



# !AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

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

Iowa District  
West, LCMS

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The gym at Zion School was full for the afternoon.



One of many folk dances from Mexico & Central America.



Maribel is serving the Mexican soup called "Pozole."

## CINCO DE MAYO: A ANNUAL EVENT

Cinco de Mayo has become a **popular Hispanic celebration** in many communities throughout the U.S. in recent years. It is a Mexican celebration that remembers a successful battle that Mexico won over France on the **5th of May**. Last year our Hispanic congregation united with Zion congregation and School to invite the community to a celebration. **Our purpose was to unite** our three diverse groups, to reach out to the Hispanic community, and also to raise funds for Hispanic students to attend Zion Lutheran School. It was such a success that we wanted to repeat it this year. But this year we had a few obstacles. For example, the city of Denison decided to host a Cinco de Mayo celebration too, with a parade and picnic in the park **the day before**. We were afraid that this city event would take away from our efforts. But we were pleased that in many ways our 2nd annual event was **better than last year**. We had a great turn-out from our school and church families as well as the Hispanics in the community. We also had participation from our Hispanic congregation in Storm Lake. The band and many of the folk dancers came from our Storm Lake Hispanic church. It was a big event for our Hispanic folks to put together. **Irma Ardon and Maru Rizo** did a great job as leaders in juggling all the challenges. Most importantly, we raised more than **\$1,500.00 for school scholarships**. Again, we will be able to help Hispanic families pay for a Christian education at Zion or Our Savior Pre-School and Zion Lutheran School.

Thanks to all who supported this great event!



### CONFIRMATIONS OF OUR YOUTH

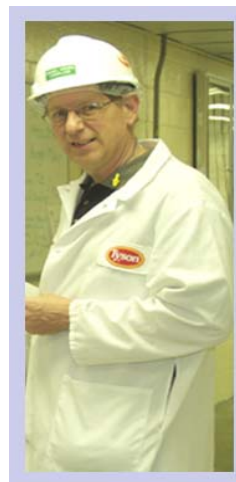
This year two of our youth were confirmed into the Christian faith. Both were confirmed together with their friends in the English congregations. In Storm Lake Kimberly Oliva was confirmed at Grace Lutheran with four other youth. She is pictured above with her parents, at left, Ramiro and Maria (Loli) and her godparents. At the right I am pictured with Jocelyn Morales who was confirmed at Zion, Denison. Jocelyn has attended Zion Lutheran School since preschool, I believe she is the first Hispanic to attend all her early school years through 8th grade at Zion.

**MOTHER'S DAY IN DENISON:** The picture below was taken on Mother's Day as we celebrated the special blessing of our mothers, from Rosa in her 70s to Maritza in her 20s. From many countries all our mothers share the same trait, a great love for their children and families. It's our annual tradition to celebrate Mother's Day and to have the children give their mothers a gift followed by a dinner for our families. Again this year we had a great fellowship meal together and enjoyed the blessings of family.



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

When all is said and done the work at the plant is all about the hourly workers. It's a challenging job! That's why I appreciate workers who have a positive attitude. Tom and David are good examples of the great workers we have at the plant. Tom has been at the plant for many years and has an important job mentoring the new workers. He is always moving around to wherever they need him. Mostly importantly he is an encourager, with all workers, no matter their culture or their language. I call him my assistant. David is a Mexican who has a very difficult job, but works hard, never misses and he too is very positive. God bless Tom and David and all the others who bring a positive attitude to the work place. What a blessing they are!



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**\* Please forward this newsletter to a friend, from [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org)**



**PLEASE PRAY:** + In thanksgiving for our annual Cinco de Mayo Hispanic celebration in Denison. + For our new adult Confirmation classes in Storm Lake and Denison. + For new Confirmands, Kimberly & Jocelyn and their families, that they will grow in their faith. + For new contacts in Des Moines, the support of area pastors, and for bilingual volunteers to help us develop a network for this new ministry. + For plans in May to begin a new ESL class in Storm Lake and for Pastor Craig Cummins of Alta as he leads it. + In thanksgiving for the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who are so supportive of this ministry and the many other opportunities for outreach in their own communities.