

HISPANIC OUTREACH IN SIOUXLAND

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We are thankful for the Hispanic Retreat which was held at Camp Okoboji, August 14-16. Many of the members from the Storm Lake and Dennison congregations were able to attend along with one family from Sioux City. All had a very special time and very much enjoyed the presentations by Mark Kempff and his wife on improving our relationships within the family. Mark Kempff works with the Institute for Hispanic Studies located on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

We have begun the fall session of ESL classes in Sioux City and South Sioux City. The attendance has been much better than normal. Almost 100 students are taking classes and over 15 members are helping with the teaching and child care. We give thanks to God for the participation of all involved. We continue to share the Gospel by means of bilingual Bible verses, stories, and songs. We also offer bilingual Bible reading after class for those who can stay. We hope to share the love of Christ in Word and deed so that many come to faith in Him.

On Sunday, September 13 we held our first Hispanic service at St. Paul church. We used the order of Vespers and began at 5 pm. Two Hispanic families attended and afterwards we went with one of the families to visit an ESL student who had given birth on the September 11. This was a good start even with a small number. We were able to nourish ourselves with the Word of God and then go out to others and share it.

Hispanic heritage month is from September 15 until October 15 remembering the independence days of seven different Hispanic countries. On Saturday September 14 several Hispanic groups sponsored a small parade that went down the main street of South Sioux City. Other activities were also held in the area celebrating these special days. However all would recognize that even though they are celebrating their political freedom from past Spanish control, they yet suffer from an oppression caused by selfishness and evil. All suffer from the corruption and injustice which still prevail in their lands. Violence and conflict have driven many to leave their homelands looking for better conditions. Yet even in a better country, they still have to deal with the slavery to sin that affects us all. As Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin....So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8: 34, 36). True and eternal freedom comes through Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection broke the chains of Satan's oppression and He freely gives to us this special liberty. May God guide us all so that all people celebrate the true independence in Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Children and youth with their leaders at the Hispanic Retreat August 2009

Rut Kempff, Mark Kempff, Pastor Dan Vogel, Ruthie and Pastor Henry Witte
Hispanic Retreat August 2009



ESL classes at Hope Lutheran-South Sioux City
August 2009

ESL first level students at St. Paul-Sioux City
August 2009

