



!AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

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

Iowa District
West, LCMS

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A NEW HISPANIC MINISTRY IN DES MOINES:

Last month God unexpectedly opened a new door for Hispanic outreach in Des Moines. The picture at left is a small gathering of Lutheran Hispanics meeting at the home of Pastor Jose Luis Avendano (pictured at far right with his wife, Laurie). Originally from Chile where his father was a Lutheran pastor, Pastor Avendano is a pastor who recently resigned from the Evangelical Lutheran church in America for doctrinal reasons. He had been meeting with his group in his home. Last month he contacted Pastor Henry Witte about his need to return to Canada where he is a resident (his wife is Canadian).

His concern was that his small congregation would be spiritually cared for after his absence. Since I live closer to Des Moines than Pastor Witte, from Sioux City, I met with the group on October 25. They expressed their desire to continue worshipping together after their pastor's departure. We were blessed as Pastor Tom Cole and Our Saviour Lutheran in north Des Moines agreed to let us temporarily use their church. We are so thankful for their mission Spirit. We worshipped for the first time on November 1 (All Saints Day) and had the same six folks in attendance. On November 8, at our second service, we had 14 Hispanics and others in attendance. I have agreed to lead worship with them every Sunday at 5 pm at Our Saviour. Most of the group are from the countries of Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador and have lived in the north area of the city for a number of years. They have been worshipping with Pastor Avendano for the past three years. The children are very bilingual and we hope they will attend the Sunday school at Our Saviour on Sunday mornings. We ask the prayers of the Des Moines churches and the District at large as we continue with this special ministry and outreach to the Hispanic community. Our prayer is that from this humble beginning of a few gathered in a home God would guide us to organize a Word and Sacrament congregation that would serve the many Hispanics in the Des Moines area.

UNITED IN CHRIST EACH WEEK

Throughout the year each Wednesday at Grace in Storm Lake our Hispanic group meets for family Bible study. During the school year our children in 5th-8th grades meet with the Grace children in Midweek Confirmation classes while the adults study. This fall we are pleased that the whole Grace church has begun to meet on Wednesday with dinner and Bible studies for the whole family. The picture at right is supper time with Hispanics and Americans sharing together, food and fellowship with Bible studies for all ages. I hope it will continue throughout the year and many will be blessed.





KIDS OF THE KINGDOM IN STORM LAKE:

These four boys, Kevin, Braden, Kout, Kevin (from El Salvador, Sudan, Laos, and the U.S.), are all in the same 4th grade class in Storm Lake's school and also in the same class at Grace Lutheran Midweek class. They are smart, talented and have a love for Jesus. These four friends represent the many cultures that are coming to our state and our communities. What a future these four boys have and what a blessing they and their families are to our churches and to our communities!

LOCAL CLERGY VISIT THE TYSON PLANT:

This past month I helped to arrange what has become an annual visit of area clergy to our Tyson Plant in Denison. This year's group included five ministers: three Lutheran pastors (Dave Sewing and Kurt Kaiser of Zion, Denison, and Merle Mahnken of Schleswig), together with Father Paul Kelly of St. Rose Catholic Church and Alberta Ervin of the United Methodist Church. In the picture at the right they are shown with Plant Manager, Gloria Rodriquez and Mike Schindler who led the ministers in a tour of the plant. As part of the program I also explained the Tyson Chaplaincy program and my work at the plant. We gave them an opportunity to visit with some of their members who work at the plant. Finally we served them lunch and visited together.



VISIT BY MELISSA

On the 8th of November we had the special visit of Melissa Solamon of the Lutheran Hour in Mexico. She shared the amazing programs that she and her staff are doing to serve the needy along the Mexico border, especially in Tijuana. Ellie Menz of our District IOWAY program works with Melissa to arrange mission visits to Tijuana and to Mexico. We pray for Melissa's work.



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PLEASE PRAY

+ For new worship at Our Saviour in Des Moines that our outreach may continue to grow. + For new adults to be confirmed in Denison: Marta, Alejandro and Faviola. + For our new Lutheran Hour Spanish radio from Storm Lake "Para el Camino" that it might reach Hispanics in both Denison and Storm Lake. + For our annual "Unity & Thanksgiving Service" that brings together our two churches in Denison and Storm Lake, together at Trinity, in Odebolt on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. + For the many individuals, and congregations of the Iowa District West who are so supportive of this ministry as they see the need to reach out to their own communities.