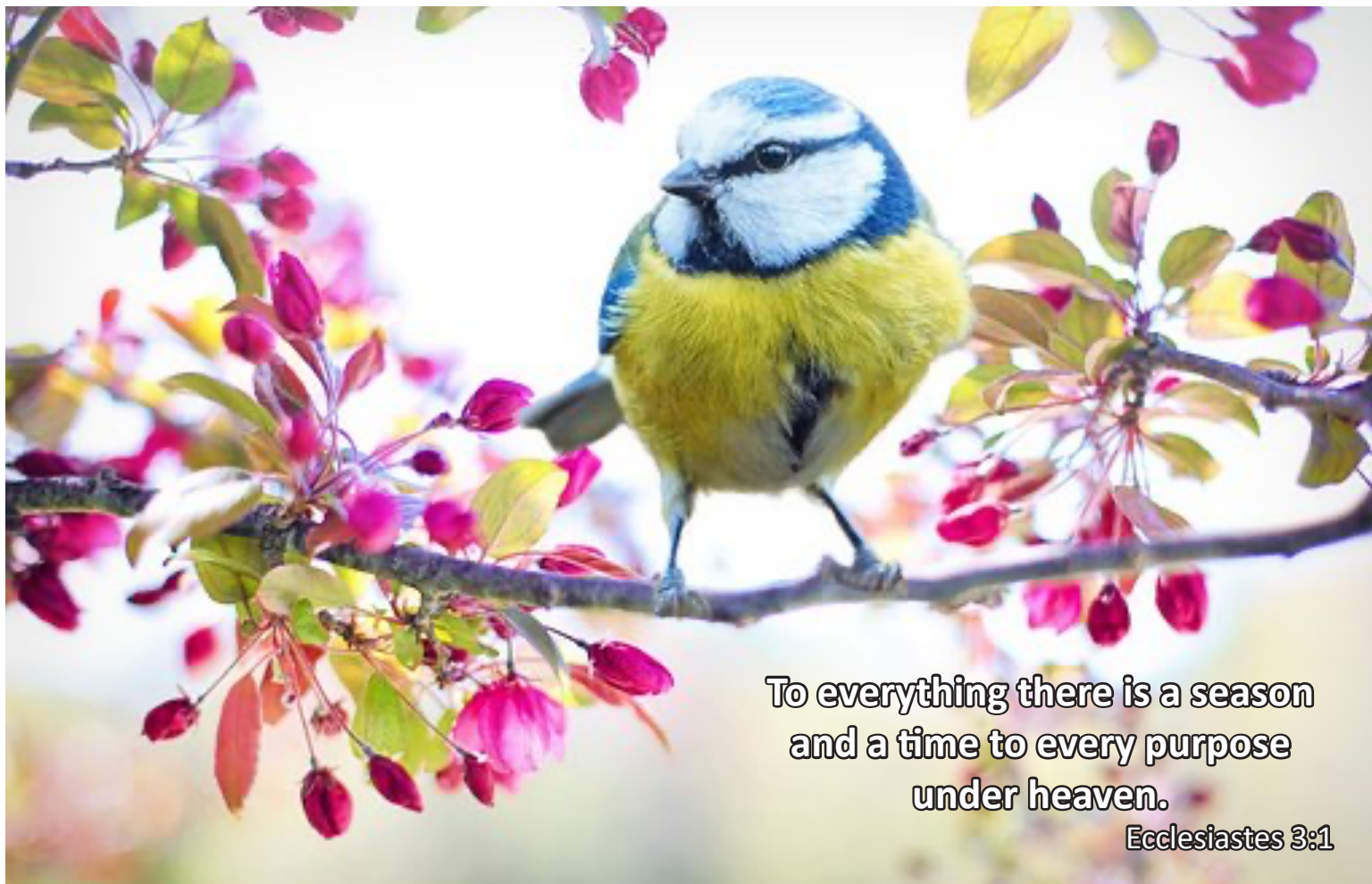


# The Spiritual Caregiver

A Newsletter of the Ecumenical Institute for Pastoral Care



To everything there is a season  
and a time to every purpose  
under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1

## Summer 2023 Units of CPE Underway

The Summer 2023 units of CPE offered through Ecumenical Institute are underway. Three units with ACPE Certified Educator Roger Cauthon are offered with two on Wednesday and one on Thursday morning. The units began in late March and will continue through mid-August 2023. The Spring 2024 units will begin in early September and continue until mid-March 2024. These four units are almost filled. A total of twenty-six spaces are available with only a few spaces open now. The summer unit has seven students in the Wednesday unit being filled with Avera Health chaplains who are continuing chaplaincy training. These students are in clinical chaplaincy positions across South Dakota with Avera Health and supported in their education by Avera Health.

The other Wednesday group is also composed of six students with clinical placements including in Tennessee, Florida, Missouri, and three in Iowa. Of these students, one is completing a fourth unit and one is a second unit. The Thursday summer group is composed of seven students with four clinical placements in Iowa, one in South Dakota, and one in Washington state.

The Spring 24 units will reflect the similar wide reach of Ecumenical Institute providing the vehicle for CPE in Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Michigan, Florida, Massachusetts, and Minnesota.

The students reflect the ongoing chaplain educational and

**Continued on Page 2**

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## Leaving a Legacy for Your Community

**Times are  
definitely changing.**

**Our nation's future  
is unknown.**

**Our future  
with God is known.**

Is there something you can do for EI to continue our legacy of faith based training?

The value of some assets like farm land is high. What planning can you do this year to optimize your taxes and also help your favorite charities including EI?

Contact Denise for more information at 712-225-0202 or [denisegreen608@gmail.com](mailto:denisegreen608@gmail.com)

*In Memory,*

# *The Reverend Jennifer Hall, ACPE Certified Education*

It is with great sadness that we share the news that our Ecumenical Institute colleague and dear friend, Jennifer Hall, died on Sunday, March 19, 2023.

As the ACPE Certified Educator for Ecumenical Institute, I share this with all of you. Jennifer has been a dear friend and colleague since my early days in Iowa and with Ecumenical

Institute. We had ACPE gatherings together in Iowa, regional, and national ACPE meetings. After Jennifer left Unity Point Health Methodist in Des Moines, they were accepted by all of you to offer ACPE units through Ecumenical Institute. While leading ACPE units for over two years, Jennifer continued to share the wide knowledge and experience of spiritual care and chaplaincy with students. Jennifer also tremendously helped the Ecumenical Institute last year with the changes in accreditation requirements from ACPE and the Department of Education

The Ecumenical Institute has lost a skilled colleague, gifted educator, and friend. In a recent special board meeting we all honored her memory together. May Jennifer's memory always be a blessing.

**The Reverend Roger Cauthon, M. Div.  
ACPE Certified Educator for  
Ecumenical Institution**

professional support that Ecumenical Institute offers to students in acute hospitals, local parishes, retirement facilities, hospice, recovery centers, and mortuary-cemetery sites. There is diversity in age, ethnic background, religious background, and gender. The support that Ecumenical Institute donors give allows this educational and developmental ministry to flourish.

Ecumenical Institute is an ACPE center that offers distance education (video conferencing learning) and placement at a clinical site in a student's local area. The need for this offering is noted in the ongoing requests of students that makes Ecumenical Institute a vital part of pastoral care training in Iowa and in other parts of the country.

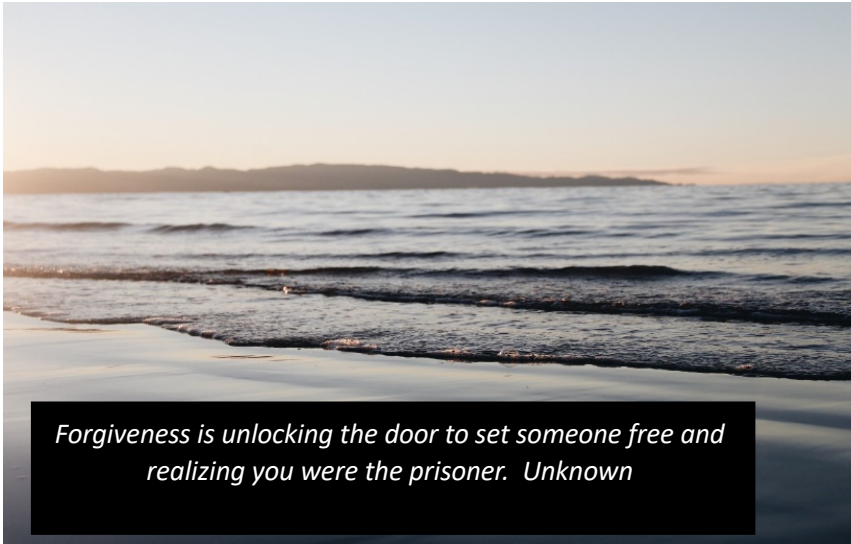
**Training  
Faith Based  
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## Venmo Donation Option Now Available!

We now offer Venmo on the EI website for easy access when donating. Check it out at [ecumenicalinstitute.org](http://ecumenicalinstitute.org)  
**Choose friend or family option,  
not the business option.**





*Forgiveness is unlocking the door to set someone free and realizing you were the prisoner. Unknown*

*One of the hardest things someone can do is to forgive someone who has harmed or hurt or wronged them. When we hold a grudge, it can consume us and cause us to be leery of relationships. Resentment and anger can build up in us sometimes unknowingly. When we forgive someone, we can move on and find peace with ourselves. It's never too late to forgive someone. And most importantly, is to forgive yourself. After all, God forgives us.*

## My CPE Experience.

*ELCA Interim Synodically Authorized Minister, Lisbon, North Dakota*

Perhaps I need to be honest, my experience with CPE was not what I was expecting. I need to start with a confession – I was hesitant and dreading the CPE portion of my Lutheran denomination’s ordination process. Candidates for ordained ministry are required to complete one unit of CPE. The long and the short is, I had initially set out to do CPE for the sake of getting ordained. With our life situation – young married couple, one pastor and one pastor-to-be, and a two-year-old at home, a traditional CPE option was not practical, and it was not something I was looking to do. Additionally, I was also (and still am) serving a congregation that is going through a pastoral transition, as an interim lay pastoral leader.

I have never been so glad to be so wrong.

Through the Ecumenical Institute, I was able to provide pastoral care, in a clinical way, while serving the people that God has called me to serve. This CPE unit was a non-traditional, contextual educational experience that offered me the opportunity to hone my pastoral caregiving skills and it prepared me for work that I am going to do throughout my vocational career.

In a practical sense, being able to bring pastoral care situations to colleagues, from across the country, who are serving in various settings and with various backgrounds, has been a tremendous value to my ministry. Not only has it benefited me but has also

been a benefit to my congregation, especially in the depth of pastoral care that I am now able to bring. There is no doubt that I will continue to take the methodology of CPE into my work.

In a spiritual sense, I have been reminded through CPE about the theological approach to life that I bring with me. I have been able to push past the edges of my theological assumptions and to embrace the ambiguity that sometimes frightens those to whom I am providing pastoral care. It was a blessing to work alongside others, from different religious and spiritual backgrounds, who are all excellent pastoral care providers in their own right. What my supervisor Roger was able to add was a reminder that we are doing good and necessary work. We were pushed and challenged to think in new and creative ways. We were called to examine ourselves – had we done enough to really understand another human being?

CPE has been a life changing experience for me – and not in the way that I had anticipated. May God continue to bless the holy work that is happening through CPE.

### The Ecumenical Institute is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

If you have a charitable contribution fund account, you can contact your representative and request a donation to Ecumenical Institute.



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## Donating

None of this work is possible without the generous support of donors. Since the inception of the Pastoral Education Center in the late 1960's, the number of students participating has now grown well past a thousand. Imagine the countless lives these students have touched with the skills they've learned. With your assistance the number of students will continue to grow.

Please consider supporting the work of the Ecumenical Institute for Clinical Pastoral Education.

- New Gift for Ecumenical Institute
- Enclosed is my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years.
- Please send information about a stock transfer.
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Thanks to those who have helped plan for the longevity of Ecumenical Institute. These fine individuals have given; and their gift will continue after they are gone. If your name was inadvertently missed or you would like to be added, please contact Denise Green.

## Thank You

Special thanks to the  
 Erlandson Foundation for  
 their continued support.



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Ecumenical Institute is Accredited to Conduct  
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