



ZION PROCLAIMER

March 20134

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

²¹*For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.*

²²*For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

The theme for Lent this year is ***Dying to Live; The Power of Forgiveness***. It is based on the book by the same name. This was written by one of my spiritual fathers in Christ, Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil. He is one of the co-directors of DOXOLOGY, a post seminary education that has been influential to my ministry. This theme will take us on a journey from Ash Wednesday to the 6th Wednesday night in Lent. We will read portions of the book and also have Scripture Lessons assigned to each Wednesday night in Lent as well. The power of forgiveness is from God to us, then it goes out from us to others in our lives and hopefully we will see that here in this Lenten theme this year.

Something else that is happening is that we are singing the service of Evening Prayer found in the Lutheran Service Book on page 243. The midweek catechesis students have been learning this and singing it since the beginning of the year. So they will be in the congregation to help sing this service. In the evening services of Lent it is a well-used practice to sing the daily prayer services from the hymnal. Yes, there is a lot of chanting and singing, but I believe that is ok, it is a good form to speak the words that have meaning and life to them. So if you have a hymnal at home please take a look and try to familiarize yourself with the words of Evening Prayer.

Before I close this article, I need to remind everyone about the pictorial directory. The dates for this directory photo sessions are March 11-15, here at church. The times are 2:00-9:00 on Tuesday through Friday and 9:00-4:00 on Saturday. Please be a part of this new directory with us.

Blessings,

Pastor Dose



Please be sure to join us on Wednesday, March 5th for Ash Wednesday, as we begin our Lenten Journey. Services will be held at 11 am and at 6:30 pm each Wednesday evening until April 9th. A lunch will be served at noon. If you would like to prepare a meal, please contact the office. The meals don't have to be anything fancy or large.



LENTEN MEALS

We would like to try and get together a group of people who would like to cook some soup and make some light sandwiches for a meal following the services at 11 am during Lent. Adding a light meal would add to the fellowship aspect of our services. Please let the office know if you would like to be one of those who puts together some sort of meal.

The LYF will be serving a light meal each Wednesday, prior to the evening Lenten services. Serving will be 5:15 to 6:15 pm.



Mar 05	11:00 & 6:30	Ash Wednesday/ Holy Communion
Mar 12	11:00 & 6:30	Midweek Service
Mar 19	11:00 & 6:30	Midweek Service
Mar 26	11:00 & 6:30	Midweek Service
Apr 02	11:00 & 6:30	Midweek Service
Apr 09	11:00 & 6:30	Midweek Service
Apr 13	10:00	Palm Sunday/Confirmation
Apr 17	11:00 & 6:30	Maunday Thursday/HC
Apr 18	11:00 & 6:30	Good Friday
Apr 19		Easter Vigil
Apr 20	8:00	Easter Service/HC
	9:00	LYF Easter Breakfast

WOMEN IN MINISTRY L.W.M.L.

LADIES AID:

The Ladies Aid will be meeting on Thursday, March 6th at 1:30 pm. Hostess will be Gladys Rickers. Christian Life will be led by Shirley Walde



EVENING CIRCLE

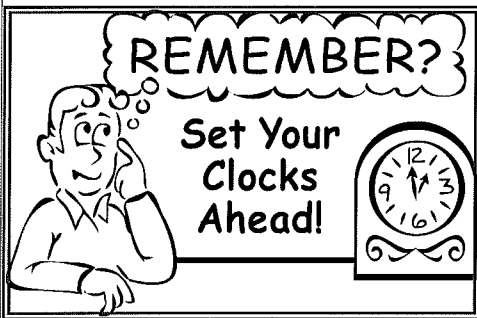
The Evening Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, March 5th following the Midweek Lenten Services. We will be working on the confirmation banners and packing health kits.



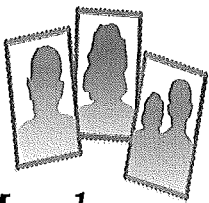
World Day Of Prayer will be held on Friday, March 7th here at Zion, Arcadia, with fellowship starting at 9 am and service to follow at 10 am



The following items are needed by the Ladies to help with their mission project of Health Kits and School Kits; 30 emery boards 8 bars of bath soap 49 bath towels- 20" x 40" dark colored, light-weight bath towel yarn to tie the kits Paper boxes- those that reams of computer/copy paper are shipped in



Daylight Savings time officially begins on March 9th this year. So remember to set your clock **AHEAD 1 hour** when you retire on Saturday evening, March 8th.



Member
DIRECTORY
March 11-15, 2014

The dates for the picture taking will happen from Tuesday March 11th through Saturday March 15th. The hours are 2:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9:30a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Saturday. If you are not going to be here during that time, there are no problems! Because everything is being done digitally, you can have your picture taken at another location then they can send your pictures to our directory.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School Notes



The Sunday School celebrated Friendship Sunday on February 9th with making friendship bracelets. We also sang during the worship service.

MIDWEEK SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

March 5th	4 pm	Kim Cleveland
March 12th	2 pm	Kate Neumann
March 19th	4 pm	Lori Eischeid
March 26th	2 pm	Kim Cleveland



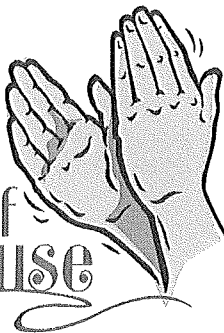
Midweek Snack List



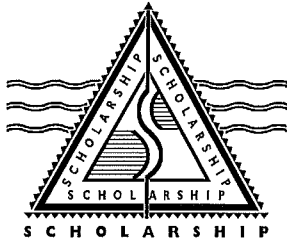
Noah's Ark

If you have a child that is age 3-5 or know of someone that has a child that age and are interested in sending them to Noah's Ark Preschool, please contact the church office.

A Round of Applause



We would like to congratulate the Ar-We-Va Boys and Girls basketball teams on a great season this year.



“Train a Child in the way he should go...”

Proverbs 22:6

What better way to train a child than to give them an opportunity to join the fun for Cub Weeks at Camp Okoboji in July! The Camp Okoboi Auxiliary is again giving away scholarships for a week at Camp for children ages 9-13.

The path is so easy. Stop by the church office and pick up an application. Applicants do need to be members of a Missouri Synod Lutheran Church.

They must in their own words—100 or less—tell our selection committee why they would love to go to camp this year. The Auxiliary will pay the child’s cost and we will also pay the way for one of their pals to go with them.

Applications must be received in the Camp Office no later than March 29th. The committee will review the applications and make the selections. Please note that preference will be given to campers who have not previously won

The children selected will be announced at the Camp’s Annual Meeting that will be held on April 6, 2013. They will be individually notified later and will receive the necessary information to complete their application for Cub Week

If you have any questions or need help with the application, you can contact Rebecca Dose.

CUB WEEK CAMP FOR 2014

July 13-19



EYES on Youth Ministry

Educating Youth, Encouraging Servants

There is a story which I have heard several times about a man who was in an accident and had to fill out an insurance claim. Asked for more information, this supposedly was his response:

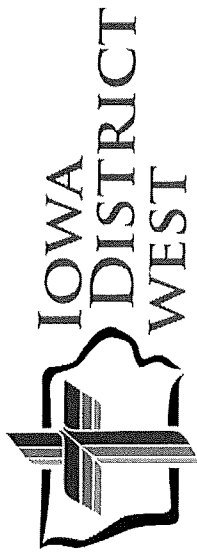
“I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block number 3 of the accident reporting form. I put ‘poor planning’ as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following detail will be sufficient. I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which was fortunately attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I collided with the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number 11.

“As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I collided with the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope...”

Our experience tells us that when two things collide, at least one of them is not going to remain the same. You don’t need to be pulled up an 80 foot tower and then dropped again to recognize this. Ask anyone who’s ever run into a sliding glass door that was closed, or went for the same rebound as a teammate, or dropped their cellphone - a collision changes things. Whether it’s a bump on the head or a cracked cellphone screen, something is not the same as it was before.

The same thing happens 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. The old sinful Adam is gone, drowned in the water of our Baptism, and the new creation rises. 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. This coming November, 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 Mainz, 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. Save the dates and join us at the Nebraska/Iowa Senior High Youth Gathering November 21-23, 2014 in LaVista, Nebraska (just outside of Omaha) for a collision that will leave you changed.

Pastor Steven Hayden
Executive Assistant for Youth



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Planting Together

March 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.

PRACTICING FOR EGYPT



Jane, Tom and their two teenagers were planning a trip to Egypt. Excited about the trip, they purchased what they needed and even began walking more to get into shape.

About a month before their trip, the family went out to the mall, but couldn't find a parking spot anywhere close to the entrances. They parked way out on the outskirts of the lot. As everyone got out of the car, several of them were irritated and complained about the long walk. Finally Tom suggested, "Look, it is hot and we have to walk a long way. Let's just say we're practicing for Egypt!"

Jane couldn't keep herself from laughing. Even the kids joined in. They smiled happily and walked on to the mall. From then on "practicing for Egypt" became their positive phrase for reminding each other to accept problems, let go of anger, and maintain joyful attitudes.

Problems, like the housing issues experienced at our gatherings, do come, even as we do our best to avoid them. Problems also come in our personal lives. The question is: how to respond? Can you, like Tom, see it as a chance to practice joy, remembering that God is always with you? When problems come to you, be joyful and think of them as "practicing for Egypt."

"Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." James 1:2-4

Rev. Steve Hayden, Executive Assistant for Youth

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.

Men's NetWork Work Day

Target: men! Go to www.lhmmen.com/workday for more information. Take time out of your busy schedule and render some much-needed service to your community or neighborhood. And have fun at the same time!

Churches Planting Churches

This seminar is coming to Iowa District West in May. 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.

Missions Banquet

Travel to Mission Central to hear what other congregations are doing in Iowa District West to connect with their communities. Sunday, March 23, is the date for this year's Missions Banquet. Not only will this year's mission grants be awarded, but you'll have a chance to hear from some of last year's recipients, network with those present, and enjoy a FREE meal! Go to www.iowamissions.org to register.

Welcome Pastor Lincon Guerra

On Sunday, February 9, we celebrated a historic bilingual worship service with the installation of our first resident Hispanic pastor/missionary. Rev. Lincon Guerra, originally from Panama, will assume the Hispanic mission located at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in north Des Moines.

Resource for Lent

A "Lenten 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 Calendar

March 2-8...Lutheran Schools Week celebrated in Iowa District West
March 23...Missions Banquet, Mission Central

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

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

The **2014 Program Brochure** have been mailed to churches and to the homes of past Camp guests. If you do not receive one please request a copy at your church office. It is also at www.campokoboji.org beginning in February. Please check out the opportunities at Camp and make your reservation early.

New Volunteer Coordinator! Kim Warnke has joined our team as a volunteer - **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR!** Her job is to help us get things done around Camp with the use of volunteers. She may be calling you one of these days – please say YES to volunteering at Camp!

Spring Women's Retreat! April 11-12, 2014 – This year's theme is "Loved beyond Measure"! The retreat will begin on Friday night with check-in and a come-and-go dinner from 5-6:30 pm. The first session will begin at 7 pm. We will conclude by 4:30 pm on Saturday. Registration forms will be available on March 1, 2014.

Spring Volunteer Weekend! – Speaking of volunteers...our 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 get 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.

Early Bird Registrations at Camp Okoboji are registrations which are **postmarked 30 or more days prior to the start date of the event.** Registrations postmarked less than 30 days prior to start of the event will be an additional \$20. Pull out the Camp Okoboji 2014 Program Brochure now, complete the registration form and mail it in with the required deposit.

COUNSELOR APPLICATIONS for Camp Okoboji summer camps should be completed as soon as possible. Go to www.campokoboji.org, print the application, 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.

SUMMER STAFF APPLICATIONS are being accepted in the Camp office. Application forms may be printed from Camp's web site at www.campokoboji.org. All applicants must be at least 16 years of age prior to May 1, 2014 to be considered for employment. Summer staff members are hired for housekeeping, food service, camp store, recreation checkout, grounds maintenance, lifeguard, waterfront, and other duties. Upper level college students may apply to be the Resident Assistants in the summer staff quarters. Those wishing to work with the program staff and traveling VBS Teams should go to www.nloma.org and apply there!

Summer VBS – Camp Okoboji has teams of three that will come to your congregation or city to facilitate your VBS! Contact Lori Gamble at the Camp office or by email if you are interested in more information. We still have slots available. Our theme is "God's Love is Higher than the Mountains" (Psalm 36:5-6a).

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 Brochure 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 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: Kellie Jones – kellie@campokoboji.org

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

Program Director: Lori Gamble – lorig@campokoboji.org



march
Birthdays & anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 <i>Lydia Dose Alex Gallagher Nicole Winey Mark & Jolene Stoelk</i>	3 <i>Susan Ehlers</i>	4 <i>Norma Luetje Ryan Neumann Irene Stark Dale & Nicky Lenz</i>	5 <i>Kurt Branning</i>	6 <i>Megan Anthony Wyatt Neumann</i>	7 <i>Garrett Cleveland Merle Witt</i>	8 <i>Carolyn Ehlers Jeff Luetje Patty Vetter</i>
9 <i>Nick Bender Leta Jensen</i>	10 <i>Jeff & Hollie Schnitz</i>	11 <i>Kyelar Cleveland Shane Kraus Dwight & Melissa Ehlers</i>	12 <i>Keith Kaspersen Mildred Robson</i>	13	14 <i>Timothy Dose</i>	15
16 <i>Kyle Liechti Chad Witrock Jeff & Cheryl Vetter</i>	17 <i>Pat Branning Myra Luetje Karlle Muhlbauer Jim Vetter Matt & Lisa McNelly</i>	18 <i>Luetta Meggers Scot Muhlbauer Cheryl Vetter</i>	19 <i>Kash Riesberg</i>	20	21 <i>Brycee Kohorst Cat Luetje Steve McCollough Katelyn Witrock</i>	22 <i>Colleen Cornelius Derrick Cornelius Edna Hansman Jane Vetter</i>
23	24 <i>Alyssia Giermann Jill Kasperbauer Gloria Popp Gary & Shelli Lenz</i>	25 <i>Sharil Lawler Steve & Linda Mumm Dave & Danna Teske</i>	26	27 <i>Danielle Nelson Keith & Jane Petersen</i>	28 <i>Heather Cornelius Maggie Ragaller</i>	29 <i>Connor Julin Brooke Luetje Scot & Stacie Muhlbauer</i>
30 <i>Tom Hoogstraal Dimitrios Mohannud</i>	31					



Missions Banquet

Mission Central, Mapleton
Sunday, March 23, 4:30 - 7pm
(Program will begin at 5pm)

To register: www.idwlcms.org or 515.576.7666

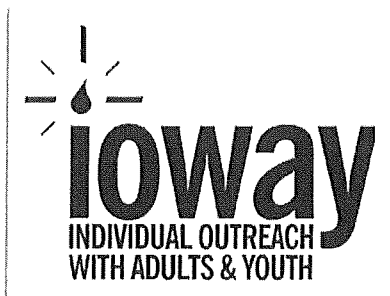
(This event, including the banquet dinner, is complimentary with your pre-registration)

Awarding of 2014 Mission Grants

*** Be informed * Network * Dream ***

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).





What is Skid Row?

Skid Row is an area in downtown Los Angeles, CA where 7,000 to 8,000 homeless people live. The team of 31 who served God in Pasadena from December 28 to January 4 by decorating the Lutheran Hour and other floats for the famous Rose Parade, also served the homeless on Skid Row. While in California, at devotion time on January 3, each person was asked to list their thoughts of what the Skid Row experience meant to them.

Following are the reflections of the team members. (If no name is listed, the person either choose to be anonymous or they just forgot to put their name on their paper. ☺)

Pastor David Morfitt: The best part for me was being able to chat with folks, whether the clients were there for shelter, food or training, a staff person, or one of the security guards. It's in those stories that we can see God already at work and recognize the opportunities for word and prayer---and of course, ongoing materials and financial support. "The poor will always be with you."

***Being inside the Union Rescue Mission and observing their food program was completely different than the previous experience (2009-10) when we were outside the building at the shelter. Most of the homeless looked better kempt and healthy. They have a time limit on their dining time which surprised me, but I understand because they feed so many people each day. It was very interesting and "hard times continue."



***I was very impressed by the huge building and the number of people they successfully serve. I expected the people to be less clean and less respectful. I wish we could have done more.

***Today was absolutely wonderful! It was everything I thought it was going to be! How grateful everyone was! How friendly also! The homeless people would say thank you! God bless you! They thanked us for what we were doing! It was very rewarding and very humbling! I loved every minute of it. It was one of the "spotlights of the trip"!

Tracy Stetzel: I met Gerald and Kimberley Fortier on my first mission trip to CA in the summer of 2009. It was fun to see them and to witness the growth of their ministry. On Skid Row, I met a woman who was originally from Sioux City. Her children had been taken from her 16 years earlier. She shared that she found her son but their relationship is rocky and he has since moved to Las Vegas. She is living at the shelter because housing is so expensive and she is on disability for lupus. She expressed trust that God will help her and that things will turnout good. She thanked us for being there to help and she gave me, and Marlene, a hug when she left.

Kim Warnke: Skid Row was an emotional experience for me. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting with the people who came into Union Rescue Mission to get a hot meal. I had the pleasure of visiting with two young men. One of them had just earned his GED. He was from Baltimore and said he came to Skid Row to sober up and escape his family. His parents were addicts, one sister is in prison, and two sisters are making it on their own. He talked positively about the Union Rescue Mission and how it is helping him. He also mentioned that his family's business is being ruined by his parents' expensive drug habits. The longer I visited with him, I realized he is very intelligent. The other young man that I visited with was also very intelligent and knowledgeable about the Bible and the love of Jesus. I was really glad to see this. This young man is a very compassionate person. Both were in programs at the Rescue Mission. I noted that there is a big difference in

the people in the program and those who are "on the streets." At many times throughout the day, I saw many of the homeless smile and thank us for coming and bringing them things they need. Some of them were so humble and grateful. We made connections today with some very special people who we can continue to pray for.



***I was surprised at the size of the Union Rescue building and the total operation, including their budget. In my mind's eye, I thought of something smaller. Regarding Petal Pushing, I was thrilled that the Lutheran Hour float won an award and was a good witness for Jesus.

Janice Ramus: I was surprised at how clean the facilities were. The "street people" also were a lot neater than I thought they would be. The people on the street had more needs than the people in the "programs" (getting off drugs, going to Bible classes, getting a job, and in some cases going to college). I got to tour the kitchen in the shelter and was quite impressed with it. I couldn't believe how many young people were volunteering. Another

thing I noticed was all the pop the children were drinking. It was a learning experience.

***Things I learned while at Skid Row:

Need smaller size undies and bright colors for ladies (homeless like pretty things).

Need more adult size socks.

Women loved being able to get a suitcase and tote bags but men prefer backpacks.

The first group we served were men on the rehab program. They were educated and were going through a time of need due to drugs and alcohol.

I am thankful for a roof over my head and food in the fridge.

I wish we could do something to help them permanently, not temporarily.

God bless the people who run the mission.

***It was a great cultural education. Many less fortunate people have i-pods, new cell phones, etc.

It takes unique people to provide service and support to Skid Row inhabitants. There was more security than I expected. The facility was quite clean and food service operation was well run. Most recipients seemed appreciative and willing to accept gifts.

Phil Ketelsen: I thought Skid Row would have been even rougher than it appeared to be. The last group in was for sure the roughest. Gerald and Kimberly definitely have a tough row-to-hoe but I believe they are very good at what they are doing. Jeremiah had a very heartwarming story of how he got involved with the mission.

***I was impressed how clean it was in the building. Security was very well-dressed and friendly. Gerald and Kimberly have such a wonderful relationship with everyone. They are the perfect couple. The girls also are so sweet and willing to help and friendly. It is wonderful that there is a facility like this for those in need. There were more young men than I expected. I have been amazed by all the items we provided.

***It was very interesting and rewarding but was disappointed to see so many with cell phones. I thought they were very picky in getting their products. Some were grateful. Most seemed like they appreciated it and did say thank you. I was overwhelmed by the security there.

Karen Seegebarth: The trip to the mission was not as scary as I had thought. The mission is so clean and so huge. It was good seeing a lady's joy because we gave her a suitcase. Before that she had only a garbage sack. The first group at the center was so clean. I noticed the friendliness of all the workers at the center and their happy dispositions too. I saw beauty on everyone's happy faces. I saw so many beautiful children.

***I thought we would be on the street and was surprised at the accommodations that house about 800 and that there are three meals a day. I was surprised at how many had I-phones. I don't have one! They were very picky about which hygiene kit they received. Some were very appreciative. Security was good. I expected to not feel safe but I was never scared. It was an eye-opening experience but I have seen poverty before. It was nice that the girls and Kimberly and her husband could go along to help us understand some things.

Shirley Wolf: It was much nicer than I expected. The organization and cleanliness was done very well. We need to let people who donate know we need some smaller sizes in both men's and women's underwear and that men prefer boxers. I was shocked at how much it cost to operate the center.

Sharri Hansen: I was happy we had good places to park underground and happy to have Kimberly and Gerald helping. I learned we need more men's M & L boxers, women size 7 & 8 underwear, men's socks and children's underwear and little blankets. A few said they just wanted small blankets to cover up with. Is there any way we can add these things to the list of things to make for these people? More suitcases and backpacks are really needed too. I saw so many homeless with cell phones. How can they afford them? So many people were picky about the underwear too. We needed more clothes to hand out. Moms looked all over for clothes and toys and I felt bad we had none to pass out. We can only try and help as many people as we can and hope we make a difference in their lives.

*** I'm so thankful we could share our time and gifts with the people. Many were so thankful for the few items they received. We take so much for granted and we have so much more than they do. It was a joy and blessing to spend some time with a few of them. Especially precious are the little children. They don't even know what situation they are in. It's a blessing from the Lord that the mission is in existence. I was impressed with the kitchen staff/cooks who prepared and distributed the food so quickly and efficiently. The line just kept moving. I was disappointed to see the amount of food some discarded. It's sad to see people living in the streets. I pray that the Bibles we distributed bring them the hope they need for their lives.

***I was surprised at how clean the mission was. I liked the idea of how they make the people work for what they get. I like that the people make a plan and they help them achieve their goals. I thought Kim and Gerald were awesome people. They are doing wonderful work. The people in mission, both staff and people using the services, were polite and thankful for all we were doing for them.

Darwyn Hansen: I have mixed feelings from today. I was impressed with the building and staff who support these people and the way they treat everyone. I believe they are trying to direct these people in the right direction. My heart goes out to the many people and I will never forget this for the rest of my life. I'm thankful for what God has given me, my family and church family. I was disappointed in a way with the cell phones I saw some of the people have and I heard our government supplies these. I think the money could be used in other ways but I guess that is our government. One of the biggest things I learned is that we should be doing more.



***Union Rescue Mission is a powerful outreach for the Lord. There are so many people with overwhelming issues who are seeking hope. The mission is much cleaner than I imagined and has more structure and security which kept things moving. There was a generous outpouring of thanks for our coming and the blessings some felt from our presence and the items we brought.

Nancy Ploeger: I have never been to a homeless place and I never expected to be in a building. I couldn't believe all the people that came through. The families with children were hard to see. The lady I talked to had an accent and was a little difficult to understand. She said she lived and worked at the mission. She kept saying, "Praise the Lord." She said when she had a TV she watched the Rose Bowl Parade. She hasn't watched it for a while. She showed us a picture of a beautiful flower garden and a picture of a house and hoped to have that someday. It gave me such a warm feeling inside to give these homeless something they could use and also give them a Bible. But it also gave me a sad feeling to see how these people live. I also talked with a man that had a woman friend in Illinois. She wanted to go there to be by her children and grandchildren. He had met her at the mission but he was too afraid to go be with her.

Lynn Wunschel: Today's event really opened my eyes. I was very sad when I saw all those tents and makeshift shelters along the streets where the homeless live. My stomach just felt sick. Getting to talk with the homeless was very interesting. Some couldn't afford housing and others had lost their jobs. It felt good to pass out the hygiene kits to the homeless. Most were very appreciative and thanked us a lot. My heart was very sad when I saw the families come in with small children. The kids were so cute. I can't imagine living the way they live. Getting to visit with Pastor Gerald and Kimberly was so great. They taught me a lot in the short time I had to visit with them. Their stories taught me a lot and I feel I can take what they taught me back to Iowa and give their message to the people I know, especially my students in 2nd grade and people who don't attend church at all. God is good! I have a great life and am so thankful!

Kathryn Sprecher: This was my 4th time to Skid Row. It is always interesting to watch the interaction of those who have come to the shelter. Do they sit by others, do they visit with others, are they willing to share with us? It's too bad that not everyone heard Jeremiah tell about his past and about the mission. Also, that the group didn't see other parts of the mission. I spoke with one lady who kept commenting that "God is good." I shared that people living in big houses and have many cars often don't have what she has with her faith. She agreed. I will remember Anne Marie. I kept looking for Walton who I met two years ago and often think of him. I need to get my congregation involved locally and maybe then they will see the need here in LA as well as in their own neighborhoods.

Leah Braunschweig: Today was a great day. I was expecting something totally different. The building was nice and clean and the staff was nice. It was hard for me to see the families. I looked at the kids and thought about my boys and how lucky and blessed I am to give them a happy, good life. It made me realize that we have plenty and it's time to give more. I'm looking forward to going home and sharing my experiences with them and telling to how fortunate we are. It felt great passing out the hygiene kits. Some were very thankful. Some didn't say thanks and were picky which surprised me. Kimberly, Gerald, and the other girls made a huge impact in my life. I hope to give so much more because of these friends I met.



Ellie Menz
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Discipleship – It Involves Financial Giving

Jesus' disciples were never recorded in the Scripture as contributing to the work of the Church. We know of their common treasury, but we learn nowhere of their involvement in making contributions to it. Yet in the epistles they write about financial contributions, how they should be set apart on the first day of the week for charitable purposes (1 Corinthians 16:2), how God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:6-8), etc. Paul even identified the purpose for which he was collecting funds for the relief in Jerusalem. Discipleship involves financial giving.

A study of giving, however, offers some very shocking things to consider. Recently I read of some of them.

- Religion used to receive 60 percent of all charitable gifts in America. Today it receives 32 percent. ("Rich Church – Poor Church" Abingdon)
- Charitable giving as a whole is down from \$315 billion in 2007 to \$298 billion in 2011. ("Giving USA," *The Annual Report on Philanthropy*)
- United Methodists give an average of 1 percent of their income to the church. Presbyterians give the same percentage. Episcopalians and Lutherans give 1.1 percent. Baptists are all the way up to 2 percent. Those of the Orthodox and Catholic faiths give less than 1 percent. (Patrick M. Rooney, "Dispelling Common Beliefs about Giving to Religious Institutions in the United States" in "Religious Giving For Love of God.")
- In a study done in 2008, it was found that baby boomers give about 15 percent less than their parents gave at the same age (using current dollars). The lack of giving is most pronounced with religion. (Advancing Philanthropy - April 2008)
- Giving to congregational finances is down 22 percent since 1968, and giving to benevolences in the same period is down nearly 50 percent. ("The State of Church Giving Through 2008")
- Financially healthy churches totaled 31 percent of all churches in 2000, but only 14 percent of churches by 2010. (David A Roozen, "A Decade of Change in American Congregations 2000-2010" Hartford Institute for Religious Research, 2011)

But why give to the Church? That is a significant question and certainly has to do with the matter of discipleship in our lives. It is furthermore a question of significance being asked by many in the Church because the Church often fails to offer a reason for Christ's disciples to give.

The number one reason that people give from their financial resources is a belief in the mission of the institution. So how well do we make that known to God's people? No more can we merely assume that they understand the mission of the Church. The majority of people belonging to our congregations have little knowledge of the work of their own congregation, let alone the Church at large. Few know anything about neighboring congregations, circuit ministries, the districts they belong to or the work being done in the District and the Synod itself. Unless mission projects of congregations are personally known to people and made exciting to others, they are not supported. A person gives to a charitable organization because that organization has made known its mission and purpose and made both appealing.

So if we are to make disciples of people who will see the importance of charitable giving, it behooves us to help them see the difference that their contribution will make. It will mean clarifying what our Savior has done for us and how the Holy Spirit works in us and through us to make God's love known to this world and it means helping them see that the Church in this world is a living body of Christ and that we are a part of it. It means showing them the needs of sharing the Gospel and how our contributions become a serious part of fulfilling those needs.

This is done not merely in bulletin blurbs or posters on bulletin boards found somewhere in the Church, it is done from the heart-felt conviction of the undershepherd who joyfully and willingly conveys these things to the people he serves. It also comes from congregational leadership taking responsibility to help make these things known to the people of the congregation as well.

Years ago congregations used to have teams of people whose sole job was to make the stories of missionaries and their work known to their congregation. They would receive information and distribute it to the congregation. They would show pictures, share information and talk enthusiastically about the need for the Gospel and how our contributions would help in the work of the Church that they were telling others about. I personally believe it is time once again to engage that sort of discipleship training. We need to make known what the work of the Church is and how it is being done. Then people will have a reason to give financially as disciples of the Living Lord Jesus. This is yet another way we can be about the work of making disciples of the people of the Church.

As your Executive Assistant in the area of Christian Stewardship/Discipleship in Iowa District West, I would like to help you or your congregation grow in that life of discipleship and help in encouraging increased financial giving. Please contact me for more information.

Rev. Phill Andreasen
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 6:00 DW/HC
2 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	3	4	5 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Ash Wed Ser 12:00 Lunch 4:00 Midweek 5:15 Supper 6:30 Ash Wed Ser 7:30 Evening Cir	6 1:30 Ladies Aid	7	8
9 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW	10	11	12 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Lenten Serv 12:00 Lunch 2:00 Midweek 5:15 Supper 6:30 Lenten Serv	13	14	15
16 9:00 Chr. Ed 10:00 DW/HC	17 1:00 Quilting	18	19 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Lenten Ser 12:00 Lunch 4:00 Midweek 5:15 Supper 6:30 Lenten Ser 7:30 Council	20	21	22
23 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW	24	25	26 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Lenten Ser 12:00 Lunch 4:00 Midweek 5:15 Supper 6:30 Lenten Ser	27	28	29
30 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW	31					

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FRIENDS WHO CARE

Christian Education	9:00 am
Divine Worship	10:00 am

