



ZION PROCLAIMER

December 2013

"DOSE OF WISDOM"

Matthew 2:1-12

1Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, 2saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 5They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

*6" 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.' "*

7Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." 9After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. 10When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. 12And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

"See the birthplace of Christ in a whole new way this Advent season with *The Bright Star of Bethlehem* material. Parishioners will learn more about the little town where Jesus was born so long ago, and what Jesus, who is the *Bright Star of Bethlehem*, reveals to us even today."

This introductory paragraph comes from the website for Creative Communications where we are getting this year's Sunday Advent theme, "The Bright Star of Christmas". It will include the 4 Sundays in Advent, December 1st, 8th, 15th, and the 22nd. It might also include the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service as well as the Christmas Day Service. It will be good for us as a congregation to look and meditate together on a theme for this Advent Season. Advent is a Latin word that means, "**to come**". *We know that Christ was promised to come as a baby in Bethlehem. We also know that Jesus promised His disciples to come at the end of the world. But also during this time of Advent we see and meditate on how Jesus "comes" to us now in the Word and the Sacraments. So please join us for the Advent services on Sunday morning, Wednesday mornings at 11:30, then again at 7:00 in the evening. It is good for us together as a congregation to devote ourselves to the Bible and coming together for worship and prayers. Also the Bible Class on Sunday morning will include studies on the each one of the week's topics, they include, *The Star of Creation, The Star of Unity, The Star of Hope, and The Star of Joy. Please join us as we meditate on the words of Holy Scripture together this Advent and then Christmas Season.**

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Dose



Wednesday	Dec 4	11:30 7:00	Advent Devotions Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday	Dec 11	11:30 7:00	Advent Devotions Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday	Dec 18	11:30 4:00 7:00	Advent Devotions Sunday School Children Program Practice Midweek Advent Service
Sunday	Dec 22	9:00 10:00	Christian Education Divine Worship
Tuesday	Dec 24	6:00 pm	Sunday School Children's Program
	Dec 24	11:00 pm	Candlelight Service/HC
Wednesday	Dec 25	9:00 am	Christmas Day Worship/HC
Tuesday	Dec 31	6:00 pm	New Year's Eve/HC

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

December 1 "Where There's a Way, There's a Will" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
God is at work in the world today and provides a way for His will to transform your life. (Rev 22:1-5)

December 8 "Daily Bread for Eternal Life" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
We can pray to God for daily bread because He's already given us Jesus, the Bread of Life. (Matt 6:31-34)

December 15 "Forgiveness, the Gift That Keeps on Giving" Lutheran Hour Speaker:
Rev. Gregory Seltz Forgiveness is God's gift that keeps on giving when our giving gives out. (Matthew
18:21-35)

December 22 "Use What You've Been Given" Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz
(Ephesians 6:10-17)

December 29 "Regrets, More Than a Few" Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus
Christ's forgiveness enables us to start the new year with gratitude instead of regret. (1 John 1:9)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday School Program

Our Sunday School will again be sharing the joyous message of our Lord's birth through a special Worship Service on Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm.

Christmas program practices will be held on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45 am (during our Sunday School Time) Attendance will be taken for Sunday School. The Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 pm We are requesting all children to be at church by 5:15 pm.

Sunday School Classes will NOT be held on Sunday, December 29th and will resume on Sunday, January 5th at 9 am.



Christmas Party

On Wednesday, December 18th we will be having a Program Practice We will have practice from 4:00-5:30 pm. Preschoolers are asked to be here by 4:30 and meet in their room. The students are able to ride the bus from Westside and get off at the church. A snack will be served right after school for the students.

The Sunday School staff would like to wish all our students and there families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as be celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Christmas Mission Project

At our last Sunday School teachers meeting it was decided that in lieu of exchanging Christmas gifts (students to teachers and teachers to students) that the teachers and students bring, hats, mittens, socks, underwear to take to New Opportunities for their shelves. The 5th & 6th graders are also collecting small stuffed animals, crayons, markers, coloring books, and books to put together care packages to take to the local hospitals for children that might be in the hospital or ER over Christmas.

Thank you for helping in this mission project.



Special Holiday Babysitting

ATTENTION Moms & Dads!!! Do you need some time away from your children so you can finish up your Christmas shopping or finish up your gift wrapping?? Here is your opportunity. The LYF youth are asking you to bring your children to the church on Saturday, December 14th from 9:30 -2:00pm. We will provide lunch, games, activities and toys for children of all ages!! There is no charge, we are doing this as a service project and hope to have a wonderful turnout. If you have any questions, please give Dawn Luetje a call at 712-663-4591



L.W.M.L.

LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid will be meeting on Thursday, December 5th at 12 noon for a potluck dinner hosted by the Fellowship Circle. Please bring your soap for Lutheran World Relief in place of a gift exchange. Also, bring along any items for the health kits, school kits, baby layettes or towels for bibs.

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 3rd at the home of Deb Weller starting at 6 pm. Instead of a Christmas exchange, please bring items for hygiene kits: Bath towel, wash cloth, wide-tooth comb, bag of soap, nail clippers, toothbrush and toothpaste.



People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. Lutheran World Relief health kits can help children, men and women who are refugees maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. Our ladies Aid and Evening Circles help with this project by putting together health kits. Items needed for the kits are: bath towel, (dark in color) Washcloth (dark in color) bath-size bar of soap, (any brand & in original wrapping) adult-size toothbrushes in original packaging, wide tooth combs, nail file or nail clippers with file attached, and also band-aids (1/2-3/4") If you would like to help by donating any of these items, please bring them to the church office.



Another project of the Ladies Aid and Evening Circle are School Kits. Items that are needed for school kits include: spiral notebooks, blunt scissors, ruler (need cm also marked) pencil sharpeners, #2 pencils, pink erasers, construction paper, crayons (16-24 count)

A Lutheran World Relief school kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war. School kits help parents continue their children's education even while living in a refugee camp, for example. A school kit may also be used in adult literacy classes.

A budget has been discussed for the Endowment fund 2014 at the most recent voter's meeting. This is just a proposal and a final budget will be set at our voter's meeting in January. If you see a need, or believe there ought to be changes: please visit with a council member who plans to attend to let your concern be heard, or simply join us at the January meeting and share your opinion.

Building Fund	20,000
Repair Fund	9,700
Pergola at parsonage	5,200
Lime for farm	5,000
Andy Noble (seminary student)	4,000
Noah's Ark Preschool	2,500
Okoboji Camp cost	1,500
LYF Senior Youth gathering	1,000
LYF Junior Youth gathering	1,000
Spencer Owen mission work	1,000
Zion/Violetta scholarships	600
(Mission things***)	2,000

***Mission things in \$200 increments including but not limited to:

Lutheran World Relief, Brent Fredrichs, Andy & Steph Jones, Orphan Grain Train, Camp Okoboji, Mission Central, LWML – Carroll Zone, Food Pantry, New Opportunities, Zion for (Food/Gas Cards for those desperate in need as determined by Pastor in 50 dollar increments)



Remember My Birthday?

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer. It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me

As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration.

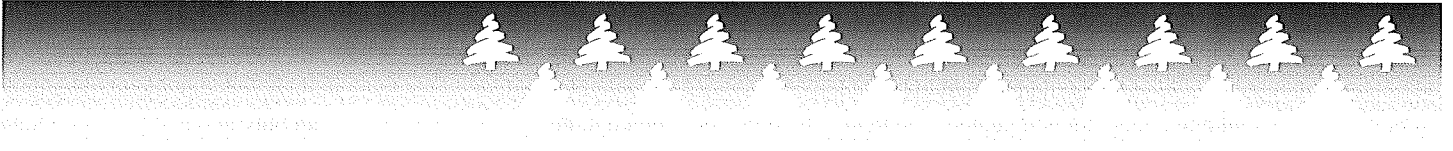
I remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts. But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor and they didn't remember to send me an invitation.

The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face..... and I wanted to be with them and share their table. In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me.

Since I was not invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a great time.

To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying : "Santa Claus, Santa Claus"... as if the party were in his honor ! At 12 midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and do you know no one hugged me.

Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one ? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left. Every year it gets worse. People only remember to eat and drink, the gifts, the parties and nobody remembers me.



I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that almost two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today I only want that you believe this with all you heart. I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party.

I'm still making the final arrangements. Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invitation, will be left outside.

Do you know how you can answer this invitation? it is by extending it to others whom you care for... I'll be waiting for all of you to attend my party this year... See you soon ...I love you !

- Jesus



Offering Envelopes



There will NOT be a January newsletter due to the Annual report.

The Annual Voters Meeting will be held on Wednesday January 15th at 7:30 pm.

The 2014 Offering Envelopes will be available for pickup during the later part of the month of December. Please stop by the table in the entry way to pick yours up. If you cannot locate yours, please let the office know.

Thanksgiving and Christmas

By Deb Kosmer
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

*And so, now it's Thanksgiving
And what shall we do?
Though we've tried and we've cried,
We are not over you.*

*And so, now it's Christmas
And what have we done?
It's so hard to do anything
When you're missing someone.*

For many of you reading this, these words will have an all too familiar ring. They are just some of the thoughts and fears you have been grappling with, some for the first time, as you face these holidays, some again this year as you face another holiday and perhaps wonder if it will be easier than the one before.


For many of us, particularly in the first weeks and months after the death of a loved one, ordinary days are hard, every day is hard. How can we possibly be expected – to feel like celebrating? – like participating? – to act like we are happy? – to not notice the empty chair at the table? – that someone's stocking hangs empty this year?

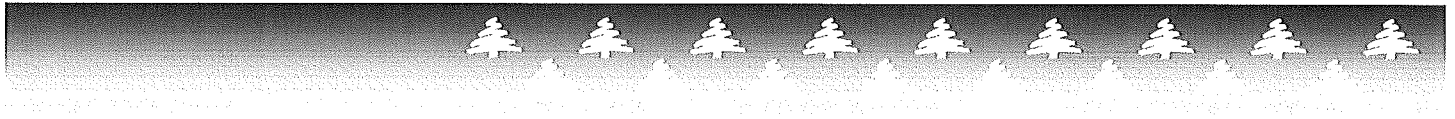
In this season of giving, perhaps you feel as though you have nothing to give. In this season of giving thanks, perhaps you feel that everything good that you had left with your loved one who died.

Perhaps you are feeling empty, scared, lost, and alone. Perhaps you feel like a phony as you smile and pretend that everything is fine; all the while thinking: "If they only knew!"

This year, whether it is the first, the second, the third, or the tenth since our loved one died, WE, those who are or have grieved, have gifts to give to ourselves and to one another. Perhaps it is a hug or a hand on a shoulder. Perhaps it is listening without judgement or advice. Perhaps it is not expecting as much from ourselves or from others. Perhaps it is a message of hope or a word of encouragement. Perhaps it is letting yourself say or hear the words: "I love you" or "You did the best you could."

Let our gift this season be the willingness to give to others and allow others to give to you those things that money cannot buy. Perhaps your gift is allowing others to see your brokenness and to come alongside of you in your pain. Perhaps your gift is to come alongside of someone in their brokenness and pain. Perhaps...it is both.

"For it is in giving that you receive..." 



Once upon a time there was a girl who had four boyfriends.

She loved the fourth boyfriend the most and adorned him with rich robes and treated him to the finest of delicacies. She gave him nothing but the best

She also loved the third boyfriend very much and was always showing him off to neighboring kingdoms. However, she feared that one day he would leave her for another.

She also loved her second boyfriend. He was her confident and was always kind, considerate and patient with her. Whenever this girl faced a problem, she could confide in him, and he would help her get through the difficult times.

The girl's first boyfriend was a very loyal partner and had made great contributions in maintaining her wealth and kingdom. However, she did not love the first boyfriend. Although he loved her deeply, she hardly took notice of him!

One day, the girl fell ill and she knew her time was short. She thought of her luxurious life and wondered, 'I now have four boyfriends with me, but when I die, I'll be all alone.'

Thus, she asked the fourth boyfriend, 'I loved you the most, endowed you with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?' 'No way!', replied the fourth boyfriend, and he walked away without another word. His answer cut like a sharp knife right into her heart.

The sad girl then asked the third boyfriend, 'I loved you all my life. Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?' 'No!', replied the third boyfriend. 'Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to marry someone else!' Her heart sank and turned cold.

She then asked the second boyfriend, 'I have always turned to you for help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow me and keep me company?' 'I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!', replied the second boyfriend.. 'At the very most, I can only walk with you to your grave.' His answer struck her like a bolt of lightning, and the girl was devastated.

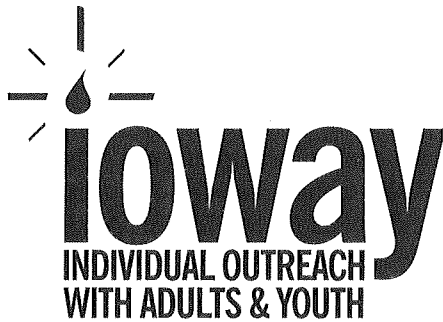
Then a voice called out: 'I'll go with you. I'll follow you no matter where you go.' The girl looked up, and there was her first boyfriend. He was very skinny as he suffered from malnutrition and neglect. Greatly grieved, the girl said, 'I should have taken much better care of you when I had the chance!'

In truth, you have four boyfriends in your lives: Your fourth boyfriend is your body. No matter how much time and effort you lavish in making it look good, it will leave you when you die. Your third boyfriend is your possessions, status and wealth. When you die, it will all go to others. Your second boyfriend is your family and friends. No matter how much they have been there for you, the furthest they can stay by you is up to the grave. And your first boyfriend is your spirit. Often neglected in pursuit of wealth, power and pleasures of the world. However, your spirit is the only thing that will follow you where ever you go. Cultivate, strengthen and cherish now, for it is the only part of you that will follow you to the throne of God and continue with you throughout Eternity.

Thought for the day:

Remember, when the world pushes you to your knees, you're in the perfect position to pray

Being happy doesn't mean everything's perfect. It means you've decided to see beyond the imperfections.



Amazing Servants

The mission statement for IOWAY is “Serving God by Serving Others.” There are always so many ways that people do this. I am continually amazed by the generosity of God’s people in Iowa District West. I wish I could share all the stories, but this time I will share a few of these amazing servant stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Junior High Youth Gathering

Featuring a theme of “RE-CHARGE,” the Youth Gathering included a keynote speaker, music by Swen and Dean and smaller group talks on topics like “Internet Safety” and “The Power of Prayer.”

As part of the Junior High Gathering, October 26-27 in Des Moines, youth were asked to bring new toys for a service project entitled “Toys for Children in Los Angeles.” Of the 432 toys collected during the youth gathering, 96 were donated by Chase Heithoff, Kaleb Shirbroun and Colby Heithof from Trinity Lutheran Church in Coon Rapids.



By selling fairy gardens that the three boys helped to create, along with assistance from the Trinity Lutheran Church Sunday School class, they raised just over \$800 during the summer. With these funds and a tax break from Walmart in Carroll, they were able to purchase 96 new toys for the service project.

The toys were sent to three Lutheran churches in the Los Angeles area. At Christmas time, inner-city children will be invited to hear the Christmas story and receive a free toy.



Also at the Junior Youth Gathering, through Mercy Meals of Siouxland, the youth and adult leaders packaged fortified rice and soy meals for hungry and starving children throughout the world. Nearly 36,000 meals were packaged during the gathering and delivered by the Orphan Grain Train to children around the world! That was a fantastic accomplishment!

This amazing outreach was made possible by many people working together. A big part of that work was done by wonderful volunteers who organized the set up and organized all the supplies that were needed. They brought the food and supplies from Sioux City, set up the packing system, and gave guidance and direction to 550 eager Junior High Youth.



Another big part of the “behind the scenes” work was done by a group of super high school and college students who volunteered their weekend. They are known as IOWAY “Happy Helpers.” Their many responsibilities helped to make the gathering run smoothly. One of their many jobs was to collect and pack the many toys for Los Angeles. This was especially meaningful for some of the happy helpers because they have been on mission trips to the churches in Los Angeles where the toys will be distributed. They personally have worked with some of the children who will receive the toys.

Pillowcase Dresses for Haiti

Tracy Stetzel, St. John Lutheran Church in Casey shared, “I don’t remember when I first heard about the organization ‘Little Dresses for Africa,’ but when I did, it just clicked. This was something I wanted to do! I’ve been sewing since I was 13, and the dresses are very simple. They can be made from gently used pillowcases or lengths of fabric. I had sent two small batches to ‘Little Dresses...’ before I found out that Orphan Grain Train also takes this type of dress. Then I read that an IOWAY group had taken some to Haiti. I gave a brief presentation at our local LWML society guest night this summer and several LWML members



expressed interest in a sewing day. When I found out my good LWML friend Judy Rozek was going to Haiti this December, the ladies promised to help make dresses. Those who couldn’t be with us donated pillowcases and a couple ladies made theirs at home. The result is that 34 dresses will be going with the December IOWAY Haiti team! The ladies want to have another sewing day after the first of the New Year, so maybe we will be sending more dresses to Haiti with a summer IOWAY team.”

Pat Morrison and Carole Lundy, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenfield, have also been busy sewing. They put their sewing skills to work and made 25 pillowcase dresses. These dresses will also be going to Haiti with the December mission team and will bring many smiles to girls in Jacmel, Haiti. The pattern for the dress is available at <http://www.idwlcms.org/ioway.php> (click on pillowcase dress pattern).

Health and Hygiene Kits

Carolyn McCall, Memorial Lutheran Church, Ames shared, “Our Wednesday Bible class is a wonderful group of women. I just asked at Bible class if they would be willing to help sew some health kits. I told them the story that Ellie Menz shared about the man who held his towel kit up to his cheek and said, ‘I’ve never had anything like this.’ Some women quilt and some help with the international women’s quilt group.”



Pictured from left to right are Carolyn McCall, Barb Royer, Sally Hartman, and Dee Pfeiffer. Linda Vogtlin and Lois Kapfer also made health kits but were not available for the picture.

Carolyn’s simple request for help resulted in 93 towel kits! What an amazing gift of love! These kits will be distributed on January 2 to the homeless on Skid Row.

Tornado Clean Up



Lisa Mayer, Peace Lutheran Church, Marcus, shared with Ellie Menz, “I went to Correctionville today to help with the clean-up. I joined a team of youth and spent the morning picking up steel out of

the field. The debris was piled in a ditch for pickup later. (Picture) Then I went across the road to the farm site of Wayne and Debbie Sadler. It was very sad to see all the damage. The 103 year old farm house has been in the family since it was built. The wind took the attic and roof off. The family was in the basement when the tornado went through. They couldn't get out and had to wait for help to get them out of the basement. What a mess! They have a long road ahead of them. Thanks, Ellie, for the email inviting workers to help out.”

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who serves God by serving others.

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





TRINITY LUTHERAN OF GLENWOOD, IOWA TRAVELS TO MISSION CENTRAL

On October 11, 2013, congregation members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Glenwood, Iowa came for a tour of Mission Central.

The tour started with an opening prayer and devotion in the little Wayside Prayer Chapel. Gary shared the story of how God sent people at "just the right time" to build the chapel. The group learned that an average of about seven people stop each day to pray in the little chapel. Most of the people who stop and pray are NOT Lutheran, and are not known to Old Missionary Gary.

The group toured the offices and Museum. They enjoyed coffee and cookies at the Ministry Center where they saw pictures of the jungles of Papua New Guinea and learned of the Haugen Family who are going to this remote part of the world. It was indeed a wonderful time to be together to see and hear MIRACLE STORIES that only God could have provided.

The group is pictured in front of the Mission Central sign.



AMAZING GROUP FROM GREENFIELD AND DES MOINES IOWA COME FOR SPECIAL TOUR

When Missionary Gary received the call from one of the volunteer typists at Mission Central, he was happy to select the day that volunteers Mary and Dale Kilburn could "round up" some of their family members and members from Greenfield, Iowa to come to Mission Central. It was indeed a special day. It was a JOY to share stories and greet this group of "family members." Several in the group had never been to Mission Central.



The group enjoyed the tour. This special group of people is pictured in the new Ministry Center between the flag set that was donated by some members of this group as a special gift of love for the new building.

Mission Central – LCMS World Mission

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Mapleton, IA 51034
712-882-1029

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

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

Winter Hours and Office Closings

- Starting December 2, 2013 the camp office will be open Tuesday-Friday from 8 am until 4:30 pm.
- The office will be closed December 23-25 for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior.
- The office will be closed December 30-January 2 for the New Year holiday.

2014 Program Brochures Coming Soon

The Camp Okoboji 2014 Program brochures will be mailed after the first of the year. Be watching for them. Watch for new camps being offered in 2014. The brochure will also be available for viewing and printing on our website.

Open Cabins for the Summer of 2014

The list of open Family Ministry Cabins for 2014 has been e-mailed or sent to everyone on the waiting list. In January the remaining open cabins will be listed on our website and will be filled on a first come first served basis. Our website now has pictures of all the cabins both inside and out. If you are looking for a vacation spot in 2014 check out Camp Okoboji!

Love Ice Fishing? Come Stay at Camp Okoboji

We have 11 Family Ministry Cabins, 6 Weber Units, and Leviticus available year round. Come stay with us for a night, a week, or more and fish one of the many lakes in the area. If you don't like to fish, we are close to the bike trail which can be used for cross country skiing. Snowmobiling is another great activity to enjoy at the lakes or browse the gift and antique shops in the area. Call Lorene or Kellie at 712-337-3325 to book your reservation.

Omelet Brunches Have Been a Huge Success

We have held omelet brunches the first Sunday of the month during the summer months and they have been very successful. Watch for our brunches again next summer and plan to join us for worship and brunch.

Upcoming Programs for 2014

Family Ice Fishing Retreat! The 3rd Annual Ice Fishing Retreat will be held January 24-26, 2014. There is a lot to look forward to besides great fishing! There will be an instructional class on Friday night by an area fishing guide. There will be fellowship, fun, devotions, and more. It is also the University of Okoboji Winter Games weekend so there are plenty of activities to participate in if you aren't a fisherman. Registration forms will be online and in the 2014 Program Brochure.

C.H.A.O.S. (Christians Hyped About Our Savior)! The dates have been set for February 28-March 1, 2014. Reverend Scott Jensen, pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Mapleton, IA will again be our Bible study leader for this 19 hour retreat for students in grades 6-8. Former summer staff members will lead the music and games. C.H.A.O.S. offers a great way to form new relationships with other middle school youth, renew relationships built during the past summer, and strengthen your relationship with God! Registration forms will be online and in the 2014 Program Brochure.

Summer Employment

Once again we are beginning our search for summer employees. We are looking for college age people to work on our general staff, with our traveling VBS, and maintenance/grounds crew. Those who would like to work with our traveling VBS should go to www.nloma.org to apply. All others should get an application at www.campokoboji.org or call the camp office.

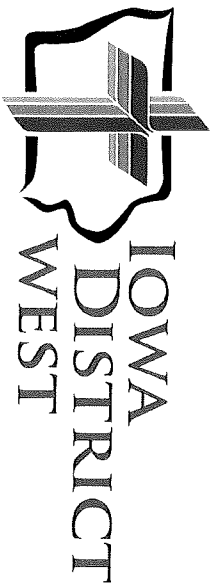
FACEBOOK!

"Like us" on Facebook! Watch for upcoming events. See pictures of events and more!

Camp Staff Contact Information

Executive Director: Doug Kading – doug@campokoboji.org
Office Director: Lorene Unrau – lorene@campokoboji.org
Program Director: Lori Gamble – lori@campokoboji.org
Ministry Advancement Director: Paul Golke – paul@campokoboji.org
Financial Director: Kellie Jones – kellie@campokoboji.org





THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Planting Together

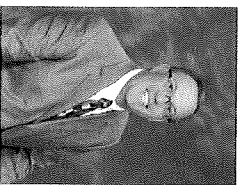
December 2013

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.

Tax wise giving from your IRA

Are you familiar with the Charitable IRA Rollover provisions for your IRA? If you are 70½ the current tax law allows you to transfer funds from your IRA directly to your favorite ministries including your local congregation. You do not have to show this type of transfer on your income for this year and the transfer qualifies for your minimum distribution. Up to \$100,000 may be transferred in this manner. This is a tax wise way of using your IRA. If you would like information about this form of charitable giving please contact me (515-490-7371 or jim.schroeder@idwlcms.org).



Jim Schroeder - Christian Estate Planning Counselor

A Christmas Prayer from the Staff of Iowa District West

"Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child, Prepare a bed soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart For you to dwell within my heart.

My heart for very joy must leap; My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth A glad new year to all the earth."

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (LSB 358)

For more information on Iowa District West activities, view *The Monthly* at http://www.idwlcms.org/publications/the_monthly/index.htm.

Mission Trip 2014

How about a mission trip for a 2014 New Year's resolution? Contact Elise Menz, IOWAY Director (elise.menz@idwlcms.org), or go to www.lcms.org and click on the links "Get Involved" - "Help and Serve" - "Mission Opportunities" for a listing of over 200 possibilities ranging from one week to a lifetime! How can you serve in your local community? District mission grants help make it possible. Pray, plan and prepare for how God can use you!

Love Ice Fishing? Stay at Camp Okoboji

Camp Okoboji has 11 Family Ministry Cabins, 6 Weber units, and Leviticus available year round. Come stay with us for a night, a week, or more and fish one of the many lakes in the area. If you don't like to fish, we are close to the bike trail which can be used for cross-country skiing. Snowmobiling is another great activity to enjoy at the lakes, or browse the gift and antique shops in the area. Call Lorene or Kellie at 712-337-3325 to make your reservation.

Elder Care Workshop

Perhaps an opportunity you identify in your community is reaching out to the elderly and their caregivers. If so, make plans to attend the Elder Care Workshop at Christ Lutheran Church, Bouton in partnership with the Missions and Human Care Committees of Iowa District West, Lutherans For Life, Lutheran Family Service, and Perry Lutheran Home. If you have elderly or their caregivers in your community (pretty all-inclusive) you can benefit from attending Saturday, January 25. Register online at www.idwlcms.org or call 515-576-7666.

2013 Mission Support

The total 2013 District budget is \$2,732,655 of which 67% directly supports missions! You can view the entire mission team online at www.idwlcms.org/missions.php and download "Meet your IDW Mission Team." Thank you for your partnership and help spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Invest in Lutheran Schools

The Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO) provides financial assistance to qualifying families who might otherwise not be able to afford a Lutheran school education. The State of Iowa allows a 65% tax credit. In addition, the donor can claim a federal tax charitable contribution. More information is available at the ILSTO Website (www.iowalutheransto.org) or by contacting Dewey Torkelson (deweyfortkelson@hotmail.com; 712-260-2991).

Resource for Advent

An "Advent Devotional for Families" is available from the District's Family Ministry Committee. The devotional can be downloaded from the District's website (www.idwlcms.org/familyresources.php).

District Dates

December 7-15...IOWAY Haiti Mission Trip
December 23-25...Christmas Holiday, District Office Closed
December 28-January 4...IOWAY Pasadena Mission trip
December 31-January 1...New Year's Holiday, District Office Closed

God Will Take Care of You



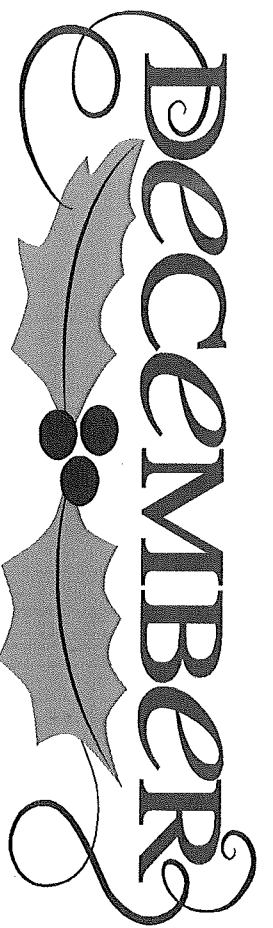
*"He Himself has said,
I will not in any way fail you
nor give you up
nor leave you without support."
Hebrews 13:5*

**May your troubled heart
find peace and comfort in the knowledge
that you are never alone.
May God's presence ease
your trembling spirit and give you rest.
He knows how you feel.
He is ever aware of your circumstances
and ready to be your strength,
your grace, and your peace.
He is there to cast sunlight
into all of your darkened shadows,
to send encouragement through the love
of friends and family, and
to replace your weariness with new hope.**

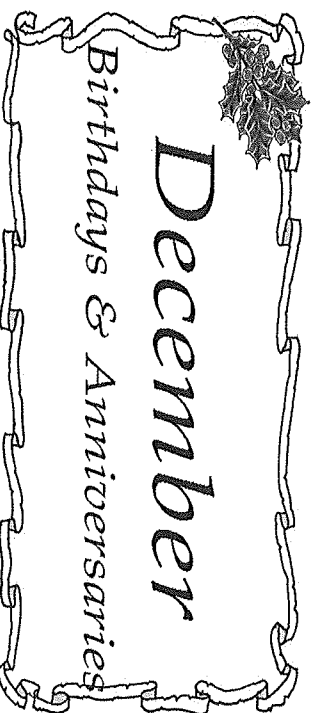
**God is your stronghold,
and with Him as your guide,
you need never be afraid.
No circumstances can block His love.
No grief is too hard for Him to bear.
No task is too difficult
for Him to complete.
When what you are feeling
is simply too deep for words
and nothing anyone does or says
can provide you with the relief you need,
God understands.
He is your provider --
today, tomorrow, and always.
And He loves you.
Cast all of your cares on Him...
and believe.**

-- Linda E. Knight

DECEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Tammy Leiting</i>	2 <i>Doug Hansman Diane Schroeder</i>	3 <i>Eugene Bair Adam & Tonya Vetter</i>	4 <i>Pam Kock Jaylee McNelly</i>	5 <i>Tom & Marjean Lipton Mark & Krisiti Hoffman</i>	6 <i>Abby Klink Randy Neuman Rachel Winey</i>	7
8	9 <i>Brett Himmers</i>	10 <i>Bonnie Cornelius</i>	11 <i>Bernice Vetter</i>	12 <i>Melissa Ehlers Darcie Teske</i>	13 <i>Andrew Gallagher</i>	14 <i>Cameron Schmitz Jeff Segebart</i>
15 <i>Marjean Lipton</i>	16 <i>Danielle Schrad</i>	17	18 <i>Ron Cleveland</i>	19 <i>Gene Thiedeman</i>	20 <i>Wade Ragaller Chad & Shawna Witrock</i>	21
22	23 <i>Emma Dieter</i>	24 <i>Kyle Lenz Janet Rose</i>	25 <i>Cooper Anderson</i>	26 <i>Drew Dieter Gary Vetter</i>	27	28 <i>Mark & Denise Ragaller</i>
29 <i>Justin Hunter Alan Mumm</i>	30	31 <i>Leigh Thiedeman</i>				



DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 Christian Ed 10:00 DW/HC	2	3	4 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Advent Dev 2:00 Midweek 7:00 Advent Service	5 12:00 Ladies Aid	6 Pastor's Family Day	7 No worship service
8 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW 11:00 LYF	9	10	11 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Advent Dev 4:00 Midweek 7:00 Advent Service	12	13 Pastor's Family Day	14 9:30-2:30: LYF babysitting day
15 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	16	17	18 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Advent Dev 4:00 SS Practice 7:00 Advent Service 7:30 Council	19	20 Pastor's Family Day	21
22 9:00 Christian Ed 10:00 Divine Wor.	23	24 6:00 Children's Program 11:00 Christmas Eve Service/HC	25 9:00 Christmas Day Service/HC	26	27 Pastor's Family Day	28
29 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW	30	31 6:00 New Year's Eve Worship/HC				

USHERS

Merle Witt
Dan Wittrock
Doug Ehlers
Tyler Ehlers
Jered Greene

Ron Cornelius
Paul Ehlers
Jeremy Ehlers
Derrick Cornelius

PARISH CIRCLE

Pat Branning & Lola Ehlers

CHANCEL CIRCLE

Beth Wittrock & Deb Weller

CHRISTMAS EVE

Shirley Ehlers

CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEAR'S EVE

Darleen Linde

ACOLYTES

1st: Riley Neumann & Garret Cleveland
8th: Layne Pritchard & Shelby Dirks
15th: Sara Schurke & Wyatt Neuman
22nd: Dalton Ehlers & Madison Owen
29th: Katelyn Himmers & Drew Schurke

MIDWEEK SERVERS

4th: Lois Dirks (2 pm)
11th: Makayla Himmers

MARTHA CIRCLE

Darleen Linde & Shirley Ehlers

Zion Lutheran Church
118 W Tracy St
Box 59
Arcadia, IA 51430
712/689/2441
Zionluth@netins.net

Non-Profit Organization
Arcadia, IA 51430
Standard mail

FRIENDS WHO CARE

<i>Christian Education</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>
<i>Divine Worship</i>	<i>10:00 am</i>
<i>Christmas Eve—Sunday School Program</i>	<i>6:00 pm</i>
<i>Christmas Eve Candle Light /HC</i>	<i>11:00 pm</i>
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>

