



DISTRICT NEWS

IOWA WEST

A new year in grace

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

EPH. 2:8-9

Grace is probably my favorite word in the New Testament. As Paul uses it here in Ephesians, it is referring to a loving act of God on our behalf. This amazing act of kindness is described for us in Eph.

2:5, when Paul says that we who were dead in sin have been made alive in Christ. This being made alive in Christ is the action of God. It is an act of His undeserved kindness to us.

As we begin this new year, it is good for us to remember that God's grace in Christ covers our sins. What was 2016 like for you? For many of us it was a good year. We consider the wonderful harvest that many of our farmers in western Iowa had. Maybe 2016 was the year you were married or the year of the birth of your first child or grandchild.

Maybe this was not such a great year for you. How many funerals did you attend



Rev. Dr. Steven Turner
District President

in 2016? This may have been a very difficult year for you. When we think of the past, we often think of it as being good or bad. The problem is, we have a better memory for bad things. Social scientists tell us we cannot help this. It is part of the way the human brain is wired. Negative emotions enhance memory accuracy.

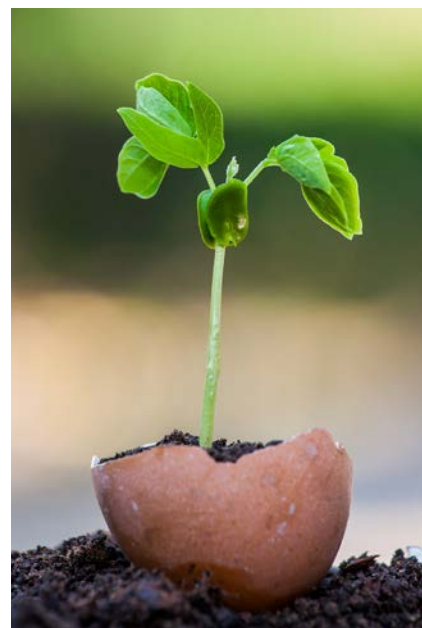
The good news for you and me is that God's grace covers our past. When we remember our sin, it rightly concerns us. We remember when our words hurt another person. We remember when we have been unkind to a friend or co-worker. When we ponder about the past, our conscience often troubles us. Like the psalmist, we cry:

"For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me." **Ps. 51:3**

God uses this time of contemplation of our sin to call us to repentance. We recognize our sins and confess them to God.

When repenting the past, it is essential to remember our Savior. We remember what Jesus has done for us. His death is an event that happened in the past, but has present consequences! His death on Calvary's Cross covers our past sins. The promise of forgiveness calms our troubled consciences.

A new year in grace is peace in the present. Jesus is with us and for us *now*. This gift of grace is received through believing in the promises of God. This



is the hope that separates Christianity from all the other religions of the world. Other religions point to what we need to do in order to stay right with God. Christianity points to Christ and what He has done for us. He comes to us through His Word and Holy Sacraments. We call these the Means of Grace. They are the way we are made alive in Christ today.

There are many who fear the future. They are afraid of what will happen in 2017. I remind you that until the day of Christ's return, every person will experience death as the last event of our physical life. There is no advancement in medicine or new workout regimen that will take away the reality that everyone will die. Fear of death is often the focus of the future. However, the

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Mission grants awarded



Congregations make plans for kingdom work in their communities

On Nov. 13, Iowa District West held its annual missions banquet for the purpose of awarding mission grants, raising the awareness of mission efforts and encouraging congregations in their local efforts. Held at St. Paul, Fort Dodge, attendees were introduced to something new this year: missionary partners.

“Missionary partners are efforts of congregations that must happen for the sake of the Kingdom, but wouldn’t happen if not for the support of the district,” said the Rev. Dr. Steve Turner, Iowa District West president.

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Iowa District West, we’ll still be able to partner with congregations through the grant process while also supporting larger efforts to extend the Kingdom of God.

The congregations of Iowa District West will be in effect banding together to be engaged and supporting mission efforts all across the district.

The district will be involved in what in the past were district-directed ministries, such as deaf, ethnic or church planting, but in a supportive way rather than as the owner. In fact, Hispanic ministries in Sioux City, Storm Lake and West Des Moines are three of the five missionary partners we hope to establish in 2017.

As participants heard the descriptions of this year’s grant efforts, it became obvious that there isn’t a cookie-cutter approach. Efforts ranged from establishing a daycare to intentionally arranging ongoing conversations with the unchurched over a beverage to addressing a need in the community and everything in between.

It reflects the importance that congregations need to get out and get to know their community.

Lori Lyons, member of St. Paul, Schaller, offered her reaction to the evening.

“As I sat at the banquet last night, I was in awe of the amazing things happening in our district,” she said. “I am so thankful for the gift of the grant and I can’t wait to see how God uses this seed money.”

Watch for accounts of what God is doing through His people in Iowa District West to extend the Kingdom of God. Begin praying and planning today for what your congregation can do for the extension of the Gospel within your community!

If you’d like help or more information on the district mission-grant process, contact the Rev. Mark Gerken (*contact info on bottom of page 3*).

Joining Jesus on His mission – in Denison

Thanks to a partnership with Dwelling 1:14 and Iowa District West, Zion Lutheran Church and School, Denison, has had a shift in mindset. No longer do they feel a burden and obligation to go on a mission for Jesus, but rather they go with Jesus. It’s a subtle shift that moves our focus

from what we can do and accomplish to what Jesus is doing. We simply love our neighbor as Jesus directed. Congregation members have learned to look for ways that Jesus is “messing” with them; to look for opportunities to share a little

Continued on next page

MISSION GRANT RECIPIENT

Teens enjoy 'Java with Jesus'

During the school year, it's common for high-school students to get up early for practices or other extracurricular activities. But gathering at 6:30 a.m. for prayer? Not so much.

The Lutheran Youth for Christ (LYC) at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Schaller, have been meeting regularly before school at a coffee shop in Storm Lake for "Java with Jesus." The senior-high youth discuss a teen topic based around a Bible verse and end in prayer. The grant funds help to offset the cost of the morning beverages.

LYC leader Lori Lyons says: "Two of our LYC goals include living out our faith intentionally and leaning on the power of prayer. Our core LYC group is encouraged to invite guests to attend "Java with Jesus," especially seeking out someone who may be struggling in their faith-walk or who might not know Jesus."



And it's working! One of the group's success stories is Rachel, a teen who doesn't attend church. Three times God placed Rachel on one LYC member's heart; the member heeded God's nudge and invited Rachel to the coffee session.

Rachel has been joining them ever since, has come to worship and joined the group at the district youth gathering.

"Never underestimate the power of prayer, the work of the Holy Spirit or the hearts of kids," Lyons says.

She isn't the only one who feels the power of seeing the youth get up early and meet before school to pray with other kids. The "regulars" and other customers at the coffee shop often make comments about how beautiful it is to walk in and see teenagers praying.

Schaller youth enjoy coffee with their Bible discussion and prayer.

Where does your congregation have an opportunity to reach out to your community? Pray, plan and prepare for an intentional outreach effort. Apply for a mission grant from Iowa District West. Go to iowamissions.org to download an application.

Denison (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

hope, grace and love with others whom God has placed in their lives.

For example, like many of our congregations, Zion is in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Yet how well do they know their neighbors? This past summer, Zion congregation and school, along with their sister congregation, Amigos en Cristo, hosted a block party for their neighbors. They invited those who live near the church and school to come to a free party with food, fun, music and fellowship.

"It was wonderful to see our neighborhood families come to Zion for this party and get to meet them," said Heather Hoffman, a teacher at Zion.

Zion Lutheran School is going on a mission with Jesus as well. They have organized multi-age chapel family groups that meet together once a month outside of chapel time. Each group has

chosen a different organization to love. Several chapel families have partnered with four nursing homes, one chapel family has chosen Open Arms Pre-school at Our Savior Lutheran Church, one chapel family has partnered with young families at Denison Job Corps, one has chosen the newborn department at Crawford County Hospital, and one is visiting with shut-ins from the congregation. They not only visit them, but look for ways to love and serve them.

The students are learning that they can join Jesus on His mission by creating relationships with other people.

The Rev. Greg Finke, Dwelling 1:14 executive director, has started a monthly conference call with the Zion teachers.

"We are able to gain insights from Pastor Finke and he is able to answer our questions as we learn how to help our

students learn how to join Jesus on His mission," Hoffman said. "It is exciting to see how the Holy Spirit is at work among the members of our congregation and school."

If your congregation is interested in learning how they can partner with Iowa District West and Dwelling 1:14 to be more intentional about joining Jesus on His mission, contact Rev. Mark Gerken.

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Guests hear of Lord's work in Latin America, Africa

It was one of those "full-house days." The building was filled with *not normal* people who love mission work. Yes, we were so blessed to have the Rev. Charles St. Onge and his wife, Deborah, and their girls, Olivia and Sophia. Pastor Charles serves in the Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Puerto Rico while also serving as mission pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Also reporting was veteran missionary Rev. Herb Burch from Lima, Peru, and the Rev. Dale Kaster and his wife, Suzanne, who serve in Ghana, West Africa.

Everyone was enlightened to hear of the growth in Africa and the amazing new work that is happening in Peru, where five years ago we didn't have a congregation. There's now four new congregations and worship sites that have been established.



Top, visitors to Mission Central (standing) prayed for missionaries and their families that are headed back into the field. Below, Rev. Herb Burch talks about his work in Lima, Peru.

The group also heard of the work in Canada and Latin America.

These three missionaries did an excellent job of presenting how the Lord is using them in His mission fields around the world, including sharing stories and showing pictures. It was a blessing to welcome the huge crowd that came from Minnesota, Nebraska and Iowa. These people are truly *not normal*.

A number of people were asked to come forward to pray for and send off these dear missionaries. The Revs. Leland Schmidt, Jason Wolter, James Moll and Brent Smith added special prayers

for the sending. The Lord sent this special group of people to help with this sending.

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Missionaries sent back to Germany, Thailand

What a blessing and joy to welcome people from all over the Midwest who came on Oct. 22 to hear reports by two of our veteran missionaries.

We had a full house when we were blessed to host Dennis Denow from Bangkok, Thailand, who has served in Asia for 36 years, and DCE Kendra McNatt, who has served at Trinity Lutheran Church in Frankfurt, Germany, for three years

People came from Cherokee and Orange City in Iowa; Yankton, S.D.; Montevideo, Minn.; and Lincoln, Neb. What a blessing and a joy to have them for a tour of the museum, followed by a farmer's dinner. The missionaries provided such interesting programs with details, pictures and stories of how the Lord is using them in Germany and



Thailand.

Many of the visitors were here for the first time. One visitor said: "Gary, I had no idea what went on here, and you can feel that this is a not-normal place!" Yes, we know that we are doing nothing here, but our Boss is doing amazing

things! What a privilege to send both of these missionaries and pray for them.

I think we need a bigger parking lot! Some of the young people dressed in cultural clothes from around the world. The group even saw idols from the jungle.

Mission Central welcomes Brent Smith

It was such a privilege to welcome the Rev. Dr. Brent Smith as a full-time staff member. With God's help, we will work together for many years to come. Old Missionary Gary is not retiring, but the load is so heavy that he needs help. This will assure that the work at Mission Central will continue for many, many years.

Rev. Smith is an amazing, gifted and brilliant missionary. Having served for 17 years in Kazakhstan, Russia and Germany, he brings the kind of expertise that the Lord had in mind for this important work of telling more and more people about Jesus! At Mission Central, he will serve as mission development counselor.

Smith has served in various positions in the church since 1995, when he left a public accounting job to work as business manager for the LCMS in Central Asia (1995-97). He later spent six years as an evangelistic missionary in Russia before taking on the role of regional director for the Synod's Eurasia region (2006-13).



Pictured are the Rev. Brent Smith, mission development counselor, and Ken Dunker, volunteer photographer.

Most recently, Smith served the LCMS Southeastern District as executive director for mission development (2013-16). In this position, he participated in the design and launch of the district's "iNeighborhood" initiative, as well as other special efforts to reach the unchurched.



Gary Thies, left, and Rev. Brent Smith sport new shirts, donated by Rick and Barb Bitterman of Algona.

What a blessing to also welcome a professional photographer to our staff. Ken Dunker, a member of Memorial Lutheran Church, Ames, is one of our 93 volunteer-staff members.

He was here on Nov. 5 to take photos of Smith as our new staff member.

15 YEARS

of dedicated service

August 2001 marked the beginning of a great adventure for me. I was hired to be the part-time Iowa District West Youth in Missions director, which later became IOWAY (Individual Outreach With Adults and Youth). On Nov. 5 — 15 years later — we celebrated at a banquet the great things God has done through IOWAY. I would love to list all the amazing outreach programs and events that I have been privileged to be part of and to publically thank the thousands of awesome people in Iowa District West who have been part of them, but that is not possible.

The 112 guests at the banquet were treated to a delicious meal sponsored by Carole White of Lutheran Church Extension Fund and to an original song about the ministry of IOWAY. Thanks to Rita Pedersen, a member of Trinity, Jefferson, for writing the words to the tune of Hallelujah. Diane Grant of Holy Trinity, Farnhamville, received \$15 for being the 100th person to register for the banquet.

As the evening unfolded, some of the amazing outreach events were highlighted. For more information about the following, visit idwlcms.org/iowa.php or call me at 515-370-1159.

► ETCH Coordinator Patti Anderson of Holy Trinity, Farnhamville, passed the baton of leadership (actually, a cross made in Haiti) to Larry and Cheryl Olofson of St. Paul, Boone. To sponsor a child for \$250 through ETCH (Education To Change Haiti), send a check payable to Ministry in Missions and send to the Olofsons.

Thank you to the many who have sponsored children and also, a huge thank you to all who have been busy making pillowcase dresses, shorts and diapers for children in Haiti.



The IOWAY coordinators, from left, (front row) Joni Carstens, Nancy Bruns, Jane Morris, Patti Anderson; (middle row) Lisa Zeller, Cheryl Olofson, Sandy Bubke, Nancy Goddard, Sharri Hansen, Kathryn Sprecher; (back row) Ellie Menz, Larry Olofson and Darwyn Hansen. Not pictured is Colleen Petzenhauser.

- Eleven awesome, mission-minded IOWAY coordinators, who are the “eyes and ears” of mission opportunities, were introduced. Contact me to receive a booklet of great mission opportunities and ideas.
- The mission teams to Pasadena, Calif., and Omaha, Neb., were featured and shared some of their experiences.
- There is an amazing outpouring of love as we reach out throughout the year to the homeless in Fort Dodge, Omaha, Des Moines and Los Angeles with food, clothing, hygiene kits, hats and quilts.
- Quilts and more quilts have been the focus of many as nearly 100 are now warming children in Compton, Calif. Go to idwlcms.org/publications.php for a wonderful story in the September 2016 issue of *The Lutheran Witness*.
- Our current focus is to hug 500 refugee children in Des Moines with quilts. (Wrapping up in a quilt is like a warm hug!) This need was brought to my attention by Dustin Ibarra, a school counselor who said that she made a pillow for one of her students who did not have one.

I learned that many of the 300 refugee children at Moulton Elementary School do not have a pillow, blanket/quilt or a toy. I sent word out to those on my distribution list about the need in a school that has 99 percent free or reduced lunches and has 27 languages spoken there. It is so exciting to see God’s people respond with quilts, pillows and small toys.

At the time of this writing, there are 391 quilts and countless pillows and cases made with love for the children. They can’t understand why people who don’t know them would be so nice to them. The quilts and pillows are making a positive Christian impact on the students, parents and teachers. I am looking into additional ways that we can show the love of Jesus to them.

- Another way to share the love of Jesus is with the simple gift of a witness bracelet. Thanks to all of you who have made bracelets. A huge thank you goes to the “Witness Bracelet Queen,” Mary Reed of St. Paul, Boone, for making thousands of bracelets. In just seven months, she made (give me a drum roll) 10,560



bracelets! Many were distributed at fairs and parades this past summer, along with the 7,100 Jesus coloring books. Note of thanks: 3,000 of the coloring books were lovingly assembled by residents at Perry Lutheran Home.



Mary Reed

- Hans Witzel of Castana and Lori Lyons of Schaller shared their experiences of helping families in Baton Rouge clean up after the flooding.

► **Children of Moulton Elementary School in Des Moines received blankets, pillows and toys.**

Barb Bitterman shares about "Quilting for God." ►

- The evening of celebrating was topped off by words from the Rev. Dr. Steve Turner, district president, who then introduced Barb Bitterman of Trinity, Algona, to talk about the wonderful outreach opportunities God has given her through a quilt, doll and toy ministry. The "TLC



Quilters—Quilting for God" group makes hundreds of quilts for baptisms, weddings, confirmations, the giving chair and other events. They also make clothes and items for dolls along with building blocks and a car mat for Mighty Moses.



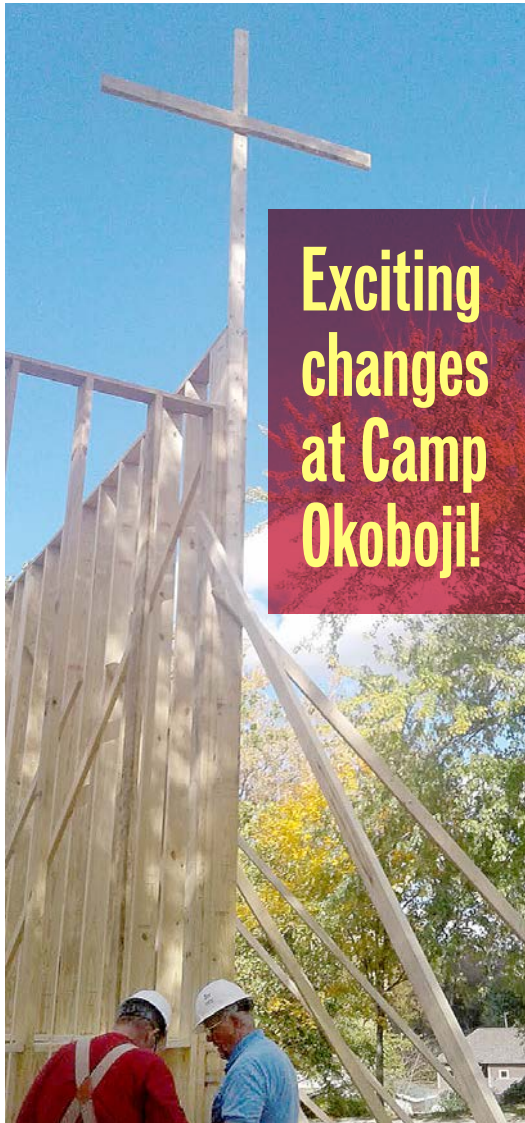
A homeowner collects his mail amongst a street full of flood-damaged debris in Baton Rouge, La., in September. Iowans were among those helping residents recover from the damage. Thanks to the wonderful generosity of Iowa District West members, \$16,800 was donated to purchase 84 "We Care Tubs" for families in need.

“God’s blessings to each of you as you honor God by serving others.”

Ellie Menz

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**Exciting
changes
at Camp
Okoboji!**



▲ Laborer for Christ Karl Koenig works on the DISCOVER Activity Center. It is hoped that it will be completed for the 2017 summer season.

◀ Lift high the cross! A cross has been erected at the highest point on the building.

▶ Local contractors help with work on the DISCOVER Activity Center.



Groundbreaking for the DISCOVER Center at Camp Okoboji was held Sept. 3 with more than 100 people in attendance. One guest was Lois Kuhl, who was also present at the 1940 dedication of the camp. The new building will replace both Hauck, where the summer camp staff lived, and the Crafts building. Phase 1 of the building is the activity center, which will provide an area for interactive program opportunities for campers and guests. The facility will also be used to offer programs and space to meet local area needs.

Over the years, many lives have been touched as Camp Okoboji has had programs for youth and adults to share the love of God through His Word and in

actions. Families have created memories during family reunions and vacations spent relaxing on the water or around campfires. With this new facility, lives will be impacted in the next generations.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund's (LCEF) Laborers For Christ is being used for the carpentry of the project. Laborers came from Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota, Colorado and Indiana and from all different backgrounds, including aerospace engineer, civil engineer, teacher and real estate agent. They didn't know each other before the project, but have come together as a team. One highlight of working on a Laborers project is the devotions shared during their 30-minute breaks.

Camp Okoboji is using LCEF's Capital Funding Services, with the Rev. Bob Riggert as the consultant. Excitement mounts as funding for the first phase of the \$1.4-million project is reaching completion. All praise to God!

Carole White

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LHM celebrates 100 years

By Mark Astleford

Iowa District West LLL President

Happy New Year! 2017 is a special year for Lutherans. We all know that in 1517, Martin Luther nailed the 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg.

1917 was also a special year as 12 laymen who attended the LCMS convention in Milwaukee raised the needed money to get the LCMS out of debt. Within a year, the Lord blessed their labor. It was the birth of what these men called the Lutheran Laymen's League. These men and this organization went on to set up pensions for pastors while creating what eventually became known as Concordia Plan Services, support the creation of LWML, produce "The Lutheran Hour" and "This is the Life" and other Lutheran television programs as well as spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ around the globe.

On the weekend of Oct. 21-23, Lutheran Hour Ministries celebrated the past 100 years that the Lord has used this ministry to bring Christ to the Nations. Lynn and I were blessed by the opportunity to attend this celebration.

This celebration was held in Union Station in St. Louis. There were exhibits to see and also a chance to meet with Lutheran Hour Ministries' directors from around the world. Many of these brave Christians live in countries where it is dangerous to be Christians. Because of this, people who attended were advised not to take pictures of these people because of the ease which these pictures could find their way on social media and lead to physical danger for these directors or their families. The evening was an Oktoberfest celebration with brats, beer and a large German band. Later there was a viewing of clips from the documentary "Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World."

We arrived in the middle of the Oktoberfest. It was nice seeing so many good friends. There were six others from Iowa District West who attended the celebration with us.

Saturday, Oct. 22, was a full day. It

started with an LWML breakfast for women and a district presidents' breakfast for the men. Also attending the district presidents' breakfast were Lutheran Hour Speaker Rev. Gregory Seltz as well as previous speakers Rev. Ken Klaus and Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer. Following breakfast, a meeting was held in which the history of LLL and how the Lord has used LLL over the past 100 years was shared. All Lutheran Hour speakers — Rev. Dr. Walter Maier, Rev. Dr. Armin Oldsen, Rev. Dr. Lawrence Acker, Rev. Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Rev. Dr. Wallace Schultz, Meyer, Klaus and Seltz — were honored. The international directors were also introduced and honored.

The afternoon session featured presentations from the Rev. Greg Finke, the Rev. Michael Newman, the Rev. Matt Popovits and Cindy Steinbeck. All presentations centered around the theme of reaching people today through the various types of social media.

The final touch to the busy Saturday was the banquet. Seltz interviewed Rev. Dr. Ardon Albrecht and Gary Hall, a Hollywood producer whose works include "The Simpsons," "Bones" and "The A-Team."

Hall said that he grew up on episodes

of "This is the Life." He became curious as to what LLL had done with those episodes. After several calls, he was able to convince Lutheran Hour Ministries to allow him to help put the old episodes into syndication, which would lead to stations paying LHM royalties and again present the message of these quality shows.

Seltz shared how he went to Hollywood to film lead-ins for these shows. Albrecht shared how significant an impact the original shows had on the non-Christian people in Hollywood who worked on the original shows. Many of the "This is the Life" shows won Emmy awards and often featured very famous actors from Hollywood.

On Sunday, Oct. 23, we were shuttled to St. Timothy and St. Titus Chapel at Concordia Seminary, where a very inspiring worship service was held. Seltz delivered the sermon.

After the service, we returned to the hotel and departed for home. Overall it was a very exciting and inspiring weekend. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will use Lutheran Hour Ministries over the next 100 years. As before, I ask for your prayers for LHM, the LCMS and also for our pastors.



From left, television producer Gary Hall, the Rev. Dr. Ardon Albrecht are interviewed by Rev. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Hour speaker.

Iowa District West

2017 Ordination Anniversaries

We share with our congregations the names and ordination dates of Iowa District West pastors who will celebrate "special" ordination anniversaries during 2017. Congregations are encouraged to observe these ministry milestones with an appropriate celebration.

If we have erred or failed to include someone who is observing an anniversary this year, please contact Jill Davis at the district office.

We rejoice and give thanks to God for these gifts to His Church.

Five Years

The Rev. Wade Brandt

Zion, Ogden • 6/17/2012

The Rev. Kenneth Bose

Trinity, Perry • 3/18/2012

The Rev. Benjamin Johnson

Gloria Dei, Urbandale • 7/15/2012

The Rev. Marcus Manley

St. Paul, Ute • 6/10/2012

Ten Years

The Rev. David Beagley

Memorial, Ames • 6/17/2007

The Rev. Aaron Flatau

Zion, Humboldt • 7/8/2007

The Rev. Steven Wichtendahl

Immanuel, Guthrie Center
St. Thomas, Panora • 8/5/2007

Fifteen Years

The Rev. Gordon Buchholz

St. John, Audubon • 7/14/2002

The Rev. Todd Bunge

Beautiful Savior, Polk City • 6/23/2002

The Rev. Jeffery Bauer

Lake Park (emeritus) • 6/23/2002

The Rev. Kenneth Hsu

St. Paul, Sioux City • 6/9/2002

The Rev. Mark Peterson

Mount Calvary, Eagle Grove
Immanuel, Rowan • 7/7/2002

The Rev. Steven Stoll

Trinity, Hinton • 7/14/2002

The Rev. James Travis

Calvary, Sioux City • 7/7/2002

Twenty Years

The Rev. Nathan Dudley

St. Timothy, Bedford
St. Paul, Clarinda • 12/7/1997

The Rev. Carl Hanson

LCMS missionary to East Asia • 8/3/1997

The Rev. Jay Jaeger

Ames (candidate) • 6/29/1997

The Rev. Bruce Lesemann

St. John, Storm Lake • 8/3/1997

The Rev. Donald Meyer

Trinity, Marcus
Pilgrim, Quimby • 6/22/1997

The Rev. David Sewing

Lincoln, Ill. (candidate) • 6/8/1997

The Rev. John Schonkaes

Christ the King, Altoona • 6/15/1997

The Rev. Daryl Tompkins

St. John, Clarinda • 7/13/1997

Twenty-five Years

The Rev. David Dahlke

Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines
9/6/1992

The Rev. Ronald Rosenkaimer II

Faith, Council Bluffs • 8/23/1992

The Rev. Russell Senstad

Redeemer, Sioux City • 6/7/1992

The Rev. Bill Van Nostrand

St. John, Vincent
St. Peter, Woolstock • 6/14/1992

Thirty Years

The Rev. Steven Benson

Luther Park Services, Des Moines
7/26/1987

The Rev. Kenneth Davidson

Zion, Atlantic • 6/28/1987

The Rev. Timothy Geitz

Grace, Le Mars • 6/28/1987

The Rev. David Kuhnle

St. John, Honey Creek • 7/26/1987

The Rev. Stephen Oliver

LCMS missionary to Asia • 10/18/1987



Thirty-five Years

The Rev. Timothy Braun

Hope, Des Moines • 6/22/1982

The Rev. Mark Gerken

Iowa District West office • 7/1/1982

The Rev. James Lamb

Marshalltown (emeritus) • 6/6/1982

The Rev. John Lohman

Fort Dodge (emeritus) • 8/16/1982

The Rev. John Riebhoff

Grace, Correctionville • 8/11/1982

The Rev. Robert Riggert

Manning (emeritus) • 7/25/1982

The Rev. Michael Sharp

Spencer (emeritus) • 6/25/1982

The Rev. Daniel Vogel

Amigos en Cristo, Denison • 6/27/1982

Forty Years

The Rev. Jerry Raether

Humboldt (emeritus) • 6/15/1977

The Rev. Linden Wendzel

Bagley (emeritus) • 6/12/1977

The Rev. Michael Wolfram

Spirit Lake (emeritus) • 6/26/1977

Forty-five Years

The Rev. Peter Wegner

Peace, Des Moines • 7/30/1972

Fifty-five Years

The Rev. Leon Hodges

Atlantic (emeritus) • 6/3/1962

The Rev. Arno Melz

Urbandale (emeritus) • 6/17/1962

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- JAN. 1**
 › Evelyn McMinemee, 95, Zion, Denison
- JAN. 2**
 › Esther Hokanson, 85, St. Paul's, Sac City
- JAN. 8**
 › Jackie Wathne, 85, Hope, Des Moines
- JAN. 9**
 › Eleanor Feikema, 80, Redeemer, Sioux City
- JAN. 12**
 › Bev Baker, 85, Redeemer, Sioux City
 › Charles Fielweber, 85, Zion, Manning
- JAN. 14**
 › Patty Rusch, 80, Trinity, Algona
- JAN. 15**
 › Dorothy Bielfeldt, 95, Zion, Denison
- JAN. 16**
 › Darlene Mohr, 85, Emmanuel, Lake View
- JAN. 17**
 › William Clausen, 80, Emmanuel, Lake View
- JAN. 18**
 › Phyllis Cate, 90, First English, Spencer
- JAN. 19**
 › Raymond Larsen, 90, Emmanuel, Lake View
 › Walter Poggensee, 85, Zion, Denison
 › Gretchen Leininger, 90, Trinity, Boone
- JAN. 20**
 › Lulu Gardner, 100, Trinity, Algona

- JAN. 21**
 › Phyllis Davis, 80, Trinity, Algona
- JAN. 22**
 › LaCrete' Richardson, 80, Redeemer, Sioux City
- JAN. 23**
 › Roberta Timmons, 80, Redeemer, Sioux City
- JAN. 25**
 › Leora Webster, 100, Our Saviour, Des Moines
- JAN. 26**
 › Helen Piper, 85, St. Paul, Ida Grove
- JAN. 29**
 › Lester Boettger, 80, Zion, Denison
 › Barb Lueck, 80, Zion, Denison
- JAN. 30**
 › Dennis Olson, 80, Trinity, Algona
- JAN. 31**
 › Ervin Kuhlmann, 100, St. John, Charter Oak
 › Jane Reikofski, 80, Timothy, Council Bluffs
 › Lucretia Lindhorst, 85, Timothy, Council Bluffs



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- JAN. 1**
 › Lester and Frances Boettger, 60, Zion, Denison
- JAN. 15**
 › Darrell and Rae Ann Mellencamp, 50, St. John, Clarinda
 › Orlin and Ellen Pratt, 65, Christ, Remsen
- JAN. 20**
 › Irwin and Mary Lou Denker, 65, Zion, Denison
 › Charles and Marlyn Fielweber, 65, Zion, Manning
 › Larry and Dawn Westphal, 50, First English, Spencer
- JAN. 21**
 › Johnny and Peggy Johnson, 50, St John, Storm Lake
 › David and Karen Weber, 50, Trinity, Boone
- JAN. 23**
 › Michael and Caroline Johnston, 45, Peace, Des Moines
- JAN. 27**
 › Wayne and Ruth Faber, 60, Grace, Le Mars
- JAN. 29**
 › Chuck and BJ Thomas, 45, Trinity, Boone

Correction: In the anniversary listings of a previous issue, Kermit and Jeanette Grote celebrated 50 years on Nov. 19. The last name was misspelled as "Grotesque." Sincere apologies for the error.

HEALTH

Avoid CO poisoning

Carbon monoxide (CO), an odorless, colorless gas, is found in fumes produced when you burn fuel in automobiles, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges and furnaces. Everyone is at risk for CO poisoning. Infants, the elderly, people with chronic heart disease, anemia or breathing problems are more likely to get sick from CO.

The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain and confusion. CO symptoms are often described as "flu-like." People who are sleeping or drunk can die from CO poisoning before they have symptoms.

Prevent CO poisoning by installing a battery-operated or battery back-up CO detector in your home. Replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. Replace your CO detector every five years.

Have your heating system and other gas- or oil-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year. Don't use portable, flameless chemical heaters indoors. Make sure your gas appliances are vented properly. Have your chimney checked or cleaned every year. Never use a gas range or oven for heating; burn charcoal indoors; use a portable gas camp stove indoors; use a generator inside your home, basement or garage.

A generator needs to be more than 20 feet from any window, door or vent when positioned outside. When buying gas

equipment, buy only equipment carrying the seal of a national testing agency, such as Underwriter's Laboratories.

Have a mechanic check the exhaust system of your car or truck every year. A small leak in the exhaust system can lead to a build-up of CO inside your vehicle. Never run your car or truck inside a garage that is attached to a house, even with the garage door open.

Take the necessary precautions to keep your home safe.

(Information for this article was taken from the Centers for Disease Control website — cdc.org/.)

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Worshiping as a family

By DeAnn McCue

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Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale

"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done."

Ps. 78:4

Telling, sharing and worshiping together, children learn best by what their parents do.

Children go to church because they follow their parents. They watch, learn and are disciplined about what a Christian looks like. In worship, children experience love and begin to build a sense of belonging to a family of faith and a community of believers.

I hear what parents are saying, that church is geared toward adults only and is not applicable for their children. I would argue that church is for all, big and small, young and old. God is at work in worship. Our children learn by being with their parents in worship.

Children are seen in worship. Learn the names of children in worship and call them by name. Make them feel important and welcome.



Children get to see in worship.

Children are imitators. As they watch the actions of those around them in worship — even though it seems like they are distracted and “doing their own thing” — they are indeed learning and growing in those moments. They are watching Mom and Dad and others they respect and trust to show them how to worship.

Children get experience in worship.

Think about your own faith. Do you remember when you first put an offering in the plate or found the Scripture reading in your own Bible by yourself? For most of us, those moments happened in worship and there was something

meaningful and affirming about doing it with the whole church.

Yes, kids are kids, around the world! We, as the church, need to find ways to make kids feel like they are part of worship. As parents, we need to be prepared for the unexpected, both good and not so good, and follow-up after worship to reinforce what was taught and caught.

By giving our children a place to be seen, to see and to experience faith in worship with others, we give them a foundation for their faith that will leave lasting impressions on their hearts. “We *will* tell the next generation...”

Make worship a regular part of the time you spend with your child. Let God's love be evident in your family life!



New Year

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

grace of God assures us of an optimistic outcome of our lives!

St. Paul assures us of that promise in 1 Cor. 15:54-57:

“When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

What will 2017 bring to you and your family? I don't know, but I do know that your days will be lived in the Grace of God. How can I be so certain? Because in the congregations of Iowa District West there will be baptisms and confirmations. There will be marriages and funerals.

In those events His Word will be proclaimed! He comes to you with a message of unconditional love and forgive-

ness. He covers your sin. This is not just a message of grace. He comes to you with His grace. He comes through water and Word in Baptism and through bread and wine in the Lord's Supper, offering nothing less than His Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sin and the strengthening of faith. He is God with us! And He is God for us! We have the peace of His presence always.

While I cannot predict the future for you, the Grace of God assures us that He will be with us always. So when this year or this life ends, we will be living in the Grace of God.