

ZION PROCLAIMER MAY 2021

"Dose of Wisdom"

Ascension Day

This is a sermon preached by Rev. Will Weedon from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamel, IL. Since we do not have a special service on Ascension Day, May 13th, I thought it would be good to learn from a faithful pastor. Enjoy this sermon on what the Ascension of Jesus is and what it means for us today that "Jesus went away."

Pastor Dose

Today the Church of Jesus Christ throughout the world celebrates His Ascension to the right hand of the Father, exalting our human nature beyond imagining, and preparing a place for us so that even now we are seated "in Him" in the heavenly places. This is what God prepared our humanity for from the get-go, but which we threw away in the Garden. This is what God restores to us in the redemption wrought in His Son. Here is a homily for the day:

Tonight, we meditate upon a single verse in our Gospel. These words: "So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God."

When you hear, "sat down" what do you think of? Do you picture Jesus sitting up in heaven, twiddling his thumbs, and waiting patiently for His Father to give Him the signal that the time has come to return again in glory? What is He up to as He sits at the right hand of the Father?

First thing we need to clear up is this right-hand business. The sacred writer is not giving you hints about heavenly geography, so that when you get to heaven, you'll know on which side of the Father to look to see the Lord Jesus. Right hand is bigger than that!

Recall the words of the Psalmist: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly. The right hand of the Lord is exalted. The right hand of the Lord does valiantly." Ps. 118:16

The right hand of the Lord in scripture is not a place, but a power! It is almighty power. And so, to say that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God is to say that He has all power, that He rules and governs all things! Listen to how Paul said it in Ephesians: "He raised Christ from the dead and seated him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. And He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all." Eph 1:20-23

So, when we confess in the Creed that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father we confess that the human nature which He assumed from the womb of the Blessed Virgin, and in which He offered to God the sufficient ransom to release all people from the debt of sin and the power of death, that this human nature has now been exalted and raised above every height imaginable, given the exercise of all power in heaven and on earth. The One who bears in His hands the scars of the nails now rules over all!

So when I complain about the way things go in my life, when I gripe about the troubles of the world or of the Church, I am actually complaining about the way the Crucified and Risen One sees fit to govern, aren't I? Puts a different perspective on life, doesn't it? Me pitting my puny wisdom and ideas against the omnipotence and wisdom of Christ.

In the early days of the Church, this was not forgotten. Even as the persecutions raged and people died for the faith, they never forgot the One in charge. There is a writing called the Martyrdom of St. Polycarp that comes down to us from those earliest days of the Church. It is a fascinating little document, but where it really soars is at the end. Listen: "It was the second day of the first fortnight of Xanthicus, seven days before the calends of March, when our blessed Polycarp died his martyr's death two hours after midday on the Greater Sabbath. The official responsible for his arrest was Herod; the High Priest was Philip of Tralles; and the proconsul was

Status Quadratus – BUT THE RULING MONARCH WAS JESUS CHRIST, WHO REIGNS FOREVER AND EVER. TO HIM BE ASCRIBED ALL GLORY, HONOR, MAJESTY, AND AN ETERNAL THRONE FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.” (Martyrdom of Polycarp, par. 21)

What confidence and peace those early Christians had as they remembered and confessed who sits upon the throne of this universe! It can give the same confidence and peace to us.

But there is even more to being seated at the right hand of God. Our Lord Jesus not only rules all things for the well-being of His holy Church! He also constantly intercedes for us before the Father. The writer to Hebrews put it this way: “Therefore He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them!” (Hebrews 7:25) For you, He prays. When you sin, He says to His Father, “Father, forgive. Look not upon the sin, but upon these scars that testify that I have answered for all their sin.” Thus, He is our Mediator, the one who stands in the breach between us and God. His being Mediator did not cease when the work of the cross was done. He continues to be our Mediator by His unceasing intercession for us by which He saves us to the uttermost.

And yet there is even more. Since the “right hand of God” is not to be thought of as a place, but as a power, the Ascension of our Lord does not remove Him from us but brings Him closer to us. Oh, His visible presence is removed. But He is not removed. His promise stands forever: “Lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” Matt 28 St. Leo the Great got the hang of it. He preached to his parish in Rome: “The visible presence of Christ has passed into His sacraments.” When you come to the altar today, you not only receive the Body and Blood that were offered in your place on Calvary’s tree for the forgiveness of your sin! You receive the Body and Blood of Him who sits at the right hand of the Father, ruling over all things. Thus, Paul could rejoice that “He has raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” (Eph 2) The Sacrament lifts you that high!

How great then are the treasures contained in: “And sat down at the right hand of God.” Ruling every circumstance, and so peace displaces our complaining. Interceding constantly for us, and joy drives out our anxieties. Constantly with us in His sacraments, and so we are never alone, but always with Him who sits at the right hand of God. Jesus, our Mediator. Jesus, our King. Jesus, our Risen, Ascended, and Glorified Lord, to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit be all glory and honor now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

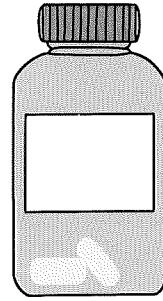
L. W. M. L.

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle will be meeting at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, May 5 at the home of Cindy Brockman. Co-Hostess is Sandy Hunter

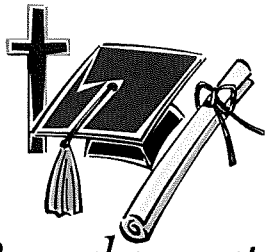
LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid will be meeting at 1:30 pm on Thursday, May 6th Hostess for the day will be Mystal Shiney



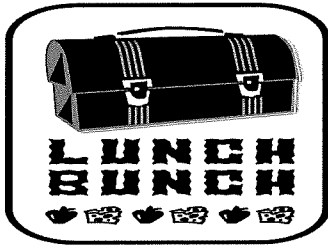
As of May 1st, we will no longer be collecting pill bottles.

Thank You

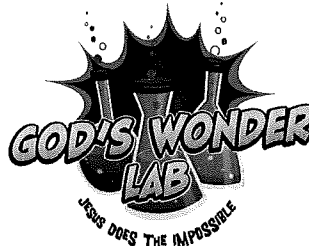


Baccalaureate

Please join us on Wednesday, May 19th for the AWW Baccalaureate service to be held at the United Church in Westside Everyone is invited to attend. The Seniors from our congregation include: Kalon Cleveland, Hunter Klink, Hannah Kraus, Riley Neumann & Sara Schurke. We would also like to congratulate John Eason who will be graduating from Carroll High School



A free lunch for all the students (up to age 18) will be offered each day with serving from 11:30-12:00 . This lunch is sponsored by the Free Summer Lunch Program at Ar-We-Va. Adults may purchase a meal as well for a small cost (payable that day)



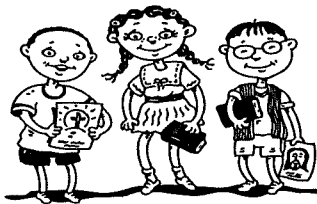
Plans are currently underway for our 2020 Vacation Bible School "God's Wonder Lab; Jesus Does the Impossible."

Classes are open for children 4 years old (**MUST** be 4 by June 8th through

8th grade (grade you will be in next fall)

We ask that **ALL** persons interested in attending this year, please call the church office (689-2441) to register, or go on line at [vbsmate.com /events/zionarcadia](http://vbsmate.com/events/zionarcadia) so that we can order materials accordingly.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you would be willing to help out with VBS this year, teaching, craft, snacks, etc, please contact the church office or sign up using the vbsmate.com website.



Sunday School

Our last day of Sunday School for this year will be on Sunday, May 23 2021

V. B. S.
Tuesday-Friday
June 8-11, 2021
8:30-11:30

Register Me For
“God’s Wonder Lab”
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Zion Lutheran Church, Arcadia
(June 8-11, 2021)

Register @ vbsmate.com/events/zionarcadia

For more information please contact the office at 712-689-2441. Please mail the registration form to Zion Lutheran Church, Box 59, Arcadia, IA 51430 or email it to zionluth@westianet.net

Name of student'(s)

grade to enter in fall

Please provide Birth date for those in preschool (must be 4 by June 8th)

Parents Name

Phone Number & Or Cell Number

Emergency Contact Person & Phone
Number (daycare)



This is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ...



Philippians 1:9

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to the Ar-We-Va class of 2021. We would especially pray that God would continue to shower His grace and blessings upon our fellow members of Zion who will be graduating, they Kalon Cleveland, Hunter Klink, Hannah Kraus, Riley Neumann & Sara Schurke. Also graduating from Carroll High School, John Eason.



A Word For Graduates

Congratulations to the members of our congregation who are graduating! No doubt you are looking forward to the next phase of your lives with excitement, anticipation and perhaps a little apprehension.

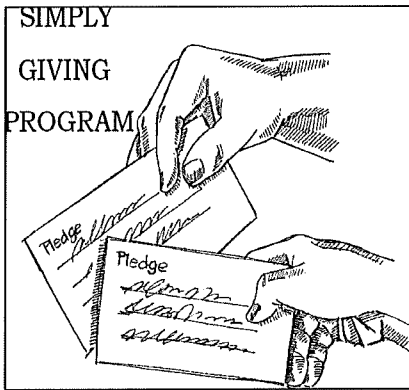
We hope these words, adapted from Phillips Brooks, will serve graduates well as they embark on their journeys:

"Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God."

²¹ My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion; ²² they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck (Proverbs 3:21-22)

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

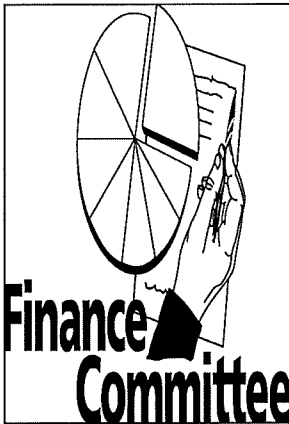


**SIMPLY
GIVING
PROGRAM**

In the busy times we are currently in, handling the finances of our congregation is requiring more and more work. In an effort to save our financial people time we ask that you consider an old idea, that of the Simply Giving Program. To refresh your memory, Simply Giving is a program where once a week, once a month, or twice a month, your offering is automatically deducted from your checking account and automatically deposited into the churches account. All you will need to do is once a week (or whatever you choose) is to record the amount in your check register. That is all there is to it. The amount is set by you and doesn't change unless you request it to be changed or discontinued. Special services like Advent, Lent, Christmas, etc are **NOT** automatically deducted and

we would encourage you to use your offering envelopes for those services just like in the past. For each person our Financial Secretary has to handle 52 envelopes and bookkeeping entries per year, and when you multiply that by approximately 275 envelope numbers, that is a significant amount of work that could be avoided by using the Simply Giving Program. An additional bonus would be that our giving throughout the year would be more consistent. We prayerfully ask that you consider making this small change that would be of big help. To learn more about this program, please contact the church office

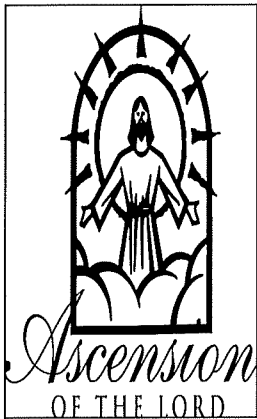
Thank you for your help
Stewardship Committee



OFFERINGS (Jan-April)	\$43,051.00
Thrivent Choice \$	720.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL/Fish Bowl (Jan-April)	437.50
Lutheran Witness	46.00
Non Budget Income	\$37,258.82
(received PPP loan (\$23,007.75)	
(\$2,251.07 interest from CD/	
\$12,000 repayment from Endowment)	
TOTAL INCOME	\$81,513.32
EXPENSES (Jan-April)	\$ 64,761.17
Income less Expenses	\$16,752.17

STEWARDSHIP CORNER:

Jesus said we are to love our neighbors, and we are to serve and support them. We violate Scripture's principles when we ignore the interests and needs of others. We were not created for the purpose of spending all our time looking out for our self-interests. If we ignore God and others, we may hear Him saying to us, "You fool" as Jesus said to the Rich Fool in the Parable (Luke 12:13-21)



Ascension Day

Forty days after each Easter, many Christians around the world celebrate the Ascension. It's the day when the resurrected Jesus was raised up from the earth into heaven. The Ascension is the prelude to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon a gathering of people, including the apostles, in Jerusalem.

The Ascension is more important than many Christians realize. In his human body, Christ could be in only one place at a time. The risen Christ, however, can be spiritually present in any place at any time.

Easter isn't over

During your preparations for Easter, you may have heard someone say, "All this work and it'll all be over so soon." Sorry, but they're wrong.

Easter as a celebration of the return of spring, the Easter of the Easter Bunny and colored eggs and candy, fancy hats and new spring clothes may be over by Easter Monday, not to come around again until next year.

But the true Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection, is never over. Easter is the reminder and the celebration of a continuing fact: Christ, who was raised from death, is alive today, tomorrow and forever. Daily he offers us and the whole world power to begin new life now. Easter isn't over ... ever!



Here are some happenings at Camp Okoboji this summer. They include:

GIRLS BASKETBALL or VOLLYBALL CAMP: (4th-8th grade). For more details go to: www.campokoboji.org.

KIDS KAMP designed as an entry level camp for kindergarten-2nd graders who are accompanied by a loving parent or care-giver. (www.campokoboji.org)

IOWA DISTRICT WEST JUNIOR HIGH WEEK: (www.campokoboji.org) for those students who have completed 6th-8th grades.

YOUTH WEEK: For students who have completed the 8th-12th grades.

CUB WEEK: (the church will pay 1/2 of the registration fee)

There are also several other Camps available. They include: **Family Retreat I ; Family Retreat II** For more information and registration forms, please contact the office or go to the website of camp Okoboji www.campokoboji.org.



When a house is a home

A house is a home when it is infused with love, when there is acceptance that never wavers, and where there is always food for the mind, for the spirit, for the body and for those in need. Is your abode a house or a home?

A baby asked God, 'They tell me you are sending me to earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless?' God said, 'Your angel will be waiting for you and will take care of you.'

The child further inquired, 'But tell me, here in heaven I don't have to do anything but sing and smile to be happy.' God said, 'Your angel will sing for you and will also smile for you. And you will feel your angel's love and be very happy.'

Again the child asked, 'And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me if I don't know the language?' God said, 'Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak.'

'And what am I going to do when I want to talk to you?' God said, 'Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to pray.'

'Who will protect me?' God said, 'Your angel will defend you even if it means risking its life.'

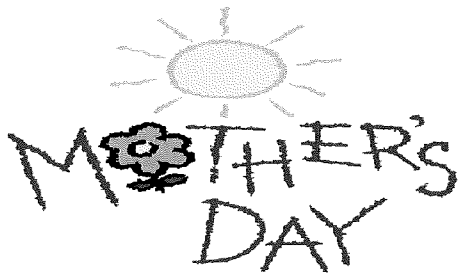
'But I will always be sad because I will not see you anymore.' God said, 'Your angel will always talk to you about Me and will teach you the way to come back to Me, even though I will always be next to you.'

At that moment there was much peace in Heaven, but voices from Earth could be heard and the child hurriedly asked, 'God, if I am to leave now, please tell me my angel's name.'

God said, 'You will simply call her, 'Mom.'

The heart

'Tomorrow morning,' the surgeon began, 'I'll open up your heart...' 'You'll find Jesus there,' the boy interrupted. The surgeon looked up, annoyed 'I'll cut your heart open,' he continued, to see how much damage has been done But when you open up my heart, you'll find Jesus in there,' said the boy. The surgeon looked to the parents, who sat quietly. 'When I see how much damage has been done, I'll sew your heart and chest back up, and I'll plan what to do next.' But you'll find Jesus in my heart. The Bible says He lives there. The hymns all say He lives there. You'll find Him in my heart.' The surgeon had had enough. 'I'll tell you what I'll find in your heart. I'll find damaged muscle, low blood supply, and weakened vessels. And I'll find out if I can make you well.' "You'll find Jesus there too. He lives there.' The surgeon left. The surgeon sat in his office, recording his notes from the surgery, '...damaged aorta, damaged pulmonary vein, widespread muscle degeneration. No hope for transplant, no hope for cure. Therapy: painkillers and bed rest. Prognosis:, here he paused, 'death within one year.' He stopped the recorder, but there was more to be said. 'Why?' he asked aloud' Why did You do this? You've put him here; You've put him in this pain; and You've cursed him to an early death. Why?' The Lord answered and said, 'The boy, My lamb, was not meant for your flock for long, for he is a part of My flock , and will forever be. Here, in My flock, he will feel no pain, and will be comforted as you cannot imagine. His parents will one day join him here, and they will know peace, and My flock will continue to grow. The surgeon's tears were hot, but his anger was hotter. 'You created that boy, and You created that heart. He'll be dead in months. Why?' The Lord answered, 'The boy, My lamb, shall return to My flock, for He has Done his duty: I did not put My lamb with your flock to lose him, but to retrieve another lost lamb.' YOU! The surgeon wept.. The surgeon sat beside the boy's bed; the boy's parents sat across from him. The boy awoke and whispered , Did you cut open my heart?' 'Yes,' said the surgeon. 'What did you find?' asked the boy. 'I found Jesus there,' said the surgeon



The Best mother that I LOVE

When God set the world in place,
when He hung the stars up in space,
when He made the land and the sea,
then He made you and me.

He sat back and saw all that was good,
He saw things to be as they should.
Just one more blessing He had in store;
He created a mother, but whatever for?
He knew a mother would have a special place
to shine His reflection on her child's face.

A mother will walk the extra mile
just to see her children smile.

She'll work her fingers to the bone
to make a house into a home.

A mother is there to teach and guide,
a mother will stay right by your side.
She'll be there through your pain and strife,
she'll stay constant in your life.

A mother will lend a helping hand
until you have the strength to stand.
She'll pick you up when you are down,
when you need a friend she'll stick around.

A mother is one who listens well,
will keep her word; will never tell.

A mother never pokes or pries
but stands quietly by your side,
giving you the strength you need,
encouraging you to succeed.

A mother is one who can be strong
when you need someone to lean on.

You're more than a mother to me;
a reflection of Him in your face I see,
a love that knows no boundaries.

I'm glad that you chose to be
all this and more to me.

You share a love that knows no end,
you're more than my mother,
you are my friend.

Susan Jordan

Joys of motherhood

- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

—Unknown

GOD'S GIFT

My Mother is a special gift,
A special gift that God gave to me.
I'd be lost and lonely without her,
If God took her away you see.

I love her so very much,
That I couldn't bear to live without her healing
touch.

Thank-you God for giving me such a loving
Mother,
For I wouldn't want to be a part of no other.

By Melanie Reid

A mother's prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessings of my children. Help me rely on you for guidance, patience and even-temperedness throughout my days.

I want my children to love you, worship you and serve you as best they can. Grant me the wisdom to know how to influence them to live godly lives. Prevent me from provoking my children to anger and from manipulating or nagging them.

Fill our household with abiding love and respect, and help us all be united in purpose to do your will. In the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.



Over the years, Memorial Day has become a big holiday weekend. It's now the unofficial start of summer, rather than a day of tribute to the departed it was originally meant to be.

Even if we plan fun events for Memorial Day weekend, it's important to stop long enough to bow our heads and pay respect to our departed loved ones — especially those who fell in battle while helping preserve America's liberties.

Let us take time to make the pilgrimage to various cemeteries and pause long enough to say, "Thank you, Father, for these special lives, for sacrifices made and for friendships we have shared."

The price of freedom

In the song "What Did He Die For?" Twila Paris reminds us why we observe Memorial Day — and why we worship Jesus as our Savior. The first verse tells of a 21-year-old soldier fighting for America's freedom during World War II. The second verse recalls another young man, many centuries prior, sent by his Father to win eternal freedom from sin for the entire world.

The chorus offers this challenge:

"What did he die for when he died for you and me,
Made the sacrifice so that we could all be free?
I believe we will answer each to heaven
For the way we spend a priceless liberty.
Look inside and ask the question, What did he die for?"

Memorial Day challenges us to live so as to honor the sacrifices made by members of the military. We value our freedom because of the heavy price people have paid for it. Likewise, every day we're challenged to live so as to honor Jesus' supreme sacrifice. He calls us to spend our "priceless liberty" using our blessings to bless others.

How will they know?

A well-known 1960s song by Peter Scholtes answers an implied question: How will others know we're Jesus' disciples? Not by how we understand family values. Not by our politics or theology. Not by how many Bible verses we've memorized, how often we attend church or how much offering we give.

Rather, the song's title and refrain say it all: "They'll know we are Christians by our love." Jesus put it this way: "Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35, NIV).

Sometimes love involves words — teaching, proclaiming, bearing witness to God's presence. But if words aren't backed by actions, they soon fall flat. We can, as

Memorial DAY

Children Need Food and School Supplies

As we look around our community, church, state and nation, there will always be opportunities where we can extend a helping hand. God calls us to action in 1 John 3:18 – “Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action.”

Two action plans to consider:

- * Donate backpacks and school supplies for children in the Appalachian area of West Virginia. Deadline is June 20.
- * Join IOWAY to pack Mercy Meals in Sioux City, Iowa on July 24, 2021 from 10:30-Noon.



One opportunity for action is to help families in Alderson, West Virginia by providing new backpacks and school supplies. In the past, through IOWAY, we reached out to help Christ Our Savior of the Valley Lutheran Church with two VBS mission teams and provided supplies. Pictured are some of the happy children who received backpacks and supplies from Iowans following our 2012 mission trip.

Pastor Richard Lohmeyer shared the following: “West Virginia is a poor mountainous state. The median income is \$24,478 which puts it last of the 50 states. It ranks 48th in health care and 50th in terms of the economy in the United States. It ranks 44th in education with only 27% having some type of college degree. Logging and coal production remain an important part of the state's economy, however, the sharp decline in the use of coal has led to a high unemployment rate and a use of drugs rate that is number one in the nation. The Alderson community last year saw twelve young people die because of drug overdoses. Good paying jobs are difficult to find, and the result is that many young people are leaving the state. West Virginia has the oldest population of the 50 states. In our community ALL school students receive both a free breakfast and lunch. They also receive a packed lunch to take home on Friday to ensure that they will have something to eat over the weekend. Our church is one of only four LCMS churches in the state of West Virginia. It is over a two-hour drive to the nearest LCMS Lutheran Church. We, at Christ Our Savior are an outpost doing acts of mercy in our community and sharing the Good News of God's love and forgiveness with the people.”

How can we in Iowa District West lend a helping hand? I have recently been reporting on the IOWAY Pony Express. Dale and Deb Schmidt, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carroll, are taking this to a whole new level! They offered to load up their vehicle and head to West Virginia in July!

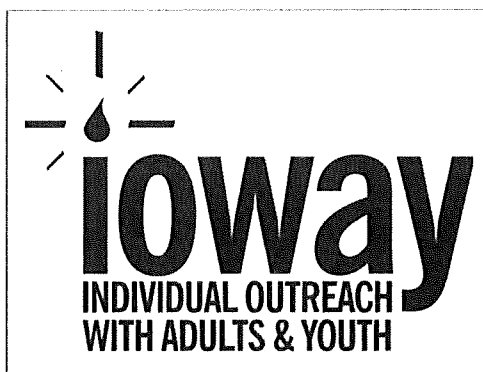
Interested in helping? Bring new backpacks and school supplies (your choice, as all items are needed) to the Iowa District West office in Fort Dodge, to Dale Schmidt in Carroll, or to me in Jefferson. Call me for additional information. Deadline is **June 20, 2021**. Thank you!

Mercy Meals of Siouxland

Working with Mercy Meals of Siouxland is another great way to extend a helping hand. Would you like to be part of a team to pack meals on **July 24, 2021**? We will pack meals from 10:30-Noon. Contact me if you are interested in serving in this way. Please reply **before July 17** to 515-370-1159 or ellie@iowadistrictwest.org.

Larry Joines shared, "Mercy Meals is a ministry of Faith Lutheran Church LCMS, Sioux City, Iowa. It began packaging fortified rice soy meals (Mercy Meals) for hungry and starving children in the U.S. and worldwide on June 23, 2012. Meals are packaged utilizing community volunteers ages 8 and up in an assembly line process. Meals consist of rice, soy, dried vegetables, and a vitamin/mineral base powder put into plastic bags containing 6 meals per bag. Each bag of 6 meals costs 72 cents to package. All meals are donated to Orphan Grain Train, Norfolk, Nebraska, and they ship the meals to destinations of their choosing at their cost. Meals are delivered at the point of destination by a Christian organization, so the children hear about Jesus as well as receiving food. The ministry has packaged and donated 2,138,387 Mercy Meals since June 23, 2012. The ministry is sustained through the generosity of donors who pay for the materials and supplies used to package meals. If you would like to pack meals, at a time other than July 24, or want more information about the ministry, call Larry Joines at 712-258-0808 or e-mail mercymealsoftsiouxland@gmail.com.

Ellie Menz
IOWAY Director / Disaster Response Coordinator
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ellie@iowadistrictwest.org
515-370-1159



Camp Okoboji

JOIN THE SUMMER STAFF FAM!

Make a difference this summer! Join the Summer Staff Family! Camp Okoboji is looking for high-quality individuals who are ready to immerse themselves in a Christian community that is devoted to serving Camp Okoboji's campers, families, and guests!

Do you know a high school youth or college-aged young adult who would be a great fit for summer staff?

Refer them to us!



ACCEPT THE CALL... TO BE A
volunteer counselor



BE A VOLUNTEER COUNSELOR!

Accept the call to be a Volunteer Counselor! We are seeking high school youth and college-aged young adults to serve as counselors during Cub Weeks, Junior High Week, and Youth Week. [Apply at campokoboji.org](http://campokoboji.org)

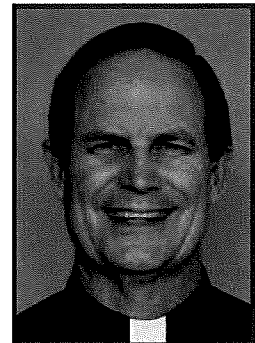
Camp Okoboji's Volunteer Counselor Program is designed to invest in leadership development and Christian Character Formation of youth and young adults. From their experience, youth and young adults will leave more confident and better equipped to fulfill their calling as a servant-leader in their various vocations!

The Vocation of Raising Children in the Faith: A Family-Centered Congregational Approach

May 17-19, 2021

Dr. W. Mart Thompson, Associate Professor of Practical Theology & Director of the Specific Ministry Program (SMP) at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will guide pastors, DCEs, teachers, ministry teams, and lay people through this workshop. This workshop will explore helping ministries to be family-centered and church-supported in raising children in the faith. More vital than ever today, we need to incorporate into the ministry of the church and day school effective ways to serve families in raising up disciples of Jesus Christ.

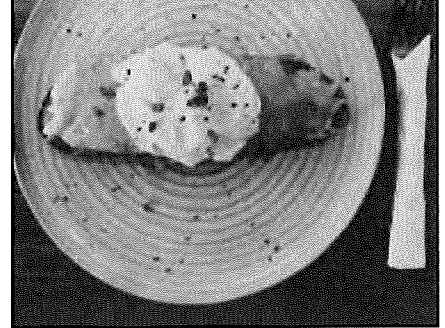
**Register for the workshop through Concordia Seminary.
Reserve Lodging & Meals through Camp Okoboji.**



OMELET BRUNCHES

Omelet Brunches are back at Camp Okoboji! Join us the first Sunday every month for some good grub and good company!

Camp Okoboji Omelet Brunch



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Worship with us! Sunday Morning Services will be every Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day at 9:45 A.M.



ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION

Camp Okoboji's Auxiliary Quilt Auction & Craft Sale is BACK! The Auxiliary serves as a 'helpmate' to the Board of Directors - to Pray for, Promote, and Participate in God's ministry at Camp Okoboji. For decades, the Auxiliary has hosted a Quilt Auction & Craft Sale, which has contributed to funding nearly \$1,000,000 worth of projects and initiatives at Camp Okoboji. Please come and join us as we admire the beautiful quilts that were made and donated, and help support the Auxiliary in its missions at Camp Okoboji.

COME TO CAMP SUMMER SCHEDULE

June 4-6.....Kids' Kamp
June 10-13....JOY Camp #1
June 13-19....Cub Week #1
July 8-11.....JOY Camp #2
July 11-17.....Junior High Week
July 18-24.....Cub Week #2
July 25-31.....Youth Week
August 1-6....Family Retreat #1
August 8-13...Family Retreat #2

Register today at campokoboji.org





On a Mission
to Support

Christ's Mission!

May 2021

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

Remembering your favorite LCMS ministries in your Christian Estate Plan



Have you remembered your favorite LCMS ministries in your estate planning? When I ask this question, most individuals respond: "No, but I would like to if someone would help me." About 90% of all gifts to LCMS ministries through estate planning are done because someone offered to help. The reason that most people don't do this on their own is that it takes planning to do so with many considerations. What type of a gift would be the best? A bequest in a will or trust? A beneficiary designation on an IRA, annuity, or life insurance? After the decision is made as to what type of gift would be the best, this question needs to be answered: "What ministries should benefit from the gift?" How do you want the ministries to use your gift? All of this planning is made easy with my help as your Christian Estate Planning Counselor in Iowa District West. You may request my help at no cost. I am available to meet with you in your home to assist you in your planning. Please email me or give me a call.

Jim Schroeder
515.490.7371
jim@iowadistrictwest.org

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

Please Help ILSTO be fully funded for 2021
For the 2021 tax year, the legislature has allocated \$15,000,000 for Tuition Tax Credits for the STO program across the state of Iowa so ILSTO will have \$553,416 in tax credits to distribute to donors and has set a goal to raise \$940,000. We are currently at 5% of our goal. The tax credit limit for the STO program will rise 10% in 2022 if all the STOs in Iowa can fund at 90% in 2021. We are thankful to the legislature for this increase but we need your help to raise this money. For more information, contact Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991.

DISTRICT EDUCATION CONFERENCES—2021

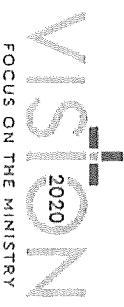
Iowa Early Childhood Conference

August 6
Theme: Masterpiece in the Making
Location: Gloria Dei, Urbandale



Iowa Lutheran Teachers Conference

October 21-22
Theme: VISION 2020 Focus on the Ministry
Location: Sheraton, West Des Moines



Discipleship Programs

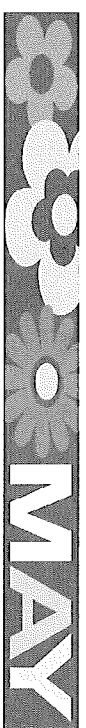
- June 4-6 Kids' Kamp
- June 10-13 JOY Camp #1
- June 13-19 Cub Week #1
- July 8-11 JOY Camp #2
- July 11-17 Junior High Week
- July 18-24 Cub Week #2
- July 25-31 Youth Week
- August 1-6 Family Retreat #1
- August 8-13 Family Retreat #2



For more information or to register, visit campokaloaji.org.

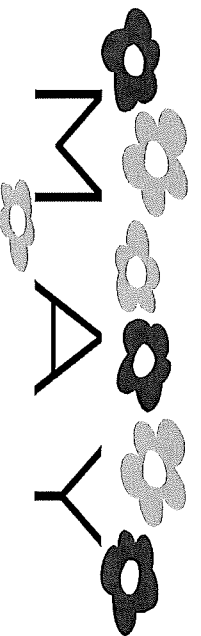
Calendar of Events

- May 9...Mother's Day
- May 13...District Board of Directors
- May 17...Pastors Golf Day, Ida Grove
- May 31...Memorial Day, District Office Closed



Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 <i>Eric Wiese</i> <i>Annalee Wittrock</i> <i>Ryan & Jenni</i> <i>Maddleton</i>
2 <i>Claire Lenz</i> <i>Joel Mumm</i> <i>Kelly Riesberg</i>	3 <i>Kate Riesberg</i>	4	5 <i>Lori Grundmeier</i> <i>Michael & Ashley</i> <i>Eggers</i>	6 <i>Rob & Julie</i> <i>Klink</i>	7 <i>Beth Hansman</i>	8 <i>Shelby Dirks</i>
9 <i>Doug Bender</i> <i>Sheryl Liechti</i> <i>Tylor & Cassie</i> <i>Audino</i>	10	11 <i>Jennifer Kuhl</i> <i>Jeff Meyer</i>	12 <i>Terry Strathman</i>	13 <i>Marissa Schrad</i>	14 <i>Merlin Brockman</i> <i>Michelle Hage</i> <i>Mark Rickers</i>	15 <i>Liam Petersen</i>
16	17 <i>Jerry Thiedeman</i>	18	19 <i>John Vetter</i>	20 <i>Sieve Hoogestraat</i> <i>Paul Wiese</i>	21 <i>Brian Kraus</i>	22
23 <i>Linda Mumm</i> <i>Pam Wiese</i> <i>Joey & Kimberly</i> <i>Bauman</i>	24	25 <i>Jeff & Cathy</i> <i>Meyer</i>	26 <i>Jacob Hanson</i> <i>Jackie Petersen</i>	27 <i>Caity Heiman</i>	28 <i>Emmett Neumann</i> <i>Rich & Janet</i> <i>Rose</i>	29 <i>Macie Wiederin</i> <i>Pastor & Rebecca</i> <i>Dose</i>
30 <i>Paul & Pam</i> <i>Wiese</i>	31 <i>Ron Cornelius</i> <i>Courtney Wiederin</i> <i>Nick & Jess</i> <i>Gallagher</i>					



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 7:00 Easter Service/HC	3	4	5 7:00 Evening Circle	6 1:30 Ladies Aid	7	8
9 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	10	11	12 6:30 Baccalaureate Choir Practice @ Westside	13	14	15
16 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC. 11:00 Council meeting	17	18	19 6:30 Baccalaureate @ United Church Westside	20	21	22
23 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	31					

USHERS

Dale Wittrock Jacob Wittrock
 Gary Lenz Kurt Branning
 Kelly Riesberg Doug Gronau
 Kyle Lenz Greg Gronau

CHANCEL CIRCLE

Sandy Hunter
 Cindy Brockman

ACOLYTES

2nd: Wade Ragaller & Jax Cleveland
 9th: Kendra Schuette & Anna Schuette
 16th: Lilly Julin & Connor Julin

PARISH CIRCLE

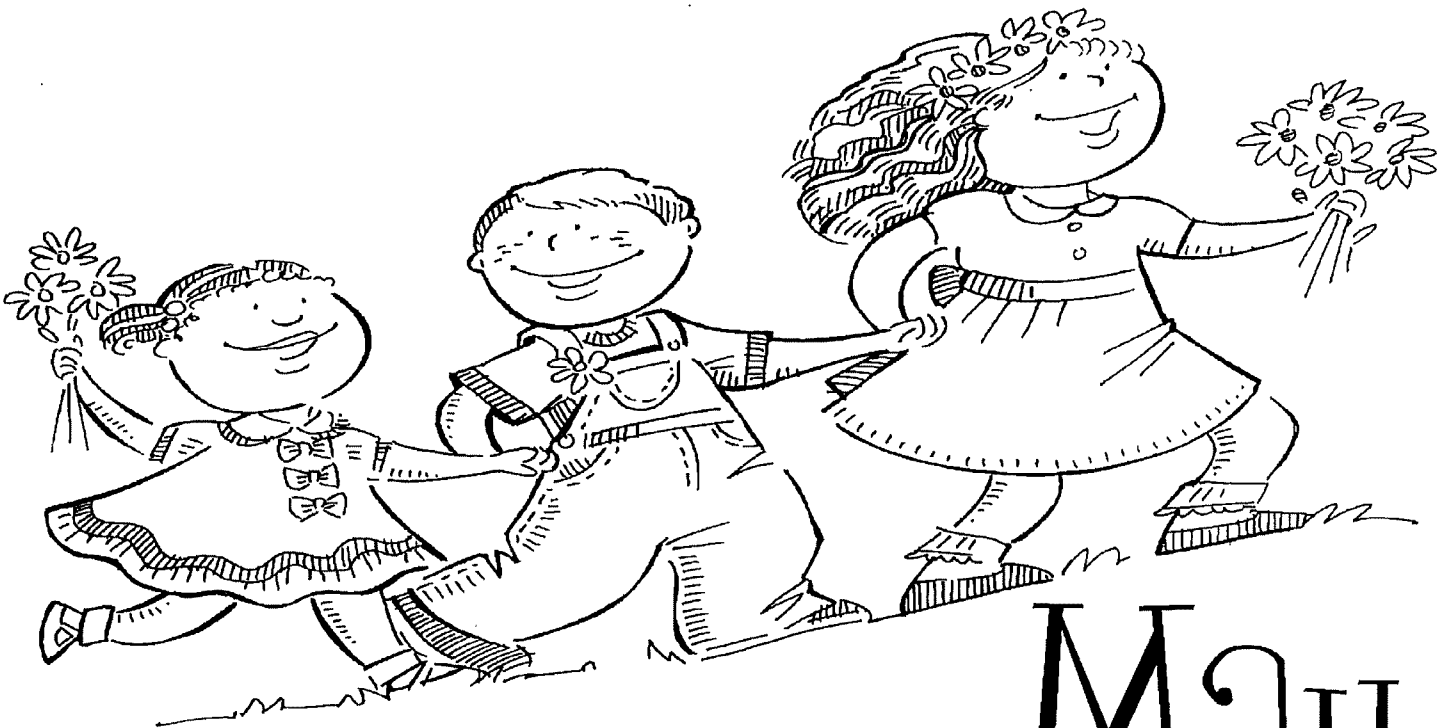
Pat Branning & Karen Grundmeier

Zion Lutheran Church
118 W Tracy St Box 59
Arcadia, IA 51430
Rev. Ben Dose
zionluth@netins.net
712-689-2441

Non Profit Organization
Standard Mail
Arcadia, IA 51430

FRIENDS WHO CARE

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



May