



## !AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

News from IDW Hispanic Ministry in Denison & Storm Lake  
Missionary/Pastor Daniel Vogel

Iowa District  
West, LCMS

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### PANCAKES FOR ALL:

For the past 5 years our Hispanic ministry in Denison has cooperated with Our Savior Lutheran and their Mission Board to prepare and serve a delicious pancake supper for the community before the Lenten season starts. It is a fun time for our Hispanic folks. The funds raised this year were to be used for mission projects and scholarships for our Hispanic children to attend Our Savior Pre-School and Zion Lutheran School and Pre-School. All the funds raised were matched by Thrivent and this year we raised \$ 1,400 and served approximately 200 people on a beautiful day.

Our most important goal is to bring our Hispanic folks together with the members of Our Savior and the community, to work side by side and to get to know each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. While a few of them are shy about communicating because of the language difficulty, they are eager to serve and work together. This experience also gives them an opportunity to see another congregation in action. This year Our Savior is right in the middle of an ambitious renovation project. Special thanks to the Mission Board of Our Savior for all their cooperation during this busy time!

In May we are planning a joint "Cinco de Mayo" Mexican dinner with Zion Lutheran Church and School. We hope it will be a similar blessing as we work together to serve the community.



### ASH WEDNESDAY IN STORM LAKE & DENISON:



These youth in Denison have just attended our Ash Wednesday service in which they learned about the meaning of the cross on their forehead, the meaning of ashes and the Lenten season. Afterwards they gathered here in the basement of Zion in order to practice for their hand bell choir. Each week we have a Lenten worship service, in Storm Lake on Wednesdays and in Denison on Thursday. In Storm Lake we also have a meal together following our worship service. It's become a nice tradition and also gives us an opportunity to visit with some of the English members as they pass through on their way to their Lenten service. Most importantly, we want to teach the story of Jesus' suffering and death for our salvation. While most Hispanics come from a religious background, whether in the Roman Catholic church or a Pentecostal church they have most likely never heard the Gospel story explained in great detail. Most have not read the Passion story for themselves in the Bible. Their Lenten background may have been the need to sacrifice something or just the opposite, that Lent is a man-made tradition that is not necessary. Hispanic religious culture is very confusing right now, from one extreme to another. We seek to provide the meaning of the Cross and the peace and comfort that our Lord bears for our salvation.



### CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR-DENISON:

This past year we have organized a children's bell choir with the effort of our special friend and musical leader, Mike Segebart a member and elder of Zion. The kids are learning music and worship and how they can praise the Lord in their own special way. So far they have played traditional hymns such as: "Santo, Santo, Santo" (Holy, Holy, Holy) for Reformation, "Tal Como Soy" (Just as I Am) for Lent.



### CHAPLAINCY AT THE TYSON BEEF PLANT IN DENISON:

As the Chaplain at Tyson I only work at the Plant 10 hours a week. But I am on call, 24/7. Last month I was called in for two emergencies. First for an accident in which a worker accidentally cut himself and was hospitalized. I have visited him both at the hospital and at home and he is doing well. The other call was for a worker who was depressed and talking about hurting himself. His supervisor and other co-workers were quick to reach out to him, and he continues to work past this crisis. I make sure that each week I visit workers like these two who have had problems. I check to see how their doing with fellow workers, with family, and their general well-being.

### PINATAS, A PART OF THE CULTURE:

Piñatas are a big part of Hispanic culture. Few, even Hispanics, understand that a piñata has Christian origins. The First Sunday of Lent is called the Sunday of the Piñata. The Piñata involves 3 parts: a stick which represents God's Word, the Piñata (usually a ball with 7 'horns') which represents the Devil and the forces of evil, and finally candy inside which represents the blessings we receive from God's grace. But these days most do not know the original meaning and most piñatas like the one below are cartoon characters and a treat for birthdays



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**Ministry Prayers**

**PLEASE PRAY:** + In Thanksgiving for our successful pancake supper in Denison and for plans for a Cinco de Mayo dinner at Zion School. + For our Lenten & Holy Week services. + For new contacts, Yolanda, Sergio & Cali and others in Storm Lake. + For new elected leaders in Denison and Storm Lake and for their leadership in this new year. + For a new adult Confirmation class in Denison. + For our new Carroll Bible Class and our new contacts for outreach there. + In thanksgiving for the many individuals, congregations and Circuits of the Iowa District West who are so supportive of this ministry as they see the need to reach out to their own communities .