



## ZION PROCLAIMER

December 2018

# "DOSE OF WISDOM"

The theme for this year's Advent services on Wednesdays is based on the hymn, "What Child is This?" We will have services this year at 11:00 in the morning with a lunch to follow. We will also have a service at 5:00 on Wednesdays. I know this is earlier than other years, but the purpose for this being so early is to get the kids in catechesis to stay for the service. If this service is too early of a time for you to attend there are other churches in our area who offer Advent Evening services a bit later than ours.

Our Christmas services will be on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. On Christmas Eve the services will be at 5:00 and 11:00 both in the evening, the later one will offer Holy Communion.

On Christmas Day we will have our 9:00 a.m. service with Holy Communion. Please join us for one or many of these services. As we journey together toward Christmas we use this series as we walk. The following below is an excerpt from the resources we received with this series. It will help you understand more about our series. Come and join us.

The birth of a certain child two thousand years ago in Bethlehem prompted a poet in the nineteenth century to ask a very *uncommon* question in a hymn: "What Child Is This?" It was an *uncommon* question because it asked about the birth of a very *uncommon* child.

*What Child Is This?* The angel who announced this child's birth on Christmas Eve answered the question this way: "a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." The hymnwriter answered it this way: "This, this is Christ the king." They both want to make known the identity of this child.

The goal of this series is to set before the hearer the unmatched blessing of the Lord's incarnation. Our hymn helps us in this regard by making connections that we might not otherwise make. The sermon series draws upon the themes of Holy Scripture and teaches us to appreciate the full range of blessings that are ours through faith in the child who is God from before the foundations of the world, and who was born of the Virgin Mary. Confronted and comforted by this reality, with penitent and hope-filled hearts, we join to sing: "Haste, haste to bring Him laud," "Hail, hail the Word made flesh," and "Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!"

Many Advent Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Dose

# December Duties

## USHERS

Doug Schuette	Ron Cornelius
Dan Wittrock	Doug Ehlers
Jeremy Ehlers	Paul Ehlers
Merle Witt	Derrick Cornelius

## CHANCEL CIRCLE

Carm Thiedeman & Melissa Ehlers

<b>Christmas Eve:</b>	<b>Diane Witt</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>Darleen Linde</b>
<b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>Darleen Linde</b>

## MIDWEEK SERVERS

5th: Abby Klink  
 12th: Wade Ragaller  
 19th: Sunday School  
 26th: NO CLASS

## ACOLYTES

2nd: Kyelar Cleveland & Kendra Schuette  
 9th: Timothy Dose & Alex Gallagher  
 16th: Jamie Hausman & Abby Klink  
 23rd: Peyton & Jaxson Henningsen  
 30th: Sammi Hinnens & Jaxx Luetje



## Christmas Worship Schedule

Wednesday	Dec 05	11:00	Advent Devotions/Lunch
		5:00	Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday	Dec 12	11:00	Advent Devotions/Lunch
		5:00	Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday	Dec 19	11:00	Advent Devotions/Lunch
		2:30	Sunday School Children
			Program Practice
		5:00	Midweek Advent Service
Monday	Dec 24	5:00 pm	Sunday School Children's
			Program
	Dec 24	11:00 pm	Candlelight Service/HC
Tuesday	Dec 25	9:00 am	Christmas Day Worship/HC
Monday	Dec 31	6:00 pm	New Year's Eve Worship/HC



# L.W.M.L.

## LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid will be meeting on Thursday, December 6th 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 Monday, December 10th at the Westside Fire Station starting at 6 pm for their Christmas Party and meeting. Members with last names starting P-Z will be serving. .



Another project of the Ladies Aid and Evening Circle are School Kits. Items that are needed for school kits include:

- 4---70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper
- 1—30 cm ruler (can have inches on other side)
- Pencil sharpener
- 1—blunt scissors
- 5—unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure with a rubber band
- 5—black or blue ball point pens (no gel); secure with a rubber band
- 1—box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1—2 ½ inch eraser
- 1 sturdy drawstring backpack



On Sunday, December 9th we will be decorating the church for the Christmas season.

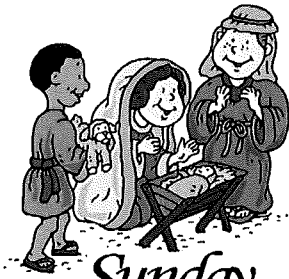
Plans are to decorate following our worship service that morning. We will be serving soup and sandwiches for lunch.

All are welcome to come and help. If nothing else, stay for lunch for fellowship





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Our Sunday School will again be sharing the joyous message of our Lord's birth through a special Worship Service on Christmas Eve at 5:00 pm.

### *Sunday School Program*

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 5:00 pm We are requesting all children to be at church by 4:30 pm.

On Wednesday, December 19th we will be having a Program Practice We will have practice from 2:30-5 pm Preschoolers do NOT need to be here 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.



### *Christmas Party*

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.

We would like to say Thank You to everyone who helped in any way with the Annual Harvest Supper on November 4th Without everyone's help with donating food, money, time and work, we would not be able to pull off such an event.

In looking back our first Harvest Supper was held on October 19, 1991.



Also thanks for all the donations for the Food ingathering that was held on November 11th & 18th. All items along with \$200 from the Sunday School Offerings was given to New Opportunities in Carroll.

Our door offerings for the Military Bible Sticks came to \$500 which is able to purchase 20 sticks for our Military. Again thank you for all the generous donations.

# DAYCARE PROVIDED

The LYF will be offering daycare on  
Sunday, December 9, 2018  
Noon to 3:00 pm.

All youth ages 3 to the 4th grade are welcome

They will be hosting a day of  
Cookie Decorating  
Games  
Christmas Crafts  
Movies

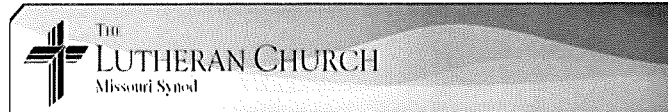
Parents: you can enjoy an afternoon of shopping, baking,  
Holiday errands, or just taking a nap. Let the LYF take care  
of the kids.

The LYF members will be meeting on Saturday, December 8th at 10  
am to prepare for their Sunday Event.



The LYF, and Sunday School students, invite you to help collect items for care packages for our nursing homes. Items that are needed are:

Shower Gel   Lotions   Perfumes/Body Sprays  
Combs/picks   Window Clings   Window Décor  
Playing Cards   Large print books   Puzzle Books  
Non Skid Socks   Toothbrushes/toothpaste   Stationary



The Lutheran Hour may be heard on Sundays on the following radio stations in our area: KAYL, 990 AM, Storm Lake, 10 am; KDSN, 107.1 FM, Denison, 6:30 am; KDSN, 1530 AM, Denison, 10:30 am; WHO 1040 AM, Des Moines, 7:30 a.m. Also available 24 hours/day on the Internet @ [www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org)

**December 2 "Reality Therapy"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The book of Ruth deals with unimportant people and unimportant matters, but deals with them in such a way as to show that God is active in ordinary lives-like yours and mine. Ruth's story became an important part of the story of Jesus. Listening to God's work in her life can rescue us from dead end delusions and bring us into what is most real-a Jesus-centered reality. (Ruth 1-2)

**December 9 "Redeemer with a Capital R"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

When people use the word "redeem" outside of religious context, they tend to use it in a commercial sense-redeeming points from purchases or casino tokens for cash. In the Bible, the word "redeem" is used in a family setting. In the story of Ruth, Boaz is a "kinsman redeemer," who points to Jesus, our capital-r-Redeemer. Jesus has done more than pay our points. He redeems by bringing us into his clan, his people, his household, that we might be with him forever. (Ruth 3-4)

**December 16 "In Anxious Times - Rejoice! "**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. With anxiety on the rise, the Apostle Paul's call to "rejoice always" seems all but unobtainable. While there are many helpful ways to cope with society's increasing anxiety, Paul points us to a frequently overlooked source of joy and peace, God's grace in Christ. (Philippians 4:4-7)

**December 23 "The King's Strength "**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A true king's strength is seen, not in vaults and arsenals, but in the loyalty of his people. We celebrate the birth of the King who won the victory, not by taxing his subjects and killing his enemies, but by serving, loving and dying for them. By his resurrection, He destroyed the power of sin and lends us strength to become His loyal subjects. (Luke 1:26-56)

**December 30 "A Long Good-Bye"**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasdy

As the year come to a close, we likely have regrets and guilt. We can beat ourselves up over work left undone, but Jesus Christ has assured us that He is your hope. His grace is more than sufficient to take us into another year and give us peace. (Luke 2:27-32)



## *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

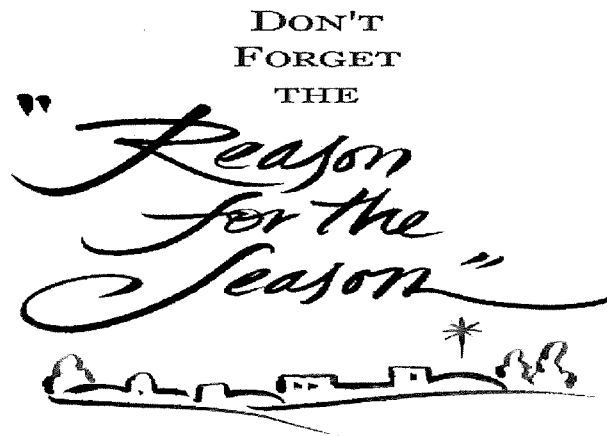


share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party.

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



The 2019 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.

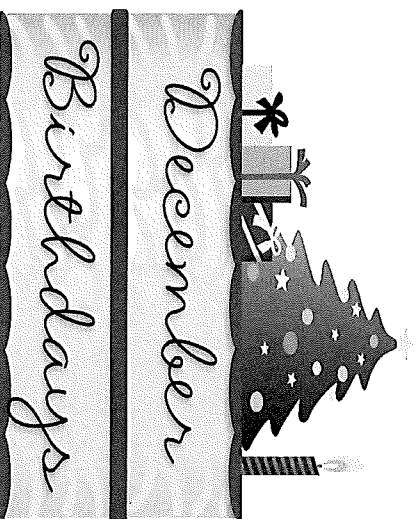
**There will NOT be a January newsletter due to the Annual report.**

**The Annual Voters Meeting will be held on Wednesday January 10th at 7:30 pm.**



# December Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>Tammy Leiting</i>
2 <i>Brooks Ruhland</i> <i>Diane Schroeder</i>	3	4 <i>Pam Kock</i>	5 <i>Tom &amp; Marjean</i> <i>Lipton</i>	6 <i>Abby Klink</i> <i>Randy Neumann</i>	7	8 <i>Landon Kraus</i>
9 <i>Bret Himmers</i> <i>Madison Stork</i>	10 <i>Bonnie Cornelius</i>	11 <i>Bernice Vetter</i>	12 <i>Melissa Ehlers</i>	13 <i>Eliza Witrock</i> <i>Sutton Witrock</i>	14 <i>Cameron Schmitz</i>	15 <i>Marjean Lipton</i>
16 <i>Jordan Hanson</i> <i>Danielle Schrad</i>	17	18 <i>Ron Cleveland</i>	19 <i>Gene Thiedeman</i>	20. <i>Wade Ragaller</i> <i>Chad &amp; Shawna</i> <i>Witrock</i>	21	22
23 <i>Cale Dirks</i>	24 <i>Kyle Lenz</i> <i>Janet Rose</i>	25 <i>Cooper Anderson</i>	26 <i>Gary Vetter</i>	27	28	29 <i>Al Mamm</i>
30	31 <i>Leigh Thiedeman</i>					





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!'

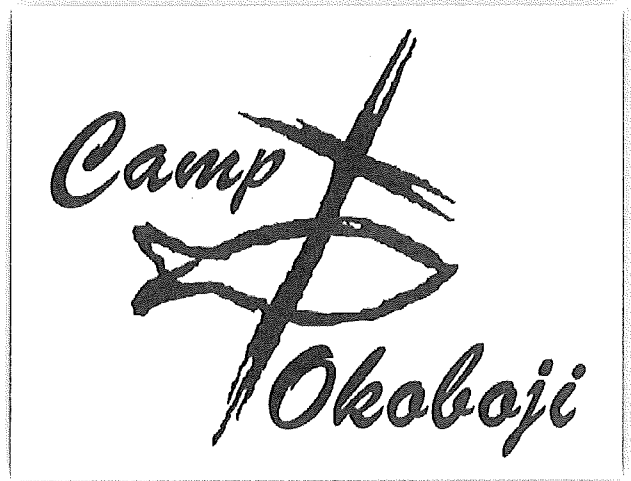
In truth, you have four boyfriends in your lives: Your fourth boyfriend is your body. No matter how much time and effort you lavish in making it look good, it will leave you when you die. Your third boyfriend is your possessions, status and wealth. When you die, it will all go to others. Your second 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.

# What's Happening At Your Camp!



Merry Christmas to you all from the staff at Camp Okoboji. As we prepare for the 2019 year of ministry here at Camp, we pray that you all have had a very blessed year.

As we continue to grow and transition under new leadership, many new and exciting changes are happening both with ministry opportunities and our facilities.



Hauck, which has been used for summer staff housing, is being gutted and readied for demolition.



Dan and Zebulun are being remodeled, insulated, heat and air conditioning added for temporary summer staff housing. At the current time Dan is fully funded and we are still looking for funds for Zebulun. Contact

Kirk Warnke if you are interested in volunteering to complete the work or assist financially.



Samuel has been taken down and the ground work and footings will be completed this fall. Laborers For Christ will be coming in March to build a new Samuel. This project is also fully funded.

# Ministry Opportunities!

## Family Ice Fishing Retreat!

January 25-27, 2019

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C.H.A.O.S

Christians Hyped About Our Savior

Grades 6-8 & Adult Chaperones

February 15-16, 2019

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### CAMP EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Camp Okoboji is currently seeking applications for **Summer staff**. We are looking for college age and above to serve in all areas. Training begins May 20, 2019. Summer staff may arrive prior to that date. All summer staff will be trained for all areas of ministry for the summer. This includes overnight and day camp counselors, life guards, water front, housekeeping, maintenance, and store. Those willing to serve should go to [www.nloma.org](http://www.nloma.org) to fill out the summer service profile. You can apply for any NLOMA (National Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Association) Partner Camp on this site.

Camp Okoboji is looking for a **part-time office assistant** with the possibility of moving into an office supervisor. To begin with it you can expect 25-30 hours with some weekend responsibilities. The applicant must have Microsoft Office experience and the ability to learn a new software program which is our data base. Send resumes to Camp Okoboji via mail or email to the Attention of The Office Supervisor. Use [camp@campokoboji.org](mailto:camp@campokoboji.org) to email. The Camp address is: 1531 Edgewood Drive, Milford, IA 51351.

#### Camp Contact Information

Kirk Warnke:	<a href="mailto:Kirk.camp@gmail.com">Kirk.camp@gmail.com</a>	Website: <a href="http://www.campokoboji.org">www.campokoboji.org</a>
Lori Gamble:	<a href="mailto:lori@campokoboji.org">lori@campokoboji.org</a>	Phone: 721-337-3325
Kellie Jones:	<a href="mailto:kellie@campokoboji.org">kellie@campokoboji.org</a>	Fax: 712-337-3318
Camp Office:	<a href="mailto:camp@campokoboji.org">camp@campokoboji.org</a>	
Address:	Camp Okoboji, 1531 Edgewood Drive, Milford, IA 51351	

## Looking Back and Forward... Celebrating IOWAY 2018

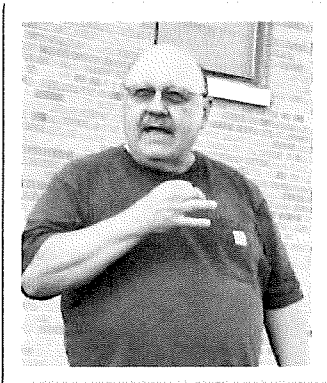
Trinity Lutheran Church in Jefferson was the scene of a celebration on Saturday, November 3 for the amazing things God has done through IOWAY and His people. The evening began with 81 guests enjoying fellowship and a delicious catered meal provided by LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund).



After the last bite of cheesecake was enjoyed, they were intrigued and some were overwhelmed by the many opportunities that were shared on how God's people in Iowa District West honor Him by serving others.

Following are snapshots of some of those opportunities.

First, the ICs (IOWAY Coordinators) were introduced. They are an amazing group of 12 people who are located throughout Iowa District West who love Jesus and serve Him through many outreaches. For a booklet of the amazing outreach/mission idea that they are doing, contact me for a free copy.



"Takin' It To The Streets" is an outreach to the homeless in Council Bluffs led by an amazing man of God, Jerry Hetrick. At one point, he was homeless. He now reaches out to the homeless with Bibles, food, quilts, hygiene items, etc. Jerry has a heart for Jesus. He loves to cook and to reach out to people in the Council Bluffs area. He received many donations for his outreach. His pickup, with topper, was filled with sleeping mats, knit hats, hygiene items, quilts and slippers. Dorothy Kruse presented quilts to Jerry that were made by Karen Seegebarth (Immanuel, Lotts Creek). Dorothy and quilters from Zion, Ogden tied and backed the quilts.

In addition to donating items, each August, an IOWAY team goes to Council Bluffs/Omaha to work with three homeless outreaches. It was a very eye opening experience.

Next, we had the privilege of hearing an amazing presentation by Larry and Cheryl Olofson, IOWAY Coordinators, who have been to Jacmel Haiti several times and are returning in December. They head the IOWAY ETCH (Education To Change Haiti) outreach and oversee the sponsorship of children in Haiti. They invite you to sponsor a child through ETCH. Currently Iowa District West individuals, churches and groups have sponsored 140 Haitian children! For information on sponsoring a child through ETCH go to [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org) under IOWAY.





Another way to reach out to Haiti is to make diapers and pillowcase dresses. Ruthie Luecht (St. Paul, Boone) continues to make diapers. She has made 75 infant and 20 adult diapers from old t-shirts.



Ann McBride (St. Paul, Fort Dodge) shared her joy of making 30 dresses for Haiti, a quilt for the homeless, and 650 wound bandages for Global Ministries.



Jean Kruse (Trinity, Creston) has enjoyed making beautiful dresses for girls in Haiti. She was unable to attend the banquet. She said, "At age 91, I don't get out much but I love to spend my day sewing!"



Hong Kong! What an amazing opportunity God has given us to share His love with children and adults twice a year through VBS. Judy Newhouse (Memorial, Ames) organizes the mission trips. Pastor Matthew and Kim Warnke (Immanuel, Spirit Lake) and Paul and Marlene Armbrecht (Pilgrim, Lake City) who served on a Hong Kong team last year were at the IOWAY Banquet and agree that it is an amazing adventure and encourage others to go.

Dustin Ibarra faces each day's many challenges at Moulton Elementary School in Des Moines with prayers and smiles. She is serving God and His children at Moulton which has over 500 students in grades K-5 who have come to Des Moines as immigrants or refugees. There are 31 languages spoken at Moulton. We have been blessed to be able to help her students with quilts, pillows, shoes, sweatpants, socks, art supplies, and hygiene items.

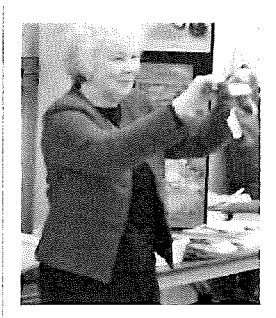


Gary Reynolds and others from Trinity, Algona enjoy making pillows/beds for many of the children who do not have beds. Currently, 59 have been lovingly made for the children to enjoy.

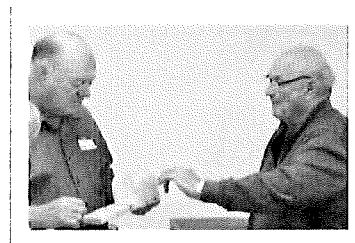
Barb Schulze (Good Shepherd, Fort Dodge) is the super shopper! She loves to find great bargains for the homeless and for the children at Moulton. She also makes tons of knit hats and buys gloves to match the hats.



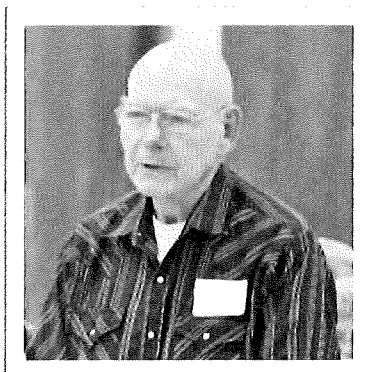
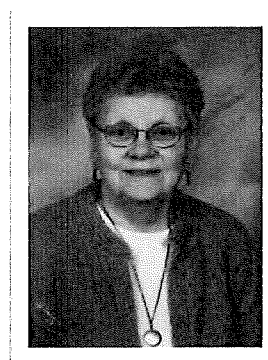
Another amazing outreach is to a church in West Virginia, one of only four LCMS churches in the state. Dale and Deb Schmidt (St. Paul, Carroll) had a great adventure loading and taking their vehicle stuffed with backpacks and school supplies to Pastor Richard Lohmeyer who distributed the much-needed items to children in the Lewisburg community.



Next, the “rollers and the knitters” known to their friends as Jo Reaman and Rich Seiser (St. Paul, Webster City) shared the fun they are having each week as a group of members get together. They have knitted 300 hats and rolled 2,479 bandages that will be sent to hospitals and clinics in countries that have no bandages. Rich is an expert at making wooden bandage rollers. I continue to call and ask him to make more! Pictured is Rich Seiser, right, explaining the bandage roller to Gene Mandernach (St. John, Storm Lake).



Then the group met Mary Reed (St. Paul, Boone) the “witness bracelet queen.” When we talked about how many she has made, we laughed when she said 100,000 but then realized that it’s probably true. She has made over 10,000 this year and has been making them for more than ten years!



Frank Morgan and Larry Hicks (Holy Trinity, Farnhamville) have turned in their farm equipment for a loom. To date, they have made 4,000 stocking hats. Larry shared, “God has a sense of humor as He made two old farmers into hat makers!”

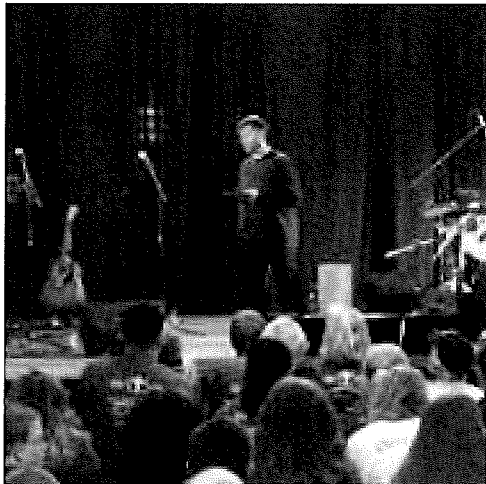
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Ellie Menz – IOWAY Coordinator | 515-370-1159  
[ellie@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:ellie@iowadistrictwest.org)    [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org)  
 807 W. South Street                      Jefferson IA 50129

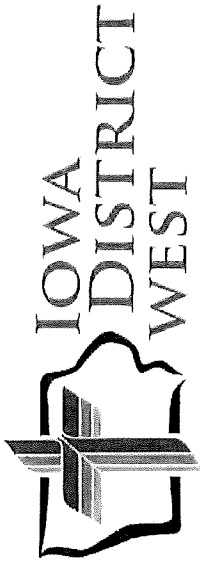
**Education, Youth, and Family Life**  
**Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President**  
**[rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org)**  
**515-576-7666 office**  
**515-573-0010 cell**

**Iowa District West Youth Gatherings**  
**Mark Your 2019 Calendar**

**Junior Youth Gathering – “Come to the Table” – October 19-20**  
**Senior Youth Gathering – “Foundations Prepared” – November 15-17**  
**A glimpse of the 2018 Youth Gatherings in Iowa District West**







THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

## Planting Together

### December 2018

409 Kenyon Road, Suite B — Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501  
515-576-7666 Fax 515-576-2323 [www.idwlcms.org](http://www.idwlcms.org)  
Contact email: [sue@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:sue@iowadistrictwest.org)

## On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

### A Christmas Resolution



Did you read that title and wonder if I wasn't a little mixed up? Everybody knows that resolutions go with New Year's and not Christmas. Just like everybody knows that most New Year's resolutions are broken before January has ended – if not sooner. (According to research published in the "Journal of Clinical Psychology" less than 10% of people are able to fulfill their resolutions.)

Let me put you at ease. I'm not mixed up – at least not about the title. Let me suggest that this year we make a resolution connected with Christmas. Christmas is all about love – God's love for you in sending His Son, Jesus, to be born in Bethlehem so that He could pay for all your sins through His death on the cross and purchase forgiveness and defeat death for you through His resurrection.

Let me challenge you to a simple Christmas resolution I call 1-1-1. Identify one person in your life who doesn't go to church and start praying for them each day. (Don't know what to pray? Ask them!) Then each week think of one way you could show love to them. Finally, invite them to one special worship service or event at your church around Christmas. Do all three and then repeat (tho don't connect the last step with Christmas) . . . without end!

If they don't accept the invitation, don't give up. Keep on loving them just as God does you! And remember, "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Rev. Mark Gerken, Assistant to the President  
[mark@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:mark@iowadistrictwest.org)

### DON'T DELAY. DONATE TODAY.

Although the deadline for donating to the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO) is December 31, 2018, last year tax credits were gone by the middle of December. Please consider donating today to help fund tuition assistance to Lutheran students in our Iowa Lutheran schools. How much Iowa tax do you pay each year? Why not send this money to help Lutheran students' families instead! Donors receive a 65% Iowa tax credit and possible Federal charitable deduction. Forms are on the web at [iowalutheransto.org](http://iowalutheransto.org) or call ILSTO program manager Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 for more information. Please call to make sure we have credits available.

### IDW Outreach to North Carolina and Florida

Ellie Menz has been working to find the best way to reach out and help those in need in response to the damage done by Hurricanes Florence and Michael. She has been in contact with Pastor Michael Meyer, LCMS Disaster Response Coordinator, and with the Disaster Response Coordinators in the Southern and Southeast Districts. If you wish to donate for the needs, please make your check payable to Iowa District West with FL/NC Disaster in the memo and send to Iowa District West, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite B, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501. If you have any questions contact Ellie at [ellie@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:ellie@iowadistrictwest.org).

### A Christmas Message from President Turner

Christmas is *The Word became flesh*. The Word becoming flesh is for us! Jesus most certainly came as the angels announced to bring peace and goodwill but He did this by coming into our world of discouragement and disappointments. Christmas is the tiny hand of God reaching out from a bed of straw into a fallen, broken, and sinful world with the message of love and forgiveness. The birth of Jesus gives all God's people an optimistic hope for a wonderful future! This good news is the reason for the joy which is for all people.



### Calendar of Events

December 6...Principals Meeting, District Office  
December 6...YES Group, District Office  
December 24-25...Christmas, District Office Closed  
December 28-January 4...IOWAY Mission Trip to California  
December 31-January 1...New Year's, District Office Closed

For more information on Iowa District West activities,  
view *The Messenger* at [www.idwlcms.org/publications.php](http://www.idwlcms.org/publications.php)



## SHARA AND MICHAEL OSIRO VISIT MISSION CENTRAL!

What a blessing to welcome Missionary Shara Osiro and her husband, Michael to Mission Central on November 10, 2018! What a JOY to have the privilege of hearing of how the Lord is using this special family for the Lord's work.

We had about 150 people present for this special Mission Event at the World Famous Mission Central. The Ministry Center was completely filled and Shara Osiro, veteran missionary, shared how the Lord is using her to tell people about Jesus in so many countries in East Africa. Shara indicated that the Lord has now called her to help in West Africa.

Pictured below is Shara presenting to a full house and a special photo of Shara and Michael in front of our Boss in the office at Mission Central. Also pictured is the sending of Shara, Michael, and two other missionaries, the Burches from Belize and the St. Onge Family from Canada and Latin America.

It was indeed a special day that we will never forget!



## **LAPTOP GOES TO AFRICA!**

Special NOT NORMAL volunteer Missionaries Ron Maurer and his wife Nancy came to Mission Central and delivered a near new LAPTOP COMPUTER! They wanted it to go to a missionary who really needed a laptop...and ANOTHER MIRACLE HAPPENED!

Yes, Missionaries Shara Osiro and her dear husband Michael came to Mission Central on November 10 and were in need of a laptop computer in East Africa! Wow, and we had one here!

Old Missionary Gary was able to present to Shara and Michael this wonderful computer to go all the way to East Africa for the Lord's work!

IT'S ANOTHER REAL "MIRACLE" that happened at "just the right time." What a JOY to see how the Lord called Ron and Nancy to provide for HIS work when it was needed so desperately!

## **VETERAN MISSIONARY FROM CANADA AND LATIN AMERICA, REV. CHARLES ST. ONGE AND FAMILY VISIT!**

On November 10, 2018, a whopping crowd of approximately 150 NOT NORMAL people came from all over Iowa and Nebraska to the world famous Mission Central to see our Missionaries from Canada and Latin America.

Yes, Rev. Charles St. Onge and his family came to share how the Lord is using them to tell people about Jesus in these parts of the world! Rev. St. Onge and his family were present to explain, teach, show pictures and tell stories of reaching out to people in total darkness with the Good News of our Savior Jesus!



Pastor St. Onge is pictured presenting to the LARGE crowd of NOT NORMAL people. The St. Onge Family is pictured in front of our Boss at the Mission Central office!

Pastor St. Onge told of his CALLING to Canada and Latin America, and how the Lord is using his GIFT OF LANGUAGES....French, Spanish and English to touch the lives and hearts of people who are in total darkness!



## WHAT A FULL HOUSE LOOKS LIKE IN THE THEATER!

More and more people are coming to the World Famous Mission Central in the middle of nowhere in the hills of Western Iowa. It's so important to know that the people who come here are truly NOT NORMAL! These people are "in the world," but not "of the world"!

That was surely the case on November 10, 2018 when the Lord called about 150 people to see what God has done with this old set of farm buildings.

On this day, three missionaries from Belize, Latin America and Canada, and East Africa were present to speak. People came from all over the entire Midwest. They also came to hear the story of what God did on the 6th day of Creation! The story of Creation that is explained so clearly in the Bible is true and absolutely certain!

Do you want to see what a "FULL HOUSE" really looks like? Well, take a "gander" at this picture, which shows that every seat was taken in the Lord's Creation Theater on November 10! We even had people sitting on the steps!



Were it not for the WIDE ANGLE LENS, we couldn't have taken this picture of the HUGE crowd that spent the day!

The Lord truly CALLED these special people to come and see what God can do in the middle of nowhere in the hills of Western Iowa!

### Mission Central – LCMS World Mission

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

Gary Thies (gary.thies@lcms.org)  
Rev. Brent Smith (brent.smith@lcms.org)  
www.missioncentral.us

# December 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						<b>1</b> No worship will be on the 8 <sup>th</sup>
<b>2</b> 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30 Bible Class 11:00 Advent /lunch 2:30 Midweek 5:00 Advent Service 6:00 Church Council	<b>6</b> 12:00 Ladies Aid Christmas dinner	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:00 LYF meet 6:00 DW/HC
<b>9</b> 9:00 Christian Ed 10:00 DW 11:00 Lunch by LYF/Church Decorating	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 Bible Class 11:00 Advent /lunch 2:30 Midweek 5:00 Advent Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 Chr. Ed 10:00 DW/HC	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30 Bible Class 11:00 Advent /lunch 2:30 Midweek 5:00 Advent Service	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW	<b>24</b> 5:00 Children's Christmas Service 11:00 Candlelight Service/HC	<b>25</b> 9:00 Christmas Day Service/HC	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					

## USHERS

Doug Schuette  
Dan Wittrock  
Paul Ehlers  
Ron Cornelius  
Doug Ehlers  
Jeremy Ehlers

## PARISH CIRCLE

Deb Owen/Lola Ehlers  
**CHANCEI CIRCLE**  
Carm Thiedeman & Melissa Ehlers  
**CHRISTMAS EVE:** Diane Witt  
**CHRISTMAS DAY:** Darleen Linde

## ACOLYTES

2<sup>nd</sup> Kyelar Cleveland & Kendra Schuette  
9<sup>th</sup>: Timothy Dose & Devon Ehlers  
16<sup>th</sup>: Jamie Hausman & Abby Klink  
23<sup>rd</sup>: Peyton & Jaxon Henningsen  
30<sup>th</sup> Sammi Hinners & Jaxx Luetje

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>5:00 pm</i>
<i>Christmas Eve Candle Light /HC</i>	<i>11:00 pm</i>
<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>9:00 am</i>

