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\* *Planting Together* \* - please share in your bulletin and/or newsletter

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### MINISTRY PARTNERS

Camp Okoboji  
Executive Director Search  
Lutheran Family Service

### ALSO INCLUDED...

Operation Barnabas



### CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Luke Timm, Clive, to Christ the King, Orlando, FL.

Rev. Jonathan Riggert, Cherokee, to Holy Trinity, Saint Clair, MO.

### CALL ACCEPTED

Rev. Richard Milbrandt, Plankinton, SD, to Ocheyedon & May City (triple parish).

District Convention



June 24-26, 2018

### Calendar of Events

November 4...Treasurers Workshop, Zion, Manning

November 4...IOWAY Banquet, St. Paul, Fort Dodge

November 9...District Board of Directors, Fort Dodge

November 12...Missions Banquet, St. Paul, Sac City

November 23-24...Thanksgiving Holiday, District Office Closed



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iowaDistrictWest](http://www.youtube.com/user/iowaDistrictWest)

Iowa District West, LCMS  
409 Kenyon Road, Suite B  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

515.576.7666 Phone  
[sue@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:sue@iowadistrictwest.org)  
[www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org)

**Please note:** The inclusion of items from outside sources in *The Messenger* is for information purposes only. Inclusion of such items does not constitute District endorsement.



## Planting Together

November 2017

409 Kenyon Road, Suite B — Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501  
515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org)  
Contact email: [sue@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:sue@iowadistrictwest.org)

### On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

#### Using your IRA for a gift to ministry



If you are at least age 70½ you can have money transferred from your IRA directly to your congregation or your favorite ministries and not have to show the distribution on your income tax for that year. The distribution counts towards your annual minimum distribution. Many individuals find this form of giving to be tax wise as a Christian steward. If you have any questions about this form of giving please contact me.

Jim Schroeder, Iowa District West Gift Planning Counselor  
515-490-7371 [jim@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:jim@iowadistrictwest.org)

#### Don't Delay—Donate Today Before CREDITS ARE GONE!

Although the deadline for donating to the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO) is December 31, 2017, last year tax credits were gone by the middle of December. Please consider donating today to help fund tuition assistance to Lutheran students in our Iowa Lutheran schools. How much Iowa tax do you pay each year? Why not send this money to help Lutheran students' families instead! Donors receive a 65% Iowa tax credit and probable Federal charitable deduction. Forms are on the web at [iowalutheransto.org](http://iowalutheransto.org) or call ILSTO program manager Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 for more information.

For more information on Iowa District West activities, view *The Messenger* at [www.idwlcms.org/publications.php](http://www.idwlcms.org/publications.php)

#### Donate to District by shopping online!

Check out [www.heartfeltgiving.net/np24](http://www.heartfeltgiving.net/np24) before making your next online purchase. There is no additional cost to make a purchase on this unique shopping and travel website. The **HEARTFELT GIVING** website features over 1,000 brand name stores such as Macy's, Kohl's, Nordstrom, Bloomingdales, Walmart, Bass Pro Shops, Target, Best Buy, AutoZone, JC Penney, Stein Mart, Guess, Walgreens, GNC, Barnes and Noble, FTD, Office Depot, Staples, Office Warehouse and more.

#### Creation Theater at Mission Central

Mission Central is now ready to receive tour groups to see the Lord's Creation Theater where they will hear the REAL STORY of how our God made the world in 6 days! Due to the number of people coming to Mission Central, it's important to contact them for available tour times. Come and see what the Lord has done at this place in the middle of nowhere as it will "blow your socks off" and will truly be a "once in a lifetime experience." Contact Mission Central at 712-882-1029 or email Gary at [Gary.Thies@lcms.org](mailto:Gary.Thies@lcms.org).

#### Help the Victims of Disasters

There are so many needs in our world. How can we help? We cannot help everyone, but everyone can do something! It has been a whirlwind since the hurricane season started. As of mid-October, the District has received \$74,000 in disaster support! Funds can also be sent directly to the Synod; giving options are online at [www.lcms.org/disaster-response](http://www.lcms.org/disaster-response) Thank you to all who have generously donated!

#### Around the District

The "new" page in *The Messenger* titled "Around the District" will include information from congregations/circuits regarding guest speakers, events, or special occasions. If you'd like to invite others in the District, let us know and we will share it "Around the District." Send information to Sue ([sue@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:sue@iowadistrictwest.org)) at the District office.

Iowa District West Convention  
June 24-26, 2018



#### Calendar of Events

November 4...Treasurers Workshop, Zion, Manning  
November 4...IOWAY Banquet, St. Paul, Fort Dodge  
November 9...District Board of Directors, Fort Dodge  
November 12...Missions Banquet, St. Paul, Sac City  
November 23-24...Thanksgiving Holiday, District Office Closed

## Education, Youth, and Family Life

Rhonda Mohr  
rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org  
515-576-7666 office  
515-573-0010 cell

### TELL YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND NEIGHBORS

Share in your bulletin inserts

You've been reading about the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization. This giving opportunity isn't just for Lutherans – anyone who pays Iowa state income tax can donate and receive the tax benefits. Please help spread the word to someone you know who would like to assist students in Lutheran education while receiving a great tax benefit of a 65% tax credit on their Iowa state tax and possible federal tax deductions. For further information, please contact Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991. You might also check the websites: [www.iowalutheransto.org](http://www.iowalutheransto.org) and [www.iowasto.org](http://www.iowasto.org)

## Junior High and High School Events

High School Gathering—November 17-19, 2017

Embassy Suites, La Vista, Nebraska

\$135 per person plus lodging

[www.ndlcms.org/dvg/](http://www.ndlcms.org/dvg/)



Registration Now Open!

Save these dates for 2018



IDW Junior Youth  
Gathering  
October 27-28, 2018



2018 Iowa District West  
Senior Youth Gathering  
November 9-11, 2018

### Resource for Youth Ministry

Bible studies, skits, youth ministry ideas

<http://www.youthsource.com/>



## Family Advent Ideas

Advent is right around the corner. Share ideas with families and encourage them to walk through Advent together with special activities.

<http://www.lifeway.com/Article/ideas-for-celebrating-advent-as-a-family>

*Here's a favorite of mine from this list.*

### *5. Use Christmas Cards as Prayer Reminders*

*As Christmas cards arrive during December, place them in a basket in a noticeable area. Once a day, pull out one card and pray for that person or family together. Keep the Christmas card basket out all year and pray regularly for other families.*

*You may want to write the person a note signed by your family that says, "We prayed for you today."*



The VBS Starter kit is available from CPH. It's not too early to begin planning for your VBS.

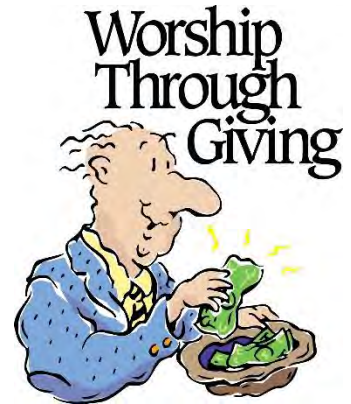
<https://www.cph.org/p-31842-splash-canyon-starter-kit-vbs-2018.aspx>

**Iowa District West Congregations' Mission Receipts**

<b>For the Month Ending September 2017</b>	
Anticipated Amount	\$125,000
Actual Receipts	\$128,427
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Receipts</b>	
Anticipated Amount	\$1,000,000
Actual Receipts	\$989,431
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(10,569)
<b>Use of Mission Receipts</b>	
Remitted to Synod (50%)	\$500,000
Balance for District programs/operations	\$489,431
Total Receipts	\$989,431
<b>Mission Receipts Compared With Last Year</b>	
Year-to-date 2017	\$989,431
Year-to-date 2016	\$995,328
Over (under) last year	\$(5,897)

**Stewardship Corner****Worshipping God through Giving**

As thankful children of God, we have the opportunity to give God glory and praise in many different ways, but one of the most meaningful ways that we worship our Heavenly Father is through our giving. God, Who has created and redeemed us, deserves our worship. Through faith, we recognize that the world is God's. Our worship should be the center of our lives. When we give faithfully and cheerfully, we worship God through our giving.



Giving is a meaningful way of worship because the money we give represents who we are. To make or earn money, we use our God-given skills along with our time and energy. Money is therefore an extension of ourselves. When we give our money, it's almost as if we are putting ourselves into the offering plate.

Having been created and redeemed by God, we are blessed and thankful people who live and give out of grateful hearts. God blesses us and keeps on blessings us so we can continue to give. *"You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God"* (2 Corinthians 9:11). We receive God's blessings with thankfulness and offer it back with gratitude to God. We are blessed to be a blessing.

Source: Ron Chewning - Stewardship Advisors  
[www.stewardshipadvisors.org](http://www.stewardshipadvisors.org) - 888-783-2790



## Stewardship Spark / Monthly Mission Moment

Did you know that in addition to your congregational mission dollars, the District budget is supported by other income sources including an estate from the Soenksen Legacy Fund? This account has provided support for Synod Missions, World Missionaries, Ministerial Health/Chaplain Staff, Lutheran School Outreach, Technology, Family Life Staff, and Professional Church Worker Loan Repayment. Since 2013, the account has supported these mission and ministries totaling \$870,000. This fall the budget also includes at least an additional \$50,000 for student debt reduction (known as the **Ministry Excellence Fund**). If you would like to fund important mission and ministries after your death, contact Gift Planning Counselor Jim Schroeder to develop a plan.

### Church & Clergy Finance/Treasurer's Workshop

It's not too late to register for the FREE workshop on **Saturday, November 4** at Zion Lutheran Church, **Manning** from 9 am to 3 pm. Pastors and individuals within the church having financial responsibilities should attend. The guest speaker will be Mrs. Karen Sansone, CPA. She is the LCMS Tax and Compliance Director and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise. As the main author of the LCMS Congregational Treasurer's Manual, she knows her material well! Each congregation will receive one FREE Manual (a \$10 value).

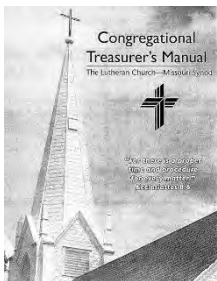


A second workshop is planned for January 20, 2018 (note date change) at Zion Lutheran Church, Ogden. The guest speaker will be Mr. Bob Joy, CPA. He has a wealth of knowledge and has over 25 years of financial experience. Bob owns his own accounting company specializing in clergy taxes and is the financial manager for a large church.

Thanks to Carole White and Lutheran Church Extension Fund for providing lunch. Entire program expenses are paid by the Ministry Partnership Agreement funds from the District's insurance provider (American Church Group & Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company). Any questions, contact Roger Curtis at the District office (515.576.7666 or [Roger@IowaDistrictWest.org](mailto:Roger@IowaDistrictWest.org)). The brochure and registration form are available online.



### Congregational Treasurer's Manuals



Congregational Treasurer's Manuals and CDs are available for purchase; the cost is \$10.00 plus shipping for Volume 1. All congregations recently received the Manual on CD which includes Volumes 1 and 2. The CD was included with the Brotherhood Mutual Insurance letter and Treasurer's Workshop brochure. The Manual is also on the LCMS website at [www.lcms.org/ctm](http://www.lcms.org/ctm). Manuals will be available at the upcoming Treasurers Workshops. These Manuals are extremely helpful tools for staff, treasurers, and church councils to better understand the many aspects of the congregation's business needs.

### Taxes and Ministers

The 2017-2018 edition of TAXES AND MINISTERS, a 30-page document, is available online at [www.lcms.org/churchoffice](http://www.lcms.org/churchoffice) (scroll down to Financial Matters).

This booklet, designed for ordained and commissioned ministers of the LCMS, includes:

- ❖ The IRS's definition of minister
- ❖ Employment status: W-2 or 1099
- ❖ Housing/parsonage allowance
- ❖ Reporting income and expenses
- ❖ Paying federal and state taxes
- ❖ Social Security taxes
- ❖ Tax-favored savings plans





Colossians 3:12-17

## The 40th Regular Convention of Iowa District West

Planning your budget for 2018? Remember to budget for the District Convention scheduled for June 24-26, 2018 at Camp Okoboji. The good news is there will be NO rate increase for the convention assessment: calculate \$60 per congregation and 18¢ per communicant member.

In IDW we are blessed to have Camp Okoboji host the District Convention which allows us to keep assessment rates extremely low compared to other districts.

Nomination forms for President, Vice Presidents, and other Board elections are now available for download on the District's website, along with the Lay Delegate form.

## Concordia Plan Services Annual Compensation Report

All congregations should have received in October the Annual Compensation Reports for Participating Workers and Certification of Non-Participation of Ineligible Workers. Both reports need to be signed and returned to CPS by December 31, 2017. If budgets and salaries are not approved by this date, return a copy to CPS with a note indicating when your budget will be approved. The information obtained is important; it ensures that workers receive the proper retirement, disability, and death benefits.

## Successful Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Conference

Nearly 70 administrative assistants enjoyed a wonderful day at the Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Conference in September. Thank you to those who attended and helped make it a success.

Nebraska speaker Kimberly Myers led the conference on the practical topic of church communications. Deb Burma inspired the audience with her "treasured" presentation. Comments included: "One of the best I've been to – love it;" "Worth the time out of the office!" and "I love the blend of information and inspiration."

The tentative date for next year is September 18, 2018 in Des Moines/Urbandale. Mark your calendar!

## Housing Allowance

The governing body of your congregation (church council or board of directors) should designate the amount requested by your ministers of the Gospel to be housing allowance for next year despite the recent District Court ruling highlighted below. This needs to be done prior to December 31, 2017 and must be documented in the written minutes of the meeting. This includes not only pastors but anyone on the Synod's roster or listed in *The Lutheran Annual* and are in the exercise of the ministry.

Churches should also designate a parsonage allowance for any minister who lives in a parsonage and who is expected to pay some of the expenses of maintaining the parsonage (i.e. utilities, furnishings, repairs, improvements, and yard care).



For more information on ministers of the Gospel and housing allowance, see the Treasurer's Manual, chapters 1 and 2. Chapter 2 also includes sample housing allowance resolutions.

## District Court Calls Minister's Housing Allowance Unconstitutional

In October 2017, a federal judge in Madison, Wisconsin has ruled the minister's housing allowance is unconstitutional because the law discriminates against secular employees. This decision does not come as a surprise as the same judge issued a similar ruling back in 2013 before the case was dismissed by a higher appeals court on the technical grounds of standing. Judge Barbara Crabb writes in her latest ruling, "I adhere to my earlier conclusion that the minister's housing exclusion violates the establishment clause because it does not have a secular purpose or effect and because a reasonable observer would view the statute as an endorsement of religion." Unfortunately, we continue to live in a culture that is hostile to religious life.

**What is the immediate impact for ministers and churches? Nothing for now.** The court has issued its ruling simply declaring the housing allowance is unconstitutional but without any damages or other remedies awarded, so there is no immediate effect on ministers who are eligible for the housing exclusion under current law. Ultimately, the case will be tied up in the court system for years as the district court's decision will most likely be appealed, and a higher court will rule on the case. To read more on this case, [click here](#).



# Discover the Joy of Making Ministry Happen

When you invest with LCEF, you support the work of sharing the Gospel throughout the world. LCEF is blessed to support ministry growth. Invest today!



800-843-5233 | [lcef.org](http://lcef.org)

**Carole White**

Iowa West District

515-240-2229 | [Carole.White@lcef.org](mailto:Carole.White@lcef.org)

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.



# Missions Banquet



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sac City  
Sunday, November 12, 4:30 - 7pm  
(Program will begin at 5pm)

To register: [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org) or 515.576.7666

(This event, including the banquet dinner, is complimentary with your pre-registration  
thanks to our partnership with LCEF)

Awarding of Mission Grants

**\* Be informed \* Network \* Dream \***

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).*

**FREE!**

**FREE!**

The Center for United States Missions Presents

# Structured For Mission

Saturday, December 2  
District Office, Fort Dodge

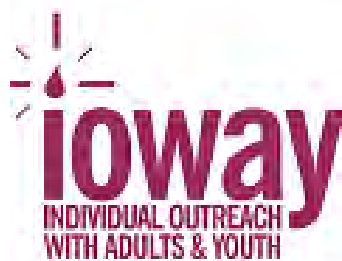
**A “Systems Evaluation” for maximum mission impact**  
Bring a team of leaders to learn, apply, plan for mission

Mission  
Outreach  
Assimilation  
Worship  
Discipleship



Pastoral Care  
Volunteers  
Generosity  
Evaluation  
Multiplication

Register at [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org)



## Thanks, Iowa District West

There are so many needs in our world. How can we help? We cannot help everyone, but everyone can do something! It has been a whirlwind since the hurricane season started. After the hurricanes did their dirty work, we in Iowa District West reached out to Lutheran South Academy in Houston and to Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Myers, Florida. For updates, go to [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org) under District News. It has been and continues to be a privilege for me to work with God's people in Iowa District West who at this time have donated over \$66,500 for relief to Texas and Florida.

Gregg Pinick, CEO of Lutheran Education Association of Houston (LEAH) expressed his thanks to Iowa District West.



My first connection with Ellie Menz came on August 31, 2017. Ellie is the Director of IOWAY (Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth) for Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. She had heard that one of the LEAH School campuses, Lutheran South Academy (LSA), had been significantly flooded from the effects of Hurricane Harvey. She was calling to see if there was anything she could help us with as we recovered from the devastation. I'll never forget her telling me, "We have a semi-truck ready to come to you in Houston. What do you need?" I asked our response team, and we all agreed, "As much sheetrock as you can send us."

Harvey had just left the area. We had a major mess requiring that whole panels of sheetrock be removed from every wall of every one of our four buildings, and we weren't sure we could get any since everyone in the region was going to require sheetrock to rebuild. She responded, "No problem. I'll get right on it."

About a week later, she called saying she and her team could get another semi-truck and asked what else we needed. I told her we needed all the sheetrock supplies: mud, tape, etc. She stated that it was a big truck and they could bring anything for our workers who had lost much in the flood waters. We thought that was a terrific idea, and she went on to talk about how she could help the young children in our school as well. It was overwhelming. Then just like the first time, Ellie stated, "I'll get right on it!"





Less than three weeks later, our first shipment arrived at the LSA campus. It was a semi-load of 702 pieces of sheetrock. The driver, Troy, was so honored to be a part of this plan of reconstruction.

Two weeks later, Troy returned with another semi-truck full of sheetrock supplies, 10 totes full of dolls and monkeys for our younger children, supplies requested by some of our teachers who experienced the worst losses, new appliances for the school's uninsured rental house, and 13 large containers full of startup supplies for each of our worker families who had lost many of their possessions. The container held things like a crock pot, coffee pot, pots and pans, kitchen supplies, can opener, etc., that were so needed in the rebuilding process for our workers.



When I had first heard that water was rushing in our buildings due to the heavy rains and a swollen creek near the LSA campus on August 27, I asked God to guide and direct our community in the process of what to do next. His response has been beyond anything I could have imagined. A true Ephesians 3:20-21 experience. “Now to **him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think**, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Our God is faithful and nothing is too hard for Him. He used the people of Iowa District West to bless many people in Houston. He used people throughout the world to offer their love and prayers and support in helping LSA rebuild. By God’s grace and mercy, the LSA students and faculty were back in their nearly completed buildings on Monday, October 16.

Thank you to the men and women of Iowa District West, and especially our newest friend, Ellie Menz! May God continue to use you to shine His love on those who are hurting in His world.

Ellie Menz, IOWAY Director  
807 West South Street, Jefferson, IA 50129  
515-370-1159 | [ellie@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:ellie@iowadistrictwest.org)



# *You Are Invited!*

## **9<sup>th</sup> Annual IOWAY Banquet**

**Who**      **You! (and your friends)**

**Where**    **St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**400 S. 13<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Fort Dodge, IA 50501**

**When**     **Saturday, November 4**  
**Registration at 4:30 PM**

**What**      **Speakers**  
**Dustin Ibarra, Moulton**  
**Bobby Dofner, Omaha**  
**IOWAY Coordinators**  
**Mission team members**

**Why**      **Hear what God is doing in**  
**various mission areas:**  
**Omaha, Los Angeles, Des**  
**Moines, Pasadena and Haiti.**

***FREE yummy, meal catered at 5:00 PM,***  
***compliments of Carole White with***  
***Lutheran Church Extension Fund.***

- *Relax for an evening of fun—celebrating all that God has done through IOWAY!*
- *Hear firsthand about the poverty in Omaha as seen by the Omaha mission team members.*
- *Hear the reaction of those seeing Skid Row for the first time!*
- *Learn about the challenges and joys of teaching at Moulton Elementary School in Des Moines where 27 languages are spoken by the students.*
- *Get a 'behind the scene' look at the Rose Bowl Parade at Pasadena.*
- *Fun night of food, friends, laughs, and memories!*

***RSVP needed! Please register at:***

***[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ioway\\_banquet](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ioway_banquet)***

***Or call Ellie at 515-370-1159***





### **MISSIONARY LLOYD BOETTEHER AND HIS SON VISIT MISSION CENTRAL**

One of the most valuable volunteers at Mission Central is the Honorable Missionary Dr. Lloyd Boettcher. Lloyd is our volunteer DVD director who does all the missionary interviews and also provided DVDs of the missionary presentations. Lloyd and his wife Elnora are special people whom God has placed in our lives to carry out the work at Mission Central.

A special blessing occurred on September 27 when Lloyd came down from Storm Lake to do our video work. This is truly Lloyd's calling and he provides it at NO COST to Mission Central.

Lloyd has been a huge blessing for our work here! He donates his time, mileage, efforts, and provides the discs for the DVD interviews. What made this day extra special was the fact that his dear son, Kevin, flew into Omaha from the East Coast and drove to Mission Central to see once again what goes on at this MIRACLE PLACE!

Lloyd and Kevin are pictured in front of our Boss at Mission Central. The Lord called Lloyd "at just the right time" to do all our video work! These are the kind of NOT NORMAL people that the Lord sends to help us with HIS work here at HIS Mission Central.



### **NOT NORMAL PEOPLE FROM ST. PAUL, IRETON, IOWA VISIT**

The first time Old Missionary Gary met Ruth "Sis" Trageser of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ireton, Iowa, he knew immediately she was indeed NOT NORMAL! She was such a "mission minded" lady, and she was an encouragement to the folks at the Lord's Mission Central. Ruth was recently called home, and the family wanted her memorial gifts to assist with sending a new missionary to a land of darkness to tell them about Jesus, our dear Savior.

When I met Don Trageser, I could tell he was like his mom....NOT NORMAL! When Don's sisters, Barb and Deb, came with him to visit Mission Central, I could see immediately that they, like their mom and brother, are also NOT NORMAL! The reason this wonderful family came was to deliver the memorials that the Lord had provided in loving memory of Ruth. It was a very special visit, and a time Old Missionary Gary will never forget.

The Trageser family enjoyed their tour that included seeing the new animals that will be in the new Creation Museum. The tour ended with a special prayer in the little wayside prayer Chapel. Pictured are Don, Barb and Deb in front of our Boss at Mission Central. What a wonderful family, who are NOT NORMAL and really "get it." Mom would be so proud of them!



## WONDERFUL "NOT NORMAL" MISSIONARIES COME FROM MINNESOTA SOUTH LWML

It was truly one of those special days on September 27, 2017! Yes, a group of NOT NORMAL LWML members from the Minnesota South District came to spend a wonderful day at the world famous Mission Central. Nearly 20 ladies were able to hear the report of Johanna Heidorn, our newest Minnesota Missionary from Rochester. Johanna gave an excellent report on the CALLING that she has to go to Asia and Hong Kong.

This group was the VERY FIRST group to see the animals in the new Creation Museum, and what a JOY to have them come. This special group gathered together to send off our Missionary Johanna Heidorn. It truly was a very powerful event! The group enjoyed a tour of the offices, the Barn Museum, and the special "dinner" that was prepared for them by our volunteer cooks, Sharon Hamann and Mary Ketelsen from Anthon, Iowa.



Johanna presenting to the entire group

The group praying for and sending off Johanna



The group pictured in front of the famous Mission Central sign. It was a day we will long remember. Many of them said, "WE ARE DEFINITELY COMING BACK!"

Mission Central – LCMS World Mission

40718 Highway E16  
Mapleton, IA 51034  
712-882-1029

Gary Thies  
[gary.thies@lcms.org](mailto:gary.thies@lcms.org)  
[www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us)



# MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS

## PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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Rev. Joe & Jennie Asher  
Germany  
**Saturday, February 17, 2018**  
1 PM



Rev. Eddie Hosch and Family  
Peru  
**Saturday, March 10, 2018**  
1 PM

Rev. Mark & Sue Moss  
Sierra Leone West Africa  
**Saturday, March 17, 2018**  
1 PM



Rev. Eddie Hosch & Family

Lima Peru

**Saturday, April 21, 2018**

1 PM



Caitlin Worden

Lima Peru

**Saturday, April 21, 2018**

1 PM

Mission Central-LCMS World Mission

40718 Highway E 16  
Mapleton, Iowa 51034  
Phone: 712-882-1029

[gary.thies@lcms.org](mailto:gary.thies@lcms.org)  
[www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us)





## AMIGOS EN CRISTO

News from La Iglesia Luterana, Amigos en Cristo  
1004 1st Ave S, Denison, IA 51442  
Pastor Willie Grills

Iowa District  
West, LCMS

Year 13 Issue 11  
November 2017



### NEW MEMBER CLASSES CONTINUE

The new converts continue to progress in the faith and are eager to learn and grow. We hope to bring them in as members in the near future.

### SMALL CATECHISM REVIEW

The congregation is undergoing a review of Luther's Small Catechism. It is part of several studies and activities geared toward the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. It is a time to remember our shared faith and to strengthen our Lutheran identity.



### FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

Amigos en Cristo is now on Facebook. Above is a screenshot of the page. Here you will see photos of the congregation and other events. In addition, the church can be contacted via the page. We welcome all messages, inquiries, and questions.

[www.facebook.com/amigosdenison](http://www.facebook.com/amigosdenison)

**WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND GENEROSITY:**

Mission support checks should be sent to:

**Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Church, 1004 1st Avenue South, Denison, Iowa 51442.**



**And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**

St. John 6:25 (KJV)

**Jesús les dijo: Yo soy el pan de vida; el que a mí viene, nunca tendrá hambre; y el que en mí cree, no tendrá sed jamás.**

San Juan 6:25 (RVR 1960)

**Rev. Willie Grills**

118 Megs Way

Denison, IA 51442

606-225-2122 cell

712-263-2235 church

[pastorgrills@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgrills@gmail.com)

**I would love to visit your church or Bible study to present on our work in Denison. If you are interested, please contact me at the information provided.**



**PLEASE PRAY:**

- + For Grace Hispanic ministry in Storm Lake as they consider future pastoral leadership.
- + For Wendy and Antonio who have begun new member/confirmation classes in Denison.
- + **Thanksgiving for the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants.**

# HISPANIC OUTREACH IN SIOUXLAND

Rev. Henry and Ruthie Witte  
1013 South Newton Street  
Sioux City, IA 51106  
712-202-4751  
handrwitte@gmail.com



## HISPANIC OUTREACH IN SIOUXLAND – November 2017

***Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Ps.118:29***

We must admit that at times we have prayed this prayer without thinking about the words. We have many reasons for which to give thanks to God. He has generously provided for our needs in body and soul. Above all we have the assurance and promise that He really is good and has eternal mercy for all.

That truth is not fully known or believed by many in Latin America. Many view God as an angry God who seeks only to punish our sins and errors. I remember the saying, “when it thundered, Father God was angry.” We would have to say that God does have a right to be angry with our world and with us individually. He would be just in sending His wrath upon us and punishing us. But He has done and does something different for us and for all.

He is good and has eternal mercy for us. He sent His Son to suffer His wrath and punishment so that we would be forgiven and have peace with God. That is a good God and for that we can give thanks eternally.

Martin Luther first thought of God as only an angry, punishing God. He wrote: “My situation was that, although an impeccable monk, I stood before God as a sinner troubled in conscience, and I had no confidence that my merit would assuage him. Therefore I did not love a just and angry God, but rather hated and murmured against him. ... Then I grasped that the justice of God is that righteousness by which through grace and sheer mercy God justifies us through faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise.... If you have a true faith that Christ is your Saviour, then at once you have a gracious God, for faith leads you in and opens up God’s heart and will, that you should see pure grace and overflowing love. This it is to behold God in faith that you should look upon his fatherly, friendly heart, in which there is no anger nor ungraciousness. He who sees God as angry does not see him rightly but looks only on a curtain, as if a dark cloud had been drawn across his face. (quoted from Roland Bainton’s book on Martin Luther: Here I Stand, page 65)

How best can we share that truth with those around us? How can we show God’s love and mercy to those who live not knowing His goodness and mercy? These are questions that we are asking in our area of Siouxland. Members from several area congregations have met to help reach out to the immigrants and especially to those who speak Spanish. We hope to have more helpers in this outreach and to involve the congregations even more in this ministry.

Please pray that God grant us the wisdom, encouragement, and resources to guide others to give thanks to our good and merciful God.

Our English classes continue at Hope and St. Paul’s. Every week we have a few new students and the opportunity to know them and help them to know the Savior Jesus Christ.

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

When Abraham Lincoln made his thanksgiving proclamation in 1863, he also declared it a time of repentance. We as a nation and as individuals should recognize our errors and seek God's forgiveness while giving thanks. The following is a hymn of confession for us and our nation.

*Great King of nations, hear our prayer.  
While at thy feet we fall  
And humbly with united cry To Thee for mercy call.  
The guilt is ours, but grace is Thine; Oh, turn us not away,  
But hear us from Thy lofty throne and help us when we pray.*

*Our fathers' sins were manifold, And ours no less we own;  
Yet wondrously from age to age  
Thy goodness hath been shown.  
When dangers, like a stormy sea, Beset our country round,  
To Thee we looked, to Thee we cried,  
And help in thee was found.*

*With one consent we meekly bow  
Beneath thy chastening hand  
And, pouring forth confession meet,  
Mourn with our mourning land.  
With pitying eye behold our need As thus we lift our prayer,  
Correct us with thy judgments, Lord,  
Then let Thy mercy spare. Amen.*

L: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us. For His sake God forgives us all of our sins. May the Lord who has begun this good work in us bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

*Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Ps. 118:29*

Many have used this verse as a part of their table prayers before or after eating. One would have to confess that not always have we thought carefully about the words, as we hurry through the prayer. Today we take a moment to reflect on these words and give thanks to our wondrous Lord.

In this prayer we give thanks to the Lord. The name "Lord" means the one in authority, the one who has all power in heaven and on earth. He is the one who sends the sun and rain and gives us seedtime and harvest. He is the one who gives us life. He is the one who cares for us both in body and soul.

Also, this word "Lord" is the special name for the God who graciously makes a covenant with sinful people. It is the name "Yahweh" which means "the one who is." He is the absolute and unchangeable, the true God and Lord who chooses and calls a people to be His own. He is unique and separate from all the other false gods that humans have invented.

This Lord "Yahweh" is good. All that He does is for our good. He loved the world and sent His Son to be the Savior. In love He sent the Holy Spirit to lead us to faith and to guide us in His Word. In His goodness, He makes all things turn out for good to those who love Him. We may be tempted to think that our Lord is not always good, but in all times, good and bad, He is there to make all things work out for our benefit.

He has had mercy on us. We do not deserve His favor nor help. He has had compassion on us sinners who have disobeyed Him in many ways. He has sought to rescue us from condemnation by sacrificing His Son Jesus on the cross to pay for our sins and make us His forgiven children. We were helpless and unable to remove our sins. This good Lord has done this for us. We are united to His goodness in His Son Jesus.

This good and merciful Lord does not change. His goodness and mercy will last forever. Unlike us, He is constant in His love. He does not arise one day in a bad mood and say that He does not love us anymore. He will not change His mind and take away His forgiveness from us. He will not change and do evil to us. His mercy for us, His love, His aid, His compassion, His help, His salvation, His forgiveness will last forever, to all eternity.

This Lord has made it possible for us to be with Him eternally. By faith in His Son Jesus Christ we will be with Him in heaven. We will see fully our Lord's eternal majesty, love, mercy, and power. We will be in His eternal goodness free from all the effects of sin. We will be free from evil, sickness, pain, sorrow, temptations, and death. In Him we can eternally say: "Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever." Amen.

**The Lord's Prayer:** Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Benediction:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen!

Pastor Henry Witte – Concordia Lutheran, Sioux City, IA

Please call Iowa District West (515-576-7666) if you want help finding a local congregation and a pastor from a local congregation to bring you God's gifts.

## THE LAMPLIGHTER



**Theme: Give Thanks to the Lord**

November 2017

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Ps.118:29

*A Publication of The Lutheran Service Auxiliary  
Sioux City, Iowa*

**The Good Shepherd Hour airs every Sunday  
morning on the following radio stations.**

<b>KSCJ</b>	–	1360 AM & 94.9 FM	Sioux City at 8 am
<b>KLEM</b>	–	1410 AM & 96.9 FM	Le Mars at 8 am
<b>KAYL</b>	–	101.7FM	Storm Lake at 8:30 am
<b>KVFD</b>	–	1400AM	Fort Dodge at 8 am





**November 2017 (Please Copy, Post, and Share)**

## Camp Okoboji News

What is Happening at Your Camp

1531 Edgewood Dr  
Milford, IA 51351  
712-337-3325

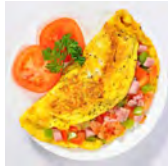
**Our Promise of Jesus at the Lake**  
A friendly, safe, refreshing and relaxing Christian experience  
An exceptional value for you and your family

**Friends Grow Camp**

For More Info. / Fliers / Schedules  
**And to Register Online**  
[www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org)

## In the Spotlight

**Nov. 5: Omelet Brunch:**  
**9:30 am to 1 pm**  
Last One for 2017  
Benefiting JOY Camp  
Program (Special Needs).  
Mmmmm Good!



**Nov. 18: Make It  
Take It Family Fun  
Crafts For Christmas!**  
**1 to 4 pm**  
New Activity in the  
Discover Center!  
Price Range: \$5 to \$10

**Dec. 4: Decorating  
Camp For Christmas**  
Join us for a festive day  
of decorating, fellow-  
ship, food, and fun.



### Your Retreat & Event

A variety of retreats and events dot the calendar.

Family Reunions   Confirmation Retreats  
Sewing Retreats   Congregational Gatherings  
District Functions  
Family Ministry Cabin Use

They see the benefit of this amazing site to further their goals and mission. Camp Okoboji offers a truly unique and charming location. The calmness of little Emerson Bay. The solidity of Refuge Chapel. The variety of accommodations and settings. The views of the lake from indoors and outside. Perfect for your event!

**How can Camp Okoboji help You?**  
**Let's find out together**

### YOUR Participation & Support Needed!

We ask our Camp Friends for the following:

1. **Pray** for the ministry of Camp Okoboji.
2. **Attend** Camp programs and events.
3. **Support** Camp verbally and financially.
4. **Share** Camp with others and invite them.



Starting Nov. 18, the Discover Center will be hosting this new monthly program.

A Chalk Board is appropriate for this event because it will be constantly changing.



Each month will feature a different focus and activity. Families and individuals are encouraged to take a few hours on a Saturday afternoon to spend time together. A small fee will be charged to cover costs with each event.

Each activity will be led by talented volunteers. November's Focus: Fun Christmas crafts and/or decorations for either personal use or to give as gifts. **Join Us!**

### **Discover CAMPAign Okoboji**

The **Discover Center** is up and running. Look for programs, activities and uses. What will you **Discover** the next time you attend Camp.

**\$250,000 Matching Gift Challenge**  
**Complete!**  
**Your Support Made It Happen!**  
**Thank You!**

### **Your Future and Camp Okoboji:**

Charitable Generosity Gifts, whether a Remainder Trust, Gift Annuity, Bequest, or Endowment Fund can make a huge impact on the future ministry of Camp Okoboji. Please consider Camp Okoboji in your charitable plan.

**Your Generosity is Appreciated!**



### **Camp Okoboji Salutes!**



**And Their Many Supportive Members.**

**'Summer of Impact' Impacts Camp Okoboji**  
Many Thrivent members received an extra \$50 in their ChoiceDollar accounts and graciously designated them to Camp. Over \$20,000 was received in Aug. and Sept.

We thank those who remembered us with their designations. We were truly blessed and humbled by the response. **Thank You!**

### **Thrivent Action Teams Spread Generosity**

Thrivent members have joined together throughout the year to help Camp Okoboji in a variety of ways.

Winter Games	Volunteer Weekends
Quilt Auction	Omelet Brunches
Basket Auction	Promotional Events
Bike Challenge	Program Support
Special Events	Special Projects

Action Team support helps on a variety of levels:  
Engages volunteers to get involved  
Provides needed initial funding for projects  
Opens new opportunities to promote Camp  
Allows for more creativity and new ideas



**Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team!**  
**Winter Games Inflatable – A Huge Hit (literally)**

**Contact Camp for help in Planning &  
Conducting YOUR Action Team Project!**

### **Camp Staff Contact Information**

Executive Director: Doug Kading [doug@campokoboji.org](mailto:doug@campokoboji.org)  
Office Director: Kellie Jones [kellie@campokoboji.org](mailto:kellie@campokoboji.org)  
Program Director: Lori Gamble [lori@campokoboji.org](mailto:lori@campokoboji.org)  
Min. Advance. Dir.: Paul Golke [paul@campokoboji.org](mailto:paul@campokoboji.org)  
Bookkeeper: Karrie Mullenberg [karrie@campokoboji.org](mailto:karrie@campokoboji.org)

# Camp Okoboji Executive Director Search

Doug Kading has announced his retirement to be no later than September 30, 2018, and has been asked by the Camp Board to serve alongside the new Executive Director prior to his retirement date. The position has been posted as of October 8, and the application form is available on the Camp Okoboji website, [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org). All applications are to be mailed to the Chairman of the Camp Board by November 6, 2017.

Following is the new position description for the next Executive Director.

The Executive Director of Camp Okoboji shall:

- + exemplify and communicate the Vision, Mission, and Values of Camp Okoboji.
- + be a member in good standing of a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and adhere to the Confessions of the church.
- + be accountable to the Board of Directors of Camp Okoboji, reporting quarterly to the Board and communicating regularly with the Executive Committee of the Board.
- + recruit, train, and supervise a Leadership Team (Camp Director, Ministry Director, and Advancement Director) to live out the values and accomplish the mission of Camp Okoboji.
- + cultivate relationships with professional church workers and congregations of Iowa District West and beyond.
- + build and maintain partnerships with Iowa District West, other nearby districts, and ministry entities which complement the ministry of Camp Okoboji.
- + connect with the greater Lakes community in communicating the unique mission and the blessings of Camp to the region.
- + affirm the generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure of those who support Camp Okoboji and communicate the many opportunities to support Camp's mission and vision financially and otherwise.

Other Personal and Professional Considerations:

- + The Executive Director is visionary, self-starter, and relational.
- + Ministry experience in a camp, agency, or congregation is preferred but not mandated.
- + Ministry training (ordained, commissioned, lay) is preferred but not mandated.

The Camp Okoboji Board of Directors shall:

- + Pray for the Executive Director, his/her family, and the ministry of Camp Okoboji.
- + Provide salary and benefits commensurate with the responsibilities of the position and the experience of the individual.
- + Provide an annual review of the Executive Director through the Executive Committee or other arrangement.
- + Offer direction and support in responding to the vision and accomplishing the mission of the Camp Okoboji.





Lutheran  
Family Service

*For Nothing is Impossible with God*

Administrative Office  
409 Kenyon Road  
Suite C  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501  
515-573-3138  
info@LFSiowa.org  
www.LFSiowa.org

MEET THE



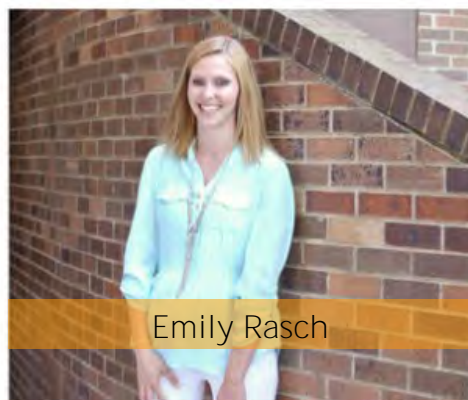
Lutheran  
Family Service

# Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption

TEAM



Kim Laube



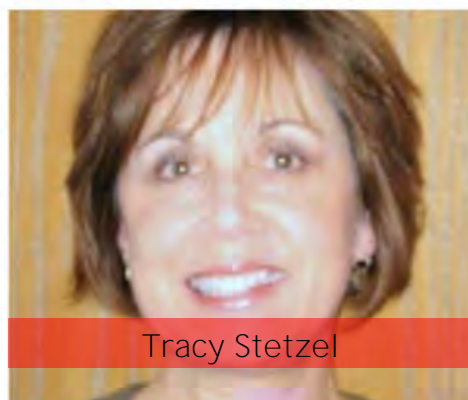
Emily Rasch



Kari Smith



Sarah Walters



Tracy Stetzel

Blessed to be busy! The Pregnancy Counseling & Adoption Services Team at LFS has been busy serving many women all across Iowa over these past few months. All this "busyness" is a huge blessing!

This compassionate and professional team has been helping women with parenting readiness, making plans for

adoption, helping to foster relationships between birthmothers and pre-adoptive parents, planning hospital experiences for expecting mothers, planning baptisms for babies, and placing babies into their forever homes, providing counseling for birthmothers through their journey.

"Our goal is to do our best every day

on behalf of our clients; children, expecting mothers, birthmothers, and adoptive parents. As I was leaving the hospital room of a client, I overheard the birthmother say to the pre-adoptive family how much Lutheran Family Service had helped and how grateful she was. That is the feeling we aim for every day," said Kim Laube, Director of Life Ministries.





# Operation Barnabas

## A network of care

**Operation Barnabas of Des Moines** will soon be launching our 5th year partnering with Freedom Alliance for their “Presents for Patriots” program adopting disabled Veterans and their families for Christmas. It is such an amazing and heartwarming experience to bless these families in such big ways. In early November we will share details on the families this year and how you can help.

Each of the four families received some sweets and goodies, a handmade quilt for every child (11 in total), a queen sized patriotic quilt for each soldier, a personalized laser-etched glass trivet with the family’s last name on it, \$300 worth of gift cards, and a check for \$455. In December 2016, I drove to Fort Riley, Kansas where I met three of the families and the next day I met the fourth family outside of Kansas City on my trip back to Des Moines.

Following is a summary of the 2016 “Presents for Patriots” recipients.



The first family I met with was Army Sgt. 1st Class Heath A., his girlfriend Melissa, and their three children. He was active duty for five years with two deployments and has since been in the Reserves training soldiers in small arms operation and marksmanship. He has suffered repeated shoulder injuries, neck and hip problems, hearing loss, and PTSD. He’s had a rough time transitioning back into family life, adjusting to family routines, physical limitations his body isn’t used to, and increased memory loss. The quilts and glass work were very appreciated by the family. Heath and Melissa’s jaws dropped and their eyes got real big when I told them about the gift cards and check. Melissa teared up and Heath said, “There aren’t enough words to thank you.” He continued that “this was so much more than I was expecting” and that they’ll now have a “great Christmas.” After the Christmas Party, Alicia from Freedom Alliance shared with me that Heath’s family came up to her with tears of joy following our meeting.

The second family I met with was Army Staff Sgt. Juan R., his wife Val, and their three young children. He was in the Army for almost 11 years with three combat tours to Afghanistan. He initially sustained a back injury from a paratrooper accident and later suffered additional injuries when the vehicle he was in rolled off a cliff. His back and knee injuries have limited him greatly while his PTSD, social anxiety, and Adjustment Disorder have made his transition difficult. The biggest problem is knowing that his mind hasn’t been the same since. He described himself as someone who loved physical activity, but he is having a challenging time accepting the physical limitations now on his body. Juan admitted he has put his family through a lot and has missed too many important family events and milestones. Since this is his last Christmas as a soldier, he wanted it



to be memorable and begin making a difference to his family. Everyone was very happy about the quilts and the kids were excited about the candy. Juan showed some tears while his wife had a huge smile on her face when I shared the gift cards and check. They fumbled for words, but they were filled with gratitude. They were tremendously appreciative and wanted to thank everyone who helped.

Family #3 was Army Sgt. Demetrius S., his wife Shannon, and their three children. Prior to Demetrius's second deployment, he was having health issues which included heavy fatigue,



feeling “out of my body,” and “strange smells” that overpowered his senses. It was later discovered he had a cancerous tumor on his brain. He had one brain surgery, then days later become unresponsive and underwent an emergency surgery to remove part of his cranial bone due to brain swelling. Two months later he had a third surgery to replace the cranial bone that thankfully hadn't deteriorated during that timeframe. Months later he began having a series of seizures that shocked the family since they thought the worst was behind them. The quilts were a big hit with the family. Demetrius said he enjoys bundling up under several blankets and joked with his older son “don't you be taking MY quilt.” Shannon was clearly moved by the generosity and gave me a couple big hugs, and Demetrius had a huge smile on his face after I shared the news. Shannon said our group was a “wonderful blessing” and Demetrius said we were “a big help.”

The next day I met the fourth family at their home outside Kansas City. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Z. and his wife Christal are particularly friendly and an interesting couple. Their two daughters were at school when we met. He joined the Army in 1993 and served almost 22 years through several deployments. He had a fascinating career and is very fortunate to still be alive after a number of close calls long before his career ending injuries. During his last tour of Afghanistan, his vehicle came under attack and the vehicle rolled down the side of a mountain. He suffered a traumatic brain injury, broken ribs, multiple damaged areas of the spine, and tendon injuries to his dominant arm. Initially he had significant problems with speech impediments, memory loss, and vision problems as a result of the TBI but has made substantial improvements through a range of therapies. They enjoyed the custom glasswork. The quilts were much appreciated including one having a princess on it that matched the large wall display of one daughter's bedroom. Both were initially in disbelief by the amounts, but then were tremendously appreciative. He thanked me repeatedly and said they'll have a “really great Christmas” and that this was “much greater than I hoped” while she noted they were “very blessed” and wanted me to thank those who helped.



Travis Ratliff