



ZION PROCLAIMER

December 2019

"DOSE OF WISDOM"

BEHOLD THE CHILD

God's own Son is born a child . . . ; God the Father is reconciled.

What peace is found in those words. As the Church draws nigh to the Nativity of Our Lord, many also draw nigh to the harsh reality of broken families and friendships. The sting of estrangement intensifies in this season as many delight in family gatherings—a delight that is glaringly absent for others.

We long for reconciliation—a marriage healed, the return of a prodigal child, the open arms of a formerly harsh parent. Advent is just the season for reconciliation. It is a penitential season, calling us to examine ourselves, acknowledge our sin with contrition, and trust that our sin is forgiven for the sake of Christ. Such self-examination reveals that the fault for our broken relationships is not one-sided. The sin visited upon me by another has driven a wedge between us, but so has my sin. Part of the distance between me and others is due to my sinful actions—my sinful refusal to forgive, my sinful pride that will not admit my fault, my sinful contentment with a cold shoulder.

Advent calls us to repent of our divisions. Advent calls us to rejoice in reconciliation. Though you can forgive another even when he refuses to acknowledge his fault, reconciliation is found when both parties are willing to admit their culpability, seek forgiveness, and amend their ways. That can seem so difficult. It is hard enough for one sinner to confess his sin and trust that the Lord purges it from his life. How much more challenging it is for two sinners to do so. Yet that is exactly what Christ works among and within us. He grants us confidence in His forgiveness so that we forgive one another, receive one another's forgiveness, and are thus reconciled.

Reconciliation with some remains ever elusive. We hunger for it; we pray for it. Yet the distance remains. When a parent apologizes to a child so that they embrace for the first time in decades, we rightly rejoice. When our longing is not realized, sorrow results.

The only consolation amid such sorrow is the certainty of your reconciliation to the Father. It is certain because it is not dependent upon sinners humbling themselves in repentance. It is certain because it is dependent upon the sinless Son of God humbling Himself to take on human flesh and be born of a virgin.

That is the glorious, biblical proclamation found in "*The Quempas Carol*." We are blessed to hear therein the refrain, "God's own Son is born a child . . . ; God the Father is reconciled." This is not wishful thinking driven by our longings. It is reality driven by Christ.

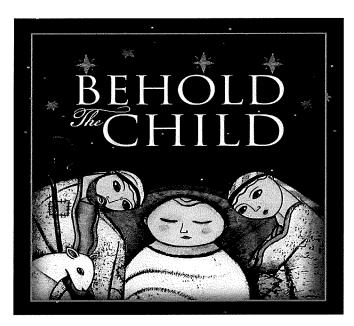
You are reconciled to the Father. Each stanza of "The Quempas Carol" announces our reconciliation to the Father in Christ. Wednesday of the first week in Advent will greet us with the first stanza, in which the angel of the Lord makes known that reconciliation is had because Christ has come "For You and All the World." The second stanza will serve us on Wednesday of the second week in Advent as we hear that Jesus reconciles us to the Father "To Set You Free from All Your Sorrow." Then, our ears will be filled with the promise that we are reconciled to the Father because Christ comes "For You, to Bear Your Flesh in Weakness." Our joy

will find its climax at the Nativity of Our Lord, when we hear the fourth stanza's message that Jesus' birth is the Lord's visitation of "All the World with His Free Grace Supplying."

Behind it all is the Word of God that the Spirit might quicken in us faith to trust these promises.

Behold the Child—Resources for Advent-Christmas Preaching and Worship from Concordia Publishing House includes fully customizable resources for the pastor and musician. It is designed to lead the Christian congregation through the season of Advent in preparation for the Christmas celebration.

Blessings, Pastor Dose



Wednesday	Dec 04	11:00	Advent Devotions/Lunch
-		6:30	Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday	Dec 11	11:00	Advent Devotions/Lunch
		6:30	Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday	Dec 20	11:00	Advent Devotions/Lunch
		4:00	Sunday School Children
			Program Practice
		6:30	Midweek Advent Service
Tuesday	Dec 24	5:30 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	6:30 pm	New Year's Eve Worship/HC

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.





HOPE EACE

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle will meet on Thursday, December 12th at the home of Sandy Hunter starting at 6 pm for their Christmas Party and meeting. Members with last names starting A-O 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 1st we will be decorating the church for the Christmas season.

Plans are to decorate following our worship service that morning. All are welcome to come and help.

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

Christmas Eve:

Diane Witt

MIDWEEK SERVERS

ACOLVTES

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4th:	Abby Klink		Delaney Schurke & Allison Skinner
11th	Wade Ragaller	8th:	Makayla Schrad & Wyatt Ragaller
18th:	Sunday School	15th	Karlie Muhlbauer & Ty Muhlbauer
25th:	NO CLASS	22nd	Emmett Neumann & Jacob Hanson
	•	29th	Cody Bair & Connor Julin





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

On Wednesday, December 18th we will be having a Program Practice We will have practice from 4-5:30 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.

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 3rd 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 17-24th. All items along with \$106.50 from the Sunday School Offerings was given to New Opportunities in Carroll.



The LYF will be offering daycare on Sunday, December 8, 2019

11:30 to 2:30 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 will also be making "goodie" trays to be delivered



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 equisite 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.

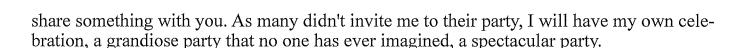
The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face...... and I wanted to be with them and share their table. In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me.

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



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 soonI love you!

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

The Annual Voters
Meeting will be held
on Sunday January
13th following worship service



The 2020 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.



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

December 1 "Enough with the Self-Talk"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

We are not always who we say we are. What you say to yourself about yourself may or may not be what's true. Dr. Michael Zeigler says, "Enough with the self-talk!" Who does God say you are? You'll find that you are worse than you thought, and yet, more loved than you could ever imagine. (Luke 18:9-14)

December 8 "God's Yes"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Loved and Sent Series - "If we say that God's purpose is simply to take our souls to heaven when we die, we might miss God's bigger 'yes' ... God's 'yes' to putting bodies and souls back together again in the resurrection; God's 'yes' to creation as He intended it to be." (Romans 8:18-39)

December 15 "Love Is Enough"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Loved and Sent Series - God shows us a different kind of love. It's love for the world that is not of this world, love that is focused outward, love that gives without requiring anything in return. (Matthew 22:35-40)

December 22 "Christmas"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler (Matthew 1:18-25)

December 29 "Dreams"

Guest Speaker: Pastor John Nunes

(Jeremiah 23:24)

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
_	2	သ	4	5	6	7
Tammy Leiting	Brooks Ruhland		Pam Kock	Tom & Marjean	Abby Klink	
	Diane Schroeder			Lipton	Randy Neumann	
∞	9	10	11	12	13	14
Landon Kraus	Bret Hinners	Bonnie Cornelius	Bernice Vetter	Melissa Ehlers	Eliza Wittrock	Cameron Schmitz
	Madison Stork				Sutton Wittrock	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Marjean Lipton	Jordan Hanson		Ron Cleveland	Gene Thiedeman	Wade Ragaller	
					Wittrock	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Cale Dirks	Kyle Lenz Janet Rose	Cooper Anderson	Gary Vetter		Brynlee Bass
29	30	31				
Allan Mumm		Leigh Thiedeman				

What's Happening Camp at Your Camp?



Advent by Candlelight—A Thrill of Hope!

Notice to ALL LADIES and LWML GROUPS! There is still time to reserve your table!

Camp Okoboji will be hosting an evening event on Saturday, December 7, 2019 beginning at 6 PM! Ladies groups are encouraged to bring their prettiest table setting and decorations for an evening set to prepare us for the Advent Season. You are invited to bring a group of 6-8 people to experience this fun evening of fellowship, worship, and a delicious meal. Cost for the meal and program is only \$20 per person! If you or your group would like to stay at Camp that evening, there is an additional cost of \$30 per person.

To sign up for a table, contact Lori Gamble 712-337-3325 or lori@campokoboji.org



We'd like to announce our 2020 Camp Theme!

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2

Christmas is coming! As we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Savior, there is always the rush of shopping for gifts! Have you considered something from the Camp Okoboji Store? We still have sweatshirts, t-shirts, sweatpants, flannel pants, picnic blankets, bags and more! Contact Patty by calling the Camp office and she can help you with selecting something for your loved one who LOVES Camp Okoboji! Or maybe you'd like to give them the gift of coming to one of our youth or family camps—we can send you a gift certificate for your child or grandchild to come to one of our summer camp experiences.



Are you a college aged student looking for a GREAT summer job? Camps across the country are looking for young people who love Jesus, love to serve, and love outdoor ministry to serve at their camps! NLOMA-National Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Association is in its recruiting season—this includes Camp Okoboji! To apply for a summer position, college aged students can go to www.nloma.org/employment and fill out a profile. This profile will go to the applicant's first choice camp for consideration. There are a variety of positions: cabin counselors, day camp counselors, traveling day camp counselors, kitchen assistance, maintenance, housekeeping, wranglers, challenge course leaders and more! Can you spread the word about this amazing opportunity to serve in outdoor ministry and become a part of a great team of Christian leaders? Now is the time!

Want to learn more about Camp Okoboji? We can help!

Please contact the Camp Office or email us to set up a time when either Kirk Warnke, Lori Gamble, or Izaak Wendorff can come to your congregation to share how you can become a partner with Camp Okoboji as we strive to share the Gospel through God's creation and His Word.

Camp Office phone: 712-337-3325

Kirk Warnke: kirk.campokoboji@gmail.com

Lori Gamble: lori@campokoboji.org

Izaak Wendorrf: Izaak.campokoboji@gmail.com

Upcoming Events in 2020!

January 24-26

Family Ice Fishing Retreat

January 25

Family Festival for University of Okoboji Winter Games

January 26

Omelet Brunch and Worship Service

February 14-15

CHAOS

As 2019 draws to an end, the staff at Camp Okoboji would like to take this time to say THANK YOU to all of the campers, retreaters, volunteers, family ministry cabin guests, summer staff, summer volunteer program teams, and family retreat leaders for making Camp Okoboji a part of your 2019. We pray that our vision, mission and values were shown and experienced while you spent time with us.

Our Vision: Refreshing Body and Spirit

Our Mission: We provide Sanctuary which connects guests with God and His Creation

Our Values: Gospel, Safety, Excellence, Wellness, Stewardship, Legacy

We look forward to seeing you in 2020!



Registration Information Coming Soon!

Lodging (2 nights) All Meals, & A Fish Fry! INCLUDES

Fishing, Fellowship, & Winter Games! Arrive anytime after lunch on Friday, January 23. Enjoy Ice



Share the Love of Jesus

We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone!

But how? There are so many needs. The best thing is to just start. Do something. Look around your family, church and community to see what the needs are. Pray about how God would have you help His people.



Consider some of the following ways to bring joy into someone's life:



- 1. BIRTHDAY BLESSING BAGS: In a birthday gift bag, put a disposable cake pan, cake mix, can of frosting, bag of balloons, candles, birthday card, paper plates and napkins. Take these assembled bags to a homeless shelter or to a community outreach.
- 2. KITS FOR HOMELESS: Assemble items for individuals to share with the homeless. Individuals can have the kits in their vehicle and can hand them to a homeless person they see on a street corner. The kits could also be taken to a homeless shelter. The following are ideas for items to put in a sturdy gallon zip lock bag: two bandages, bandana, body/hand wash, wet wipes, bar soap, chap stick/lip balm, comb, crackers, granola bars, gum, 2 disposable razors, two drink mixes, encouraging note, two first aid wipes, two hand sanitizers, lotion, hard candy or mints, note pad, pen, shampoo, socks, sunscreen, tissues, toothbrush, toothpaste, plastic spoons and forks, \$5 McDonald gift card, flashlight and batteries.
- 3. CONNECT 3: In Ecclesiastes 4:12 we learn that a rope made of three cords is hard to break. Get together with two people and start brainstorming. Be creative and pray for God's guidance. List ways that the three of you can be a blessing to others. Examples:
 - Visit residents at a nursing home for an hour.
 - Bake cookies and/or casseroles and freeze; give to people who are coming home from the hospital, new visitors at church, etc.
 - Grab your chainsaw and help someone who is not able to trim their trees.



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Planting Together December 2019

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

On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

God's Word Lights My Path



The Christmas season is a common time to feel like you are drifting through life. Maybe you have been there too. It has been a rough year, perhaps a turbulent few years. The hurts, pains, and disappointments of life have caused you to drift; having no clear objective. Have you in a fog? December is the time you look at your past lost your way? Is your head up in a cloud and your faith

disappointments. As you peak into the new year, instead of a sense of anticipation, you only get stressed.

To be honest, there are plenty of reasons for us to have doubt and uncertainty as we finish 2019 and begin 2020. Will the economy continue at these record levels or will it come crashing down around us? Will I intact? These concerns are real and things to be stressed about, to have doubts about the future. When I'm confused, and I don't know which way to go, I read John 8:12 "Jesus said, I am the Light of the have a job five months from now? Can I count on my health remaining world. So, if you follow me, you won't be stumbling through darkness, for living light will flood your path."

tion. Is there any place in the world you can get that kind of help? Yes. It's called God's Word. It won't steer you the wrong way. "For it is you who light my lamp; the Lord my God lightens my darkness" (Psalm When you face doubts, there is a reliable source that you know will always give you the right advice and never steer you in the wrong direc-18:28). God is the only reliable guide for life! Have a blessed 2020. Rev. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President keith@iowadistrictwest.org

Concordia Seminary and Taste of the Sem

encourage him to check out Concordia Seminary's "Taste of the Sem," being held February 15-17, 2020. During this on-campus event, young nen considering the ministry will be connected with a current seminary student to see what life is like at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. To regster or to get more information, please check the Concordia Seminary website at https://www.csl.edu/admissions/visit/taste-of-the-sem/. If you would like more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Scott Holder in the is there a young man in your high school youth group who has gifts that would be well served in pastoral ministry? Do you have a high school student who has expressed an interest in the pastoral ministry? If so, Admissions Office at 314-505-7225.

Church Work as a Career?

with the resources to give substantial scholarships to those pursuing There continues to be a shortage of full-time church workers. You may not realize how easily you could help recruit young people to consider church work as a vocation. Consider planting the seed in the life of a young child by recognizing gifts they have and encouraging them to be a Lutheran pastor, teacher, DCE, or Deaconess. Our district is blessed church work as a full-time career. Can you think of someone you could encourage? Pray for them.

Visioning in 2020

Read our new Assistant to the President, Pastor Keith Haney's page in The Messenger on entitled "Mission Possible." Pastor Haney would be happy to help lead your congregation through a vision retreat. He will guide you through the process of asking the right questions, exploring your present vision statement, and identifying the people God has called you to connect with in your community.

DON'T DELAY. DONATE TODAY.

tion (ILSTO) is December 31, 2019. At printing we are currently 35% of our goal. ILSTO needs your help so we can meet our maximum amount tuition assistance to students in our lowa Lutheran schools. How much lowa tax do you pay each year? Why not send this money to help Lutheran students' families instead! Donors receive a 65% lowa tax credit and possible Federal charitable deduction. Forms are on the web at iowalutheransto.org or call ILSTO program manager Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 for more information. Please call to make sure we have The deadline for donating to the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organizaof tuition assistance. Please consider donating today to help fully fund credits available.

Calendar of Events

December 24-25...Christmas, District Office Closed

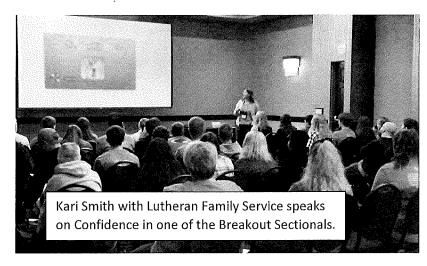
view The Messenger at www.idwlcms.org/publications.php For more information on lowa District West activities,

Senior Youth Gathering November 2019



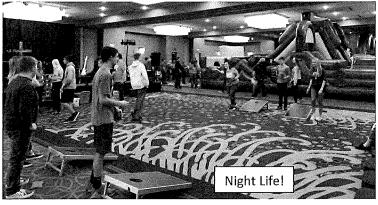
Main Speakers
Leon Jameson
and
Micah Steiner











December 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	ယ	4	U I	6	7
9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC/ Church Decorate			9:30 Bible Class 11:00 Midweek Advent Service	12:00 Ladies Aid Potluck		,
Church Decorate			Advent Service 4:00 Midweek 6:30 Midweek Ad			
%	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW			9:30 Bible Class 11:00 Midweek	6:00 Evening Circle Christmas		
			Advent Service 4:00 Midweek	Party		
			6:30 Midweek Ad 7:30 Council Meet			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 Chr Ed			9:30 Bible Class			
10:00 DW/HC			11:00 Midweek			
			Advent Service			
			4:00 SS Practice 6:30 Midweek Ad		i	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW		5:30 Children's	9:00 Christmas			
		11:00 Candlelight Service/HC				
29	30	31				
$10:00~\mathrm{DW}$		6:30 New Year's	And a Market of the Control of the C			
		Eve Service/HC				

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

Christian Education

9:00 am

Divine Worship

10:00 am

Christmas Eve—Sunday School Program 5:30 pm

Christmas Eve Candle Light /HC

11:00 pm

Christmas Day

9:00 am

