

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DISTRICT NEWS

* *Planting Together* * - please share in your bulletin and/or newsletter

1. Education, Youth, and Family Life—Rhonda Mohr
- 2+. Business Manager News (Concordia Plan Services Workshops)—Roger Curtis
3. LCEF—Carole White
4. IOWAY—Ellie Menz
- 5+. Mission Central (Events at Mission Central)—Gary Thies & Rev. Brent Smith
6. Amigos en Cristo—Rev. Dan Vogel
7. Hispanic Outreach in Siouxland—Rev. Henry Witte
8. The Lamplighter—Rev. James Travis

MINISTRY PARTNERS

Camp Okoboji + Quilt Auction
Lutheran Family Service



ALSO INCLUDED...

Church Interpreter Training Institute
Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study
More Than Giving: A Doxology Insight Conference
Operation Barnabas
Pastors Golf Day

CALL ACCEPTED

Rev. Brian Licht, St. Paul, Carroll, to Risen Christ, Davenport, IA.

CALL DECLINED

Rev. Luke Timm, Clive, to St. John, Saint Johns, MI.

CALLS RECEIVED

Rev. Noah Wehrspann, Trinity, Long Prairie, MN, to Mt. Calvary, Indianola.

Rev. Eric Hauan, Trinity, Algona, to St. Mark's, Wausau, WI.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

CALLS ACCEPTED

Douglas Erickson, Candidate, Paullina, to Faith Lutheran High School, Crystal Lake, IL.

Timothy Moore, Candidate, Plant City, FL, to Principal, Zion-St John, Paullina.

CALL RECEIVED

Shannon Porter, DCE, St. Paul, Sioux City, to Risen Savior, Chandler, AZ.

CALL DECLINED

Chelsea Adams, Mt. Olive, Des Moines, to Cross Lutheran Church and School, New Braunfels, TX.

REMOVED FROM ROSTER

Susan Devereux, Candidate, Dyersville, 4-1-2019.

Penelope Doremus, Candidate, Grimes, 4-1-2019.

Julie Irvin, Candidate, Webster City, 4-1-2019.

Abby Rector, Candidate, Johnston, 4-1-2019

Abigail Seltz, Candidate, Fort Dodge, 4-1-2019.

Calendar of Events



May 6-7...Pastors Conference, Fort Dodge

May 11...LHM/LLL Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study, Guthrie Center

May 12...Mother's Day

May 16...District Board of Directors, Christ Our Savior, Norwalk

May 20...Pastors Golf Day, Ida Grove

May 27...Memorial Day, District Office Closed

Follow Iowa District West on these social media websites.



[www.facebook.com/
iowaDistrictWest](http://www.facebook.com/iowaDistrictWest)



[www.twitter.com/
iowaWest](http://www.twitter.com/iowaWest)



[www.youtube.com/user/
iowaDistrictWest](http://www.youtube.com/user/iowaDistrictWest)

Iowa District West, LCMS
409 Kenyon Road, Suite B
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

515.576.7666
sue@iowadistrictwest.org
www.idwlcms.org

Please note: The inclusion of items from outside sources in *The Messenger* is for information purposes only. Inclusion of such items does not constitute District endorsement.



Planting Together

May 2019

409 Kenyon Road, Suite B — Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 www.idwlcms.org
Contact email: sue@iowadistrictwest.org

On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

LCEF Kaleidoscope Fund Grant



Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is proud to announce the 2019 Kaleidoscope Fund grant process with a proposal submission deadline of May 31. The committee will then select ministries from these proposals to apply for a grant. Funds will be granted in amounts between \$15,000 and \$75,000. This year, LCEF is narrowing the focus of impact for the grants to Lutheran elementary education. Lutheran schools play a critical role in impacting the community through Christian education. Qualified grant purposes include: Faculty Development/Training; Curriculum Development; Facility Upgrades (Smartboards, STEMM/STEAM Labs, Sensory); or Endowment Creation (matching program). Each school can apply for one purpose. Visit lcef.org/kaleidoscope for full details and to submit your proposal. At LCEF, we praise God for Lutheran education where children hear about Jesus' love every day and we pray His blessings on the administration and staff, children and families, and the congregations and individuals who support Lutheran education.

Carole White, LCEF Vice President
carole.white@lcef.org

Church Worker Scholarships

Iowa District West offers substantial scholarships to those students who are going in to full time church work or those attending one of our Concordia Universities. Applications for the 2018-2019 scholarship are located on our Iowa District West website under the tab "resources" and "forms and links." Applications are due by June 1. Rev. Tom Schlund, Senior Pastor at Trinity, Algona, is our Director of Student Financial Aid.

Flood Relief in Iowa

Help Needed in Glenwood

1. Volunteers needed to assist people at the flood relief site to find items they need and to organize and restock donated items.
2. Volunteers needed to sit and chat with people during meals. There is also a need to assist people with paperwork and computer work.
3. Assistance is needed from accountants, personal finance specialists and counselors.
4. Current needs: glass cleaner, white vinegar, bug spray, waterproof work gloves, new bed sheets, large trash cans, long socks for wearing in boots, hand lotion, bath towels (new and used), shelf stable milk, apple-sauce, breakfast and protein bars, plastic totes, microwaves, crock pots, fans, dehumidifiers, toasters, women's size 6,7,8 rubber boots and men's size 13 and 14 rubber boots.
5. Gas cards—Many are living temporarily in nearby towns and the parents need to bring their children to school in Glenwood.
6. Food and servers for noon and evening meals. If you or your group/church are willing to cook/provide food for a meal, please contact Monica at 402-505-1266.
7. DO NOT need water, bleach, toothbrushes, toothpaste, or clothing.
8. Collect the needed items and deliver to the Glenwood Resource Center (111 Lacey Street) in Glenwood.
9. If you wish to donate to the Iowa District West Disaster Relief Fund, go to the district website (www.iowadistrictwest.org). Click on the "donate" button and designate "Disaster Relief" or send a check to

Iowa District West-Flood Relief
409 Kenyon Rd Suite B
Fort Dodge IA 50501

Help Needed in Hamburg

Four LERT teams have helped clean out houses in Hamburg.

Join a volunteer group on Saturday clean-up days by calling Terry Dammann at 402-250-6150 or Deb at 712-242-5345 and let them know what Saturday would work for you. Meet at 8:30 am at the Shenandoah Walmart parking lot at the LERT trailer.

To help on a day other than Saturday, contact Ellie Menz (IDW Disaster Relief Coordinator) at 515-370-1159 or Megan Schmidt (AmeriCorps) at 712-202-5351. Megan is working with the registration of volunteers at Hamburg.

Calendar of Events

May 6-7...District Pastors Conference, Fort Dodge
May 11...Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible Study, Guthrie Center
May 20...Pastor Golf Day, Ida Grove
May 27...Memorial Day, District Office Closed

For more information on Iowa District West activities,
view *The Messenger* at www.idwlcms.org/publications.php

Education, Youth, and Family Life

Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President

rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org

515-576-7666 office

515-573-0010 cell

VBS 2019

Share ideas or ask questions on the
IDW Facebook page: IDW VBS – Connecting Congregations
Ideas for your VBS

1. Assemble a team to pray for your volunteers and participants
2. Check with area churches to share resources
3. Follow up with families who don't have a church home

YOUTH

Junior Youth Gathering

"Come to the Table"

October 19-20

Sheraton - West Des Moines

Senior Youth Gathering

"Foundations Prepared"

November 15-17

Embassy Suites - Des Moines

Scholarships

Considering attending a Concordia University for full-time church work or for another field of study? Iowa District West has substantial scholarships available. Contact Rev. Tom Schlund at pastorschlund@trinityalgona.org or go to our Iowa District West website. You will find the Student Financial Aid under resources and forms. Here is the direct link.

<http://idwlcms.org/forms-and-links.php>

Iowa District West Early Childhood Conference

August 2, 2019

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale

Lutheran Educators Association Convocation

Opening Eyes, Minds, & Hearts

St. Louis, Missouri

October 10-12, 2019

Lutheran Schools in Iowa

ILSTO – Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization
A donation to ILSTO carries a 65% Iowa tax credit.
Please consider making a donation during 2019.
For more information visit the ILSTO website

www.iowalutheransto.org

or call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991

BUSINESS MANAGER NEWS
Iowa District West Congregations' Mission Receipts



For the Month Ending March 2019	
Anticipated Amount	\$117,200
Actual Receipts	\$99,949
Fiscal Year-to-Date Receipts	
Anticipated Amount	\$234,400
Actual Receipts	\$194,571
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(39,829)
Use of Mission Receipts	
Remitted to Synod (45%)	\$105,480
Balance for District programs/operations	\$ 89,091
Total Receipts	\$194,571
Mission Receipts Compared With Last Year	
Month ending March 2019	\$194,571
Month ending March 2018	\$225,626
Over (under) last year	\$(31,055)

Stewardship Corner - by Ron Chewning - www.StewardshipAdvisors.org – 248.644.6150

AS STEWARDS OF THE
GOSPEL, WE ARE COMPELLED TO
SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF
CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.

“Why do you look for the living among
the dead? He is not here; He has risen!”
(Luke 24: 5b-6a).



There are many reasons to do good to others, first and foremost being to express gratitude to God Who has made us, redeemed us, and continues to sustain us day by day. The Apostle Peter gives us another reason: “*Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us*” (1 Peter 2:12).

Stewardship Spark / Monthly Mission Moment

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars support the District budget in many mission and ministry areas? The District budget strongly supports missions. In the area of church planting/missionary partners, \$234,000 is budgeted to support five specific missionary partners:

Ankeny, The Gate – Rev. Aaron Hannemann

Council Bluffs, St Paul's – Rev. Nathan Sherrill and Rev. Tim Frank

Norwalk, Christ Our Savior – Rev. Bill Clark

Siouxland Hispanic missions – Rev. Henry Witte (and Rev. Michael Awe)

West Des Moines, Shepherd of the Valley Hispanic missions – Rev. Lincon & Deaconess Noemi Guerra



Any additional restricted dollars received by the District for these specific missions are forwarded on to each missionary. Donations can also be made by going to www.idwlcms.org and click on "Donate" link (top right).

Synod Convention Assessment

Treasurers, please pay your Convention Assessment by June 1 (thank you to the 90 congregations that have already paid). The balance must be paid in full so the lay and pastoral circuit reps can attend and vote at the Synod's Convention July 20-25 in Tampa. District has already paid \$61,000 to the Synod for convention facility rent, electronic voting machines, multimedia expenses, postage, printing, floor committees, etc. The convention assessment also covers travel, lodging, and food for 6 days for 38 District delegates. To learn more about the 67th National Convention focusing on the theme "Joy:Fully Lutheran – Rejoice / Pray / Give Thanks" based on 1 Thess 5:16-18, go to www.lcms.org/convention or <https://joyfullylutheran.org>.



Major Court Victory for the Ministers' Housing Allowance

Thousands of pastors and churches across America recently scored a major victory in the latest court challenge to the ministers' housing exclusion. The U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of appeals reversed a lower court ruling, preserving this valuable tax benefit. The Synod has actively defended the housing exclusion, including supporting an amicus brief. Congregations should make sure they have designated allowances for 2019, and should continue to do so annually until further notice.

For more information, [click here](#) to read an online article from Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).

Concordia Plan Services Workshops

CPS will be offering several education opportunities focusing on healthcare between July 9-11 in the western part of our District. Sessions will run from 3-5 pm.

Mark your calendar:

July 9 – Timothy, Council Bluffs

July 10 – Zion, Manning

July 11 – Redeemer, Sioux City

All Plans will be reviewed, but the main focus will be on healthcare, reviewing the health options available and new information for 2020.

Also mark your calendar for a Retirement Workshop November 8-9 in Ames. Watch for more information.



Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Fall Conference

The Iowa District West Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Conference will be held at Mission Central this fall. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, **September 17** from 8 am - 3:30 pm. All ministry assistant professionals are invited to enjoy a relaxing, inspirational, and educational day. Our special speaker will be Annetta Dellinger sharing several topics that will encourage and support you in your ministry. We will also hear from missionary Gary Thies. More details will be shared this summer.

Tax Calendar/May 15 – IRS Forms

The Annual Racial Nondiscrimination Form 5578 must be filed by preschools and day schools, whether operated as a separate legal entity or by the church. Schools that operate on a calendar year must file by May 15. A school that has a different fiscal year must submit by the 15th day of the 5th month following the end of their fiscal year. A copy is provided in the “blank forms” section in the back of the Congregational Treasurer’s Manual or search the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

Are Churches and Schools Required to File Form 990-T? The Congregational Treasurer’s Manual states “Member congregations of the Synod are excused as churches by this section of the law, and this includes schools operated by the congregation under its own structure.”

Churches must pay income tax and file IRS Form 990-T “Unrelated Business Income” by May 15 (if using a different fiscal year the deadline is the 15th day of the 5th month after their fiscal year closes) if gross income from unrelated trade or business was over \$1,000 in 2018. An excellent summary of activities that ARE unrelated and activities that ARE NOT unrelated is listed in Chapter 11 of the Congregational Treasurer’s Manual (www.lcms.org/ctm).

May is National Direct Deposit Month

According to Vanco Services (Give Plus), there are several benefits of Direct Deposit:

- **Smart**—Save up to \$3.15 per payment versus paper check (Per www.electronicpayments.org)
- **Secure**—Never worry about checks getting lost, stolen, forged or altered.
- **Reliable**—Funds are available to employees at the opening of business on payday, eliminating employee trips to the bank.
- **Simple**—It’s easy to set up and use—contact Vanco Services at 800-774-9355 or www.vancoservices.com to get started!



This process is not only helpful for paychecks, but also for your weekly offerings which provides for a consistent and increased flow of income.

Some donors never use checks, don’t carry cash, and seldom use direct debit—appeal to these donors when you add online giving. Donors can make one-time donations, set up a recurring giving plan, and manage their giving history 24/7 from any computer or smartphone.

Churches are beginning to embrace new giving technologies. In 2011, a mere 14% of churches offered online giving. By 2015 that number had ballooned to 42%. (Source: <http://churchexecutive.com/archives/is-your-church-following-the-3-ss-of-online-giving>.) Now over half of all churches are accepting electronic donations. Is your congregation practicing good stewardship and taking advantage of this giving option?

LCEF has this wonderful service established through Vanco called Joyful Response®; a FREE stewardship service for congregations, schools, and ministry service organizations. To learn more about the Joyful Response® Program, call Carole White at 515-240-2229, contact LCEF at 800-843-5233, or go online at <https://lcef.org/joyful-response>.

Congregation Online Giving Options

If you attended the District Convention last summer, you may recall Resolution 4-05: “To Encourage Congregations to Expand the Opportunities for Financial Giving.” In summary, congregations of Iowa District West are encouraged to explore the variety of methods available for online and mobile giving and to utilize those methods that best serve their congregation’s mission. With the assistance and leadership of Stewardship Chair, Rev. Jonathan Conner, the District website has ideas online (www.idwlcms.org/stewardship.php - click on “Mobile Giving” under the “Resources” tab).

If interested in donating to District missions, Disaster Relief, and other areas, go to www.idwlcms.org and click on “Donate” on the top right bar of the website.



What's in the Concordia Health Plan For You?

Learn about the 2020 Options

Concordia Plan Services wants you to be able to focus on what matters most to you – ministry, family, well-being. The CHP is able to help you do just that!

Learn what the comprehensive CHP can provide. With the CHP, you have a variety of coverage options to choose from. A member of the CPS Team would love the opportunity to tell you more about the options and the benefits available to you.

Questions? Contact Roger Curtis
at 515-576-7666 or email
Roger@IowaDistrictWest.org

Please Join Us

Health care is a big decision. What is the best plan option? Plan now to attend a workshop this summer:

July 9 – Timothy, Council Bluffs
(3112 W Broadway)

July 10 – Zion, Manning
(1204 Center St)

July 11 – Redeemer, Sioux City
(3204 S Lakeport St)

All sessions are from 3-5 pm.

Mark your calendar and join us for this FREE workshop!



Carole White MBA

Iowa East & West
Districts Vice President
515-240-2229
Carole.White@lcef.org

LCEF National Office
10733 Sunset Office Drive
Suite 300
St. Louis, MO 63127

800-843-5233 | lcef.org



Read the latest *Interest Time* at lcef.org.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

The 2019 Kaleidoscope Fund

Grant Process Now Open

Lutheran Church Extension Fund announces the 2019 Kaleidoscope Fund grant process is now open. The proposal submission **deadline is May 31, 2019.**

The committee will then select ministries from these proposals to apply for a grant. Funds will be granted in amounts between \$15,000 and \$75,000.

For 2019 grants, eligibility is limited to LCMS K-8 elementary schools. Schools that are RSOs are not eligible.*

LCEF invites schools to dream about programs and projects that improve and expand the reach and impact of their school. Applicants must select one of the following four areas of focus:

- faculty enrichment,
- curriculum development,
- facility improvements
- endowment creation

This year, LCEF is narrowing the focus of impact for the grants to Lutheran elementary education. Lutheran schools play a critical role in impacting the community through Christian education. Kaleidoscope grants for 2019 are open to Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) K-8 elementary schools.

*Note: LCEF Articles of Incorporation and Synod Bylaws prohibit LCEF from distributing net operating results to Auxiliaries, RSOs, seminaries, colleges, or universities of the Synod.

Visit lcef.org/kaleidoscope for details on applying for grants up to \$75,000 and to submit a proposal.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. The Family Emergency StewardAccount is known as the Family StewardAccount in the state of Ohio.

IOWAY Disaster Relief Opportunities

Opportunities to volunteer with the flooding in Iowa

First and foremost, please pray for the many people who were affected by the loss of their homes, employment and in the case for many farmers, their next year's crop.

HELP NEEDED IN GLENWOOD, IOWA

1. Volunteers are needed to assist people at the Glenwood Resource Center to find items they need and to organize and restock the center with donated items.
2. Volunteers are needed to sit and chat with people during meals. There is also a need to assist people with paperwork and computer work.
3. Assistance is needed from accountants, personal finance specialists and counselors.
4. Current needs: window cleaner, white vinegar, bug spray, water proof work gloves, new bed sheets, large trash cans, long socks for wearing in boots, hand lotion, bath towels (new and used), shelf stable milk, applesauce, breakfast and protein bars, plastic totes, microwaves, fans, dehumidifiers, toasters, women's size 6,7,8 rubber boots and men's size 13 and 14 rubber boots.
5. Gas cards are needed since many people whose houses were damaged are living temporarily in nearby towns. They need to drive longer distances to work and to bring their children to school in Glenwood.
6. Food and servers for noon and evening meals are needed. If you or your group/church are willing to cook/provide food for a meal, please contact Monica at 402-505-1266.
7. DO NOT need water, bleach, toothbrushes and toothpaste, or clothing.
8. Collect the needed items and deliver to the Glenwood Resource Center at 111 Lacey Street in Glenwood.
9. If you wish to donate to the Iowa District West Disaster Relief Fund, go to the district website (www.iowadistrictwest.org). Click on the "donate" button and designate "Disaster Relief" or send a check to

Iowa District West-Flood Relief
409 Kenyon Rd, Suite B
Fort Dodge IA 50501



HELP NEEDED IN HAMBURG, IOWA

Four LERT teams have helped clean out houses in Hamburg. A team of 24 worked with the Boone LERT trailer and three teams from the Southwest Circuit have worked in Hamburg.

Please join a volunteer group on Saturday clean-up days by calling Terry Dammann at 402-250-6150 or Deb at 712-242-5345 and let them know what Saturday would work for you. Meet at 8:30 am at the Shenandoah Walmart parking lot at the LERT trailer.

Help on a day other than Saturday by contacting Ellie Menz (IDW Disaster Relief Coordinator) at 515-370-1159 or Megan Schmidt (AmeriCorps) at 712-202-5351. Megan is working with the registration of volunteers at Hamburg.

There are many needs in different areas as well. Please contact me at 515-370-1159 with needs that you are aware of and with any questions about volunteering and/or donations. www.facebook.com/iowaymissions

Parades, Fairs and Community Events

FREE use of a LERT trailer in your local parade, fair, or community event. (If not in use at a flooding site.)

FREE witness bracelets to distribute at your events. I will customize the explanation card with your church contact information.

FREE "Do You Know Jesus" and other Lutheran Hour Ministries booklets.

FREE Creation Coloring Books customized with your church contact information.

Contact Ellie Menz 515-370-1159 ellie@iowadistrictwest.org



TRINITY LUTHERAN OF CHEROKEE ARRIVES AT MISSION CENTRAL

It truly was a very special evening when we welcomed the group from Trinity Lutheran Church of Cherokee. We could see that each one of the guests was truly NOT NORMAL! The group was organized by the Honorable Missionary Dr. Gary Jensen.

The group toured the office building, the Lord's Creation Theater, and Barn Museum where the WORD became flesh and dwelt among us. They enjoyed seeing the new artifacts that were recently added to the collection. It was a first time tour for many of the people.

We had the opportunity to take a picture of this NOT NORMAL group in front of the altar in the barn. What a wonderful group of Missionaries.



COMING HOME TO A COUNTRY CHURCH IN ELK CREEK, NEBRASKA!

It was “just like coming home” for Old Missionary Gary when he spoke at St. Peter Lutheran Church in rural Elk Creek, Nebraska! The people know about livestock, farming, machinery, crops, and the soil!

During the “Children’s Message,” ALL WERE SWORN IN AS MISSIONARIES FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES! They are pictured at the front of the church.

The people were so eager to hear about mission work around the world. This congregation supports their very own missionary in Africa. What a JOY to share pictures of the work of their missionary Shara Osiro in East Africa and another missionary from Norfolk, Nebraska, Jana Inglehart, serving the Lord Jesus in Latin America, based out of the Dominican Republic.



For their Lenten services and the Easter Story, Robin Schermbeck made a huge crown of thorns that you can see suspended from the ceiling of this wonderful church. There was excellent attendance at the Bible Class and the worship service as you can see from the photos.



IT is because of congregations like St. Peter and their dear shepherd, Rev. Bob Schermbeck, that we can continue ministry here at the Lord's Mission Central. This congregation is planning a "Mission Trip" to see this MIRACLE PLACE called Mission Central.

What a special blessing to visit a rural congregation that really "gets it." The many familiar faces are all PART OF OUR REAL FAMILY HERE AT THE LORD'S MISSION CENTRAL.

THE WORLD FAMOUS MISSIONARY JANA INGELHART COMES TO MISSION CENTRAL

People drive by Mission Central and say, "What's going on at that place in the middle of nowhere?"

Yes, there is NO PLACE LIKE IT IN THE WHOLE WORLD! How in the world could the Lord use an old set of farm buildings in the middle of nowhere to get HIS WORK DONE?

With God ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE and this is truly a Miracle Place! The Lord sent the world famous Missionary Jana Inglehart to report in person to about 135 people on March 25, 2019! Jana told of her work based out of the Dominican Republic and how the Lord is using her to touch the lives of many people all over Latin America!

This group came from the Gretna and Omaha areas. Jana is pictured presenting to the crowd. It was another very special day!



Mission Central – LCMS World Mission

40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034
712-882-1029

Gary Thies (gary.thies@lcms.org)
Rev. Brent Smith (brent.smith@lcms.org)
www.missioncentral.us

MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Alyssa Anders
St. Petersburg, Russia
Wednesday, May 8, 2019
1 PM



D B & Family
Saturday, May 18, 2019
1 PM

President Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer
Concordia Seminary-St. Louis
Thursday, May 30, 2019
Ascension Service - 7 PM



Dr. Martin and Marie Dicke
Papua New Guinea
Saturday, June 1, 2019
1 PM

Rev. Steve and Cindy Schumacher

Ghana West Africa

Saturday, June 1, 2019

1:30 PM



Rev. Charles and Connie Cortright

St. Petersburg, Russia

Saturday, June 22, 2019

1 PM

Rev. Michael and Irene Paul & family

Taiwan

Saturday, June 22, 2019

1:30 PM



Rev. Adam and Christine Lehman & family

Spain

Saturday, June 22, 2019

2 PM

Rev. Dr. Joel Fritsche and Family
Dominican Republic
Saturday, July 20, 2019
1 PM



Michael & Beth Ritzman and Family
Papua New Guinea
Saturday, July 20, 2019
1:30 PM

Dr. Steve Oliver and Family
Taiwan
Saturday, July 27, 2019
1 PM



Rev. Carl Hanson and Family
Hong Kong
Saturday, July 27, 2019
1:30 PM

Cindy Wrucke
Czech Republic
Friday, September 13, 2019
1 PM



Mission Central-LCMS World Mission

40718 Highway E 16
Mapleton, Iowa 51034
Phone: 712-882-1029

Gary Thies - gary.thies@lcms.org
Rev. Brent Smith - brent.smith@lcms.org
www.missioncentral.us



!AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

News from ***La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo***: Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Vacancy Pastor Daniel Vogel, Denison, Iowa

Iowa District
 West, LCMS

MAY 2019



LENT AND HOLY TRADITIONS: Lent, or in Spanish “Cuaresma,” comes from the word for “forty”. Lent is a very meaningful season for Hispanics who come from a Roman Catholic tradition. In many Hispanic countries, Holy Week is a holiday; and, while many hold it sacred, others use it to vacation. Many Hispanics today have a Protestant, Pentecostal background that strongly rejects the traditions of the Roman church. So it is an opportunity to teach the true meaning of the Lenten remembrance of our Lord Jesus and his journey to the Cross and Open Tomb in this season and especially during Holy Week. We have special weekly services during Lent and during Holy Week. In Denison we have a special Easter service followed by a Easter hunt (yes the kids know about Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny too) in the school gym and an Easter dinner together. It is not only a wonderful spiritual season but also a special time of fellowship.

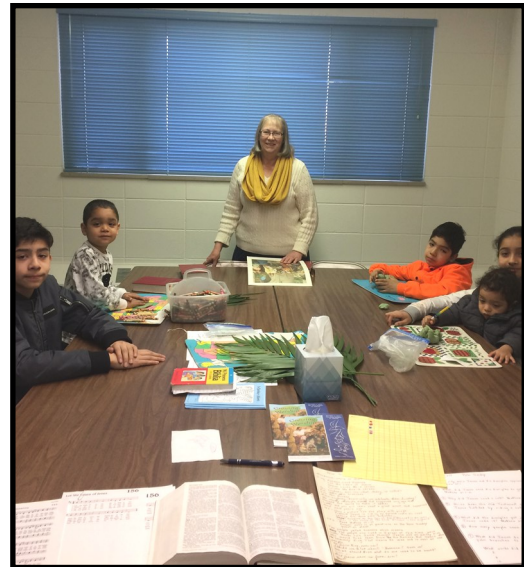


Procession of worshipers at Amigos en Cristo en Denison on Palm Sunday



Some of our faithful leaders at Grace, Storm Lake on Palm Sunday: from left, Lissette, Guadalupe, Danny, Humberto, Francesca and Emilia.

Like all of us, our Hispanic members are very busy and we have much to share together. This group of leaders at left in Storm Lake work in many different areas of the community. For example, Lissette is a math and ESL teacher. Her mother Guadalupe works at the Tyson turkey plant. Danny drives his semi throughout the region. Humberto is a professional guitarist and his wife Francesca works at the Tyson pork plant. Emilia is a school liaison leader with the Hispanic community and is also a member of the Storm Lake school board. They and the other gifted members of our mission at Grace bring many blessings to our communities. May God bless us at Easter!



Weekly Bible Studies at Amigos and Storm Lake

Bible study is an important part of our ministries in both Storm Lake and Denison. At Amigos in Denison we have 3 weekly Bible classes: Wednesday morning (picture above at left); Thursday evening; and Sunday after church. All of our Bible classes at Amigos are bilingual as some English speakers with Mike Segebart attend. Mike teaches ESL, plays the piano and is our Financial secretary but he does not speak fluent Spanish. The picture above at right is my wife Paula's Sunday school class at Grace, Storm Lake. She teaches the children in English as that is their main language. This year we are making a special emphasis of Bible use (buy and bring your own Bible) and Bible study in this year of our 20th anniversary. Many of our members have not grown up with Bible study and so we challenge them to participate, to understand the meaning of God's Word for their lives in order to learn to disciple others.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Our ministry is a joint outreach through our two Hispanic churches in Denison and Storm Lake. We are so grateful for the congregations and individuals who sacrificially support our ministry either with special donations or by Thrivent Choice dollars. If you have any questions on how you can support our Hispanic ministry, especially with Thrivent Choice dollars, please contact your local Thrivent Financial representative or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836. We thank all who have shared their love with us in the past months. God bless you all! You are welcome to visit our services on Sunday: 10:30AM at Grace in Storm Lake and 12:30PM at Zion in Denison. If you'd like me to come and give a presentation at your church or group, please give me a call. God bless your month!

Rev. Daniel Vogel

32678 Aspen Ave.

Manning, Iowa 51455

Home: 712-653-2354

Cell: 712-309-1292

E-mail:

daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org



PLEASE PRAY: + For Elbert, our first baby baptized in Denison, and this month to be confirmed with the youth at Zion. + For our newly installed leaders: Domingo, Eliseo, Wendy, Mayra and Mike elected at Amigos, Denison. + For new visiting families, especially Sergio, Cali, and Cristiana in Storm Lake and for the families of Elvia and Crystal in Denison. + For Betin in Storm Lake and the blessing of his music in worship.
+ *In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants in Denison & Storm Lake and also in our other 2 missions in Sioux City and Des Moines.*

HISPANIC OUTREACH IN SIOUXLAND

Rev. Henry and Ruthie Witte
1013 South Newton Street
Sioux City, IA 51106
712-202-4751
handrwitte@gmail.com



May 2019

I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. John 14:2b-3

Where is a nice place to live? Each person may have their own answer to that question. People move within their country because of work, education, health, family, friends, safety, etc. Likewise, people move outside their country to a new land for similar reasons. All seek to have improved lives and yet many may not want to stay permanently in their new location. They may want to go back to their place of origin or to somewhere else when they have the chance. Of course, there is no perfect place to live, and even formerly very nice places can easily change into undesirable places.

Jesus died and rose again to make possible a perfect place for all people. He opened heaven and prepared a place for us. What makes this place perfect is Jesus. Living with Him and the Father and Spirit in perfect harmony with all believers becomes a holy and eternal communion where sin and suffering are removed and death is gone. Jesus wants all to be with Him in this place that He has prepared. He wants all to live in His love and glory. He also promised to be with His followers in this earthly life. Wherever we may live now or relocate in the future, He will be with us even to the end of the ages. He helps us to live wherever we may reside in this world. We pray that all the other fellow residents will likewise see Jesus wherever they may be located in this world and then see Him fully in the world to come. May God help us to share the message of Jesus and His promises.

Several members from four local congregations were able to hand out Bible tracts and booklets with the Easter story at the Sioux City Multicultural Fair in March. They also had opportunity to inform others about the English classes and worship in English and Spanish. We thank these members for their service.

I and another member from Hope were able to attend a workshop on reaching the second-generation immigrants with God's Word. As the children of immigrants advance in their schooling, they become more fluent in English than in the native tongue of their parents. Thus, as we reach out in different languages to the first-generation immigrants, we must be prepared to include English in the worship and Bible studies so that the children and youth may participate and understand. We are thankful for this opportunity to hear two missionaries to immigrants, one to Hispanics and the other to Ethiopians.

Once a month we invite representatives from the local congregations to a meeting to discuss the outreach to Hispanics in the Siouxland area. We share ideas and needs in order to better proclaim the Gospel to these immigrants and others when possible. We hope that this joint effort will receive the necessary support to continue as long as necessary. May God guide us all as we seek to make new disciples from all nations.



Helpers at the
Multicultural Fair
Sioux City, Iowa

Multicultural Fair
Sioux City, Iowa



Area Hispanic Ministry Committee

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens, Lord, with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, O abide with me (LSB 890)**

L: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

L: Our help is in the Lord

C: The Maker of the Heavens and the Earth

Reading: Psalm 46:1-3

God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.

When Your Strength is Gone

It is not fun to be stuck in bed due to surgery, getting sick, or your body just won't move any longer. I write this devotion while recovering from surgery.

I remember when I was able to run a mile, jump from a tree house, drive anywhere I wanted at any time, and even make enough food for 100 people in one day by myself. But in the hospital, I can do nothing but have others wait on me. I even need someone to take me to the bathroom. I understand what it means to feel worthless, shamed, and helpless.

Being helpless is a gift of God. It reminds us that we can do nothing without God's help. Just as I depend on the nurses to bring medicine and guide me to the bathroom, so I must depend on God for all things.

We need God to bring our loved ones back to faith, we need God to provide good weather for the crops, we need God to provide healing, and most importantly we need God to bring us to heaven.

Have you ever said, "If only I had my strength back then I could...?" What's the answer? Could you really save the world, save our country, or even save the church if you had the strength? I believe, even with all our strength plus extra, we are totally helpless and in need of God's help. We are His instruments to do His work in this world. He uses us when we are weak to shame the so-called wise and the strong. For example, God uses our feeble prayers, words and quoting the Bible to convict and rescue those around us.

I knew a young quadriplegic person who was completely helpless and in bed for probably decades. She was powerfully showing all who visited her how wonderful faith really is. She brought me closer to God with her simple broken and strained words, "Jesus loves me." If God can use her and her thousands of problems, then I know He can use you when you are helpless too! So therefore "We will not fear, though the earth give way..." Life will get bad for most of us, but God is still in total control.

Ultimately, God sent His Son Jesus to connect us back to Himself by His death and resurrection. He died to take our sins away thus reconciling us back to God. Jesus was raised for our justification. Because of this God-provided Father/Son Father/Daughter relationship, we are no longer helpless. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit make us no longer helpless, but helped!

In the name of Jesus Christ!

Prayers:

Almighty and most merciful God, in this earthly life we endure sufferings and death before we enter into eternal

glory. Grant us grace at all times to subject ourselves to Your holy will and continue steadfast in the true faith to the end of our lives that we may know the peace and joy of the blessed hope of the resurrection of the dead and of the glory of the world to come. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (LSB Prayer 279)

Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of life and everything in Your creation that enriches our physical lives. By Your merciful guidance, aid and strengthen those with physical disabilities, and enable them to find fulfillment in their lives and encouragement and support for all their endeavors; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (LSB Prayer 285)

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look with favor upon Your servant _____. Assure them of Your mercy, deliver them from the temptations of the evil one, and give them patience and comfort in their illness. If it please You, restore them to health, or give the grace to accept this tribulation with courage and hope; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. (LSB Prayer 254)

O Father of all wisdom and understanding, watch over all those who graduate from high school, college, and other training centers. Give to them the wisdom to stay the course of faith and not run by the ways of the world with folly. Bless them with jobs, families and homes that will continue to support them through the helpless times of life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Blessing: The peace of the LORD be with you this day!

Rev. James Travis
Calvary Lutheran Church, Sioux City

THE LAMPLIGHTER



Theme: "Help for the Helpless"

May 2019

*A Publication of The Lutheran Service Auxiliary
Sioux City, Iowa*

The Good Shepherd Hour airs every Sunday
morning on the following radio stations:

KSCJ – 1360 AM & 94.9 FM Sioux City at 8 a.m.

KLEM – 1410 AM & 96.9 FM Le Mars at 8 a.m.

KAYL – 101.7 FM Storm Lake at 8:30 a.m.

KVFD – 1400 AM Fort Dodge at 8 a.m.

What's Happening AT YOUR CAMP?



May Events!

- May 1-2 Mt. Olive Lutheran School 7th Grade Class Retreat
- May 5 Omelet Brunch 9:30 AM to 1 PM
- May 18 Volunteer Work Day
- May 19 Summer Staff Arrives
- May 20 Summer Staff Training begins
- May 22-24 Continuing Education Workshop
- May 27 Memorial Day Commemoration at 9:30 AM
- May 31 Kids Kamp begins!



Continuing Education Workshop—May 22-24

Details!

Dr. Reed Lessing will be the guest speaker for this event. The topic is Zechariah: Behold Your King! It is based on Reed's forthcoming Concordia Publishing House commentary on Zechariah.



To register for the workshop contact Kera Mertz at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana (Email kara.mertz@ctwsfw.edu or call 260-452-2103).

Cost for the workshop is \$150 for professional church workers and \$100 for retired pastors and laity.

For housing and meals, register online at www.campokoboji.org. Cost is \$200.00 and includes housing from Tuesday evening through Friday lunch. Meals start Wednesday morning. A schedule may also be found online at www.campokoboji.org

Saturday, May 18, 2019 is our last big push to get Camp ready for summer! Get a group together and help us prepare for the hundreds of campers who will come to Refresh Body & Spirit!

The two high priority projects are outdoor painting and wood splitting.

There will be day care available.

We would appreciate it if you called ahead so we can plan for meals and lodging. Please call the Camp Office at 712-337-3325 or email our Volunteer Coordinator Kim Warnke at kim2camp@gmail.com.



Summer Camp Schedule

May 22-24	Continuing Education Workshop
May 31-June 2	Kids Kamp
June 3-7	Day Camp 1
June 6-9	Joy Camp 1
June 9-14	Guys Lake Adventure
June 9-15	Okoboji Girls Sports Camp
June 10-14	Day Camp 2
June 16-22	Minneboji
June 17-21	Day Camp 3
June 23-28	Girls Lake Adventure
June 23-29	Cub Week 1
June 24-28	Day Camp 4
June 30-July 5	July 4th Family Retreat
July 1-5	Day Camp 5
July 7-13	Junior High Week
July 8-12	Day Camp 6
July 11-14	Joy Camp 2
July 14-20	Cub Week 2
July 15-19	Day Camp 7
July 21-27	Youth Week
July 22-26	Day Camp 8
July 28-August 2	Family Retreat 1
July 28-August 2	Guitar Camp
July 29-August 2	Day Camp 9
August 4-9	Family Retreat 2
August 5-9	Day Camp 10
August 9-11	Hispanic Family Retreat
August 25	Minnesota Twins Game



Register Now

FOR ALL CAMPS!

Did you know that financial assistance is available for families in need? Many congregations in Iowa District West have funds available for families with children wishing to attend Camp Okoboji.

Iowa District West has assistance for Concordia Cub Weeks, Jr. High Week, and Youth Week for members of Iowa West congregations. The form is available on their website (www.idwlcms.org) or from your pastor.

The Camp Okoboji Foundation also has Campership money available for anyone wishing to come to camp. We can assist with any Camp-sponsored program including family camps. You can get the form for this assistance by calling or emailing the Camp office.

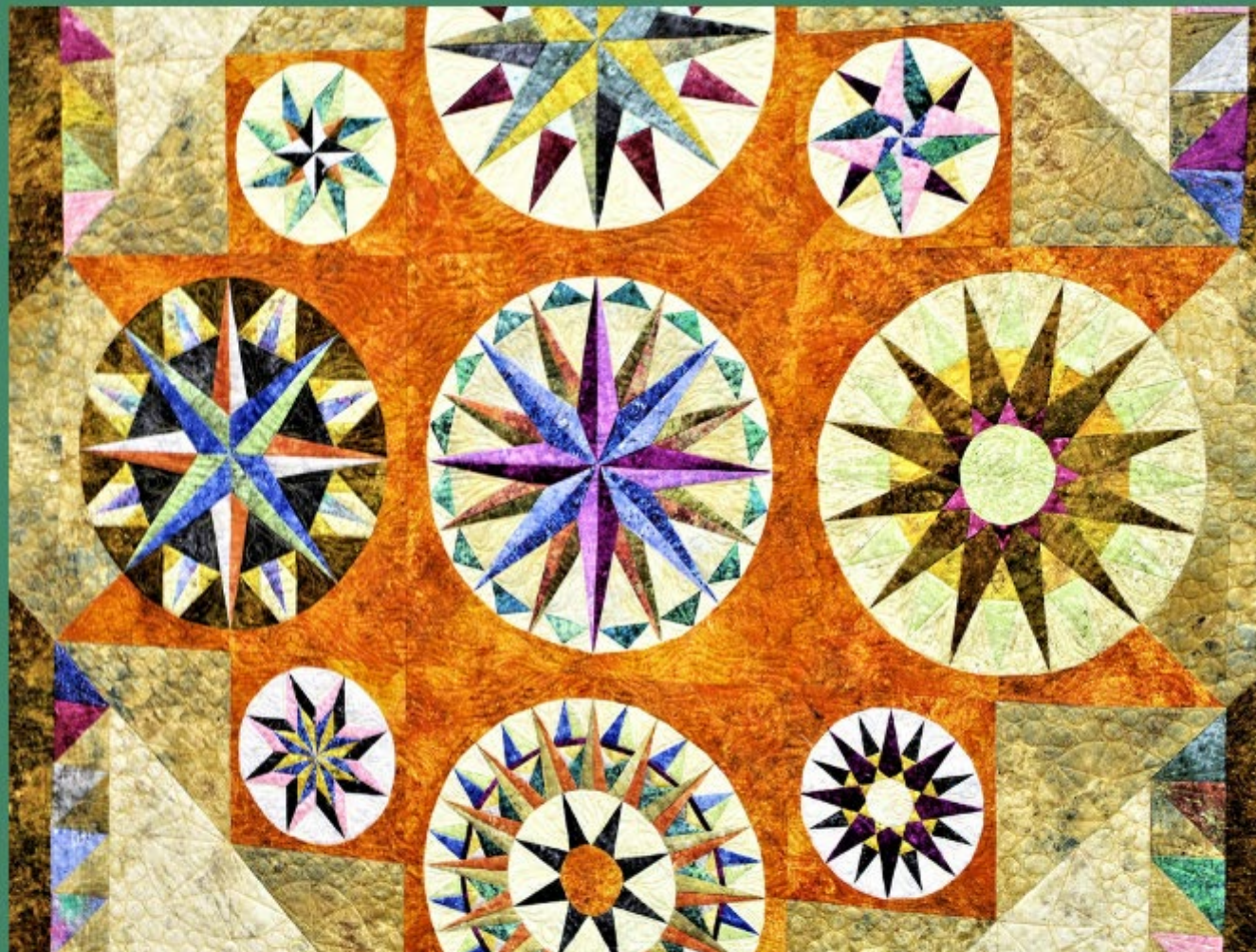
Volunteer Counselors!

Camp is in need of Volunteer Counselors for Cub Week 1 and 2, Jr. High Week, and Youth Week. You need to be at least 17 for Cub Week and Jr. High Week and 19 for Youth Week. To sign up, go to our website (www.campokoboji.org), click on attend camp, choose the camp you want to counsel for, and register as a Counselor. The Camp Ministry Department will contact you to follow up. You may also contact Lori Gamble directly by email — lori@campokoboji.org.

Camp Okoboji
1531 Edgewood Drive
Milford, IA 51351
712-337-3325
camp@campokoboji.org
www.campokoboji.org

CAMP OKOBOJI *Quilt Auction*

Camp Okoboji, 1531 Edgewood Drive, Milford Iowa 51351



Saturday, June 15, 2019
Beginning at 12:30

Lunch served 11-12:30 (freewill offering)
Proceeds go towards renovation of Zebulun Cabin
Craft Sale

View Quilts online at www.campokoboji.org or
On site June 14th 5-7 or June 15th 9-12

Services donated by
Todd Hattermann (Paullina) & Colt Berger (Milford)



**Lutheran
Family Service**

For Nothing is Impossible with God

Administrative Office
409 Kenyon Road Suite C Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515-573-3138
info@LutheranFamilyService.org
www.LutheranFamilyService.org

Hard at Work in the Kingdom of the Left - LCMS Pastors Day on the Hill



61 life leaders including LCMS pastors from Iowa District East & West & LFS Staff gather on the capitol steps with elected LCMS members.

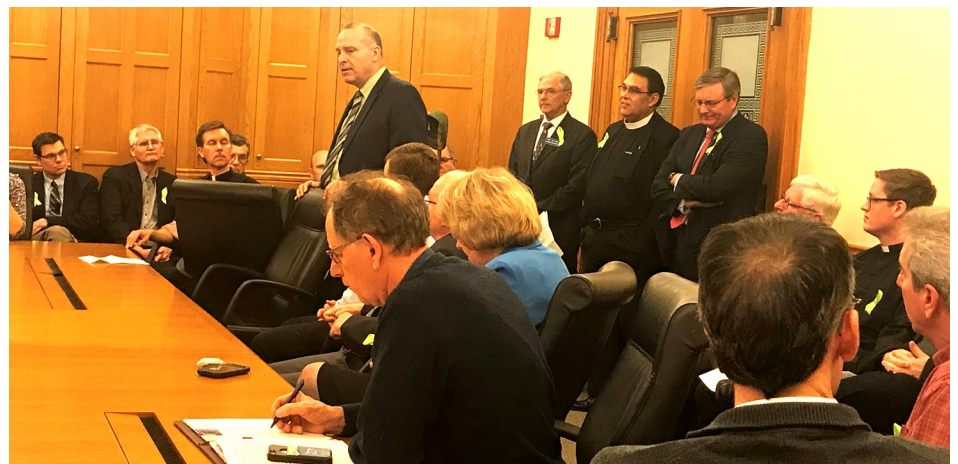
On April 9, pastors from both Iowa Districts joined LFS staff at the capitol to show support for legislators committed to preserving the sanctity of human life – from fertilization to natural death.

Kim Laube, LFS' Director of Life Ministry, facilitated this gathering. She shared her excitement about all that was accomplished: "We were so pleased to receive pastors from both Iowa Districts to the Iowa State Capitol in this collaborative event. Pastors were briefed on life legislation and were introduced to ten Legislators who are members of various LCMS Iowa congregations. Prayer, support and encouragement surrounding God's Word on life, were shared with Senators and Representatives by the pastors."

Iowa legislators standing up for life face intense opposition. They are yelled at, spat upon, and receive threats of vio-

lence against not only themselves, but also their families. To face these terrible words and actions on a daily basis causes significant distress to those simply choosing to uphold godly principles and promote the value of life in today's pro-death culture. They need our support and prayers.

Please pray for our elected officials, especially for those who are from our LCMS family. Contact Kim Laube (klaube@lutheranfamilyservice.org) to request a prayer card with their names and pictures. Plan to join us in the spring of 2020 for the second "LCMS Pastors Day on the Hill."



Senator Tim Kraayenbrink (St. Paul, Fort Dodge) welcomes the group of LCMS leaders for a time dedicated to sharing of concerns, discussion and prayer.



It's time to register for the 2019 Church Interpreter Training Institute (CITI) program!

CITI is a distinctive program, teaching students to interpret the Word of God accurately, which is God's means of life and salvation for His people.

June 13–16, 2019

Concordia Theological Seminary,
6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, Ind.

RID CEUs available

Cost: \$200 (commuters) & \$350 (residential)

Registration & Scholarship info: lutheranfriendsofthedeaf.org/citi
(Limited scholarships available. Contact your church or district to help offset the cost.)



Lutheran Friends of the Deaf

Founding Member of the Mill Neck Family of Organizations
Contact: Deaconess Heidi Sias (hsias@millneck.org) Registration **Deadline: May 24, 2019**

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY

Iowa District West LLL/LHM

When: Saturday, May 11, 2019
8 am Registration & Breakfast; 11:15 Closing

Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church,
713 North 12th Street, Guthrie Center, Iowa

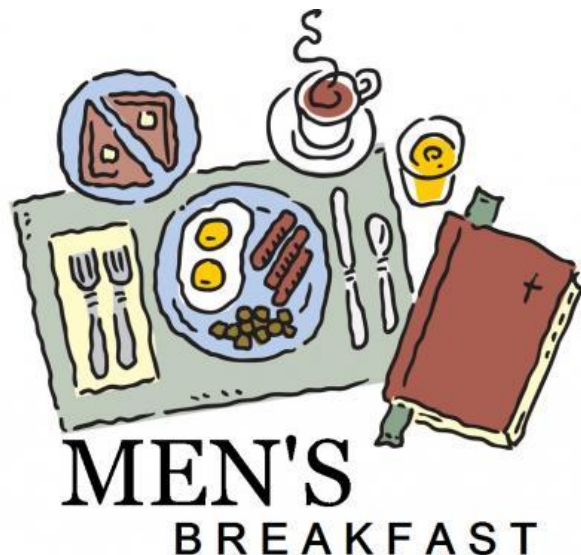
Speaker: Rev. Jonathan Conner

Topic: Manhood: Defined / Controlled Strength in Action

Cost: \$15

Spread the word among the grandpas, the fathers, and the sons
of your family and your church!

For more information,
contact John Tews
(valleyins@netins.net or
641-740-0126 cell).



Watch for future events and other Lutheran Hour Ministries news in The Lutheran Witness and on our new Facebook "group" page, "Lutheran Laymen League of Western Iowa."

More Than Giving

A Doxology Insight Conference



What is the conference about? This conference will equip you to develop healthy stewardship lifestyles among your member households and in your congregation as a whole. Presenters will provide a sound biblical and theological foundation while offering practical solutions for churches large and small.

Who should attend? Pastors, church administrators, Stewardship Board members, church leaders and interested laity. For best results, we encourage the pastor plus 2-4 members to attend.

Presenters: Rev. Heath Curtis, Coordinator for LCMS Stewardship, and Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, Assistant Coordinator, are also parish pastors who love to preach the Good News of God's generosity toward us in Christ.



Where? [Camp Okoboji](#)

When? August 16-17, 2019

Cost? \$95 (includes program, materials, breaks and meals)

IDW congregations will receive a \$50 grant following program

Registration? Online registration will be shared soon

Schedule: Event check-in begins at 12 p.m. and the conference will start at 1 p.m. on Friday, August 16. The conference ends at 12 p.m. on August 17.



Operation Barnabas

A network of care

May 19 is Armed Forces Sunday. This is a wonderful time to recognize the veterans and active military in your congregation. It can be as simple as having them stand up and thanking them for their service or having special music or individually recognizing each person. There are resources available on the LCMS Operation Barnabas website.



The Council Bluffs Chapter served the meal on February 28 at the local American Legion where SFC Greg Allen Stube (ret), Special Forces Warrior, was the speaker. He was wounded in Afghanistan during Operation Medusa. He sustained wounds that seemed fatal, but instead he survived after 17 surgeries and an 18-month hospital stay.



Pictured are two chapter members working at the Veterans Affairs office in Council Bluffs. Our chapter volunteered to help sort the many clothing donations that are received.

Adopt-a-Chap is a program within the Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF). A congregation “adopts” one of our Synod’s active or reserve Armed Forces chaplains or Veteran’s Hospital chaplains. The idea is to promote mutual support and growth. Once a congregation is matched with a chaplain, they establish a relationship with the chaplain through regular communication, keeping the family in prayers, and learning about the specialized ministry to the military. To begin the process, contact the MAF office at 314-996-1337.

Nancy Goddard, Council Bluffs Chapter

Pastors Golf Day



WHEN: Monday, May 20, 2019

WHERE: Ida Grove Country Club

TIME: 9 am

FEE: \$20 (two rounds of golf with cart and lunch)

PLAY: First round, scramble/best ball

CONTACT: Rev. Don Winterrowd

(stpaulidagrove@gmail.com or 712-364-2918)

Deadline to register is May 17.

