



# !AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

News from IDW Hispanic Ministry in Denison, Storm Lake, and Des Moines: **Missionary/Pastor Daniel Vogel**

Iowa District  
West, LCMS

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Pastor Witte preaching to the 80 Hispanics gathered for worship.



Marta Perez, Faviola & Alejandro Oribaba with their Confirmation certificates. Below the fellowship hall is almost full for a Thanks dinner.



## ANNUAL SERVICE OF UNITY AND THANKSGIVING:

Once again this year we unified our two congregations in Storm Lake and Denison for a special service. We met half way between the two towns at Trinity Lutheran in Odebolt. This year we had a wonderful turnout, not just from Storm Lake and Denison, but also from Sioux City. We had 80 in attendance at the special service of thanksgiving and unity. Pastor Henry Witte preached and his wife, Ruthie, played the piano and her special Venezuelan 'cuatro' (a 4 string instrument). We had a beautiful service with the children's bell choir and adult choir from Denison and other special music. The highlight of the service of Holy Communion was the Confirmation of 3 adults from Denison: Marta Perez, Alejandro and Faviola Orizaba. Marta has been worshipping with us off and on for many years and is so excited to finally become a member. She was a former Roman Catholic who lived in a convent for a few years contemplating a life as a nun. Alejandro and Faviola came to us through our citizenship class. Alejandro became a citizen, and they started attending our Bible class and finally worship services. They have also enrolled their son, Diego, in Zion Lutheran School. Faviola and her son, Irving, work at the Tyson beef plant in Denison so I see them during the week.

Following the worship service we had a special Thanksgiving dinner with turkey and all the trimmings, in a Hispanic style, followed by the singing of some of our favorite songs and hymns. We want to thank Pastor Glenn Hansen and the members of Trinity in Odebolt for again hosting this special worship of praise. The gathering reminded me of the words I recently read in a historical account of the rapid German immigration into this country and the need to serve these immigrants coming to the states north of us, from Wisconsin to Montana. In the *Lutheraner* (the German Lutheran Witness) of 1877 came this plea: **"Lest this great field be lost to the Lutheran Church, mission work must be begun immediately here and in dead earnest. The rich harvest-fields are fairly swarming with false prophets and deceivers. Sectarians and enthusiasts are hard at work....by lies and deception and drawing them into their nets."**

Today, 100+ years later these words are just as important for our Church as we see another immigration group coming to our communities. We thank the Lord that our District's congregations see this Hispanic mission field in their midst. Please pray for this special mission that God has given us.



## CHILDREN'S BELL CHOIR AT THE UNITY SERVICE

The children's bell choir from our Denison congregation played for our special service in Odebolt. They played "Seek Ye First" while the congregation sang it in Spanish. The children and their bells continue to improve and have become a blessing to our worship services. The children also sang "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" in both English and Spanish. Mike Segebart of Zion, Denison is our music director and has done a wonderful job with the kids. He and Darin Johnson of Denison also help with a citizenship preparation class. Our volunteers are so special!

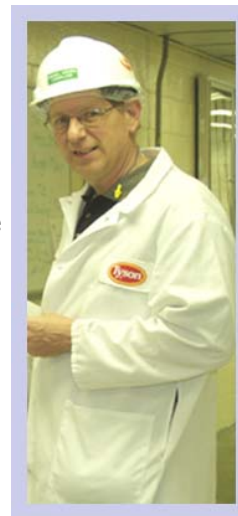
## SIGN OF WELCOME IN STORM LAKE

Thanks to the generous support of Grace Lutheran in Storm Lake our Hispanic ministry has a sign to announce our ministry and our Sunday worship. We thank especially Russ Dierenfeld for his design and the installation by the trustees of Grace. We are also planning to offer an English class and a citizenship preparation class in January. If you would like help as a volunteer in Storm Lake, please give me a call. It's not necessary to speak Spanish to help with these classes.



## MY TYSON CHAPLAINCY AT THE BEEF PLANT IN DENISON

Every season brings special challenges to the work at the plant. Now that the weather has turned wintry getting to work is a challenge for all of us. At Tyson many workers come from a distance. Two workers I know come from Oakland (a 50 mile trip). Those who work in the yards have to deal with the cold and snow. As the cattle come into the plant they are really a muddy mess and that makes cleaning and contamination even more difficult. It's a tremendous challenge for the workers and especially the supervisors who need to make sure they have adequate and trained workers at every station for the 8 hour shift. I am very impressed with these leaders and the work they do. I try to encourage them as much as I can.



### TO CONTACT ME:

#### Rev. Daniel Vogel

32678 Aspen Ave.

Manning, IA 51455

1-712-653-2354 or

**Cell: 712-309-1292**

or E-mail me at:

Dan.Vogel@idwlcms.org

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**PLEASE PRAY:** + For our Advent and Christmas activities as we prepare for the Christmas celebration of the Christ Child. + For new worship and adult Confirmation at Our Saviour in Des Moines that our outreach may continue to grow. + For adults confirmed in Denison: Marta, Alejandro and Faviola. + For our new Lutheran Hour Spanish radio service from Storm Lake "Para el Camino" that it might reach Hispanics in and around Denison and Storm Lake. + In thanksgiving for our annual "Unity & Thanksgiving Service" that brought together our three churches in Denison, Storm and Sioux City. + For the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who are so supportive of this ministry as they see the need to reach out to their own communities.