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Summer is a great time to take a road trip, and it doesn't have to be to a super far destination to be worthy of time spent. One of my blessings as IOWAY Director is getting to travel throughout our beautiful district, and beyond, on a regular basis. I really enjoy coming to your communities, so feel free to reach out and get yourselves on my calendar. I love to hear what you're doing, or even better, roll up my sleeves and jump into the work alongside you.

In June, I was in the Council Bluffs area and stopped by to learn more about one of our LCMS RSOs (Recognized Service Organizations) that I only knew a little about, David's Harp. Pastor Sherrill was gracious enough after my visit to write the following to share with you all. David's Harp is a great resource to all of you who want to pass forward the joy of church music to the next generations.

"At our IDW Convention, our assembly was led in music by Pastor Sherrill and Pastor Frank from St. Paul's in Council Bluffs. Not only were they leaders for us, but they oversee an LCMS Recognized Service Organization called David's Harp: A Center for Musical Development. Just like they have a music conservatory as part of their church ministry in Council Bluffs, these pastors work with people all over the country helping other congregations start similar ministries in order to raise up the next generation of church musicians! To



date, David's Harp has started about 20 music conservatories and many more are in the process of being established. But what is a "Music Conservatory" you may ask? A Music Conservatory is a place that focuses on a special, and possibly in depth, area of musical study, such as the piano. Children and adults alike come to these churches from inside and outside the



congregation for one-on-one instruction. The special joy of these conservatories is that they pair a Christian instructor with a student. These instructors act as mentors and guides for the student, not just in music, but also with the message of Jesus! The conservatory in Council Bluffs currently has 86 students, about a third of them are members of the church. This means that well over 50 students come to St.

Paul's each week from the community to be paired with a Christian mentor in order to create music that sings of Christ. What could be better!

If you are interested in learning more about the work of David's Harp and the parish based music conservatory contact Pastor Sherrill at pastor.sherrill@davidsharpmusic.org “

Other opportunities coming up:

1. Are you an Iowa State Fair goer? Willing to volunteer for 3 hours to share Lutheran Hour info and get a free ticket for the day? Dates are August 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 17 with shifts starting at 9 am

Please reach out to John Tews at valleyinsjt@gmail.com or 641-740-0126



2. LERT Basic Trainings

Friday, August 1, Immanuel Lutheran, Rockwell City, 5:00 – 9:30 pm, light dinner included

Sunday, August 24, St. Paul Lutheran, Carroll, 11:30 – 5:00, light lunch included

Make a profile and sign up for the event that best fits your calendar at www.LCMS-LERT.org

\$35 registration, training for anyone 14 years old and up, all deployments are on a completely voluntary basis, variety of talents and skills needed – don't count yourself out

Questions? Please reach out to me at the IDW office

