

May 2014

Table of Contents

** Planting Together **

1. The Lamplighter—Chaplain Steve Benson
2. News from the Business Manager—Roger Curtis
- 3+. Camp Okoboji (Military Camperships)—Lori Gamble
4. ¡Amigos en Cristo!—Missionary Dan Vogel
5. LCEF—Carole White
- 6+. Mission Opportunities (Coaching / Engaging Your Community / Churches Planting Churches)—
Rev. Mark Gerken
7. IOWAY—Ellie Menz
- 8+. Mission Central (Events at Mission Central)—Gary Thies
9. Hispanic Outreach in Siouxland—Missionary Henry Witte
- 10+. EYES on Youth Ministry (“Collide” Youth Gathering)—Rev. Steve Hayden
11. Stewardship/Discipleship in Iowa District West—Rev. Phill Andreasen

ALSO INCLUDED...

Bridges Newsletter
Operation Barnabas-Supply Drive for Veterans
Parish Paper
Pastors Golf Day



Calendar of Events

- May 10—Engaging Your Community Event, Mt. Ayr
May 15—District Board of Directors, Fort Dodge
May 19—Pastors Golf Day, Ida Grove
May 26—Memorial Day, District Office Closed
May 30-31—Churches Planting Churches, Ankeny

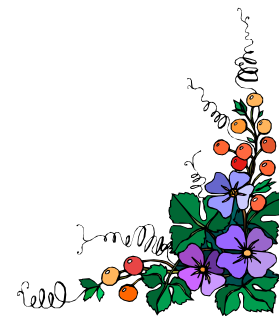
CALLED TO GLORY

The Rev. Helmut Schauland, Emeritus, Sioux City, 3/27/2014.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER

CALL RECEIVED

Richard Holste, Davenport, IA, to Trinity, Boone.



Operation Barnabas of Des Moines—3rd Annual *Supply Drive for Veterans!*

The Des Moines Veterans Hospital has a *great need* for the following supplies:

FOOD (coffee, sugar packets & creamer, canned meats, chewing gum, microwave popcorn, granola bars, snack-type foods, travel coffee mugs);

COTHING (rain ponchos, socks, underclothes);

PERSONAL CARE (deodorant, feminine sanitary products, bath soap, shampoo, perfume & cologne, combs & hair brushes, African-American hair products, denture cleaning supplies, disposable razors);

CLEANING (laundry detergent, dryer sheets, toilet paper, paper towels); and

OTHER (baby diapers, “thumb” drives, bus passes—Des Moines area, craft kits & models—non-toxic paints & glues).

Drop off your donations at Camp Dodge (7105 NW 70th Avenue, Johnston) on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26 between 5-10 am. Operation Barnabas will deliver all donated supplies to the Des Moines Veterans Hospital. If unable to drop donations on Memorial Day, contact the Des Moines Veterans Administration Hospital at 515-699-5818 to arrange a drop-off time.

While at Camp Dodge enjoy a free “Military Style” breakfast of biscuits & gravy at the Gold Star Military Museum.

Follow Iowa District West on these social communication 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 Phone
515.576.2323 Fax
sue.light@idwlcms.org

www.idwlcms.org

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



Planting Together

May 2014

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

The mission of Iowa District West is **Connecting, Resourcing, Optimizing, Partnering and Serving** with the member congregations for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world.

IT'S PLANTING TIME



Farmers are in the fields and gardeners are busy in their gardens. Ask any farmer and they will tell you it's an exhilarating time filled with anticipation and the thrill of being back in the field.

Hopefully we have that same thrill and anticipation as we share God's Word with others. We plant the seed of God's Word that the Holy Spirit grows. That is the mis-

sion of each church to share the Good News with those who surround their church.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund is here to make funds and services available to LCMS congregations as they fulfill their mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Demographics to help you understand your community, ministry planning, loans and Laborers for Christ are just some of the services available. To find out more, contact Carole White at 877-439-5233 or email carole.white@lcef.org.

Carole White, LCEF District Vice President



For more information on Iowa District West activities, view *The Monthly* at <http://www.idwlcms.org/publications.php>.

News from Camp Okoboji

- ♦ The **2014 Program Brochure** has been sent to churches and past Camp guests. If you did not receive one, please request a copy at your church office. It is also available at www.campokoboji.org. Please check out the Camp opportunities and make your reservations early.
- ♦ **Counselor Applications** for Camp Okoboji summer camps should be completed as soon as possible. Go to www.campokoboji.org to download an application. Each applicant will have a background check prior to acceptance as a counselor.

Engaging Your Community Event—May 10

In partnership with Rural/Small Town Ministry of the LCMS, at First Lutheran, Mt. Ayr, Saturday, May 10. Participants will engage in Bible studies and community demographic studies, identify congregational strengths, and receive community outreach ideas.

Churches Planting Churches—May 30-31

This seminar is designed for a team from your congregation to begin to explore the biblical and practical aspects of this most effective way of reaching the unchurched. Go to www.centerforusmissions.com for more information.

The International Student Ministry in Ames is looking for congregations to get involved one day this summer teaching English!

- **What would it require?** We ask that you choose just one Wednesday during our program from June 18-July 23. You would recruit 4-6 volunteers to travel to Ames by 9 am. We will share more about the ISM program with you and introduce you to the classrooms, facilities and students as they start to arrive. After class is finished (around 11:30 am), there will be a complementary lunch for your group.
- **But we aren't trained teachers!** No problem. One of the biggest requests from students is actually not learning more English. It's practicing what they already know. If you can speak English, you're more than qualified.

Contact Hannah Moore at ism.mlchurch@gmail.com or 515-460-5110.

District Calendar

May 10...Engaging Your Community Event, Mt. Ayr
May 15...District Board of Directors, Fort Dodge
May 19...Pastors Golf Day, Ida Grove
May 26...Memorial Day, District Office Closed
May 30-31...Churches Planting Churches Seminar, Ankeny

Dear Fellow Redeemed!

Maybe that mild mannered shoe shine boy who becomes the super-hero is still alive and well in us all. Or perhaps in every adult male a little boy and his ideals still linger in the shadows of his maturity, but I still cheer, support, and rally around the underdog. The exception to this rule would be both the men's and women's basketball teams from the University of Connecticut. I thought it would be awesome for the university to win both NCAA titles.

This propensity, however, of wanting to see the unlikely and unexpected person or team rising to the top may be why I am drawn strongly to the Rocky movies. Who does not enjoy a good underdog storyline? In each movie whether it be I, II, III, IV or V, Rocky is not the one who would be expected to win the boxing match. If one were a gambling person, he would not place his money on those odds. The Italian Stallion is the dark horse. He was the least likely candidate. He was ridiculed by his friends for agreeing to the competition. To those friends it seemed futile at best and life threatening at worst since the wrong blow to the head could end in death. Who would take those risks? It would be a wiser choice to walk away from the fight and not to get involved!

Rocky could not take the easy way out. His love for Apollo Creed in Rocky I and II compelled him to face Russia's biggest and best – Ivan Drago – at whose hand Apollo Creed dies. So in this episode, Rocky travels to Russia and begins to train. At times he must have wondered if all the early mornings of trudging through the snow, the hours in the gym skipping rope, punching the

bag, sparring with trainers in the ring, and being so far from home, family, and friends was worth it.

Life can be this way! In the words of Paul, we do not box as one beating the air. It may feel as futile sometimes. One night a thief broke into the single-room apartment of French novelist Honore de Balzac. Trying to avoid waking Balzac, the intruder quietly picked the lock on the writer's desk. Suddenly the silence was broken by a sardonic laugh from the bed, where Balzac lay watching the thief. "Why do you laugh?" asked the thief. "I am laughing to think what risks you take to try to find money in a desk by night where the legal owner can never find any by day."

At times we must wonder if it is all worth it which bears witness to sin in the world and sin in ourselves. ***"Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. What does man gain by all the toil at which he toils under the sun?"*** All earthly nature and everything pertaining to temporal things has been perverted, in consequence of sin, so that it no longer serves the original purpose of God. Like Apollo Creed we are down and out. We too are down for the count. Paul says in Ephesians 2:1, ***"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins."***

In this down and out state, like Rocky, God acted in our behalf. He would not take the easy way out. If God did take the easy way, we would have remained in our sin and condemned forever. However God made the more difficult choice and do not be misled the fight would not be easy. It would cost Him the life of his only Son. Paul in Galatians 4:4-5 states clearly, ***"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."***

As we have just journeyed through Lent, we saw Jesus walking the way of sorrow for us. Hopefully we learned that it was not the easy way out for Him. While having gone through the ultimate of torture and being hung on the cross with nailed pierced hands and feet, Jesus cried out in agony, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.” Jesus endured the Father, His Father, turning His back on Him as He bears the sins of the whole world. In this courageous and selfless act, Jesus gave the killing punch to the one who held us in bondage and sin. Jesus has set us free. Jesus has given us His victory as in baptism we have been raised to newness of life.

So when life is feeling futile and we are overwhelmed with life’s greatest struggle asking ourselves, “Is it worth it”? Let us turn to Jesus. In Him we are able to say with the Apostle Paul, ***“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”*** (Rom 8:18). Keep your eyes on the eternal prize and not on temporal things as encouraged in the book of Hebrews which says, ***“looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God”*** (Heb 12:2). In Jesus we are no longer the under dogs, but we are the winners! Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Easter Peace and Joy,

Chaplain Steven K. Benson

The Good Shepherd Hour can be heard on KSCJ-1360 (Sioux City) at 8 am; KLEM-1419 (Le Mars) at 8 am; KAYL-101.7 (Storm Lake) at 8:30 am; and KVFD-1400 (Fort Dodge) at 8 am.

THE LAMPLIGHTER



THEME: Boxing

MAY 2014

“So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air.” 1 Cor. 9:26

*A Publication of: The Lutheran Service Auxiliary
4505 Applewood Ave
Sioux City, Iowa 51106*

Next meeting is at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church – Sioux City, Iowa on June 4, 2014

NEWS FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER
Iowa District West Congregations' Mission Receipts



For the Fiscal Period Ending March 2014	
Anticipated Amount	\$ 145,000
Actual Receipts	\$ 125,222
Fiscal Year-to-Date Receipts	
Anticipated Amount	\$290,000
Actual Receipts	\$265,728
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$ (24,272)
Use of Mission Receipts	
Remitted to Synod (47%)	\$ 124,892
Balance for District programs/operations	\$ 140,836
Total Receipts	\$ 265,728
Mission Receipts Compared With Last Year	
Year-to-date 2014	\$265,728
Year-to-date 2013	\$292,947
Over (under) last year	\$(27,219)

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to provide opportunity to make funds and services available in support of the Great Commission through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

As of March 2014, 978 investments in Iowa District West totaled \$32,192,592. These investments are providing opportunity for 36 loans totaling \$9,154,408 plus commitments totaling \$491,886. LCEF puts invested dollars to work in mission and ministry right here in Iowa District West.

If you are interested in investing in the ministry of LCEF or if you have questions on the loans and services provided to our congregations, please contact Carole White. **Come, Join the Ministry!**

Pastors and Church Secretaries: How about including a brief note about LCEF in your church newsletter or bulletin? Please use the following short paragraph—thank you!

Build Your Ministry

Improve your ministry organization's facilities with a loan from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). LCEF empowers the ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), making funds available at reasonable rates, often lower than a commercial bank's loan rates.

While investors know LCEF empowers congregations for ministry, they may be surprised to learn that we partner with LCMS Recognized Service Organizations that impact lives with Christ's love beyond church doors.

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.

Stewardship Spark / Monthly Mission Moment

Did you know that your congregational mission dollars are supporting a variety of mission and ministry efforts all across the District? The 2014 budget includes \$848,689 (almost 1/3 of the budget) for District missions. Mission dollars not only provide support for the executive assistant and several subsidized missionaries (Rev. Mark Gerken, Rev. Dennis Konkel, Pat Monroe, Rev. Dan Vogel, Rev. Henry Witte) but also IOWAY, mission grant partnerships with over 25 circuits or congregations, campus ministry, deaf ministry, Hispanic ministry, Southeast Asian ministry, Sudanese ministry, and rural ministry. This total budget amount is more than the actual mission expenditure over the last several years. Your congregation's contributions continue to strongly support mission efforts all across the District for the extension of the Kingdom!



Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Fall Conference

The Iowa District West Secretarial/Administrative Assistants Conference will be held in Ankeny this fall. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, **September 23, 2014** from 8 am - 3:30 pm. All ministry assistant professionals are invited to enjoy a relaxing, inspirational, and educational day.

The special speaker for the day will be Kathy Slamp of Vessel Ministries (www.vesselministries.com) from Washington. Kathy was part of our conference in 2008. This year's program is called the "Five Star Church Office - Taking the Church Office to the Next Level." Our exciting theme is "With Christ, We Shine Like Stars" which is based on Daniel 12:3. Dalend Mackey will use his gift of music and humor as Master of Ceremonies for the day.

Thanks to Thrivent Financial for their support. A few vendors and exhibitors will be present to share their resources and products. Plan now to enjoy a full day in Ankeny. More details and brochure to come this summer.



Tax Calendar/May 15 - Non-Discrimination Form / Form 990-T/ Health Care Tax Credit

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 fifth month following the end of their fiscal year. (A copy is provided in "blank forms" section in the back of the Congregational Treasurer's Manual or search IRS website at www.irs.gov.)

Form 990-T: Churches must pay income tax and File Form 990-T "Unrelated Business Income" by May 15 if gross income from unrelated trade or business was over \$1,000 in 2013. An excellent summary of activities which ARE unrelated and activities which ARE NOT unrelated is listed in Chapter 11 of the Congregational Treasurer's Manual (www.lcms.org/ctm).

Small Employer Tax Credit Available for 2013 Tax Year: This credit made available under the 2010 Affordable Care Act (which actually has made Concordia Plan Services health care more expensive) has allowed those in the Concordia Health Plan (CHP) to be eligible to claim a credit/refund. It is a lengthy and complicated process, but last year employers received checks ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars! The deadline is May 15 for employers on a December 31 fiscal year end.

Unfortunately, this credit will no longer be available for those in the CHP in 2014. Per the IRS, to be eligible for the credit, a small employer must pay premiums on behalf of employees enrolled in a qualified government health plan offered through a Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace.

For more information, search the IRS Website or the direct link is www.irs.gov/uac/Small-Business-Health-Care-Tax-Credit-for-Small-Employers. Concordia Plan Services also has information online at www.concordiaplans.org ("Quick Links").

IRS Updates Clergy Publication 517

In March, the IRS issued a revision to Publication 517, *Social Security and Other Information for Members of the Clergy and Religious Workers*. It has been updated for use in preparing future returns. Per the IRS, “the publication includes guidance for the unique tax issues for clergy, religious workers, and members of a recognized religious sect.” Details at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p517.pdf.

Federal Government Files Latest Brief in Clergy Housing Challenge

The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability summarized the latest regarding the clergy housing challenge. The lawsuit by the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) challenging the clergy housing exclusion proceeded recently as the government filed a brief in the Seventh Circuit defending the constitutionality of the law and arguing that FFRF lacks legal standing to bring the case. Read the complete story at www.ecfa.org/Content/Federal-Government-Files-Latest-Brief-in-Clergy-Housing-Challenge.

Thrivent Choice “Direct Now . . . and add \$20!” Campaign can Help Support Congregations

Your congregation can get an extra boost from the “Direct Now . . . and add \$20!” Thrivent Choice® campaign this spring! The campaign runs through May 31, 2014. Here's how it works:

- During the campaign, a member directs Choice Dollars® to a congregation or nonprofit organization.
- The first congregation or nonprofit organization the member selects will receive an additional \$20 grant.
- The congregation or organization will receive the additional funds prior to June 30 as a one-time payment.

It's that easy! Go to <https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/index.html> today!

Grant funding for Thrivent Choice (including funding for this campaign) is subject to Thrivent's sole discretion and the program's Terms and Conditions. For questions, contact a representative from the Member Connection Center at 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say “Thrivent Choice” For faster service, have your member ID or contract number available.

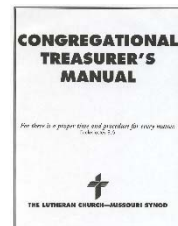


Record Retention Guidelines

Is it time for spring cleaning at home or church? The question often arises, how long should you keep old financial records? Here are some recommendations:

- 3 months: utility bills, credit card statements
- 1 year: bank statements, savings account/investment statements, auto/home insurance premium notices
- 3 years (minimum) after sale of asset: records for purchase/sale of real estate and investments
- 7 years: supporting records for tax returns (W-2 and 1099 forms, receipts for deductible items)
- Until all is clearly settled: educational loan records, auto and personal loan records, auto/home insurance claims
- Permanently: tax returns (you may need them at some point in the future to correct your Social Security earnings history)

Although this applies mainly to personal record keeping, some ideas also relate to the church. To review a complete record retention of church files, review the Congregational Treasurer's Manual, www.lcms.org/ctm, Chapter 23, page 23-6. Manuals are available for purchase for only \$10.



Microsoft Software for Sale

If your church is looking for discounted software, we may be able to help. District has available for sale Microsoft Windows 8 and Office Pro 2013 (Access, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, Word). Since Windows XP support has ended now is the time to upgrade! The charity license agreement rate is only \$80 per computer/license for church or school use.



Download Online Care Anywhere Mobile App

Not only can Concordia Health Plan members see a doctor right in their own homes, but now from wherever they are using their smartphones!

The Online Care Anywhere® Mobile App for your smartphone is now available free through the iTunes App Store or the Android App on Google Play. The Online Care Anywhere app is compatible with iOS 5.0 or later for iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch, as well as the Android Gingerbread v2.3.3 or above.

With the app, you can:

- Visit a doctor from wherever you are.
- Get diagnosis and treatment for cold and flu symptoms, aches and pains, allergies, and more 24/7!
- Sync with your current Online Care Anywhere account.

The app provides the same convenient, confidential, online healthcare service that you get with your current online account. You can have a live conversation with a doctor using video or secure text chat. Doctors can answer your questions, diagnose your condition, prescribe medications, and provide follow-up care.

For more information, visit www.onlinecareanywheremn.com/mobile.php.

Concordia Plan Services Retirement Benefits Changes

The changes will not impact current retirees or surviving spouses, and no retirement benefits earned prior to July 1, 2014, will be affected. Among the changes that will take effect July 1, 2014 are: early retirement; death benefits; and retirement age (to conform with the Social Security retirement age).

Recently CPS mailed to all organizations information about the Concordia Retirement Savings Plan (CRSP). Employers now have the opportunity to decide whether to make employer contributions to their workers accounts. Employers can make CRSP contributions in several different ways:

- Matching contributions – the worker contributes and the employer provides matching contributions.
- Non-elective contributions – workers do not need to contribute their own money. Employers can set a contribution rate, either a percentage of pay or a flat dollar amount to contribute to a worker's CRSP account.
- A combination of matching and non-elective contributions.

CPS requests the Employer Contribution Election forms be returned no later than May 17, 2014 (to ensure congregations have adequate time to make any adjustments before the July 1 changes).

Personal Statement of Benefits (PSOB)

Workers are encouraged to watch for the 2014 Personal Statement of Benefits (PSOB) to be mailed in May. The summary will help you see at a glance your benefits, total compensation, and status of enrollment. Your "extended" PSOB is also available online! Online access information will be provided to you in your PSOB.

Concordia Health Plan Be Well Rewards Program Continues

The first quarter has past – how many points have you earned? Sign in today at myCPS.org and continue to earn up to \$250 for yourself and your employer with "Be Well Rewards"! Spring is here so now is a good time to earn an easy 25 "physical activity" points. Additional information is online at www.concordiaplans.org under the "Health & Wellness" link on the left bar.



What is Happening At Your Camp?

Camp Okoboji

1531 Edgewood Drive

Milford, IA 51351

Phone: 712-337-3325 Fax: 712-337-3318

Email: camp@campokoboji.org Web site: www.campokoboji.org

Our Promise of Jesus at the Lake – A friendly, safe, refreshing and relaxing Christian experience

Summer staff openings exist for a waterfront lifeguard, individuals interested in working in housekeeping services, serving and cleaning up after meals in the dining hall, and grounds maintenance. Please call 712-337-3325 to inquire about additional information or go to www.campokoboji.org, print off the summer staff application and mail it to Camp Okoboji, Attention Executive Director, 1531 Edgewood Drive, Milford, IA 51351.

Early Bird Registration dates are 30 days prior to the start of each camping event. Completed registrations arriving in the camp office 30 days or more prior to an event **can save you \$20**. Please check with your church office for Camp Okoboji program booklets or go online to www.campokoboji.org, print the registration form for the event you want to attend, and send in the completed form right away.

Kids Kamp, June 6-8, is a wonderful opportunity to bring your **Kindergarten through Second Grade** child for an introductory camp experience. Camp Okoboji Program staff members have created a **wonderful two night, three day stay** to introduce young children to their first on-site camp retreat under your care as parent or grandparent or caregiver. *You lodge with your child, participate in all activities and dine in the Ginny DeWall Dining Hall with your child.* What a wonderful way to introduce your child to Camp Okoboji in a safe, non-threatening way. Go to www.campokoboji.org to download a registration form and start talking with your child about this summer camp opportunity.

Camp Okoboji Personnel are **delighted to visit with you about any questions you have concerning a camp event**. If this is your first connection with Camp Okoboji we invite you to call 866-449-3326 (toll free) and inquire about any one of the programs listed on the Camp web site at www.campokoboji.org. We will be happy to talk about our staff training, safety and provided medical care, and our communication policies. The **Camp Okoboji Promise** is to provide “A friendly, safe, refreshing and relaxing Christian experience-An exceptional value for you and your family.”

Camp Okoboji tours available - Camp Okoboji staff members are always available to provide a tour of the retreat facilities. Tours can provide an enlightening view of the accommodations, the staff, campers and facilities in session. If your family or your child will be attending a future event, *call 866-449-3326 and arrange for a tour during another event* and see firsthand how the camp operation flows.

Spring Volunteer Weekend is **MAY 2-4, 2014!** We are encouraging high school youth groups to come with their adult leaders and help with special projects designed just for them. They will be getting Camp ready for the summer camp season! Youth groups and their leaders need to register with Lori Gamble so we can house the groups together!

COUNSELOR APPLICATIONS for Camp Okoboji summer camps should be completed as soon as possible. Go to www.campokoboji.org print it off, fill it in, and mail it (mailing address is on the form). Each applicant will have a background check prior to acceptance as a counselor.

FAMILY CAMPS are great opportunities for generations of families to get together for building family traditions, connecting with children, grandchildren, parents, and grandparents. Look at the 2014 Program Booklet to find four opportunities to participate in family events at Camp Okoboji from Memorial weekend to the second week in August. **“Affordable, safe, friendly, and memorable”** - www.campokoboji.org

FACEBOOK!

“Like” us Facebook! Watch for upcoming events. See pictures of events and more!

Camp Staff Contact Information!

Executive Director: Doug Kading - doug@campokoboji.org

Office Director: Kellie Jones - kellie@campokoboji.org

Ministry Advancement Director: Paul Golke - paul@campokoboji.org

Program Director: Lori Gamble - lori@campokoboji.org

Bookkeeper: Karrie Mullenberg – karrie@campokoboji.org



Come Experience Jesus at the Lake!

Camp Okoboji is once again partnering with the Iowa District West Operation Barnabas Task Force in offering FULL Camperships to our youth and family camps for families who are serving in the United States Armed Forces! The only requirement is that you have an Active Duty Military ID card.

Funds for this program have been given by the Iowa District West Lutheran Women's Missionary League, an Iowa District West Mission Grant, and generous donors.

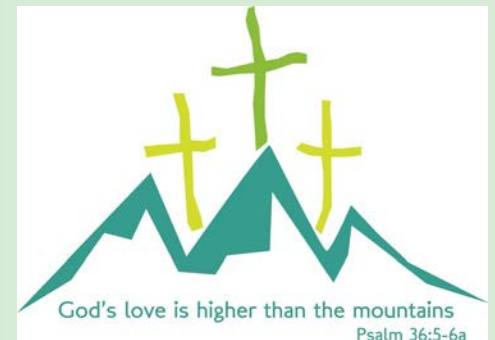
Information for the different camp opportunities available in 2014 are listed on the inside of this brochure!



2014 Opportunities

Camp Okoboji

▶ Camperships for Military Families!





How do I register? What Camps are available?



To register for any of the camps:

- * Go to the Camp website (www.campokoboji.org) and find our program brochure and registration forms
- * Contact the Camp office by calling 712-337-3325 and request the forms
- * Contact Lori Gamble by email (lori@campokoboji.org)

Once you have completed the registration forms please indicate on the form that this is an Active Duty Military eligible registration, send **NO Money** just the completed form to:

Camp Okoboji

1531 Edgewood Dr

Milford, IA 51351

Available Camps

Summer Kick-Off Camp May 23-26, 2014 Focus – Memorial Day	Family Camp
Kids Kamp June 6-8, 2014 Grades K-2 & an adult	Family Camp
Adventure Camp June 15-18, 2014 Ages 7-12	Youth Camp
July 4th Family Retreat June 29-July 5, 2014	Family Camp
Jr. High Week July 6-12, 2014 Grades 6-8	Youth Camp
Concordia Cub Week July 13-19, 2014 Grades 3-6	Youth Camp
Youth Week July 20-26, 2014 Grades 8-12	Youth Camp
Family Retreat I July 27-August 2, 2014	Family Camp

Family Retreat II August 3-9, 2014	Family Camp
Adult Retreat August 15-17, 2014 Focus – Forgiveness	Adult Retreat
Military Family Retreat September 19-21, 2014 Focus – Recently Deployed	Family Retreat

Camp Okoboji

1531 Edgewood Dr
Milford, IA 51351

Phone: 712-337-3325
Fax: 712-337-3318
E-mail: lori@campokoboji.org



!AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

News from the IDW Hispanic Ministry of **Missionary/**
Pastor Daniel Vogel in Denison and Storm Lake.

Iowa District
West, LCMS

Year 10, Issue 5
MAY 2014



JOSE IS CONFIRMED IN STORM LAKE



On March 30 Jose Ibarra of Storm Lake was confirmed in our Sunday worship service. Jose and I have been studying over the past months as he commuted each from his work at Verizon in Des Moines. Jose is the son of Reynaldo and Cati Ibarra also members of our church. Jose was born in Mexico but came to the U.S. as a child and has become a successful bilingual manager for Verizon. He now lives in Storm Lake and is a manager of the local Verizon store. He is also studying to become a realtor. Jose has two children, Dominic and Mia, and has become a blessing to our Hispanic mission.

A VISIT WITH PASTOR ERIC MOELLER & MIRACELIA IN STORM LAKE

On the weekend of April 11-13 Rev. Eric Moeller and his wife Miracelia came to Storm Lake to consider the possibility of working both as a chaplain at the Tyson plant and as our Hispanic pastor. Pastor Eric is currently teaching as a professor at Concordia College in Selma, Alabama. He is teaching Spanish, Sociology and Religion. He has also taught in other universities, pastored churches, and served as a missionary in Panama. He holds a Doctor's Degree in Sociology from the University of Chicago and is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese. He is married to Miracelia, a native of Brazil and they have three children, Erika (18), Jennifer (3) and Jonathan (1). While he was in Storm Lake he had a tour and an interview with the Tyson Pork plant in order to be considered as a chaplain of the plant. He and Miracelia visited with our Hispanic church group and attended our Sunday worship service.



I am pictured (above) with the Rev. Dr. Eric Moeller and his wife Miracelia at the gathering (left) with our Hispanic ministry. We hope to partner with Tyson, with Grace and Storm Lake Circuit churches as well as our Hispanic group to make it possible to have a local Hispanic pastor in the Storm Lake community.



MY TYSON CHAPLAINCY AT THE PLANTS IN DENISON & STORM LAKE

"WORKING WITH PAUL"

Paul Maychen is the other chaplain at Tyson in Storm Lake. He is a full time chaplain serving the Laotians and other Asian workers. He has worked at Tyson for three years. Paul is a Presbyterian pastor serving the Laotian population in the community. He was born in Laos and came to Storm Lake from California. In Laos his family were all Buddhists. He converted to Christianity in the U.S. and has helped his entire family to become Christians. I have enjoyed working with him. Together we give a weekly presentation of our Chaplaincy program to the new orientation class of workers. We visit with workers throughout the plant on both the morning and afternoon shifts.



Luis Perez

(third from right)
of our Denison
mission plays in the
only High School
Mariachi Band in
Iowa. In fact the
school has three
Mariachi bands.
Last month we en-
joyed their evening
dinner and concert.

TO CONTACT ME

Rev. Daniel Vogel

32678 Aspen Ave.
Manning, IA 51455

712-653-2354 or

Cell: 712-309-1292

or Email me at:

Dan.Vogel@idwlcms.org

*** Please forward this
newsletter to a friend
from
www.idwlcms.org**

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS: Last month I had the privilege of giving presentations at First Lutheran, Mt. Ayr with members from Mt. Ayr and Creston, and at Zion Lutheran School in Paullina. I also helped organize the first Hispanic Pro Life Conference in Denison. If I can come to your church or group to share what God is doing in our Hispanic ministry in western Iowa please give me a call or Email.



PLEASE PRAY

+ In thanksgiving for all the blessings from the visit with Pastor Eric and Celia Moeller and continued prayers for the calling process at our mission in Storm Lake. + For Jose in Storm Lake who was Confirmed last month to become an adult member. + For the blessing of a new church name in Denison and for our meetings with Voting members to elect leaders and to charter our mission. + For my temporary work as Chaplain at Tyson in Storm Lake and the opportunity there to meet many special people. + ***In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who monthly support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants.***



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
 > where investments build ministry

IOWA EAST & WEST
 LCEF

MAY 2014



For more
 information on LCEF
 loans, investments,
 and services, please
 contact:

Carole L. White LCEF
 V.P. Iowa East & West
 1150 Home Park Blvd #7
 Waterloo, IA 50702

Toll Free Phone:
 1-877-439-5233
carole.white@lcef.org



Rev. Bob Riggert
 Director of Customer
 Services
bob.riggert@lcef.org



Ruth Gerken
 Promotions Director
 Iowa East & West
ruth.gerken@lcef.org



Ministry *in Motion!*

Put Your Ministry *in Motion!*

Clarity. Alignment. Action. In that order.

God can do “immeasurably more than you can ask or imagine according to His power at work within us” (Eph. 3:20).

Imagine what God can do in and through your ministry. Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)’s Capital Funding Services (CFS) has developed a campaign process called “Immeasurably More.” The process takes a congregation or school through four phases:

- **Imagine:** explore what God is calling you to do.
- **Inform:** your entire membership will be made aware of the need/opportunity.
- **Inspire:** your membership will be inspired through worship and God’s Word.
- **Immeasurably More:** experience God’s work in your lives.

LCEF’s Capital Funding Services consultants design and guide you through a Christ-centered program. Our national staff will answer questions and provide valuable resources designed to help you meet your goals.

Through your partnership with LCEF, you can celebrate Ministry *in Motion!* Please call our Ministry Support team at 314-885-6444.

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God always
finds us
and
whispers
His word
of hope!

Lutheran
Church
Extension
Fund



GOLDEN TREASURE TRUTHS

By Rev. Bob Riggert

"He (Elijah) asked that he might die, saying 'It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers.' And he lay down and slept under a broom tree." 1 Kings 19:4-5

There are times when things just don't go well. There may be minor inconveniences, frustrations, and routine interruptions. There may also be physical or emotional barriers that seem insurmountable. The temptation is to feel sorry for ourselves and lament the unfavorable circumstances. We are tempted to have a "pity party" for one and perhaps invite others to observe and join us in our lament.

Things weren't going well for Elijah. Elijah had been blessed to witness major demonstrations of God's power—prophets of Baal defeated, a widow's son raised from the dead, the hungry prophet and a hungry family miraculously fed. But now all those victories seem to be forgotten as Elijah is on the run from wicked queen Jezebel. Hiding in the desert and huddled under a broom tree, Elijah begs to die. Feeling hopeless in his situation, Elijah gives up on God and himself.

God appears and intervenes. The angel of the Lord touches the prophet and feeds him. At Mt. Horeb "the sound of a low whisper" (1 Kings 19:12)—the voice of God—speaks to the prophet. The voice of Hope restores the hopeless prophet. Throughout Scripture there are other Elijah "types" who felt that God had abandoned them: Jeremiah laments and Jonah runs. Without exception God comes and reveals Himself through His Word and brings hope. When we were hopeless in sin, Jesus brought hope through His death and resurrection. The church is blessed to be in the Easter season. We are blessed to see the resurrected Lord appearing to us and assuring us that He is with us now and into eternity. He is risen, indeed!

Like Elijah, we sometimes find ourselves in life's deserts or under our broom trees. Perhaps there are times of despair. Perhaps crises and depression bring us there and leave us there for seemingly endless periods of time. God always finds us and whispers His word of hope.

After a Lutheran Church Extension Fund presentation at a congregation, an LCEF investor approached me and shared "LCEF helped us through a dark time." An LCEF loan made it possible for the congregation to continue ministry during a time of uncertainty. The investor also added, "But we're in the Light now!" Congregations too may find themselves in deserts and under broom trees. Your District's LCEF Vice President can share information on LCEF loans and services. We thank God for generous and trusting investors who provide the funds for congregation and professional church workers' emergencies so that they might live and rejoice in the light of Jesus' resurrection.

Prayer:

He lives to silence all my fears; He lives to wipe away my tears; He lives to calm my troubled heart; He lives all blessings to impart." Dear Jesus, thank You for the hope You give. Amen.

Carole White, District Vice-President (carole.white@lcef.org)
Rev. Bob Riggert, Director of Customer Services (bob.riggert@lcef.org)
Ruth Gerken, Promotions Director (ruth.gerken@lcef.org)

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Investment Interest Rates

800-843-5233
lcef.org

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

StewardAccount® Certificate

Minimum Investment		Rate	APY
\$100	--	0.125%	0.125%
\$1,000	--	0.250%	0.250%
\$5,000	--	0.375%	0.376%
\$10,000	--	0.625%	0.627%

Floating Term Notes (Minimum Investment \$100)

		Rate	APY
2½ Year (30 Month)	--	0.310%	0.310%
5 Year (60 Month)	--	0.740%	0.742%

Fixed Term Notes (Minimum Investment \$500)

		Rate	APY
6 Month	--	0.125%	0.125%
9 Month	--	0.250%	0.250%
1 Year	--	0.375%	0.376%
18 Month	--	0.500%	0.501%
2 Year	--	0.625%	0.626%
3 Year	--	0.875%	0.878%
4 Year	--	1.000%	1.004%
5 Year	--	1.250%	1.256%

Y.I. StewardAccount

Minimum Investment		Rate	APY
\$25-\$999		3.500%	3.557%
\$1,000 and over		0.750%	0.753%
Portion of balance > \$999.99 earns second tier rate.			
\$10,000	--	0.750%	0.753%

Family Emergency StewardAccount Certificate

Minimum Investment		Rate	APY
\$25	--	0.750%	0.753%
Balances of <\$10,000 require monthly electronic investments			

Dedicated Certificate

Minimum Investment		Rate	APY
\$100	--	0.125%	0.125%
Custodial accounts for minors: \$25			
\$1,000	--	0.250%	0.250%
\$5,000	--	0.375%	0.376%

HSA FlexPlus Certificate

Minimum Investment		Rate	APY
\$1	--	0.625%	0.627%
\$2,500	--	1.125%	1.131%
\$5,000	--	1.500%	1.510%
\$15,000	--	2.125%	2.146%

IRA Dedicated Certificate

Minimum Investment		Rate	APY
\$100	--	0.125%	0.125%
\$1,000	--	0.250%	0.250%
\$5,000	--	0.375%	0.376%
\$10,000	--	0.625%	0.626%

IRA Jumbo Notes (Minimum Investment \$100,000)

		Rate	APY
5 Year Fixed	--	1.625%	1.635%
60 Month Floating	--	1.115%	1.120%

Cemetery Perpetual Care StewardAccount Certificate

		Rate	APY
\$1,000	--	0.375%	0.376%
\$25,000	--	0.500%	0.501%
\$50,000	--	0.625%	0.627%
\$100,000 +	--	0.875%	0.879%

Congregation Endowment Note (60-Month Floating)

Minimum Investment		Rate	APY
\$1,000	--	1.115%	1.120%
\$10,000	--	1.240%	1.246%
\$100,000	--	1.365%	1.372%

Congregation Endowment Note (5-Year Fixed)

Minimum Investment		Rate	APY
\$1,000	--	1.115%	1.120%
\$10,000	--	1.240%	1.246%
\$100,000	--	1.365%	1.372%

Congregation Certificates (Minimum Investment \$100)

		Rate	APY
Demand	--	0.125%	0.125%
StewardAccount® Certificates			
\$100	--	0.375%	0.376%
\$250,000	--	0.500%	0.501%
\$500,000	--	0.625%	0.627%
\$1,000,000 +	--	0.750%	0.753%

LCEF StewardAccount access features provided through UMB Bank n.a. The StewardAccount is not available to investors living in South Carolina. LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell LCEF 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.

Mission Opportunities

A newsletter of resources, events, and ideas to help God's people passionately, intentionally, and faithfully extend the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world!

May 2014



Ah, summer! A time to relax, a time to take it easy! In many ways that's true – and I pray that for your health and well-being you'll plan some intentional time away from the demands of the ministry. But summer isn't a time to completely shut down – there are many opportunities for sharing Christ and many opportunities to begin planning for fall and beyond! We'll keep it simple this month – mainly some links for more information on opportunities, upcoming events and resources! Pick and choose what works best for you and your mission and ministry.

Opportunities

The International Student Ministry in Ames is looking for congregations to get involved one day this summer teaching English!

What would it require? We ask that you choose just one Wednesday during our program from June 18-July 23. You would recruit 4-6 volunteers to travel to Ames by 9 am. We will share more about the ISM program with you and introduce you to the classrooms, facilities and students as they start to arrive. After class is finished (around 11:30 am), there will be a complementary lunch for your group.

But we aren't trained teachers! No problem. One of the biggest requests from students is actually not learning more English. It's practicing what they already know. If you can speak English, you're more than qualified.

So what would we do? We will send you materials beforehand, but your main job will be asking questions, facilitating conversation and giving students a chance to practice communication - pronunciation, proper grammar, new vocabulary, etc. We break the students up by fluency level and will assign you to different groups based on that.

Then what? You return home and incorporate the experience into serving in your own mission field or perhaps return to Ames and serve in the ISM ministry there. Either way, you will be a blessing and be enriched through the opportunity! For more information contact Hannah Moore at ism.mlchurch@gmail.com or 515.460.5110.

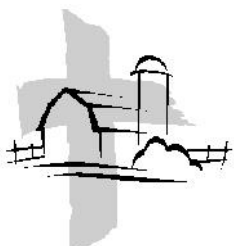
Coaching – trained coaches are available in Iowa District West to come alongside and help you clarify and put plans to the vision and thoughts for ministry God has put on your heart. See the enclosed sheet for more information.

Ah, summer – a time for travel! In addition to mission trips through IOWAY (contact Ellie Menz - ellie.menz@idwlcms.org), LCMS World Mission has an urgent need for international [short-term mission teams](#). Could this be you or someone you know?



Upcoming Events

- **Engaging Your Community**, in partnership with Rural/Small Town Ministry of the LCMS, at First Lutheran, Mt. Ayr, Saturday, May 10. See the enclosed sheet for more information.
- **Churches Planting Churches** workshop, in partnership with the Center for U.S. Missions, at St. Paul, Ankeny, Friday/Saturday, May 30-31. See the enclosed sheet for more information.



Reaching Rural
America for Christ

- **WIKI Conference**, an LCMS gathering of church workers offering personal, practical ways for reaching the lost in your community. Katy, TX, Tuesday-Thursday, Sept. 23-25. Scholarships and reduced registrations available from the District office. Go to www.wiki52.com for more information.
- **National Mission Conference** hosted by LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission, Kansas City, Nov. 6-8. [Registration](#) deadline is Sept. 15.

Resources

- **The Truth About Social Media and Ministry**, a special issue of Christian Computing magazine is available by clicking here: <http://www.ccmaq.com/specialissue/ccmaqspecialissue.pdf>
- **Should Your Church Use Radio Ads?** Is there room for utilizing this medium in this technological world and, if so, what are some keys? <http://www.unseminary.com/should-your-church-use-radio-ads-plus-9-keys-to-great-radio-ads/>
- **Reaching Across Generations** – NET Results, billed as offering new ideas for growing churches, is offering for free their latest issue on reaching across generations. Download it here: <http://file.netresults.org/2014-05Free.pdf>
- **Journal of Lutheran Mission** – read the premier issue by clicking here: <http://blogs.lcms.org/category/journal/journal-of-lutheran-mission>
- **Best Practices for Ministry** first community newsletter is now available for download. http://www.cclphoenix.org/bpm_2014/newsletter_april.pdf
- **Mission U** is a great resource from Lutheran Hour Ministries covering a wide variety of outreach topics. You'll find more information at www.whatsmissionu.com.



Ah, summer – I know in addition to ministry responsibilities, I'll be making time for some family vacations and I pray you'll do the same! As you plan your vacations, don't overlook the importance of planning your ministry and outreach efforts. If I can assist and serve you in any way—whether preaching, planning or promoting, please don't hesitate to contact me!

Rev. Mark Gerken, Executive Assistant for Missions and Human Care
Mark.gerken@idwlcms.org or 515-570-2331



Churches Planting Churches Seminar

Why plant a church?

How do we prepare to plant a church?

When is the right time to plant?

The process of planting a church

**A two-day seminar designed for congregation teams
(pastor plus 2-5 key leaders)**

Sponsored by Iowa District West, LCMS

**Trainers: Rev. Dr. Peter Meier and Rev. Mike Ruhl
Center for US Missions**

Date: May 30-31, 2014 — Friday, May 30—Registration, 8:30AM

Seminar, 9AM - 5PM

Saturday, May 31—8:30AM - 3PM

Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church (1100 SE Sharon Dr., Ankeny, IA)

**Cost: Registration for IDW member congregations—\$50/person, OR
\$200 max/church (up to six participants)**

Registration for non IDW congregations—\$50/person

Registration includes materials, snacks, noon lunches

REGISTER ONLINE at www.centerforusmissions.org (after March 15)

PAY by sending a check with name of church & attendees to:

Iowa District West

Churches Planting Churches Seminar

409 Kenyon Rd Suite B

Fort Dodge IA 50501

Registration deadline: May 15

(Seating is limited; register soon)

Contact: Jill Davis

515.576.7666 | jill.davis@idwlcms.org

Church consultants tell us that the best way to reach the un-churched is by planting new churches. That's why the Center for US Missions, together with Dynamic Church Planting International, has developed this seminar, designed to help prepare churches for the church planting process. Explore biblical and practical church planting strategies, timing, process, and more! Pastors, congregation members, mission leaders are invited to learn, pray, plan, and prepare for the Spirit's multiplying work through their local congregation!

Engaging Your Community Event

Saturday, May 10th

Engaging Your Community Event at Trinity Lutheran Church - Creston & Mt. Ayr, IA
1111 East South St., Mt. Ayr, IA 50854

Featured Presenters:

Rev. Todd Kollbaum

Rev. Ray Smith

If overnight accommodations are desired,
make your own reservations at
Mount Ayr Inn
www.mountayrinn.com



REACHING RURAL AMERICA *for Christ*

*Let's go... to the small towns.
Mark 1:38 (God's Word ®)*

www.lcms.org/rstm

rstm@lcms.org

What will you get out of an EYC Event:

- Bible Studies
- Community Demographic Studies
- Identifying Congregational Strengths
- Community Outreach Ideas
- Table Discussions
- Fellowship

Cost: \$25/participant

Register by Friday, May 2nd

Online <http://www.lcms.org/rstm/engaging-rural-communities>

Call 888-463-5127 or
email rstm@lcms.org



RURAL & SMALL TOWN
MISSION

888-463-5127 or 660-463-9400

COACHING

What if . . .

- You could have someone outside your home or congregation in whom you could confide and share your dreams?
- You could have someone who would help you to clarify what God has put on your heart for you and your congregation?
- You could have someone who would pray for you, encourage you and hold you accountable in an environment of grace?

Well now you can! Trained **coaches are available in Iowa District West!**

Coaching is not

- An expert, telling you what you should be doing;
- A substitute for therapy, counseling, mental health care, or treatment for substance abuse;
- A way for the District to “check up on you.” All sessions are strictly confidential.

Coaching is

- A brother pastor, trained in the art of asking powerful questions, helping to draw out and clarify what God has put on your heart;
- A monthly session for prayer, clarification, encouragement and accountability;
- Potentially a great blessing to you, your family, your congregation and the Kingdom!

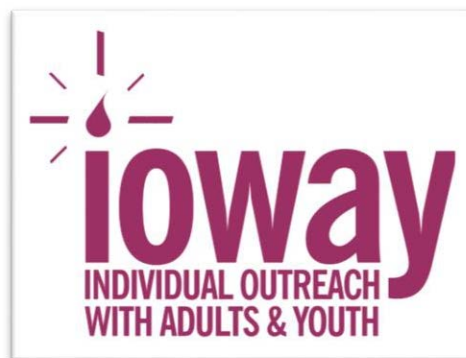
*“Having a **coach** has proven to be a great help in verbalizing where God’s calling me to go and helping me stay the course!” (A current coaching participant)*

For more information or if interested in being matched with a **coach**, please contact Mark Gerken (515-570-2331 or mark.gerken@idwlcms.org).

QUILTS, DOLLS AND MONKEYS

Comfort, Comfort, ye my people. Isaiah 40:1

These are the words that the quilters at Trinity Lutheran Church in Algona have taken to heart. Recently I was invited to give a presentation to Trinity's youth group on the many mission opportunities available through IOWAY. Following the presentation, Pastor Joseph Seifert and Rick and Barb Bitterman asked me to see what they are doing with quilts, dolls and monkeys for missions. I thought that was an interesting combination. I was "blown away" by the basement rooms full of quilts, dolls, doll clothes, monkeys, race tracks, blankets, etc.



Who are the Trinity Quilters? Barb Bitterman shared, "We started out with five or six quilters and made just Lutheran World Relief quilts four years ago. We now sew every Tuesday and Thursday, once a month on Monday night and the youth come every Wednesday in the summer along with four times a year with a program called 'Service Wednesday.' We have grown to around 50 quilters plus the youth. We have many others that have come and joined in the journey so the exact number is unknown. Only God knows. The quilters are dedicated beyond belief."

There is a showcase displaying Friendship Faith and Baby Faith dolls along with many different outfits, blankets, afghans, sleeping bags and Moses baskets. Mighty Moses is also on display with his car mat, blocks and cuddle blanket.

Quilts, quilts, beautiful quilts!

Following is a summary of the quilts made in 2013: 15 Confirmation; 68 Giving Chair; 5 Wedding; 61 Lutheran World Relief; 8 Camp Okoboji; 9 Adopted Families; 1 Colorado Fire; 104 Care Team; and 8 Baptismal quilts. After the tornado in Oklahoma, they gave 47 quilts (16 made by the youth during Bible School).

Rick Bitterman has become a master of machine embroidering! He embroiders the name, date and verse on the baptism, confirmation, and wedding quilts. There is an amazing "nursery" of dolls



with the beautifully sewn clothes. In 2013, they made 36 Friendship Faith dolls, 42 Baby Faith dolls, 78 dolly blankets, 32 dolly afghans, 46 Mighty Moses and car mats, 50 cuddle blankets, 133 hats, 112 slippers and 28 body pillows.

At Christmas, they gave, with the help of the “Chips Off the Old Block” (a great woodworking group who help Mighty Moses with special mission outreaches for young boys) 25 trucks, 28 Mighty Moses sets of blocks, 41 stuffed animals and 82 Nativity Books.



Two new missions have emerged this past year. They now make quilts to help those suffering from Alzheimer’s and also have started to make body pillows for the children at the Care Team.

Following is the brochure by the Trinity Quilters. It highlights each of their amazing mission outreaches



WEDDING QUILTS

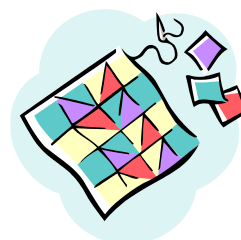
These quilts are made to uplift the blessed gift of marriage and to honor the beginning of a new family. This quilt is inspired by the real love given to us by Jesus Christ. His love for us came in the way of a cross, which is featured in the middle of each quilt and is surrounded by stained glass blocks. The center of the cross features an open Bible with the verses from 1st Corinthians 13, the love chapter. Our Mission Statement is given to the couple in their card; it reads: *Our mission is to plant seeds of our prayers within the layers of this quilt.* May our seeds of prayers grow with them in their happy times and may it uplift them during times of trial. May they not only see our love stitched in but may they also feel it when they let God wrap them up in His comfort blanket of love.

FRIENDSHIP FAITH

Friendship Faith is a mission that is dear to our hearts as every little girl needs a special friend and sometimes that comes in the form of a favorite doll; a doll that we lovingly have named “Faith.” Faith is given to little girls in need by way of our Pastors, the Care Team and the Crisis Center. Faith is a beautiful doll and, along with Faith, new outfits have been lovingly made by our quilters. It is our hope and prayer that the special little girl who plays with Faith will feel all the love and prayers that have come from all of us and be comforted by them.

FRIENDSHIP BABY FAITH

Baby Faith is a precious baby that is given to our “little ones” in crisis or need. Baby Faith comes in what we lovingly call the “Moses Basket,” along with a beautiful Baptismal gown, a nightgown, a reversible diaper and bib, a hat, socks, afghan and baby blanket. She, as well as Friendship Faith, are given to “comfort” the little ones in such a way that only Jesus can do. It is our prayer just like Friendship Faith that the little ones will feel all the love and prayers that have come from all of us as well as from “above.”



MIGHTY MOSES/CAR MAT

Mighty Moses is for our boys in crisis or need. Moses is a monkey and he protects and looks over his “home” that comes in the form of a car mat which features a church with doors that open and says *Jesus loves you*, houses, grocery stores, restaurants and stores to shop. The boys receive new cars that they can drive up and down and all around. Mighty Moses comes with his own afghan and it is our hope and prayer that the boys who receive this special gift will feel the love that Jesus has for them and the love that comes from all of us.

BUILDING BLOCKS FOR MIGHTY MOSES

Mighty Moses, along with his comfort blanket, car mat and cars, is a monkey with a “MISSION.” Mighty Moses loves to build and he loves to use his imagination for greater things. *Chips off the Old Block*, a woodworking group, have helped Moses with that special mission. They have made building blocks with their scraps and they are not just ordinary blocks. They are sawn, sanded and hand-rubbed to perfection and come in many shapes, sizes and colors of wood. Little boys in need or crisis, along with Moses, can build to their heart’s content. The gift goes beyond the “building of blocks.” It goes into the heart of a little boy that dreams of what he can make. He will be able to go “into another world” where he feels in control over what is done and the creations that evolve from that place. There is nothing greater, nothing more powerful, than when the love of others is transferred into the heart and hands of a little boy.

THE GIVING CHAIR (In loving memory of Karen Smith)

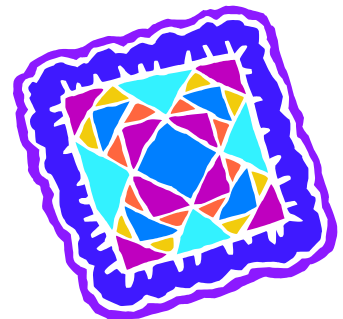
Karen Smith was a devoted and expert quilter that we had the privilege and honor of calling our friend. We feel it is impossible for anyone to know all the needs and concerns of our church family and community. Therefore, we are creating what we lovingly call “The Giving Chair” in Karen’s honor. The TLC Quilters place a quilt on the back of the rocking chair in the Narthex and this quilt can be taken by any member of our church family to be given to someone that they feel is in need. One does not need to ask, nor tell, where it goes. May those that receive this quilt feel the blessings of our love and prayers.

CUDDLE BLANKETS AND DOLL QUILTS

We are assisting the Care Team with their little ones that need a little extra TLC. We are doing this in the form of Cuddle Blankets which are made of soft colorful fleece. It is our hope to provide “comfort” and “love” in this special way to the little ones that are in need or are in a crisis situation and they will feel the love and the softness of Jesus within. The doll quilts are being made to comfort the little girls in the same way. It is our hope every little girl has a doll and if not, we are hoping that we can provide one so they too can feel the love and comfort from within. It is our prayer that the little girls who receive these quilts will learn to “nurture” their love in such a way as to share with their dolly and blessings abound once again....and the “Heart of Jesus” is felt.

BIBLE CAMP QUILT AUCTION

We send many quilts each year to be auctioned at the annual Quilt Auction to raise money for Camp Okoboji, our Missouri Synod Lutheran Bible Camp. We make these quilts to not only help and support our own youth but also to uplift, reach out and support various young people from other churches as well.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF and ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

The TLC Quilters have been making these quilts for years. These are lovingly made to help support and uplift those around the world who are in need and have been struck by disaster. These quilts humble us; as we cut and sew, we are reminded of how blessed we are and what a privilege it is to be able to create, make and give of our love and share our prayers for them in such a special way.

HAPPY HANDS

Oh happy hands love to knit and crochet, don't they? Join us as together we knit and crochet for those in need. We have been blessed with yarn donations so help us create, make and share hats and slippers for the Care Team this Christmas. If you have happy hands, please join us in a way that we can share our love and prayers with those in need.



START 'EM YOUNG QUILTERS

Sewing with the youth of our church is a special time that adults and youth work together. The youth are encouraged to think about giving to others and they accomplish that goal by "creating and making" prayer pillows, quilts, etc. This mission has been an exciting one as they have learned how to put colors together, pick out fabric and yes, how to sew! A lot of love and attention goes into each and every pillow. Wait, that's not all....every pillow and quilt is prayed over and then....given to those "they feel are in need." What an inspirational mission for our youth and adults, as together, we learn how to look beyond ourselves, search out, create, make and give to others.

BAPTISMAL QUILTS

Baptismal quilts are *sew* important as they touch the life of a little one on their special day and as they grow. Their quilt is a reminder that not only does God love them but their church family does as well. It is our prayer that the love and prayers sewn within will always be felt and will be a constant comfort.

JOURNEY OF FAITH QUILTS

These quilts are created especially to uplift our confirmands. The blocks are inspired by the water of baptism (blue), the Holy Spirit (gold), and the blood shed for them by Jesus (red). The blue and the red hold the gold, the Holy Spirit "within" (the middle) just like it is "within" the confirmands. The quilters "tied" the gold block to show that the confirmands are a "light to the world." The three colors represent the Trinity and also represent us as our church family, Trinity Lutheran. The quilts are "bound by hand" and in the color blue which represents Heaven or eternity.

JOSEPH'S COATS OF MANY COLORS

These quilts are *sew* much fun. We make use of our scrap fabrics and sew them together, hence the name, Joseph's coat of many colors. These quilts are lovingly made for our adopted families at Christmas. As these quilts take time and patience, we pray that the recipient of such a quilt will enjoy all the colors and patterns it contains, created and made just for them.

CARE TEAM

The TLC Quilters make quilts for those in need in our own community and surrounding area. These quilts are appreciated by the Care Team and it gives us great joy to be able to help comfort

those in need. It is our hope that all the work, the love, and the prayers are felt as the recipients cover themselves with the warmth and comfort that only God can give through the simple threads of cloth sewn together through willing hearts and hands.

Barb shared that they had no clue how God would guide them but found that He did indeed open up many exciting doors. She shared that they were blessed by God beyond measure as they had the honor and privilege of “connecting their community and beyond with Christ.” The Trinity Quilters invite you and/or your group to come to Algona to see and experience what they do. Contact Barb Bitterman at barb@bitterman.us.

IOWAY Summer Mission Trips

Do your summer plans include a mission trip? Consider one of the following IOWAY trips.

Los Angeles: July 8-21 - VBS in four churches and working with homeless on Skid Row

Puerto Rico: July 26-August 4 - VBS and work projects

Pasadena winter trip: December 28-January 4 - Decorating floats for the Rose Parade and working with homeless on Skid Row

For information or to register for the mission trips, check out <http://www.idwlcms.org/ioway.php>

Ellie Menz
ellie.menz@idwlcms.org
807 W. South
Jefferson IA 50129
515-370-1159



MISSIONARIES DR. KEN & MARLENE BLOCK ARRIVE AT MISSION CENTRAL

God sends all kinds of Missionaries to HIS Mission Central in the hills of western Iowa. The Lord sent Dr. Ken Block and his wife Marlene, veteran missionaries who have worked with Laborers for Christ, to Mission Central on March 27 and 28. They volunteered their time to help with special "work projects" that needed to be done. What a JOY to have them come.

This dear couple spent two days, painting, repairing, filling cracks, repairing damaged walls, and putting up items that needed to be replaced.

It was indeed a HUGE help for us at Mission Central. It was a blessing to have the opportunity to visit with this special missionary family.

God does indeed send people "at just the right time" **when they are truly needed...the Blocks were part of God's plan for His spring cleaning and fix up!**

We can't begin to thank these helpers enough!



SCHAULAND FAMILY VISITS MISSION CENTRAL!

What a JOY and blessing to have all the children of the sainted Pastor Helmut Schauland come to visit Mission Central on April 2. The Rev. Helmut Schauland was called to our real home in heaven on March 27. His children from the Milwaukee area, the Chicago area, and Sioux City gathered for his funeral. Pastor Schauland was a long-time Iowa District West pastor and shepherd.



One of the wishes of the children was to see Mission Central. They came for a special tour of the Museum, the Ministry Center, the offices, and the little wayside prayer chapel. It was indeed a special time for the family as each of them had a chance to pray with Old Missionary Gary in the chapel to thank the Lord for the gift of Jesus, that would absolutely insure the fact that they will see their dear earthly father again when we are all together in our real home in heaven.

Pictured is the family God granted to Pastor and Mrs. Schauland.

Mission Central – LCMS World Mission

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

Gary Thies
gary.thies@lcms.org
www.missioncentral.us

MISSION CENTRAL EVENTS

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Rev. Micah Wildauer and Family

Africa

Saturday, May 3, 2014

1:30 PM



Rev. Ed & Cherie Auger

Honduras

Saturday, May 3, 2014

1:30 PM

The Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer

President, Concordia
Seminary, St. Louis

Thursday, May 29, 2014

7 PM



Caitlin Worden

Lima, Peru

Saturday, June 14, 2014

1 PM

Rev. JP Cima and Family

Vietnam

Saturday, July 5

1:30 PM



Mark and Lucy Wolfram

Taiwan

Saturday, July 5

1:30 PM

Josh and Coco Lange

Asia

Saturday, July 5, 2014

1:30 PM



Enoch Petersen and Family

Ankara, Turkey

Saturday, July 12, 2014

1:30 PM

Shara Cunningham
East Africa
Saturday, July 12, 2014
1:00 PM



Rev. Mark Eisold and Family
Peru
Wednesday, July 16, 2014
1:30 PM

Rev. Matt Wasmund and Family
Asia
Saturday, July 19, 2014
1:30 PM



Sharon Owens and Family
Macau
Saturday, July 19, 2014
1:00 PM

Rev. Joel Scheiwe and Family

Hong Kong

Saturday, July 19, 2014

1:30 PM



Rev. Chris Ahlman and Family

Germany

Saturday, July 26, 2014

1:30 PM

Mission Central-LCMS World Mission

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

gary.thies@lcms.org
www.missioncentral.us

HISPANIC OUTREACH IN SIOUXLAND

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



May 2014

"Thy Kingdom come" - Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:10)

Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer we are asking that mission activities be successful. We pray not only that we be a part of God's kingdom but that many others also come to faith in the Savior Jesus Christ. When God's kingdom comes and He rules in our hearts, He also moves us to do His will. Above all else, His will is that all would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. God has acted and is acting in many ways so that His rule is extended in the hearts of more and more people. By praying that His kingdom come, we are asking that His rule guide our lives, that we live under His rule, and that we be His helpers in extending His loving rule to those outside of His saving kingdom. As He answers our prayers, He may bring about some big changes in our lives so as to enlarge His kingdom. May this be so for the success of His royal plan and rule. *"Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you."* 2 Thessalonians 3:1

Our English classes will continue until mid-May after which we will take our summer break. We pray that the students and their families will participate in our various VBS programs and other activities.

We had two members of our Hispanic committee take care of our booth at the Sioux City Multicultural Fair. They distributed Bible tracts and other materials along with promoting our English classes. We are thankful for their time and service. We are planning to have a booth at the Cinco de Mayo Fair (May 5) next month.

We are thankful that our weekly Spanish worship and Bible study have seen a small increase in numbers and that new people have visited on several occasions.

At one of my English classes several students had questions about the Lutheran church. We spoke in Spanish as we discussed the differences between the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholic Church. We plan to meet at a separate time to go into more detail. Ultimately one needs to know of Christ and His message, and then will be better able to evaluate a church's teachings. Please pray that our sharing of the Word will bring them closer to their Savior Jesus.

EYES on Youth Ministry

Educating Youth, Encouraging Servants

Not Just Words

“Tell him you’re sorry.” “Sorriry.” “See, he doesn’t mean it!”

We’ve all been there. With our kids, with each other, even with ourselves. What does it mean to confess our sins to God and to hear His words of Absolution? In my old Small Catechism with annotations by Edward Koehler I read, “We should firmly believe the words of absolution, because the pastor does not proclaim his own, but God’s forgiveness, and Christ definitely states that whenever pastors forgive sins to penitent sinners, then the sins *are* forgiven” (page and question 288).

Not Just Words is our theme for the 2014 Junior Youth Gathering to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines on October 25 & 26. Focusing on Confession and Absolution and with Acts 3:19 as our biblical base, we will be reminded confession and absolution are not just words said during worship, but real forgiveness and life-changing grace and mercy. DCE Scotte Hansen will be our keynote speaker and Swen and Dean will again be here to share their love and music.

Collide

This fall Iowa West will again join the Nebraska District for a joint High School Youth Gathering to be held at the LaVista Convention Center just outside of Omaha, NE. Held on November 21-23, we will be reminded that when two things collide, at least one of them is not going to remain the same. Every time someone collides with Jesus, they always leave changed. St. Paul tells us, **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”** (2 Corinthians 5:17). When we collide with Jesus and His Good News in Word or Sacrament, we are changed, re-born, made a new creation. By the power of the Spirit, our collision with the cross and the empty tomb leaves us changed, not the same as we were before. At the gathering, high school youth from Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota will collide with God’s love and with His Word, and, through the work of the Spirit, they will be changed. DCE Jeffrey Meinz, a presenter at the National Gathering and the keynote speaker at our District gathering in 2012, will lead us on a collision course with the power of the Gospel.

Servant Ideas

Are the youth at your church looking for new ways to serve that are different from yard clean ups and babysitting at church meetings? There are many different ideas that you can adapt to your own community if you just look a bit:

How about starting and promoting a church-wide recycling program? Ever think about the amount of paper and other recyclable material that ends up in church trash bins? Your group could collect the material and transport it to a community recycling center serving your church and saving the environment at the same time.

How do you say thank you? Come up with a list of public servants: police or sheriff's deputies, volunteer or professional fire fighters and paramedics, employees at City Hall or the library or any other public servant group in your area. Arrange with the chief or director for the best time to arrive. Bring your group along with cookies, bars, or other treats and a drink to share. You may also want a poster or card signed by all expressing your appreciation for their efforts at making your community a better place to live.

Pastor Steven Hayden

Executive Assistant for Youth – steve.hayden@idwlcms.org

**2014 LCMS District
Youth Gathering - Omaha**
hosted by the Nebraska District

COLLIDE

... no longer the same

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
he is a new creation; the old has gone,
the new has come!
2 Corinthians 5:17

The 211 Band



Engaging Speakers



Service with Friends



"These Guys"



Nov. 21-23, 2014

ELEMENTS

<http://www.NEYouth.org>



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District LCMS
www.ndlcms.org

iM Inspirmedia[®]
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<http://www.INSPIRMEDIA.com>
Photos by: Phil Rarrestad



Our Stewardship of Discipleship Trusts That God Is Enough

The greatest lesson a person needs to learn is that God, and God alone, is enough for all needs. The crowning discovery of our entire Christian life is to learn the truth that God is enough! This is especially true with regard to our salvation, but it is also true in every other aspect of our lives as Christ's disciples.

Take as an example the always present tensions regarding congregation finances. There especially it can be tough to believe that God is enough. Just examine the bulletins and newsletters of a variety of congregations usually in August through October and you will see many that contain warnings and appeals about a shortage of funds available for ministry. Some congregation leaders are inclined to think these urgent appeals are necessary to bring offerings in. But how do these appeals square with the Biblical promises?

- *"You prepare a table before me ...; my cup overflows" (Ps. 23:5).*
- *"How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings. They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights" (Ps. 36:7-8).*
- *"... the Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors" (Deut. 30:9).*

The leftovers after Jesus fed the 5,000 men (not counting women and children) testify to God's abundance: *"and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish" (Mark 6:43).*

St. Paul regularly proclaimed God's abundance:

- *"God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8).*
- *"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine" (Eph. 3:20).*
- *"And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).*

While these great promises of God are real and true, we often operate in a state of scarcity and financial panic. In doing so we send a message that God is unable to supply our most basic needs, let alone provide funds for new ministry ideas and needs. How vital it is therefore to think carefully about the image of God we convey in the way we operate and make our ministry concerns known.

Having said this, we are also to acknowledge that our discipleship/stewardship goals (whether financial or otherwise) are realistic. Though it is good to aim high, overly optimistic expectations almost always lead to frustration, dashed hopes and failed programs. Therefore congregational leadership must understand the subtle but crucial difference between trusting in God's goodness to meet legitimate needs and framing God as a sort of sugar daddy in the sky.

What does our faith say? Will we trust the Lord's provisions for future needs or must we hold them back and preserve them because the Lord is not likely to provide us with the resources needed for the tasks He has given us? This is the constant battle that is made in the majority of congregations.

For this reason it is wise to concentrate not so much on what we do or do not do in regard to the finances of a congregation, as to what God does for us in all things (even in regard to finances). An on-going spiritual growth emphasis year round in this regard is therefore always in order. People need to learn God's glorious promises in order to trust them and to respond in gratitude to them. They need to hear these promises again and again just like a little child longs to hear a favorite storybook over and over again.

How is your congregational leadership doing in this regard? Is the matter of following Christ by growing in His Word and responding out of thankfulness to God in deeds of mercy and compassion a priority? It can be if the promises of God are made known consistently and seen as priority items of the whole ministry of the congregation. How much effort is put forth in writing, in visuals, and in speaking these great truths to one another? Is the financial statement of need the only visual a congregation sees or does it see a biblical promise of God as the highlight of a Sunday bulletin?

As your Executive Assistant in the area of Christian Stewardship/Discipleship in Iowa District West, I would like to help you or your congregation investigate various ways of focusing our members on the gracious gifts of God that we all might grow in a life of discipleship and learn to trust that God is enough even in the area of increased financial giving. Please contact me for more information.

Rev. Phill Andreasen
Executive Assistant for Stewardship
Phill.Andreasen@idwlcms.org
712-336-1010



Until the Whole World Hears

—Hannah Moore

I had the opportunity to share about ISM at our district LWML rally on April 5. During a meeting beforehand, the theme "Until the Whole World Hears," was suggested and approved. It was a line I borrowed from a Casting Crowns' song and wrote at the bottom of emails, but I never thought anyone really noticed. Then a member suggested it, and soon I was thinking back to all kinds of moments when I had the chance to introduce people to Jesus for the first time – some who had limited knowledge beforehand, and some who knew nothing. It's something I wish every Christian could experience. Incredibly humbling. Incredibly blessed.

There was the day our group studied what it means to be a Christian. We discussed how faith alone is what restores us to a right relationship with God – not reading the Bible, not prayer, not good works, just faith. Then we read a short summary about those things

to group Bible study, but her conversational English was limited. So I invited her to go slowly through the material one-on-one. After a few minutes I asked if she knew the story of God creating the world. She shook her head "no". Did she know what Jesus did for us? Again, "no". So we started at creation and talked about how God made the world and people to live in relationship with Him and others. Everything was perfect. Everything was right. Every day of creation ends with – "And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1).

Then we discussed sin, the punishment for it and Jesus' perfect life, death and resurrection. When all the pieces came together at the cross, she was astonished. "I think Jesus is the best person in the world," she said. "No one ever told me this story."



"I think Jesus is the best person in the world," she said. "No one ever told me this story."

coming as a result of faith and the reality that we all fail in them at times. However, it also reminded us that no matter our failures, God will never stop loving or forgiving us.

"Wow," a Japanese woman gasped as she heard the last line. She was familiar with Christianity in Japan and had come to Bible study for a few months, but she had never heard that truth. It was a powerful moment in our study that day – both for me and for her. No words do justice when you sit with someone who hears for the first time that God's love is unconditional and everlasting.

On the Friday I got to share God's rescue mission with a Chinese mom. She had come

There was also the day a Chinese friend and I studied the story of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep," Jesus said. "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord" (John 10:11, 18). This amazed her. "I think this is the most precious sacrifice," she said. "He volunteered."

The people we share with aren't all internationals either. I meet weekly with an American who has international-born parents. Through a variety of circumstances, we met one day to talk about her frustrations in Iowa. She had moved from California and was tired of being taken for an international student because of her outward appearance.

American peer minister Dan Voss is pictured here with Biao Feng, a Chinese Ph. D. student. Over 2.5 years and after many, many Bible studies with many volunteers like Dan, Biao has grown from knowing little about God to becoming a Christian. He will be baptized on Easter Sunday. We praise God for His faithful work in Biao's life and thank the many others, like Dan, God used in Biao's life.

— Continued on page 2



Bible study friends from left to right: Laura Eisenman, Kathy Choi, Haruko Nakagawa, Yunkeung, Weihua (Gabby) Zhu, Johana Mayorga Lozano and Hannah Moore. Yunkeung was been part of the Bible study group for over one year and returned home to Korea last month.

— Continued from page 1

I invited her to study with me the gospel stories where Jesus and others are judged based on outward appearance, culture and where they're from. She agreed, and we've been meeting since.

She criticizes the Bible for making her "feel bad about herself" in regards to sin. She picks apart any inconsistencies in timing or order of events and mulls over them. And she doesn't want to hear "feel-good" Christian phrases – love your enemy, forgive, etc. She wants to know specific examples from my life when I have loved an enemy, how have I forgiven someone, what it looks like in real life to apply the gospel.

And these are just a few of the many stories and opportunities. Before Jesus left His disciples, He promised in Acts 1:8 they would be witnesses at home (Jerusalem), to their neighbors (Judea and Samaria) and to the ends of the earth. Today, almost 2000 years later, we find those same three mission opportunities in our backyards. Sure we may have more opportunities in Ames to share with the "ends of the earth", but no one is disqualified from participating Jesus' commission. There are more and more people in our own country that also have little knowledge or large misunderstandings about Jesus and the gospel, and there are many countries in world news alone we can pray for – many with few reached peoples.

We can't bring someone to faith. We can't convince them God is real and the gospel is truth. We may share for years, and they'll walk away from Him or move home to an atheist country. But we can share, and we can pray, and we can serve until the whole wide world, at the very least, gets to hear.

My Ames Life for one and half year

– Yunkeung Hoang (South Korea)

Looking back now, one and a half years ago, I had been busy days preparing to move to Ames because my husband planned to be a visiting scholar in ISU. The thought of it made my heart flutter. At first, I confused even Iowa and Ohio. And I enjoyed looking up in the Atlas where the Iowa was or checking where stopovers of my trip were. When I had driven on the I-35 highway, then I saw huge cornfields. I felt this was Iowa. Large grasses and many parks in Ames caught my attention at first.

My first 1-2 months in Ames I had difficulty trying to catch the atmosphere. First of all, I had to get a driver license to adjust to Ames life. I waited for quite a long time to test my driving skill because the status of my visa was checked. Furthermore, the wall of language added to my problems. Those problems were hard for me. When I got the driver license almost one and a half months later, I couldn't describe the happiness and sat on the top of the world for a while.

For a while after getting a driver license, even though I had language problems, I felt all matters could go on smoothly. If I thought about it again, I feel many people that I met tried to understand what I said.

My language problem and poor understanding of American culture added to my confusion. For example, when I passed someone closely without "excuse me", I was not familiar with using "excuse me." I felt they were uncomfortable.

I think that all programs in the Lutheran church helped me to correct these kinds of mistakes. The conversation programs helped me to get over my language problems, various programs had me experience American culture, an art class taught me about leisure activity and a Bible study showed Christ's Love. All programs helped me a lot to adjust to Ames life. Also, many friends that I have met in these programs helped me a lot. Because they have problems like me, I get along with them easily. Again, thanks to all members of Lutheran church for making these chances for me.

Until now, by taking part in small communities here and there, I have found the things I would like to follow. First, citizens in the USA have their responsibilities in their community, and they follow those very well without witness. Second, there are various volunteer systems in society. There are many opportunities for volunteers, and also the mind of the volunteer work of citizens is wonderful. Next, the activities of Senior citizens attract attention to me. As we become an aging society, my country also needs opportunities for them.

I hope the people of my country have those good things soon. And I hope all people have happiness without regret or depression.

International Moms' Small Group

— Suzanne Klocke

The International Mom's group began after many international moms expressed frustrations with me about parenting issues and staying at home all day with their kids. With zero experience as a mom, I started praying and asking who might be willing to lead a group for the mothers. They now meet once a week at the church. There are college students who provide free babysitting, and the group of moms meets separately to discuss relevant topics, receive encouragement or advice and also extend it to others.

This past fall, Hannah Moore, our International Ministry Coordinator at Memorial Lutheran Church in Ames, IA, asked me if I would be interested in leading a moms' group for international moms. She didn't know that I had been praying that God would put me in the right place for volunteering, as I was going to be going through a HUGE transition in my life in the coming year.

You see, I have been a full-time stay-at-home mom and homeschool teacher to our two children the past 21 years, and our youngest would be graduating from homeschool high school in May of this year. Thinking about how my purpose in life would be changing had been leaving me feeling melancholy. So when Hannah asked, I didn't have to think long about how I would reply.

Our moms' small group attendees change with the weather, the schedules of the moms, and whose visa is expiring. Since beginning the small group last fall, I've had another mom, Carolyn McCall, join me as a co-leader, which has been a lot of fun. This is my first time leading an international small group, and I am learning as I go.

One of the biggest challenges is that the vocabulary abilities of our group members vary each time, from an elementary-level education to college educated. I teach the group as I am used to teaching my children at home, and my co-leader checks the group for

understanding of the vocabulary words that I am using. I use the white board a lot to write synonyms for many words and concepts that we discuss.

I am leaning on God's leading for our topics, and I try to gear our devotions and discussions to what is going on in the moms' lives. We know that God brings the right moms to the group each time, and He has even worked it so that only one mom came on a day that she REALLY needed the listening and caring that both Carolyn and I could only provide in a class-of-one situation.

I look forward to seeing who God brings to class each week, co-leading with Carolyn, encouraging, and being encouraged by the international moms, many of whom stay at home all day, alone, while their husbands either work or go to college classes, or both. Through this class, God is reminding me how He has hugely blessed me, and that I in turn need to continue to seek ways to be a blessing to others.

2013/14 Mission Heart Scholarship Recipients

For five years, the **Mission Heart Scholarship** has awarded \$500 to two ISU freshmen who participate in International Student Ministry their first semester and exhibit mission hearts. We are happy to introduce our 2013/2014 recipients, Emily Scott and Tim Lindquist.

Contributions to this scholarship fund can be given to the church office.



Emily Scott

My name is Emily Scott, and I am a freshman here at Iowa State. I am currently studying Pre-Occupational Therapy.

I came across this scholarship during my college visit. I had gone to a fair in the Memorial Union and went to a booth for the Memorial Lutheran Church. That is where I found out about the scholarship which

allowed me to interact with people and not just write an essay. Not only did this scholarship help pay for some of my college expenses, it allowed me to get involved with the church.

I came from Gloria Dei Lutheran in Urbandale, Iowa, and there I was involved with youth group where I had a connection with people my own age with similar beliefs. It was comforting to also find that here at Memorial Lutheran. I participated in conversation lunches on Wednesday afternoons, talking and laughing with some pretty amazing women from about 4 different parts of the world. I also helped with an afterschool program before confirmation class on Wednesday. A recent program I started to take part in was babysitting on Thursday afternoons while the children's mothers were in a class for moms.

If it weren't for this scholarship and opportunity to meet such great people, I don't think I would have been so involved and motivated to be a part of church in college. I grew in my faith and love for not only God but also in my love and appreciation for all of the different people He created in this world.

Tim Lindquist

Last semester, I was privileged to help out with ISM at Memorial Lutheran Church. I would come after school to the church and meet up with Hannah Moore. From there we set out to the apartments on the North side of Ames to

— Continued on page 4

— Continued from page 3



invite the students to church and activities like F.I.S.H. dinners. While doing this we would visit with them and make them feel welcome into our church community. Some of the people were not home or not interested anymore, but every once in a while we would find someone who is really eager to learn about God and that's what made it worth it. We keep trying and always know that God works through us to "make disciples of all nations."

Another time Hannah and I visited a Sudanese family. Winter was approaching so we rummaged up some

warm clothing for the children and brought it over with us. Getting to know the family was a great experience. We talked for a couple of hours, and I was even able to try some food and tea from their country. It was nice to experience another culture a lot different than mine and brought a new perspective on my ministry work.

Lastly I got to help out at the F.I.S.H. dinners. The whole experience was quite fun, and the food tasted great! ISM has helped me to spread the word of God to many people in the Ames community. I didn't know I would be able to do mission work while I was here at school, but I'm glad to be involved in such a wonderful program. I intend to stay involved with ISM and Memorial Lutheran Church though out the remainder of college.

BRIDGES

International Student Ministry
Memorial Lutheran Church
2228 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50014
Phone 515-292-5005
e-mail: ism.mlchurch@gmail.com
Hannah Moore, ISM Coordinator

If you would like to contribute to the support of this ministry, please send contribution to the address above.

Prayer Requests and Praises

- For our two summer peer ministers as they lead children's programs during English
- For the South Sudanese community here in Ames that has re-started their Sunday night prayer service
- For Biao who wishes to be baptized and one other Chinese who seems close.
- For the many new faces in Bible studies and English classes
- For congregations from our district to participate in the "visiting teachers for a day" program this summer
- For international families to attend Vacation Bible School with us
- Thanks for the prayers for the Chinese mother listed last month. The baby is home, healthy and growing, and the mother is doing much much better.

Join **Operation Barnabas of Des Moines** in the 3rd Annual

Supply Drive for Veterans!

Simply **“Drive-Thru”** Camp Dodge, 7105 NW 70th Avenue in Johnston, Iowa, on **Memorial Day, May 26**, from **5-10 AM** & drop off donations to benefit Veterans in Central Iowa.

While at Camp Dodge enjoy a free “Military Style” breakfast of Biscuits & Gravy at the Gold Star Military Museum!

*The Des Moines Veterans Hospital has a **GREAT NEED** for the following supplies:*

Food

Coffee
Sugar Packets & Creamer
Canned Meats
Chewing Gum
Microwave Popcorn
Granola Bars
Snack-type foods
Travel Coffee Mugs

Clothing – Both Men & Women

Rain ponchos
Socks & Underclothes

Personal Care

Deodorant
Feminine Sanitary Products
Bath Soap
Shampoo
Perfume & Cologne
Combs & Hair Brushes
African-American Hair Products
Denture Cleaning Supplies
Disposable Razors

Cleaning

Laundry Detergent
Dryer Sheets
Toilet Paper
Paper Towels

Other

Baby Diapers
(for Veterans with young children)
“Thumb” Drives – any size
Bus Passes *(Des Moines Area)*
Craft Kits & Models
(non-toxic paints & glues)

How do my donations get to Veterans in need?

Simply drop your donations off at Camp Dodge (7105 NW 70th Avenue, Johnston) on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26 between 5-10 AM. Operation Barnabas will deliver all donated supplies to the Des Moines Veterans Hospital. ***If unable to drop donations on Memorial Day, contact the Des Moines Veterans Administration Hospital directly at (515) 699-5818.*** Simply indicate that you have donations through Operation Barnabas and they will help you to arrange a drop-off time.

Where will my donations be used??

Domiciliary: These Veterans are in residential care struggling with issues related to mental health, substance abuse and homelessness.

Day Program: This program is designed to give outpatient Veterans daily opportunities to receive group and personal therapeutic sessions, recreational activities and social opportunities.

Veteran Outreach Center: This program helps meet the immediate needs for safety and referrals for shelter.

THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Coeditors: Herb Miller and Cynthia Woolever - www.TheParishPaper.com

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How to Welcome Children with Autism and Their Families

Kylie, an active five-year-old, does not speak but she is learning sign language. Sometimes Kylie's behavior is similar to what professionals see in children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Her parents want to attend church with Kylie and her two younger brothers. Unfortunately, several disappointing worship experiences have discouraged them from seeking out another church. They remain hopeful that they can eventually find a congregation committed to nurturing the spiritual growth of all their children.

Common Areas of Difference

A diagnosis of ASD indicates that an individual might be impacted in his or her social interaction, communication, and behavior. The word spectrum conveys that no two individuals are alike. There is a wide variety in how people can be affected. An understanding of possible differences can help church teachers and members plan for the inclusion of all children.¹

Language skills. Some individuals with ASD may be unable to speak or to use sign language, while others may possess a broad vocabulary but find grammar and sentence structure tricky. Sometimes their voices are too loud or too soft for the setting. Matching the content of the message (such as sad news) with the appropriate facial expression or voice tone is another type of struggle for some.

Social skills. Children with ASD find that reading social situations and making decisions about how to interact with others extremely hard. These types of differences can lead children to pull away from others. They may find eye contact or touch uncomfortable. Some children respond in the opposite way by charging into a group or acting aggressively toward others. Because social situations are not easy to analyze, a schedule or routine provides structure and a bridge to others for those with ASD. Any change in the routine can create anxiety.

Another feature that individuals with ASD can exhibit is a repetitive passion for one topic—such as trains, trucks, a favorite animal, or a book character. As a result, they may find it tough to relate to others who do not know as much about their topic or show little interest in it.

Sensory Responses. The sensory systems of many people with ASD are turned up to a higher volume. This creates a sensitivity to sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and feelings that would not be a problem for individuals without ASD. In striking contrast, the sensory systems for others with ASD are set way below the average for others. In this case, a child may not respond to conversation or touch.

Strategies for Inclusion

Barbara Newman, author of *Autism and Your Church*, outlines strategies that she uses with children and adults who have ASD. She believes that churches do not wish to exclude or isolate any individual but that they may not have the necessary information to include persons with different abilities. Her strategies open up the possibilities for welcoming all people (not just individuals with



"ROUTINES HELP CHILDREN WITH ASD
FEEL SECURE...LUCKILY FOR BILLY,
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED THE MUSIC FOR 65 YEARS."

ASD, but all those who find access to church life challenging), such as those who use wheelchairs; those with hearing loss or impaired vision; worshipers dealing with memory loss, dementia, or Alzheimer's; and people who suffer from mental or chronic illness.

Strategy 1: Gather information. Newman suggests that the congregation appoint one person to contact the family, care facility, or group home to assess gifts and needs. Privacy is always a concern. Church teachers should show respect for the amount and type of information individuals wish to share and reassure families that information would only be shared at their request. Because they do it all the time, parents of children with autism: (a) may be tired of telling the same things to different people in every situation they encounter; (b) are good at outlining who their child is and what their child needs. Listening, practicing patience, and asking for clarification are greatly appreciated by parents.

Strategy 2: Share information as needed. Pastors, other worship leaders, teachers, mentors, and peers benefit from critical information in order to best plan and interact with children.

Strategy 3: Monitor sensory output. Newman suggests setting up a rest or "reset" area that individuals with ASD can use when they need a break from loud noises or too much social interaction. A small room with limited sound and few distractions works best. Headphones or sound blockers are another option to filter out sounds and background noise.

Strategy 4: Take their perspective. When children have trouble or upsetting situations occur, they may not be able to communicate what is bothering them. Teachers and mentors can think through several questions to uncover what might be wrong: What happened immediately before and right after the incident? Who else is part of the setting? Can they share insights into the person's behavior? If the child attends school or participates in another program, ask if someone can talk to the teacher or observe the child in another setting. Learning and seeing what works well for the child in other settings increases the odds that the church can make helpful changes in the church's environment.

Strategy 5: Make comfortable routines. Because children and adults with ASD may not be able to process everything that is happening around them, they rely on routines to provide structure. Everyone needs to feel secure and others in the church can benefit as well. For example, a printed order of worship, picture schedules (a set of pictures that illus-

trate the sequence of activities), and projected PowerPoint slides that highlight the current activity all work well. Including ways that the child or adult can serve and offer their gifts is a good strategy for creating meaning in the routine. Depending on the individual's ability, they could be a greeter, hand out bulletins, light candles, help with food or table preparation, or other church activities.

Strategy 6: Use advance warning systems. Before a nurse sets up an IV, she describes to the patient what she is going to do and why and what a patient might experience. She also periodically asks how the patient is doing. Giving the patient this type of advance warning reduces anxiety and builds trust.

In the church setting, teachers can give a verbal countdown during class ("In five minutes our class will end and we'll go to the sanctuary for worship."); use a special clock that visually displays disappearing time; and hand parents or guardians printed information about any upcoming activity that is not usually part of the routine.

Strategy 7: Multiply communication. To reach those with limited language skills, become familiar with any electronic communication devices that they may use. Consider recruiting mentors to learn and use signing.

Strategy 8: Use visual cues. To reinforce verbal messages, try to think in pictures. Use paper and pencil to sketch or write notes. Some children find drawing a picture of what happened or their feelings easier than verbal descriptions. Churches with strength in the arts, photography, and media are especially equipped to communicate effectively with children in worship.

Everyone is Welcome Here!

Jessica described herself to her mother: "My body has autism, but my spirit does not." She attends a church that shares the conviction that her connection to God is not hindered by ASD.²

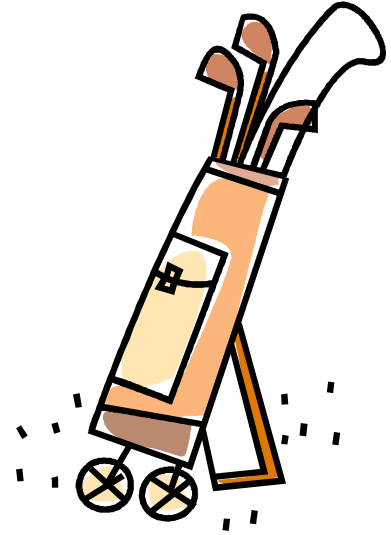
By emphasizing all that we have in common and that we all belong to God, congregations can transform children, adults, and families. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."³

1. The content of this issue draws from Barbara Newman, *Autism and Your Church* (Grand Rapids: Friendship Ministries, 2011). Her book includes many reproducible resources. See also www.TheParishPaper.org/free-resources.

2. Newman, 17.

3. 1 Corinthians, 12:27.

Pastors Golf Day



WHEN: Monday, May 19, 2014

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

(stpaulig@netllc.net or 712-364-2918)

Deadline to register is May 16.

