

June 2015

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Operation Barnabas
Parish Paper



Calendar of Events

- June 14—Joy in Ministry Banquet, Denison
June 16-17—Shepherd's Staff Training, District Office
June 21-23—District Convention, Camp Okoboji
June 24—Lutheran Day at Adventureland
June 25-28—National LWML Convention, Des Moines

CALLS ACCEPTED

The Rev. Charles Bettin, Early, to also serve Auburn.

The Rev. James Fernandez, Ankeny, to Redeemer, Denver, CO.

The Rev. David Simonson, Interim Pastor, Spirit Lake to Senior Pastor, Spirit Lake.

The Rev. Robert Wagner, Copperas Cove, TX, to Lidderdale.

CALLS DECLINED

The Rev. Jesse Burns, Sanborn, to Immanuel, Wahpeton, ND.

The Rev. Jonathan Watt, Creston, to St. John, Pierce, NE.

CANDIDATES ASSIGNED

Paul Ferderer, Fort Wayne, to Pilgrim, Lake City.

Aaron Hannemann, Saint Louis, to Mission Planter, St. Paul, Ankeny.

Thomas Schlund, Saint Louis, to Associate Pastor, Trinity, Algona.

CHANGE OF STATUS

The Rev. Glenn Hansen, Odebolt, to Candidate, 5/4/15.

VICAR ASSIGNED

Isaac Johnson, Fort Wayne, to Our Savior, Denison/Bethlehem, Dow City.

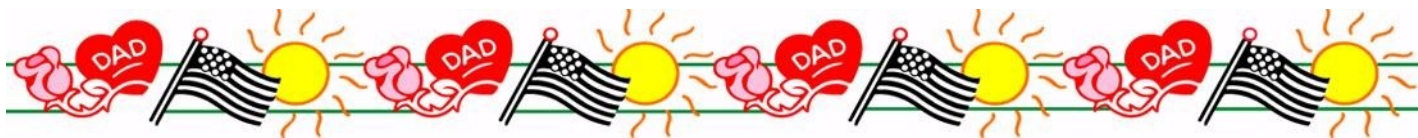
COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALL ACCEPTED

Emily Grabow, graduate Concordia, Mequon, WI, to Iowa Great Lakes, Spencer.

CALL RECEIVED

Melissa Pedersen, Overland, MO, to St. Paul, Fort Dodge.



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



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Planting Together

June 2015

409 Kenyon Road, Suite B — Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
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The mission of Iowa District West is **Connecting, Resourcing, Optimizing, Partnering and Serving** with the member congregations for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world.

Planting Time!



Spring is truly “planting time” on the farms and in our communities. This is the time of year that our dear farmers put the seeds in the ground and very soon you can row the new crop that is “Rising.”

Life is like that also, and this spring on April 29 it was time that my dear mom was placed in her “resurrection spot”...no, we didn't place her in her grave, we placed Mom in her RESURRECTION SPOT! That spot will not hold us Christians, if we place our full faith and trust in the Lord Jesus! Just like the corn and soybeans will “come alive” in the spring, we as Christians know for certain that we too will rise. Because Jesus lives, we too shall live! Because of Jesus, we don't have to say, “I hope we will get to see our loved ones!” No, we know for certain that because of what Jesus did on the cross, and His goodness and grace, even though we are sinners, Christ died for us!

When we look at those seeds we plant, some of them are dry and appear to be old, but when the plants come forth, they are fresh and new and perfect, just like we will be when we experience the resurrection. My mom will have two eyes, and I'll have 10 fingers! “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting” (1 Cor. 15:55)?

Yes, spring is here and soon new life will come from the ground. That's the way our lives are also! So, we too will rise to newness of life.

Gary Thies
gary.thies@idwlcms.org / 712-882-1029

Someone hospitalized in Sioux City or Des Moines?

Call 712-212-5482 (Sioux City) or 515-707-9195 (Des Moines, Chaplain Jim Brammeier) and a pastor will visit and report back to you as an extension of your ministry.

Special Offering for Camp Okoboji

Camp Okoboji is celebrating 75 years of God's Grace in a unique setting designed to be an extension of the ministry of every congregation in Iowa District West. The Board of Directors approved a special offering for Camp Okoboji to be given by congregations of the District and gathered at the offering during the opening service of the convention on Sunday evening. Every congregation is encouraged to consider a special offering to celebrate the 75th anniversary of our camp!

School's out for summer!

Students and staff both look forward to some time to relax, get away from the grind. Likewise, I pray that for your health and well-being you'll plan some intentional time away from the demands of the ministry. But summer isn't a time to completely shut down – there are many opportunities for sharing Christ and many opportunities to begin planning for fall and beyond! A great place to start is to **adopt a school**. Visit with school administrators, secure prayer requests, offer your members as volunteers, think of ways to recognize and thank the school staff. The local school – often the heart of a small community – is a great place to begin to *love your neighbor!*

Joy in Ministry Banquet

The Iowa District West “Joy in Ministry” initiative celebrates ministry careers and encourages financial assistance for students preparing to be pastors, directors of Christian education, deaconesses, and other ministry professionals. The annual Joy in Ministry Banquet is scheduled for Sunday evening, June 14 at Boulders Conference Center in Denison. Dr. Mark Blanke, Concordia University, Seward will be the keynote speaker. The event is open to everyone. Information has been shared with all congregations.

District Calendar

June 14...Joy in Ministry Banquet, Denison
June 16-17...Shepherd's Staff Training, Fort Dodge
June 21-23...District Convention, Camp Okoboji
June 24...Lutheran Day at Adventureland
June 25-28...National LWML Convention, Des Moines

For more information on Iowa District West activities, view *The Monthly* at <http://www.idwlcms.org/publications.php>.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit. John 15:16

All of us have experienced, at one time or another, the tragedy of not being chosen. Perhaps we might not have been picked to be on a team during recess or PE or we were that proverbial one always picked last. Perhaps we tried out for a part in the school play or applied for a job that we really wanted and didn't get. We all know how devastating this can be. For some, it leaves an indelible mark on their lives that they can never get over.

At the same time, but in the opposite direction, we know the exhilaration of being chosen when life goes our way. It feels great. We're happy inside and out.

Now take that joy of being chosen a level further. Ask any child who has been adopted into a loving family. Even though they may have been orphaned or given up for adoption knowing that they have been chosen, picked to be loved and cared for by someone who loves and cares about them brings a joy that cannot be described.

That is where Jesus is coming from in John's Gospel. Our experience with God's love begins with our being chosen by God and not the other way around. This action by God is especially highlighted in the Sacrament of Baptism when a child is brought to its life-giving waters. There it is proclaimed that God has claimed this child as His own and brought that child into His family.

Does it matter that the child wasn't able to decide whether or not he/she wanted to be baptized? Not in the least because everything depends upon God's Word and command. In other words, our faith does not constitute the reason why Christ chooses us to be His own any more than our good deeds do. Faith in Christ can only receive the blessings found in Baptism and nothing more. Instead, God's action to choose us as His children is based solely on God's steadfast, unchanging love for us found in the crucified and risen Christ.

We can't explain that love in which God desires that all people would be saved because God so loved the world

that He sent His Son into the world not to condemn it, but to save it through Him. All we can say is that God has made the first and most important move of all in our lives. He has loved us and chosen us through His Son, Jesus. Because of this we are forever different.

How are we different? Christ hints at two ways in His words.

First, we are chosen for joy. A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms. Yet, how many Christians are suffering or have suffered from depression? Far too many, for all sorts of reasons! Perhaps we are seemingly going nowhere in our lives and so we become unsatisfied, unfulfilled with them. Perhaps we struggle against a particular sin and seem to make no progress in overcoming it. Worse, maybe we go backwards. So why even try?

As Christians, we can expect to go through many hardships and struggles in life. Yet, while it is true that we are sinners, nevertheless we are redeemed sinners through the blood of Jesus Christ.

So how then can we fail to be a joyful, cheerful people when we realize that we are chosen to walk the joyful way of life with our living Lord Jesus? With His unselfish spending of Himself for others all the way to His death on the cross, Christ must have been the happiest of men. The good news is Christ offers to share His own fullness of joy with anyone who will receive it from Him.

Christ offers us His joy—the joy of sins forgiven, the joys of a happier and more contented life, the joy of life eternal in heaven—because when we receive that joy by faith in Him, we can then see for ourselves, secondly, that Jesus chooses us for love!

We should never underestimate how important it is that Jesus chooses us for love. Mother Teresa once said, "The biggest disease today that we are facing isn't leprosy or cancer. It's the feeling of being uncared for, unwanted—of being deserted and alone. As a result, she spent her life

rescuing sick babies and giving dignity to the dying. Asked why she did it, she replied, "Because Jesus did!"

It's a great answer, but we have an even deeper reason to love and show compassion. You see, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus enables us to experience God's love and forgiveness.

As Jesus' disciples, we have all experienced that love not only as we hear God's Word being preached or when we come to the communion rail to receive Jesus' body and blood. God's love can be experienced in some form in our daily lives too. The love of spouses, family and friends enable us to face the challenges of the day. Even though Christians and non-Christians alike experience this kind of love, what keeps us going forward as Jesus' disciples in that spirit of joy and love is not mere sentimentality. It is the love of God at work in our lives.

For when we dwell in Christ's love, we have peace and contentment. By faith in Christ, we can sense God's movement in our lives. In the midst of grief and tragedy we can sense God's care and comfort that can only be found in Christ. Even when we face overwhelming challenges, it is God's love in Christ that gives us the will and determination to persevere. God's love in Christ enables us to forgive, build up and love one another too.

This forgiving, building up and loving others is the kind of fruit that Jesus has appointed us for. Could we bear that kind of fruit on our own? No, we couldn't. Yet because Jesus chose us to be His own, we do by faith in Him. What a thrill that is! For who then would have ever thought that you and I are chosen for joy and love than for this one reason alone? In His eternal, unending love Christ has chosen us to be His children and disciples.

In Christ,
Rev. Ralph C. Shorey, III
Faith Lutheran Church, Sioux City

THE LAMPLIGHTER



THEME: Chosen for Joy and Love by the Lord

June 2015

"You did not choose me..."

John 15:16

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

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

KSCJ	–	1360AM	Sioux City at 8 am
KLEM	–	1410AM	Le Mars at 8 am
KAYL	–	101.7AM	Storm Lake at 8:30 am
KVFD	–	1400AM	Fort Dodge at 8 am

NEWS FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER
Iowa District West Congregations' Mission Receipts



For the Month Ending April 2015	
Anticipated Amount	\$133,333
Actual Receipts	\$154,084
Fiscal Year-to-Date Receipts	
Anticipated Amount	\$400,000
Actual Receipts	\$398,264
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$ (1,736)
Use of Mission Receipts	
Remitted to Synod (48%)	\$ 192,000
Balance for District programs/operations	\$ 206,264
Total Receipts	\$398,264
Mission Receipts Compared With Last Year	
Year-to-date 2015	\$398,264
Year-to-date 2014	\$425,349
Over (under) last year	\$(27,085)

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to provide opportunity to make funds and services available in support of the Great Commission through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

As of April 2015, 1120 investments in Iowa District West totaled \$30,415,061. These investments are providing opportunity for 31 loans totaling \$7,991,065 plus commitments totaling \$2,713,815. LCEF puts invested dollars to work in mission and ministry right here in Iowa District West.

If you are interested in investing in the ministry of LCEF or if you have questions on the loans and services provided to our congregations, please contact Carole White. **Come, Join the Ministry!**

Pastors and Church Secretaries: How about including a brief note about LCEF in your church newsletter or bulletin? Please use the following short paragraph—thank you!

Young Investors (Y.I.) Club – Fun and Stewardship

Check out the new Y.I. Club Online Activity Center at yiclub.lcef.org for Bible stories, devotions, games, videos, service project idea, crafts and recipes! Each group—Little Lambs, Mission Builders and World Changers—has its own area on the site with age-appropriate activities. There are interactive games, coloring pages, Bible stories and devotions, videos, and, for older members, news stories and links to servant events and projects. New items will be added regularly to keep young ones engaged and entertained!

This website will reinforce Bible lessons, enhance understanding of stewardship concepts and supplement studies in math, English, history and personal finance in a fun and meaningful manner. We want each Y.I. Club member to know and understand Jesus' love and the fact that their investment is helping others learn about Jesus as well.

Stewardship Spark / Monthly Mission Moment

Did you know that the District Convention budget is only \$17,000 which is the lowest of any district thanks to your Camp! The District Board of Directors approved a special offering to celebrate the 75th anniversary of outdoor ministry at Camp Okoboji. Consider what you and your congregation can do. Make checks payable to Camp Okoboji and bring to the opening worship service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Spirit Lake on June 21.

District Convention

Thank you, treasurers, for paying your congregation's Convention Assessment. If you have not received a second notice to pay the invoice, your church's assessment has been paid so your lay delegate and pastoral delegate from your congregation can vote and participate at the District Convention June 21-23 at Camp Okoboji. Additional information about the convention is online at www.idwlcms.org.

Congregational Quarterly Financial Report



Included in *The Monthly* is the report of congregational support for the first quarter of the District fiscal period from February 1-April 30, 2015. Review your church's mission pledge to make sure your budget receipts are up to date. This report includes only District/Synod receipts and no restricted missionary support or other program income. Your mission dollars enable us to "Connect, Resource, Optimize, Partner, and Serve" every District congregation.

Special thanks to several circuits who have 100% participation for the first quarter. Those circuit include Carroll, Des Moines East, Le Mars, Northwest, and Sac City.

The Shepherd's Staff Software Training

Does your congregation use the popular church management software from Concordia Publishing House? If your staff would like to utilize more of the features and learn everything from beginning to advanced, now is your opportunity! Training will be held June 16-17 at the District office. The training is partially subsidized from a grant from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company. For more information, go to the "District News" section of the website: www.idwlcms.org/news.php.

Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Fall Conference

The Iowa District West Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Conference committee has an excellent program planned for Tuesday, **September 22** in Spencer from 8 am - 3:30 pm. What is your personality COLOR? Discover your gifts and ways to use them in service to family, congregation, and community! Thanks to Thrivent Financial for their support. More details and conference brochure to be shared this summer.



Your LCMS Benefits Partner

Now is the time to review Concordia Health Plan Options

Are your health care costs too expensive? Every organization has the option to make several decisions including Options A through E and High Deductible options. Take the time now to study the plans before the fall deadline. More information is online at www.concordiaplans.org (click on Health). To learn more about choosing a Concordia Health Plan option, plan to participate in a webinar. A series of webinars are planned for July that will help you review each of the health plan options as well as have an open Q&A to ensure that your ministry is ready for the 2016 plan year.

Also online are several Fidelity Transition Webinars. Join Fidelity, the new service provider for the CRSP, for a complimentary workshop in June and July where you'll get the guidance you need to make the most of your plan's transition to Fidelity (<http://www.concordiaplans.org/landing-pages/2015-webinars.html>).

Congregation Mission Support - Unrestricted Budget Receipts

February 1, 2015 –April 30, 2015

Circuit	Congregation	Town	Communicants	Pledge	Actual Amount	Per Comm.
ADAIR	IMMANUEL	ADAIR	176	1,200.00	0.00	0.00
	ST. JOHN	ADAIR	73	500.00	500.00	6.85
	HOLY CROSS	ANITA	134	0.00	0.00	0.00
	ZION	ATLANTIC	563	8,500.00	8,500.00	15.10
	ST JOHN	CASEY	138	0.00	0.00	0.00
	ZION	DEXTER	193	200.00	200.00	1.04
	IMMANUEL	GREENFIELD	187	4,800.00	0.00	0.00
	IMMANUEL	GUTHRIE CENTER	186	5,000.00	1,200.00	6.45
	ST. THOMAS	PANORA	110	0.00	0.00	0.00
	FAITH	WINTERSET	28	600.00	150.00	5.36
	FIRST	WIOTA	239	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Total			12,100.00	10,550.00
ALGONA	TRINITY	ALGONA	936	62,000.00	15,660.00	16.73
	ZION	AYRSHIRE	33	5,000.00	1,000.00	30.30
	ST JOHN	BURT	252	4,500.00	1,926.00	7.64
	ST LUKE	CYLINDER	85	5,000.00	273.00	3.21
	ST PAUL	EMMETSBURG	278	4,000.00	3,999.99	14.39
	ST JOHN	FENTON	221	7,200.00	3,250.00	14.71
	ST JOHN	GARNER	185	7,800.00	1,950.00	10.54
	ST PAUL	GARNER	592	8,000.00	8,000.00	13.51
	IMMANUEL	LONE ROCK	119	10,000.00	2,004.00	16.84
	TRINITY	MALLARD	170	30,000.00	7,800.00	45.88
	OUR SAVIOR	SWEA CITY	32	0.00	0.00	0.00
	PEACE	WEST BEND	159	2,302.00	2,301.77	14.48
	ST PAUL	WHITTEMORE	168	5,265.00	1,755.00	10.45
		Total		136,765.00	49,919.76	
	BOONE	MEMORIAL	AMES	619	45,000.00	11,250.00
ST PAUL		AMES	397	28,000.00	6,999.99	17.63
ST. PAUL		BOONE	183	9,000.00	2,109.41	11.53
TRINITY		BOONE	623	8,080.00	2,025.00	3.25
CHRIST		BOUTON	204	4,000.00	3,999.99	19.61
TRINITY		DAYTON	27	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY		JEFFERSON	365	10,000.00	3,333.32	9.13
ZION		OGDEN	346	16,000.00	3,397.00	9.82
TRINITY		PERRY	114	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Total		116,080.00	33,114.71	
CARROLL		ZION	ARCADIA	395	2,167.00	2,166.70
	ST. JOHN	AUDUBON	180	536.00	536.00	2.98
	ST PAUL	CARROLL	437	25,718.00	4,781.97	10.94
	TRINITY	COON RAPIDS	110	500.00	500.00	4.55
	PEACE	GLIDDEN	150	6,575.00	1,835.61	12.24
	IMMANUEL	LIDDERDALE	95	4,000.00	1,123.00	11.82
	ZION	MANNING	545	28,000.00	9,332.00	17.12
		Total		64,793.00	20,275.28	
CHEROKEE	ST. PAUL	AURELIA	308	34,000.00	8,051.94	26.14
	TRINITY	CHEROKEE	427	20,000.00	5,001.00	11.71
	PEACE	MARCUS	236	11,000.00	3,040.22	12.88
	TRINITY	MARCUS	146	1,875.00	1,875.00	12.84
	ST JOHN	PAULLINA	295	1,000.00	0.00	0.00
	ZION	PAULLINA	543	11,000.00	2,701.00	4.97
	PILGRIM	QUIMBY	96	1,000.00	1,000.00	10.42
	BETHEL	SUTHERLAND	237	8,500.00	2,623.00	11.07
	Total		85,500.00	24,292.16		
COUNCIL BLUFFS	FAITH	COUNCIL BLUFFS	375	0.00	16.50	0.04
	ST. PAUL	COUNCIL BLUFFS	559	16,966.00	4,241.61	7.59
	TIMOTHY	COUNCIL BLUFFS	368	22,729.00	5,312.17	14.44
	TRINITY	GLENWOOD	350	1,638.50	1,638.50	4.68
	PEACE	HARLAN	27	250.00	250.03	9.26
	ST. JOHN	HONEY CREEK	239	3,750.00	3,750.00	15.69
	IMMANUEL	LOGAN	201	250.00	250.00	1.24
	FIRST	MISSOURI VALLEY	308	15,180.00	5,060.00	16.43
	ST. PAUL	OAKLAND	82	1,000.00	250.00	3.05
	TRINITY	PERSIA	98	2,100.00	375.00	3.83
	OUR SAVIOR	WALNUT	78	1,000.00	1,000.00	12.82
		Total		58,975.00	22,143.81	

DENISON	FAITH	DELOIT	56	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
	IGLESIA	DENISON	26	0.00	0.00	0.00
	OUR SAVIOR	DENISON	707	20,000.00	3,333.34	4.71
	ZION	DENISON	1618	4,750.00	0.00	0.00
	BETHLEHEM	DOW CITY	225	5,000.00	870.00	3.87
	ST JOHN	KIRON	94	2,500.00	2,500.00	26.60
	TRINITY	MANILLA	161	0.00	0.00	0.00
	IMMANUEL	SCHLESWIG	516	17,625.00	4,406.25	8.54
	Total			49,375.00	11,109.59	
	DES MOINES EAST	CHRIST THE KING	ALTOONA	90	4,800.00	1,304.93
ST PAUL		ANKENY	776	8,000.00	2,672.00	3.44
HOLY CROSS		CARLISLE	119	2,500.00	624.99	5.25
CALVARY		DES MOINES	70	2,400.00	1,000.00	14.29
HOPE		DES MOINES	531	10,800.00	2,700.00	5.08
OUR SAVIOUR		DES MOINES	168	5,000.00	1,249.97	7.44
PEACE		DES MOINES	313	5,400.00	1,350.00	4.31
MT CALVARY		INDIANOLA	397	12,500.00	4,164.00	10.49
Total				51,400.00	15,065.89	
DES MOINES WEST		FAITH	ADEL	530	27,540.00	6,885.00
	LIVING FAITH	CLIVE	221	0.00	0.00	0.00
	ASIAN	DES MOINES	50	0.00	0.00	0.00
	MT OLIVE	DES MOINES	350	0.00	0.00	0.00
	SUDANESE	DES MOINES	58	0.00	0.00	0.00
	TRINITY	DES MOINES	294	3,300.00	3,312.00	11.27
	MESSIAH	JOHNSTON	60	1,500.00	469.54	7.83
	CHRIST OUR SAVIOR	NORWALK	95	0.00	0.00	0.00
	BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR	POLK CITY	276	2,000.00	2,000.00	7.25
	GLORIA DEI	URBANDALE	2145	72,000.00	18,000.00	8.39
	TRINITY	VAN METER	182	7,500.00	495.00	2.72
	SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY	WDM	500	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total			108,540.00	31,161.54	
	FORT DODGE	MT CALVARY	EAGLE GROVE	65	0.00	75.00
GOOD SHEPHERD		FORT DODGE	557	20,000.00	6,666.40	11.97
PRINCE OF PEACE		FORT DODGE	206	1,400.00	1,400.00	6.80
ST PAUL		FORT DODGE	1200	12,000.00	2,000.00	1.67
IMMANUEL		ROWAN	25	0.00	0.00	0.00
ST JOHN		VINCENT	129	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
ST PAUL		WEBSTER CITY	319	3,000.00	3,000.00	9.40
ST PETER		WOOLSTOCK	30	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total				34,000.00	13,141.40	
HUMBOLDT		HOLY TRINITY	FARNHAMVILLE	240	12,000.00	6,000.00
	FIRST	FONDA	26	400.00	100.00	3.85
	TRINITY	FORT DODGE	60	1,272.00	1,272.75	21.21
	ZION	HUMBOLDT	807	25,000.00	8,333.32	10.33
	TRINITY	KNIERIM	125	3,000.00	750.00	6.00
	IMMANUEL	LIVERMORE	72	5,000.00	1,062.00	14.75
	ZION	LUVERNE	101	0.00	0.00	0.00
	IMMANUEL	POMEROY	117	1,500.00	1,500.00	12.82
	IMMANUEL	ROCKWELL CITY	174	6,750.00	1,687.50	9.70
	Total			52,150.00	20,705.57	
LE MARS	TRINITY	HAWARDEN	458	13,320.00	4,032.30	8.80
	TRINITY	HINTON	307	7,000.00	0.00	0.00
	ST JOHN	IRETON	27	1,670.00	1,670.00	61.85
	ST PAUL	IRETON	382	9,000.00	2,250.00	5.89
	FIRST	KINGSLEY	368	8,000.00	4,180.00	11.36
	GRACE	LEMARS	590	15,000.00	3,750.00	6.36
	FAITH	ORANGE CITY	299	18,500.00	4,624.97	15.47
	CHRIST	REMSEN	190	4,500.00	390.00	2.05
	Total			75,320.00	20,897.27	
MAPLETON	TRINITY	ANTHON	38	0.00	0.00	0.00
	ST JOHN	BATTLE CREEK	223	6,700.00	1,116.66	5.01
	ST PAUL	BATTLE CREEK	75	800.00	155.00	2.07
	IMMANUEL	CHARTER OAK	74	790.00	790.00	10.68
	ST JOHN	CHARTER OAK	421	2,258.00	2,258.14	5.36
	ST PAUL	CHARTER OAK	84	1,521.00	1,521.00	18.11
	GRACE	CORRECTIONVILLE	54	0.00	0.00	0.00
	ST PAUL	IDA GROVE	777	14,000.00	4,060.00	5.23
	ST MATTHEW	MAPLETON	442	4,000.00	1,000.02	2.26
	ST LUKE	RICKETTS	89	875.00	875.00	9.83
	ST PAUL	UTE	243	10,000.00	2,491.25	10.25
	Total			35,500.00	14,267.07	

NORTHWEST	ST PAUL	HARTLEY	363	29,500.00	9,840.00	27.11
	ENGLISH	LARCHWOOD	60	5,100.00	1,275.00	21.25
	ST JOHN	MAY CITY	130	6,000.00	1,500.00	11.54
	ST PETER	OCHEYEDAN	164	3,000.00	3,000.00	18.29
	ZION	OCHEYEDAN	83	6,000.00	1,640.00	19.76
	PEACE	ROCK RAPIDS	240	5,000.00	1,666.68	6.94
	ST JOHN	SANBORN	208	8,500.00	2,200.00	10.58
	OUR SAVIOR	SHELDON	48	200.00	200.00	4.17
	Total			60,100.00	21,321.68	
	SAC CITY	ZION	AUBURN	59	1,500.00	735.00
FAITH		EARLY	66	4,000.00	1,062.00	16.09
PILGRIM		LAKE CITY	239	1,450.00	1,450.00	6.07
EMMANUEL		LAKE VIEW	345	14,000.00	2,334.00	6.77
TRINITY		ODEBOLT	277	14,500.00	4,873.00	17.59
ST PAUL		SAC CITY	535	15,500.00	3,875.01	7.24
ST PETER		SAC CITY	36	2,500.00	800.00	22.22
ST PAUL		SCHALLER	181	12,500.00	3,123.00	17.25
PEACE		WALL LAKE	434	14,000.00	4,666.64	10.75
Total				78,500.00	22,918.65	
SIOUX CITY	ST JOHN	CLIMBING HILL	62	693.00	693.00	11.18
	BETHEL	LAWTON	272	192.00	192.00	0.71
	SHEPHERD OF PEACE	SGT BLUFF	406	0.00	0.00	0.00
	BETHANY	SIOUX CITY	76	300.00	300.00	3.95
	CALVARY	SIOUX CITY	628	6,000.00	6,008.17	9.57
	CONCORDIA	SIOUX CITY	86	0.00	0.00	0.00
	FAITH	SIOUX CITY	270	0.00	0.00	0.00
	REDEEMER	SIOUX CITY	1149	12,125.00	12,125.01	10.55
	ST PAUL	SIOUX CITY	730	2,800.00	2,810.00	3.85
	Total			0.00	22,128.18	
SOUTHWEST	ST TIMOTHY	BEDFORD	18	0.00	0.00	0.00
	IMMANUEL	CLARINDA	231	5,000.00	1,346.50	5.83
	ST JOHN	CLARINDA	583	7,270.00	2,423.32	4.16
	ST PAUL	CLARINDA	222	750.00	750.00	3.38
	REDEEMER	CORNING	128	3,000.00	750.00	5.86
	TRINITY	CRESTON	166	6,600.00	2,640.00	15.90
	ST JOHN	HASTINGS	110	500.00	500.00	4.55
	OUR SAVIOR	LEON	62	150.00	150.00	2.42
	IMMANUEL	OSCEOLA	120	800.00	804.77	6.71
	TRINITY	SHENANDOAH	152	2,600.00	1,055.00	6.94
	MT CALVARY	VILLISCA	92	2,600.00	2,600.00	28.26
	Total			24,470.00	13,019.59	
	SPENCER	IMMANUEL	ESTHERVILLE	272	7,100.00	1,650.00
CONCORDIA		LAKE PARK	164	660.00	660.00	4.02
CHRIST THE KING		SPENCER	109	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST ENGLISH		SPENCER	715	28,000.00	7,779.53	10.88
IMMANUEL		SPIRIT LAKE	677	34,350.00	8,587.50	12.68
IMMANUEL		TERRIL	159	6,000.00	2,223.00	13.98
Total				75,450.00	20,900.03	
STORM LAKE	ST JOHN	ALTA	224	15,000.00	2,170.25	9.69
	ST PAUL	ALTA	274	0.00	0.00	0.00
	ST JOHN	GALVA	311	18,000.00	5,205.97	16.74
	ST PETER	NEWELL	123	0.00	0.00	0.00
	FAITH	SIOUX RAPIDS	27	240.00	240.00	8.89
	GRACE	STORM LAKE	358	15,000.00	2,499.99	6.98
	IGLESIA	STORM LAKE	16	0.00	0.00	0.00
	ST JOHN	STORM LAKE	390	1,200.00	1,216.00	3.12
	ZION	STORM LAKE	294	6,000.00	0.00	0.00
	Total			54,240.00	11,332.21	
Grand Total			1,173,258.00	398,264.39		





What is Happening at Your Camp?
1531 Edgewood Drive
Milford, IA 51351
712-337-3325

Email: camp@campokoboji.org Website: www.campokoboji.org

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

Please share the following dates in bulletins, newsletters etc.

We have a full calendar in the months ahead! Reserve your space!
 Mark your calendar! We look forward to seeing YOU this summer!
 More information on each event is available on Camp's website.

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:45am - Go to the website for Chaplain list

- May 31 1940 Opening Date Remembrance Service - Rev. David Ericksen
- May 31-June 3 Ginny DeWall JOY Camp 1 - Special Needs Camp
- June 5-7 Kids Camp: K-2nd Grade with a parent/caregiver
- June 5-7 Walther League Reunion
- June 7 1940 Dedication Celebration - Rev. Paul Sieveking
- June 7 Omelet Brunch 9:30am-1pm with afternoon activities
- June 7-13 Girls Volleyball and Basketball Camp
- June 13 Annual Quilt Auction
- June 14-20 Minneboji Camp: Grades 4-9
- June 21-23 IDW Convention
- June 25-27 Adventure Camp: Grades 7-12
- June 26-28 All Staff Reunion
- June 28-July 4 July 4th Family Retreat
- July 5 Omelet Brunch
- July 6-8 Continuing Ed. Retreat
- July 5-11 Jr. High Camp: Grades 6-8
- July 9-12 Ginny DeWall JOY Camp 2 - Special Needs Camp
- July 12-16 Concordia Cub Week: Grades 3-6
- July 19-25 Youth Week: Grades 8-12
- July 26-Aug. 1 Family Retreat I
- July 30 Twins vs Cleveland Game Trip (Lutheran Night)
- Aug. 2 Omelet Brunch
- Aug. 2-8 Family Retreat II
- Aug. 9 Annual Golf Outing: Register your foursome!
- Aug. 14-16 Adult Retreat: Dr. Paul Maier - Topic: "The Genuine Jesus"
- Aug. 21-23 "Jesus Painter" Presentations: Des Moines, Sioux City & Spirit Lake



Register Online at <http://www.campokoboji.org> for Family Retreat Camps, Jr. High Week, Concordia Cub Week, and Youth Week.

Church Worker Continuing Ed. Session II - July 6-8: Register by email or call Lori Gamble (lori@campokoboji.org or 712-337-3325).

J.O.Y. Camp 1 (May 31-June 3, 2015) and **J.O.Y. Camp 2** (July 9-12, 2015): To register call Camp and request a form by e-mail or USPS.

Camp Okoboji Annual Quilt Auction - Saturday, June 13, 2015
 View Quilts 9 am-noon, lunch available 11 am-12:30 pm, Auction starts at 12:30 pm. Quilts can be viewed online at www.campokoboji.org.

Camp Okoboji is celebrating 75 years of God's Grace in a unique setting designed to be an extension of the ministry of every congregation in Iowa District West. For information on 75th Anniversary events and summer camp programs go to www.campokoboji.org.

IDW Convention Special Offering Request: Honoring the partnership between Camp Okoboji and the congregations of Iowa District West, congregations are being asked to take a special offering prior to this year's convention and bring it to the opening worship on June 21.

Minnesota Twins, Lutheran Night Bus Trip: Thursday, July 30
 Only \$55 Includes tickets, snacks and bus ride! Call Lori Gamble to reserve your seat today! The Twins will face the Cleveland Indians. Sign up deadline is **JUNE 30**.

FAMILY CAMPS are great opportunities for generations of families to get together for building family traditions, connecting with children, grandchildren, parents, and grandparents. Consider starting a family tradition this summer!

FACEBOOK

"Like" us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/CampOkoboji-LCMS Watch for upcoming events. See pictures of events and more!

Camp Staff Contact Information

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!AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

News from ***La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo***: Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Pastor Daniel Vogel, Denison, Iowa

Iowa District
 West, LCMS

Year 11, Issue 6
 JUNE 2015



CONFIRMATION TWICE AND TWICE A BLESSING

Jazmin and Moises Mendoza are adopted twins and students at Zion School in Denison. They have had quite a life in their 14 years. After a life in which they had little control over the decisions made for them, last month they each made a powerful decision. They shared their Christian faith and witness before friends and members of Zion Lutheran and also our church, Amigos en Cristo. They were confirmed with 15 other youth from Zion. It was a wonderful witness to the community of God's work in all the world. We thank Zion church and school for the relationship that we have with them to teach our children the Good News of Jesus as Lord and Savior.



Luis is a member of the Denison High School Mariachi Band.

It was a joy to again this year attend the dinner and concert with Luis' family, other folks from our church and about 200 others from the community. Luis is another youth of our church. I counted 70 students in the 4 mariachi bands from Jr. High and High School sharing this special music.



Sunday, May 10 was an historic **Mother's Day** as it fell on the same day in the U.S. and also in Mexico and other Hispanic countries! Following the service, our mothers received flowers and the men made banana splits for the ladies. It was a great day.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
 our new church.**

**For our mission friends, financial
 support checks should now be sent
 to:**

**Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Church
 1004 1st Ave. South
 Denison, IA 51442**



PRO-LIFE PASTORS

The Crawford County Right to Life held their annual Pro-Life Conference in April. I counted 8 LCMS pastors and a vicar from the Denison area in attendance in this defense of the unborn and human life. It was a special day with about 50 people from the community participating. Pastor Chris Maronde, formerly of Kiron, now pastoring in Lincoln, Nebraska, was one of the speakers. God bless our leaders.



At the same time I am trying to organize a Hispanic pro-life group in Denison. Sadly, this most important issue of protecting human life at all ages and stages is not part of the concern of the Hispanic community even though Hispanics tend to be pro-life. Unfortunately, abortion providers also tend to target minority groups. Please pray for this as next month we hope to have a meeting of area Hispanic pastor and leaders.

MY TYSON CHAPLAINCY AT THE PLANT IN DENISON: "Dealing With Troubles"

Last month as I visited with workers on lunch break, I noticed a worker who seemed to be upset. I approached her and asked if I could help. She started to cry and told me how worried she was about her husband who also works at Tyson. He has a number of health issues but continues to work and not see a doctor. I asked her if she had a church and a pastor that could help her. "Yes," she said but hadn't been to church for a long time. I asked if I could call her pastor for her so he could visit her and her husband. She gave me permission so I did speak to her pastor who happened to be from one of our Lutheran churches. She was so nervous and anxious that I took her to the HR office to recommend that she be allowed to go home for the day. Thankfully she was allowed to leave and the next time I saw her she was much more hopeful about her work and husband as he is visiting the doctor.



TO CONTACT ME:

Rev. Daniel Vogel

32678 Aspen Ave.

Manning, IA 51455

Home: 712-653-2354

Cell: 712-309-1292

NEW E-MAIL:

Email me at: daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org

* **Please forward this newsletter to a friend from: www.idwlcms.org**



PLEASE PRAY: + For the blessings this past month: attending the High School Mariachi concert with our Hispanic families; presenting at the Denison/Mapleton Circuit meeting; and attending the Denison Ministerial Meeting. + For our Spring evangelistic campaign to more effectively reach the Denison Hispanic community. + For my work as a Chaplain at Tyson and for opportunities to share the Gospel. + For our Hispanic Mission Festival at Mission Central this month. + *In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who monthly support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants in Denison and in our other three Hispanic missions.*

IOWA EAST & WEST
LCEF



For more information on LCEF loans, investments, and services, please contact:

Carole L. White LCEF
V.P. Iowa East & West
1150 Home Park Blvd #7
Waterloo, IA 50702

Toll Free Phone:
1-877-439-5233
carole.white@lcef.org



Rev. Bob Riggert
Director of Customer
Services
bob.riggert@ialcef.org

Ruth Gerken



Promotions Director
Iowa East & West
ruth.gerken@ialcef.org

For current rates visit
lcef.org



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry



Now Presenting: A New Address
for Fun and Stewardship

yiclub.lcef.org

Young Investors (Y.I.) Club members now have their very own place for fun: the NEW Y.I. Club Online Activity Center!

Each group—Little Lambs, Mission Builders and World Changers—has its own age-appropriate activities. There are interactive games, coloring pages, Bible stories and devotions, videos, and, for older members, news stories and links to servant events and projects. New items will be added regularly to keep young ones engaged and entertained!

You don't have to be a Y.I. Club member to have fun at yiclub.lcef.org! Explore the site and have some Y.I. Club fun, then share the link with others. Designed to work well on mobile devices and tablets, it's perfect for families on the go!

(BTW, did you know there are now more than 7,000 Y.I. Club members?!)

Scholarship Winner Announced

Congratulations Paige Licht, the 2015 Iowa Districts East and West Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) \$1,000 Scholarship award winner. Paige is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Carroll, Iowa, a senior at Carroll High School, and the daughter of Rev. Brian and Lynette Licht.

In her application essay, Paige wrote the following:

“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce’ (Proverbs 3:9). The Lutheran Church Extension Fund provides members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod the opportunity to do as this Bible verse teaches. In doing so, LCEF is not only changing the lives of the church workers, congregations, schools, organizations, and businesses it supports, but also the lives of its investors. LCEF allows investors to honor the Lord by giving them the opportunity to be a part of supporting the earthly Church with their wealth.”



LCEF is blessed to have the funds available to support our youth as they pursue post-secondary education. It is our prayer that they are equipped to become strong, Christian leaders as adults.

To read more of the story on Paige Licht go to www.lcefuppermidwest.org/news-feed

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.



Small Stewards - Big Blessings
Biblical Stewardship Lessons for and with Children

(You are encouraged to share this lesson with children in Sunday school openings, classroom devotions, children’s worship messages, or other congregational settings. The lesson may also be a family devotion resource with the “Notes to Family” offering family applications and explorations.”

Text: 2 Timothy 3:14-15

Pastor and missionary Timothy was once a small steward nurtured by his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois (2 Timothy 1:5). Timothy was a steward of the Word. Before Timothy was blessed to share the Word, he had to know and believe the Word. The Apostle Paul writes to his student and friend Timothy reminding him that the Word of God makes us “wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (vs. 15).

Hearing, learning, knowing, and believing the Word is always the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit had used Timothy’s family and Timothy’s friend to give him the promise of salvation. Now Timothy was blessed to share that Word with others.

Many of us, like Timothy, are blessed with family members who brought us to the waters of baptism and who bring us to church and Sunday school to continue to learn about Jesus. While few of us may become pastors or travel as missionaries to other lands, all of us are witnesses to our family and friends. The Holy Spirit helps us share the Good News of Jesus. Many times small children bring big blessings to others by letting them know about the Jesus who died for them and rose again. This summer many of us will be going to Vacation Bible School. Is there a friend, neighbor, or classmate that we can invite to come to VBS with us? Can we be a Timothy?

When you join the Young Investors Club and become an important investor in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, you help train pastors and build churches and schools so that children around the world can learn about Jesus. Little Timothys (and Tinas) today continue to learn from God’s Word so that they too are “wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Prayer: Let me learn of Jesus now and always so that I might be with Him forever. Amen.

Small Stewards Bring Big Blessings Home—Notes to Family

Today’s lesson shares the importance of parents and grandparents teaching about Jesus to their children. What do you like about your family going to church together? What other times and places does your family talk about Jesus and His love for you? What does it mean to “continue in what you have learned and firmly believed” (vs. 14)?

Children are important faith-sharers. They are also important LCEF investors. Parents and grandparents, enroll your children as members of Young Investors Club (Y.I. Club) and surprise them with an occasional (or regular) addition to their account. See your congregation’s Y.I. Club coordinator or visit www.lcef.org for more information.

Carole White, District Vice-President (carole.white@lcef.org)
Rev. Bob Riggert, Director of Customer Services (bob.riggert@lcef.org)
Ruth Gerken, Promotions Director (ruth.gerken@lcef.org)

Lutheran
Church
Extension
Fund



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Mission Opportunities

A newsletter of resources, events, and ideas to help God's people passionately, intentionally, and faithfully extend the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world!

June 2015



School's out for summer! Students and staff both look forward to some time to relax, get away from the grind. Likewise, I pray that for your health and well-being you'll plan some intentional time away from the demands of the ministry. But summer isn't a time to completely shut down – there are many opportunities for sharing Christ and many opportunities to begin planning for fall and beyond! A great place to start is to **adopt a school**. Visit with school administrators, secure prayer requests, offer your members as volunteers, think of ways to recognize and thank the school staff. The local school – often the heart of a small community – is a great place to begin to *love your neighbor!*

External Funding Sources (besides your members and treasury!)

- **District mission grants** – Though the majority of funds were awarded in March, there are still funds available. Download an application at www.iowamissions.org.
- **LWML mission grants** – To be voted on at next summer's LWML Convention. Deadline is October 31. Download forms at www.idwlcms.org under "Mission Partners."
- **Thrivent Financial** – Up to \$250 available to make a positive impact in your community. Go to www.thrivent.com, "Making a Difference," then "Thrivent Action Teams."
- **Wheat Ridge Ministries** – If you're thinking along the lines of a health or human care effort, there are a variety of grants available from them. Visit www.wheatridge.org.
- **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod** – "Stand with your Community" grants are being offered as part of the Synod-wide celebration leading up to the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Congregations, circuits, schools and RSOs are eligible to apply. Visit www.lcms.org/standgrants for more information and an application.



Convention Connections

Let's visit at Convention about ways the District can support and help you in your ministry. Check out the displays or visit personally with me about any number of resources, including:

- **Coaching** – could you benefit from having a trained brother meet with you monthly, ask powerful questions that cause you to think and articulate what God has put on your heart? This “coach” will encourage you, pray for you and hold you accountable! **NOT** an expert telling you what to do, but a loving brother helping draw out and clarify.
- **Seasons of Discovery** – a 2-year process organized around the church calendar that equips your entire church to engage your community with the Gospel. Check out www.tcnprocess.com for more information. District scholarships available!
- **Building Bridges to the Community** – think a shorter, one-day approach will work better for your congregation? Invite me to your church or circuit to lead you through an awareness and initial planning for going outside your church walls to connect with the opportunities and needs in your community with God's love and truth!
- **Leadership Learning Community** – Join with 3-5 other brother pastors for study, prayer, encouragement and learning all designed to help you grow in leading an outward-focused congregation.

Articles or Podcasts - *Tell me what you think!*

- Check out www.lcms.org under “News and Blogs” including “Reaching Your Neighbors through Fellowship – Missional Communities.”
- “**Journal of Lutheran Missions**” - blogs.lcms.org/2015/journal-of-lutheran-mission-april2015 – how Lutheran missions lead to Lutheran churches.
- “**8 Reasons People are Leaving Denominational Churches for Non-denominational Churches**” – Type title at www.thomranier.com. Though we're not “too liberal” I wonder how many of the other reasons apply to the LCMS?
- **Download** the spring newsletter that unpacks the Supreme Court case on same-sex marriage (www.lcms.org/freetobefaitful). A webinar on May 28 will discuss the potential implications for the church (<https://secure.jotformpro.com/form/50534778062963>).
- **Go to** www.exponential.org/register/freeresource/ for a wealth of free resources on discipleship, church multiplication, missions, church worker health and more!



Ah, summer – I know in addition to ministry responsibilities, I'll be making time for some family vacations and I pray you'll do the same! As you plan your vacations, don't overlook the importance of planning your ministry and outreach efforts. If I can assist and serve you in any way—whether preaching, planning or promoting, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Rev. Mark Gerken, Exec. Asst. for Missions & Human Care
Mark.Gerken@idwlcms.org or 515-570-2331

Tornado, Bibles and Quilts

What do tornados, Bibles and quilts have in common? Disasters! When a tornado sweeps across your community, it is a disaster. When your Bibles and hymnals are burned by a radical group, it is a personal disaster. When you are a homeless veteran, a quilt is appreciated during your personal disaster.



Lake City Disaster Relief

Sunday evening, May 10, a buzz of activity began when Pastor Roger Carlisle called and asked if I was ready to “hit the road” because there was a tornado on the ground in the Lake City area. That began a flurry of phone calls and decisions. The decision was made that the Sac Circuit Lutheran Emergency Response Team (LERT) would leave for Lake City at 8:30 AM on Monday with their LERT trailer.

Later, the decision was for the Boone Circuit LERT trailer to make its maiden voyage. Pictured is part of our super group. Another 15 volunteers were working at various other sites. The bright yellow vests identified the wearers as LCMS volunteers. Our two LERT trailers were parked a block south



of the school, where most of the damage was, making a very visible statement of Lutherans helping a community hit by this tornado. Most of our volunteer work was done in that area.

Upon arriving, everyone registered with the disaster center and then began cutting trees and picking up debris. We soon learned that there was a woman on an oxygen breather, but she had no electricity to keep her machine working. So “Generator One” (two generators were generously donated to the Boone Circuit trailer) was brought to her house where we set it up to run her breathing machine, refrigerator and a heater.

While stopping for lunch, I noticed a mother with a Down syndrome son (age 6). She was at the community center to plug his breathing machine into a generator there. I asked if she would like a generator. With a look of confusion and disbelief, she said, “Yes, of course. Without this machine, my son can easily get pneumonia.” So “Generator Two” was taken to her home. It turned out that they were fellow Lutherans. Both households were very appreciative of the help received through our LERT volunteers. What an experience!

Thanks to everyone who worked at the Lake City tornado and for the support and donations from individuals and churches that made the LERT trailers possible. The Lord is truly blessing our efforts.

Join IOWAY on Facebook! Click here to “like” our page and stay updated on IOWAY: <https://www.facebook.com/iowaymissions>. Fifteen photos of the disaster are posted.

Bibles

Would you be lost without your Bible or hymnal? We take them for granted. How would you feel if someone took yours and burned it? Many Christians in Nigeria have an answer to that question. They have experienced it! I was told of the need, so I “put out the word” to the members of the Iowa District West churches. You responded!

Many hymnals and Bibles were delivered to the District office and to Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson. Pictured are Pastor Tim Jones, Nancy Ploeger, Ruth Goshon, Warren Ploeger and Lynn Menz as they relaxed after loading 2,095 Bibles and hymnals into the trailer at Jefferson. More were added and approximately 3,600 were delivered by Warren and Nancy Ploeger to Oklahoma to the “Voice of the Martyrs” who will ship them to Christians in Nigeria. THANK YOU!



Quilts for Veterans

Following is an update on the quilts for homeless veterans. Cathy Hammel shared, “Pastor Ken Bose, Ellie and I went to the Veterans Appreciation Event in Ames. We took about 150 quilts.

“While setting up our tables, several people came over to introduce themselves and ask about our quilt outreach. The Veterans Outreach Specialist/Readjustment Counseling Tech who travels all over the state in his mobile unit told me that he encounters homeless and needy veterans on most of his stops. He took 30 quilts to have on hand when needed. He will contact me when he needs more.

“I also met the Veterans Services Coordinator at Iowa State University. He did not take any quilts, but he works with a group of young veterans who have a ‘blanket’ program geared toward helping homeless and needy veterans. He is going to tell that group about our quilt outreach so that we can work together. He also has offered to help us with distribution of the quilts since he has many resources available to him as part of his job at Iowa State.

“Once the event opened, we met many veterans and handed out 76 quilts. That was a very rewarding experience. They were all interested in our quilt outreach and were grateful that someone took the time to actually make a handmade quilt and give it to them for free. We thanked each of them for their service to our country and gave out contact information for Trinity Lutheran Church in Perry and Iowa District West.

“Just before the event ended, the VA Homeless Outreach specialists from Des Moines and Mason City came over to our tables. Somehow they knew that we were going to have quilts there, and asked for me by name. I was surprised, and still don't know how they knew that we were going to have quilts in Ames. Those two ladies took all of the quilts that were left on the tables back to their outreach centers for distribution.



“So now, we have distributed about 350 quilts in less than a year. How amazing is that! I never dreamed when we began this project that it would grow so fast and get so big. I am looking forward to seeing what happens in the future. We have very few quilts left at the church. I know that people have asked Ellie about donating quilts. While we do not need any at this time, we will need them this fall. Thank you to everyone who has helped with this quilt outreach. You are appreciated in more ways than you can imagine!”

Pictured is one of six beautiful flag quilts made by Susan Menz. Many quilts were made by Cathy and Pastor Bose along with donations from many quilting groups in Iowa District West. If you would like to donate quilts that will be distributed this fall or before, as God provides the opportunities, please deliver to the Iowa District West office in Fort Dodge, to Cathy Hammel at Trinity in Perry or to Ellie Menz.

Upcoming Mission Trips

Mission trip to **Omaha**

You are invited to a mission trip to the Omaha-Council Bluffs area on **August 7-9, 2015**. We will be serving the homeless and working at a Women's Center. For details and the registration form, go to www.idwlcms.org (IOWAY). Funding/sponsorships are available.

Mission trip to **Pasadena**

Register today to join the team going to Pasadena, CA from **December 28, 2015-January 4, 2016** to decorate the Lutheran Hour and other amazing floats for the famous Rose Parade. We will also serve the homeless at the Union Rescue Mission in inner city Los Angeles. Ask about available funding.

Ellie Menz - IOWAY
ellie.menz@idwlcms.org
www.idwlcms.org
807 W. South Street
Jefferson IA 50129
515-370-1159



A SPECIAL DAY FOR YOUTH & ADULTS FROM ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, CHARTER OAK

What a blessing to welcome the youth and adults from St. John Lutheran Church in Charter Oak to Mission Central for a special tour on May 6.

The group was treated to soft ice cream and homemade cookies. They assembled in the Ministry Center where stories were shared through photos from around the world.

The group visited the Museum where they were dressed in clothing and artifacts from around the world!

The entire group was sworn in as special missionaries for the rest of their lives, and were taken around the world with the unique artifacts.

It was a day that many youth and adults will long remember. It is so important to GET TO THE YOUTH, BECAUSE THEY ARE THE CHURCH OF TODAY AND TOMORROW.

Pictured are the newly “sworn in” missionaries in our wayside prayer chapel!



AMAZING VOLUNTEERS COME TO MISSION CENTRAL FOR SPRING CLEANING!

What a JOY and BLESSING to welcome our group of volunteer cleaners to Mission Central. On April 22 we welcomed Pat and Ruth from Goehner and Blue Hill, Nebraska, who joined more volunteers from Denison and Mapleton. They worked diligently to clean each display item in the Mission Museum. This group comes each April and September to “spring clean the barn.”



This is another example of how God uses special people at just the right time to carry out HIS work here at Mission Central. Everyone has gifts, talents and abilities that make up the “BODY OF CHRIST.”

Pictured in the barn is this special group of volunteers. We can’t begin to thank these NOT NORMAL people that the Lord has sent at “just the right time.”

WONDERFUL JUNIOR MISSIONARIES AND ADULTS COME FROM ZION-MANNING

On April 29, the Honorable Missionary Pastors, Rev. Bob Riggert and Rev. Jonathan Connor brought youth and adults for a special tour at Mission Central. It was a special blessing to host this wonderful group of NOT NORMAL visitors.

The youth enjoyed dressing up like people from around the world! A special program was prepared for them and they had the privilege of seeing and hearing the DVD interview of our newest missionary teacher, Julie McManus, who is going to Kenya in East Africa.

It was such a blessing to have this group come and see the Mission Museum and learn what the Lord is doing around the world!



Mission Central – LCMS World Mission

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

Gary Thies
gary.thies@lcms.org
www.missioncentral.us

**MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Rev. Chuck & Jean Hoffman

Korea

Friday, June 19, 2015

1 PM



Kendra McNatt

Germany

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

1:30 PM

Pastor Carl Hanson & Family

Hong Kong

Monday, June 29, 2015

1 PM



Rev. David Baker & Family

Central Asia

Tuesday, June 30, 2015

1 PM



Rev. Shauen Trump & Family

Kenya, East Africa

Saturday, July 11, 2015

1 PM



Sara Berta Somogyi & Family

Hungary

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

1 PM



Rev. Kip and Ivy Hoech

Central Asia

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

1:30 PM



Dr. Steve Oliver & Family

Taiwan

Saturday, July 18, 2015

1:30 PM





Rev. J. P. Cima & Family

Asia

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

1 PM



Sharon Owens & Family

Macau and China

Saturday, August 8, 2015

1 PM



Rev. Shaun Daugherty & Family

Asia

Saturday, August 15, 2015

1 PM



Dennis & Boom Denow

Thailand

Thursday, September 17, 2015

1 PM





Carol Halter

Hong Kong

Thursday, October 15, 2015

1 PM



Persephone James

Hong Kong

Saturday, October 31, 2015

1 PM



Mission Central-LCMS World Mission

40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034
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HISPANIC OUTREACH IN SIOUXLAND

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



JUNE 2015

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

In our Sunday Spanish worship and Bible study, we have read through portions of the five books of Moses and are now beginning to read the book of Joshua. The promise that God gave to Joshua as he was going to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land is similar to Jesus’ promise to His disciples as He sent them to all of the world. The Lord promised to be with Joshua and the Israelites, and Jesus promised to be with His people always, even unto the end of the age (Matt. 28:20). We are sent to conquer new territory in the hearts of people, using the Word of God and baptism to make them disciples. As God kept His promise to Joshua and helped him to win the territory of the Promised Land, so also He will help us to win the battle against Satan and lead people from darkness into God’s marvelous light. No matter what the obstacles and opposition may be, we can make disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ with His gifts and power.

We ended this session of English classes with our traditional potluck supper. Almost every time we have the chance to try a new kind of food or type of preparation. It is interesting to see the children go for the pizza first. It is a multicultural food in our area. I remember asking one of my students which Mexican restaurant she visits when her family eats out. She said that they go to a Chinese restaurant because they want something different. At home they have Mexican food all of the time. Well, I guess we are the same. Many times we go out to eat something different than what we normally eat at home. We will begin our next session of classes in August, so as to give our volunteer teachers a break. We hope to have the children attend the various VBS programs offered this summer.



The Hispanic ladies group continues to help with the quilting and Mercy Meals taking place a Faith. We also distribute the Spanish Portals of Prayer and continue our visitation of students and other friends. We pray that our activities may help others to know Christ and His love for them. We want to be Christ’s instruments leading others to be His disciples.



St. Paul's English class on closing night with some of the students, family, and teachers.



Hope English class in South Sioux City, NE on the closing night for the spring session, May 2015.

Some of the students enjoy the potluck supper and games.

Students and teachers at the Hope English class work on some word games based on a Bible verse and the story of Jesus healing the paralytic.



EYES on Youth Ministry

Educating Youth, Encouraging Servants

2015 Iowa District West High School Youth Gathering

“What’s your name?” When asked that question, in one sense it’s a rather simple question to answer as we’d most likely respond with what’s on our birth certificate. “My name is...”

Yet there are other names we’d rather not have - names we carry with us, and names that seem to stick with us. They come from classmates, peers, and even family members. They come from past experiences and from poor choices we’ve made in the past. They come from ourselves when we look within us and see ourselves as unimportant, unloved, and unworthy.

It’s in this time that we will gather and be affirmed of the most important names we’ve been given. Not from any person or group around us or even from ourselves, but instead from God Himself. Through Jesus, the “name above all names” and the “name at which every knee should bow” (Philippians 2:9-10), we find our identity.

1 Peter 2:9-10 will serve as our gathering focus. With keynote speaker Audrey Duensing-Werner, various other breakout session leaders, music, worship, fun, and fellowship, we’ll be reminded which names really matter now and eternally.

“What’s your name?” As we center all things on God’s Word pointing to and fulfilled in Christ alone, it’s our prayer that all can boldly and confidently responds, “By God’s grace, my name is...!” (*Join us in November to finish the response!*)

PLANNING FOR THE IOWA DISTRICT WEST HIGH SCHOOL GATHERING

For: All high school youth from anywhere!

Dates: November 20-22, 2015

Where: All Gathering programming/lodging will be at the Embassy Suites in downtown Des Moines (101 East Locust Street)

Costs: \$195 per participant. This fee covers registration, daily breakfast, Saturday evening banquet meal, AND two nights of lodging.

Registration materials and pre-gathering studies will be mailed in the month of August. If you are outside of Iowa District West and would like registration materials at that time, please email sue.light@idwlcms.org or visit www.idwyg.org.

Pastor Jon Riggert – Youth Gathering Dean

Pastor Steve Hayden, Executive Assistant for Youth
steve.hayden@idwlcms.org



Summer activities and schedules can be a lot of fun. It is exciting to take long walks in the warmth of the summer, go on vacations, play tennis and golf, and go to the beach. Just to be able to sit in the hot sun with some iced tea is great. Our summer days provide a respite from our normal hectic pace.

As we make plans for our summers and anticipate some good times, the Scripture reminds us in Jeremiah 29:11, *“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”* The anticipation we experience regarding our lives on Earth cannot compare to the eager anticipation we feel regarding our relationship with our Lord and His plans for us, for we know His plans for us are all good. He’s told us so! He promises to be found when we seek Him (Matthew 7:8), and He promises never to leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). *“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to [us]”* (James 4:8). No matter what this life holds for us, we are assured that God’s good plans for us are for our good and will culminate in eternity with Him.

While you are enjoying your summer, continue to seek the Lord with all your heart by being in worship regularly, reading your Bible, spending time in prayer, and worshiping through your offerings. Our seasonal activities and schedules may change but God’s love for us is constant. In response to His constant love, grace, and mercy, we should be compelled to put Him first in our plans this summer, as well as in the fall, spring, and winter.

This summer is also the time when Iowa District West meets in convention June 21-23 at Camp Okoboji. During that convention, each congregational delegate will receive a very helpful tool for promoting Biblical Financial Stewardship in the congregation. It comes as a gift from the IDW Stewardship Committee and is entitled, *“Experiencing the Joy of Generosity.”* It is the prayerful hope that each congregation will utilize this helpful tool in the Bible studies it provides as well as all the other informational items incorporated in the DVD. Biblical Financial Stewardship is an important part of our lives as disciples and this tool is certainly helpful in nurturing that aspect of our discipleship lives. Please make certain your delegate makes this available to your pastor and Stewardship Committee.

The summer is also a good time to look into the future with hope and anticipate how God can bless your congregation in that area of Biblical Financial Stewardship. As your Executive Assistant in the area of Christian Stewardship/Discipleship in Iowa District West, I would like to help both pastors and congregations do just that. Contact me and together we

can investigate various ways of helping all our members grow in discipleship and in the area of Christian Financial Stewardship. Please contact me for more information.

Rev. Phill Andreasen

Executive Assistant for Stewardship

Phill.Andreasen@idwlcms.org

712-330-0472



Operation Barnabas

A Network of Care

Operation Barnabas, Atlantic Chapter, continues to serve the Lord through its activities. This is our fourth year of recognizing veterans at Memorial Day ceremonies in Adair, Anita, Atlantic and Casey. We are planning our second annual Adair Circuit Veteran's Picnic and are looking forward to Hy-Vee's Veteran's Day Breakfast. We have pitched in with the Atlantic Hy-Vee, helping to get veterans signed in, helping to get veterans seated and their trays to the tables. We appreciate the donations we have received from First Lutheran, Wiota and Holy Cross, Anita.

Our Chapter collected denim for the Veteran's Quilt project that Trinity, Perry is doing. Thanks to the ladies at Holy Cross, Anita for their generous donation which included a sewing machine. Jeanie Hansen's van was packed full for the trip to Carroll where we transferred everything to Trinity's Pastor Dave's car.

We have enjoyed serving as the Facilities Committee for the annual IDW Operation Barnabas Conference for the past two years and are looking forward to the first IDW/IDE Joint Operation Barnabas Conference this September.

The Chapter continues to look for ways to expand its membership and activities. We want to visit the congregations in the Adair Circuit to get their input for activities and service projects for veterans in the circuit. Please contact the church office at Zion, Atlantic (712-243-2927) and we will get back to you. We will be sending out information on the upcoming picnic and other activities. Hope to see you there! To all who have served this great nation during wartime or peace, "Thank you for your service!"

Rich Kanning

COULD LACK OF CURIOSITY KILL THE CHURCH?

The proverbial expression that curiosity killed the cat highlights the danger of probing the unknown. However, the original phrase means something entirely different—that care or worry could wear out nine cat's lives.¹ Even early Christians gave caution about excessive inquiry, believing that curiosity was corrosive to the soul. Saint Augustine wrote, "God fashioned hell for the inquisitive." But can too little curiosity hurt the church?

What Is Curiosity?

Lack of information motivates some people to ask questions in order to fill in their knowledge gaps. Curious people have a passion for knowing more, expanding learning, and solving problems. They are the ones who ask the most penetrating questions. Curious individuals possess a powerful drive to make sense of the world.

We think of children as curious about anything new. According to Ian Leslie, author of *Curious*, the attraction to anything novel is different from the kind of disciplined curiosity seen in creative adults.² Leslie calls this deeper, more effortful and mature type epistemic curiosity. These curious adults possess a strong desire for knowledge and understanding, which motivates them to learn new ideas. They relish problem solving. He also describes another linked form, empathic curiosity, where individuals exhibit great interest in the thoughts and feelings of other people.

Psychologists discovered that curiosity levels vary across individuals. A curiosity measure, the need for cognition (NFC), reveals that many people reach a comfortable level of knowledge and feel no push to learn more. Leslie believes that our access to easy answers led us to forget how to ask questions—what he terms the Wikipedia problem.

Is there an equivalent NFC measure for congregations and their leaders? And, if so, how would your congregation measure up? Ultimately, are churches that reject curiosity also rejecting viability?

What Are the Traits of a Curious Congregation?

A curious congregation is never satisfied with the status quo. While some churches get stuck in their misconceptions, curious churches focus on what is unfolding before them. They are the first to recognize that God is at work and see their holy ministry partnership in the church and community. Unfortunately, success often makes church leaders less curious because if it's not broken, why fix it?

Curious leaders are less concerned about rules and appearances than with what works. Although these leaders take the long view, they do not find the present boring. Rather, the details of current ministry efforts generate more opportunities to expand learning and experimentation.

Truly curious churches experience frustration at their information gaps and that fuels their desire to learn more. Leslie writes that we have an unlimited ability to ignore our ignorance. Some congregations practice strategic ignorance because lack of knowledge requires no action. The first step toward cultivating curiosity is to become



PASTOR TED REALIZED HE HAD A CURIOUS CONGREGATION WHEN THE QUESTIONS BEGAN DURING THE ORGAN PRELUDE.

aware of how much is still unknown. And real curiosity requires considerable effort and time. Unfortunately, congregations are prone to social loafing—what Leslie defines as the widespread tendency of individuals to decrease their own effort when working collaboratively.

Curious congregations demonstrate empathic curiosity. They respect feelings and place a high value on being a caring community. Therefore, empathically curious churches project positive impressions to the community. They are opposite from those churches known as “fighting and firing churches.”³ Non-empathic churches treat the pastor and staff poorly, ignore fair processes, and seem unwilling to stop a few members from accumulating inappropriate power. Too many of their members see the church in a possessive light—as a place to get *their* needs fulfilled.

Curious congregations develop skills in turning puzzles into mysteries. The internet creates an illusion that every question has a definitive answer. However, Leslie makes a distinction between puzzles and mysteries. Puzzles get clear answers and begin with questions like How many? and Where? Mysteries ask the more complex questions, which cannot be answered definitely. The curious church realizes that there are many things we cannot know. They work within these parameters to make continuous, and constantly changing, improvements instead of singular improvements for the short term.

Finally, curious congregations are willing to make choices. Fear and anxiety kill curiosity and keep churches locked in place. Curiosity can be more powerful than courage in the face of obstacles. Organizations that are fascinated by what they don't yet know are the least likely to be caught off guard by change.

Ask the Big Why

Beginning in the 1930s, social scientists moved away from asking *why* people behaved in particular ways and instead studied what they could observe people doing. These behaviorists took pride in the accumulation of objective observations without the subjective taint of invisible motivations. A more recent phenomenon is the perceived power that Big Data made possible by the processing of massive amounts of information. Proponents of data believe that numbers can speak for themselves.

One example of Big Data usage, the Failed State Index, was designed to measure and predict the states around the world close to collapse. Despite drawing from 130,000 data sources, the index did not predict the Arab Spring in 2012. Only experts with in-depth

knowledge of the region's history, culture, and needs could provide insight into *why* the events unfolded.

A curious congregation is always composed of people with deep faith, relationships, traditions, and history. Their willingness to dig deeper and ask *why* questions yield the most profound insights. Most questions tend to be the type where answers fit neatly. However, if the right question isn't asked, an insightful answer has nowhere to go.

Some Curious Questions

Even while many may still believe the current implication of the phrase curiosity killed the cat, the retort, and satisfaction brought him back, has also gained popularity. This reply takes back the original meaning and highlights the importance of asking curious questions. Below are just a few examples of questions that curious congregations can ask. How will your congregation respond?

- What congregational activities and programs are going well? Why is that the case? What activities and programs do we wish were more effective? Why are they less effective?
- Thinking about your current and previous pastors, what leadership approach seemed to fit your church best? Why do you think that approach was most effective at that time?
- What are the congregation's core values that help explain members' motivations and behaviors? What process is the church using to examine and transform desired values into core values?
- Is our congregation a neighborhood church where most worshipers live nearby or is it a non-geographical congregation, drawing worshipers from a wider area? Why do we believe we are called to serve in this location?
- If our church leaders could travel back in time to twenty years ago, what message would they deliver to those in our congregation? Would those earlier leaders listen and act on that message? Why not?
- Will the passage of time expand or contract our church's attractive options? Why?

1. <http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/curiosity-killed-the-cat.html>.

2. Material drawn from Ian Leslie, *Curious: The Desire to Know and Why Your Future Depends On It* (New York: Basic Books, 2014), whose work describes curious individuals.

3. Thom S. Rainer, “Nine Traits of Mean Churches,” <http://thomrainer.com/2015/03/23/nine-traits-mean-churches/>.