



Julie Mann, IOWAY Coordinator

julie@iowadistrictwest.org

515-408-9696

We are a church of people reaching out when need is known. Follow below on the adventure a group from Redeemer Sioux City took last month. Thank you to the youth and adults that put in hands-on time as well as all of you who helped support this response financially. ~ Julie

Thank you for your support!

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Sioux City, Iowa, recently took a group of 15 people on a mission trip to Sulphur, Oklahoma. Your support made this possible, whether through financial contributions, prayers, or lending a helping hand. We are truly grateful.

While in Sulphur, we were joined by four students from Hope Lutheran Church. They jumped right in and quickly became part of our group, helping with the work we were doing throughout the week. It was a blessing to have them serve alongside us.

We were also blessed with two special ladies who served as our kitchen crew. They prepared most of our meals, keeping us well fed and ready for each day's work. They also jumped in to help with our projects on several occasions. During their downtime, they took on a special project of their own by sorting and cleaning 1,000 American flags needed for the American Legion's Fourth of July celebration marking America's 250th year.

We departed on Sunday, June 21, 2026. The drive went mostly smoothly, though we encountered a detour that added about an hour and a half to our trip. Upon arrival, Charlie welcomed us to camp with some of the best fried and barbecued chicken we had ever eaten. We got settled into the air-conditioned cabins at Goddard Youth Camp and enjoyed a restful first night.



Monday morning, we headed to the Expo Center, generously provided by Debbie and the OSU Extension Service, where we shared most of our meals. After breakfast, rain set in and continued throughout the day. Despite the weather, Debbie found us a project: cleaning out an attic. We formed an assembly line and completed the job efficiently.

After lunch, we split into two groups. My brother, Joseph, led one team to clear trees and branches from a chain-link fence for a local resident. I led the other group to what we came to call the "Deck Project." What began as a simple resurfacing quickly turned into a full demolition and rebuild. By the end of the day, we



had completed the demolition. Before supper, we visited Flower Park, where the group experienced the natural Sulphur springs and cooled off in the stream. That evening, my parents traveled down from northwestern Oklahoma and prepared Indian tacos for us.

Tuesday brought intense heat, with only a slight chance of rain. We spent the morning working on the deck, digging post holes while Charlie gathered the necessary materials and tools. After lunch, storms began to build, and we were forced to return to camp. It rained seven inches in just five hours. While waiting out the storm, we improvised a game of "Spoons" using flashlights instead. That evening, a member of our host church treated us to dinner at Mazzio's Pizza.

Wednesday morning, everything was soaked. We needed a dry project, so we delivered 12 boxes of donated quilts to a local nursing home. Later, we assessed the storm damage and resumed work. Half the group finished the brush-clearing project, while the rest of us re-dug post holes and continued building the deck. By the end of the day, we had set the posts, added cross-bracing, and installed the beams. Due to the heat, we wrapped up early and cooled off at the lake while enjoying hamburgers and hot dogs.

On Thursday, we returned to our projects. The brush crew transitioned into a painting crew, scraping and preparing Caroline's house for painting. The deck crew completed the framework and began laying deck boards. That evening, Debbie's church, Central Church, blessed us with a meal featuring classic

Oklahoma dishes, including chicken-fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cornbread, fried okra, squash, and pecan pie.

Friday was our final workday. The painting crew completed Caroline's house while the deck crew finished the handrails, stairs, and spindles. Charlie brought a paint sprayer, and the painting crew ultimately finished first! With temperatures soaring, we wrapped up and headed to Chickasaw National Recreation Area, where we visited the Nature Center and swam in Little Niagara, a refreshing 64-degree natural waterfall.

Saturday was our recreation day. Although flooding prevented us from visiting Turner Falls up close, we

viewed the 77-foot waterfall from an overlook. Six brave members of our group even rode the zipline! We later met Charlie in Davis for one final barbecue meal consisting of brisket, pulled pork, ribs, and all the fixings.

On Sunday, June 28, we worshiped at Hope Lutheran Church in Sulphur, our host congregation, before beginning our journey home. We arrived back in Sioux City at 7:45 p.m.

Thank you again to everyone who supported this mission trip. It is only through your generosity, prayers, and the grace of God that we were able to serve the people of Sulphur.

Blessings,

DCE Jonathon Bailey



Trauma is complex.
*Helping doesn't
have to be.*



SPIRITUAL FIRST AID™



LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES TRAINING WORKSHOP

Our world is stressed and hurting. People around you need spiritual and emotional care. Join LCC and the Iowa West District to learn how you can become an effective spiritual first responder, right where God has placed you. Jesus taught us to love and serve our neighbors. Discover how you can be the empathetic, helping presence He has called you to be.

- ✓ **Learn the basics of Spiritual First Aid™, a biblically informed framework for crisis care**
- ✓ **Gain practical helping skills through applied activities and role-playing**
- ✓ **Understand research-backed tactics, trauma care practices, and field-tested tools**

Friday, Aug 28 & Saturday, Aug 29

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.* 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Iowa West District Offices

409 Kenyon #B, Fort Dodge IA 50501

*** Light dinner provided on Friday.**

**** Lunch and snacks provided on Saturday.**

**\$25 per
registration
(\$129 value)**



REGISTER



To be certified in Spiritual First Aid™, you must attend both days of the training.

Aug 29 & 30: LCC President Rev. Chris Singer will preach at St. Paul Lutheran Fort Dodge, 1217 4th Ave S.