



ZION PROCLAIMER

"Dose of Wisdom"

August 2021

How a Small, Country Congregation Became a Megachurch Overnight

This tiny rural church would bulge at the seams with worshipers from realms seen and unseen, all mixed together in the adoration of the Lamb.

This is the story of how a small, country church astounded the experts on church growth by becoming a megachurch overnight. Without even trying.

The gravel parking lot around St. John's began to fill early that morning. The shadow from the steeple cast the image of a cross on the western side of the church. Families from miles around climbed out of Fords and Chevrolets to make their way into the sanctuary.

The pastor stood by the front door to greet folks. He asked about Aunt Susan's broken hip, the Reynold's new horse, and how the football game turned out in Sunray the other night.

The man of God who shepherded this flock wasn't much to look at. He had a bit of a gut. And he laughed too loud, especially at his corny jokes. But they loved the man. He had baptized their children, buried their grandparents, and even preached a decent sermon on occasion.

By the time worship was ready to begin, it still hadn't happened—that shocking influx of worshipers I spoke of. In fact, things looked as ordinary as ordinary could be.

The Kirkpatrick's, with their five children, squeezed into the next-to-last pew. The spinster organist, Ms. Schultz, played softly and hit, well, almost every note. Hymnals were opened to the page where the service would soon begin.

At 10:30 sharp, Pastor Baker walked up front and spoke the same words he did at the start of every Sunday service, "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." And the congregation responded with a hearty, "Amen!"

Then, without any warning, it happened.

The floodgates opened. Worshipers streamed in. Before the congregation had finished saying, "Amen," this rural Texas minichurch was transformed into the mega of megachurches.

Here's how it all went down.

Through the stained glass windows and the steeply pitched roof, seraphim swooped down from heavenly perches. Each sported six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And around the sanctuary they chanted one to another, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" The foundations of St. John's quaked at the sound of their voices. The whole church swam with the smoke of incense.

But that was only the beginning.

Cherubim winged their way down from the heavenly city. Not the cute, chubby Precious Moments' angels, but manly warriors who stationed themselves like sentinels around the sanctuary. They belted out the words to the hymns, added their Amens to the divine words read and preached that day.

But the angels were not alone. With them came saints innumerable. Men and women who had fought the good fight, finished the race, and gone on to glory. But here they were, back at St. John's on this Lord's day. They added their voices to the earthly choir of farmers and ranchers and coaches and teachers who still trod the pathway toward the heavenly Jerusalem.

The pews were packed. Standing room only in the aisles. Some perched on the rafters and peered down with serene gazes upon the altar. There, wonder of wonders, was a throne. And on that throne stood a Lamb, slain yet alive, sacrificed but resurrected. Every face of every worshiper, angelic and human, earthly and heavenly, was fixated upon his face.

There they looked upon the countenance of the merciful Almighty.

With angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, the people of St. John's lauded and glorified the name of that Lamb, their Lord Jesus, that day.

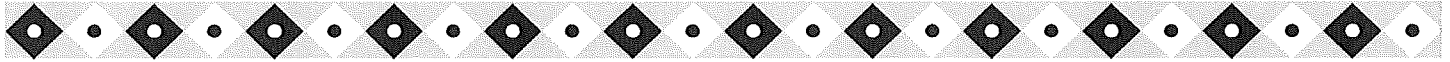
Sacred songs shook the building as the choirs wed their voices. The Lord's Supper was a reunion meal. The folks on earth and the saints in heaven dined on the feast of feasts and the drink that slakes the deepest thirst.

It was a day to remember. A day to repeat.

The following Sunday it would happen again. And then again. This tiny rural church would bulge at the seams with worshipers from realms seen and unseen, all mixed together in the adoration of the Lamb whose kingdom is without end.

That's how a small, country congregation became a megachurch overnight. Without even trying. They gathered around the word of Jesus, ate his meal, sang his songs.

And Jesus showed up, every Sunday, with all of heaven along for the ride.



Zion Lutheran Church

Box 59

Arcadia, IA 51430

712-689-2441

712-790-0716 (cell)

The Board of Elders meets monthly at the Church. Please feel free to contact any member of the Elder Board about any aspect of our ministry here at Zion.

Ryan Neumann: Home 663-4206 Cell: 712-790-2043

Email:rneumannwestside@gmail.com

Merle Witt: Home 689-2233, Cell 515-231-7310

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Jeff Luetje Home 663-4591 Cell 712-830-5826

Email:luetdaje@win-4-u.net

Randy Bruhn Home 775-2692 Cell 712-290-2491

CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Kevin Skinner	Vice President	Scott Muhlbauer
Secretary	Mary Bruhn	Treasurer	Kathy Kraus
Bd Evangelism	Tammy Leiting	Bd Education	Cat Luetje
Bd Stewardship	Marilyn Mumm	Financial Sec.	Paulette Von Glan
Trustees:	Keith Vetter, Kyle Lenz, Dwight Ehlers		

AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries

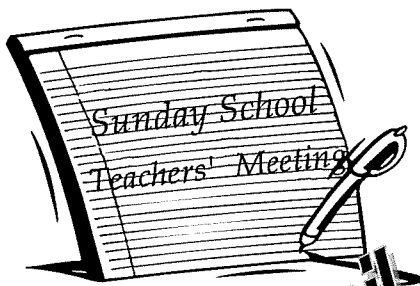
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Bryant & Megan Gehling Nick & Kelsie Weier	2 Damon Ehlers Doug & Mandy Heithoff Kyle & Brooke Lenz	3 Jon Branning Cindy Nelson Bonnie Schmitz	4 Gary Erps Jamie & Staci Spittler	5 Mark Hoffman	6 Shelli Lenz	7
8 TJ & Megan Sterk	9 Doug Ehlers	10 Valerie Vetter	11 Colton Neumann Brock & Rachel Travis	12 Brooke Lenz	13 Barb Tapscott- Musfeldt Gene & Carmen Thiedeman	14 Jazmyn Vetter
15 Seth Nelson Derek Schurke Logan & Jessica Scott	16	17 Blake Bender Diane Schurke Kim & Cindy Brockman Eric & Trama Vetter	18	19 Trevor McNelly	20	21 Vinson Bruhn Alyssa Liechti
22 Pastor Dose Joy Luejfe Gary & Mary Erps	23 Makayla Hinnars	24 Henry Segebart Merle & Diane Witt	25 Staci Spittler Dale Wittrock	26 Tatyana Guy	27 Kurt Grundmeier Deb Kraus	28 Kevin & Jill Koencck
29 Chris Koch Don Nobling Doug & Judy Gronau Tim & Erica Ruhland	30 Casey Bruch Sammi Hinnars Andrea McCarter	31 Olivia Mumm				



**Sunday School begins on
September 12th, 2021
9:00 am**

MIDWEEK CLASSES: Our Midweek Classes will be starting on **Wednesday, September 1st at 4 pm .**

MEETING



We are looking for Sunday School teachers /helpers/ subs for this up coming year. If you would be willing to help, please contact the church office.

Church Council

The August Church Council Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 8th following our 9 am worship service

Youth Gathering

IDW YOUTH Gatherings



The Jr. Youth Gathering (6th-8th grade) will be held on October 23-24, 2021 at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. Cost is \$150 per person. Registration materials will be coming in August.

The Sr. Youth Gathering (9th-12th grade) will be held at the Holiday Inn at the Airport in Des Moines on November 19-21st. Cost is \$235 per person. Registration material will be coming in August.

The Ladies Aid will be meeting on Thursday, August 5th at 9 am. Hostess will be Lila Thiedeman.

MARTHA CIRCLE: Betty Klink

CHANCEL CIRCLE:



This reminder goes out endlessly, but sewing circle is **ALWAYS** in need of sheets, lightweight blankets, and **NEW** material for making quilt tops, middles and backs. A small group of ladies are the core of this worthwhile project. Quilt tops/backs are made at home and the quilts are tied at church. The VBS will be using this project again, and it anticipated that this year's group will assemble 40 or more quilts. This means that at least 120 tops, insides and backs are needed!!! The large pieces of material (especially sheets) speed up the job! Also needed are white sheets to make bandages for 3rd World Countries.

NO BINGO AT ACCURA HEALTH THIS MONTH

Zion



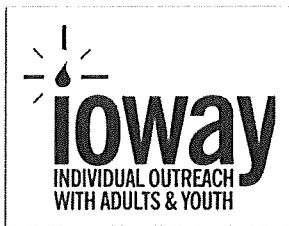
**Turkey
Supper**

The Zion Harvest Supper will be held on Saturday, October 23rd, 2021 at the Westside Community Building. We will a take out/drive through and an eat in Serving will be from 4:00-7:00 pm

Please watch the bulletin and newsletters for more information.

**MENU: Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy
Corn/Beans, 3 salads (Apple or Pumpkin)**

PRICE: \$10 for everyone.



Ellie Menz
 IOWAY Director / Disaster Response Coordinator
 807 W. South, Jefferson, IA 50129
ellie@iowadistrictwest.org
 515-370-1159

Focus on Others



The diligent Trinity Quilters from Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona, put their focus on how they could help make the 5th grade graduation at Moulton Elementary School in Des Moines a memorable experience. Audri Lu-Uhlken, community coordinator for Moulton, called me when she learned that the graduation could not be held inside the school. After discussing several options, it was decided to have an outdoor picnic graduation so people could safely distance. Audri wanted a special gift for each of the 77 graduates, so it was decided to give each one a quilt that they and their family could use on the lawn for their special day. The next question was, “Who would be willing to provide that many quilts?”

I called Barb Bitterman, Algona, and asked if the Trinity Quilters would be interested. The answer was, “Of course!” It was a huge success. Audri shared, “Due to the pandemic, 2020-2021 was non-conventional and incredibly trying. Through it all, our students persevered with grit and resilience, and we could not be prouder of their achievements this school year. Moulton Elementary graduated 77 5th graders on the morning of Thursday, June 3, 2021. We celebrated them during a ‘5th Grade Promotion’ held outside on our playground with families and friends in attendance. Following the graduation ceremony, students and families gathered for a catered lunch and ice cream on the lawn.

“We are very grateful for the donation of 100+ quilts to Moulton! The quilts were given to our 5th graders and their guests in attendance and utilized as picnic blankets during the program. Students and their guests gave compliments and thanks for the beautiful gift. I want to express my deep appreciation to each person who had a hand in making these special quilts and for choosing our Moulton students to share that love with.”

The Lutheran Hour Ministries booth at the Varied Industries Building has been focused for many years on sharing the love of Jesus with the distribution of Bibles, Christian materials, and Jesus witness bracelets. Mary Reed, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Boone, has focused on making the witness bracelets. For this year’s State Fair, she has made 6,000 bracelets! Cards explaining the meaning of the different colors, printed by Sue Light, Iowa District West, are inserted in a zip lock along with the bracelet. What a great way to share the gospel with others!



The Iowa District West staff focused on providing a meal for the Beacon of Hope shelter in Fort Dodge for homeless men and for Lotus, the women's shelter in the Fort Dodge area. We also donated needed paper items for both shelters.



CAMP OKOBOJI

It has been a Lively summer at Camp Okoboji! From Cub Week #1, hosting Minneboji, Family Camps, Junior High Week, Cub Week #2, and Youth Week, hundreds of youth and households have been impacted by the Gospel. Camp Okoboji's Discipleship Programs exist to provide youth and families an experience within a temporary community using the outdoor setting and trained leaders to meet spiritual objectives. Between archery, canoeing, swimming, arts & crafts, minnow racing, slip 'n' slide kickball, and most importantly, devoted time for Christian growth, we have been meeting this purpose and will continue to meet this purpose. Please keep Camp Okoboji and this ministry in your prayers! See you at the lake!

Coming Up:

FAMILY RETREAT #1 | August 1-6

FAMILY RETREAT #2 | August 8-13

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES | Sundays @ 9:45am through Labor Day





On a Mission
to Support

Christ's Mission!

August 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

Church Worker StewardAccount®



Attention rostered and lay workers paid by ministries in Iowa District West: LCEF has introduced a new investment just for you. It's the Church Worker StewardAccount®. Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) wants to help you focus on your mission by making it easy and worthwhile to put a little money away each month. More importantly, your investment allows LCEF to provide funds and resources to help start, support and sustain Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) church workers and ministries—today and far into the future. Benefits and Features include: a premium interest rate on the first \$10,000, interest compounded and paid monthly, no monthly maintenance or membership fees, \$100 minimum to open, minimum monthly electronic investment of \$25 recommended to help your investment grow, and unlimited access to your investment by check, with per-check minimum of \$250, electronic transfer or an optional debit card.

Are you eligible? If you work for an LCMS church, school or organization in any capacity—the answer is yes. VISIT LCEF.ORG/CWSA OR CALL 800-843-5233.

Carole White, LCEF Vice President
Carole.White@LCEF.org

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Iowa District West Youth Gatherings

The JR Youth and SR Youth gathering teams are excited about the upcoming gatherings! It is our hope that many youth across our district will be able to participate. Registration information will be mailed to all congregations. Registration information will also be available to download from the district website.

Jr. Youth Gathering
October 23-24
Sheraton — West Des Moines
Cost - \$150

Sr. Youth Gathering
November 19-21
Holiday Inn at the Airport—Des Moines
Cost - \$235

Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO) A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

A new school year is about to begin. Also new, those who donate to ILSTO in 2021 will receive a 75% state tax credit. Consult a tax advisor to see how this program can benefit you. Wouldn't it be great to help a student attend a Lutheran school instead of paying taxes? Also, a change for 2021, donations will stay at the designated school up to 70% of need. To be able to help families receive the maximum amount, we must reach our donation goal. By reaching this goal, ILSTO would also be able to assist more students to attend an Iowa Lutheran School. Call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 for more information.

Iowa District West Youth Gathering Scholarships

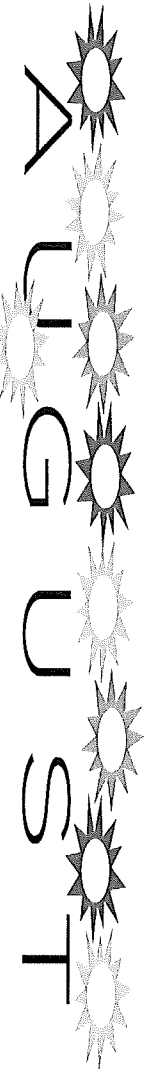
Assistance for those who need financial aid is available from the district for youth attending district youth gatherings. The application should be filled out by the pastor or church worker from the congregation of which the applicant is a member. Applications are then sent to the district office.

Click on the link and select "Youth Events Financial Aid."
<http://idwlcms.org/forms-and-links.php>

Calendar of Events

August 5...IDE & IDW Principals Conference, Urbandale
August 6...Early Childhood Conference, Urbandale
August 12...District Board of Directors, Fort Dodge

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



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:00 DW/HC 10:00 Bible Class	2	3	4	5 9:00 Ladies Aid	6	7
8 9:00 DW/HC 10:00 Council Meeting	9	10	11	12	13	14 4:00 Grothe/ Schurke Wedding
15 9:00 DW/HC 10:00 Bible Class	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 9:00 DW/HC 10:00 Bible Class	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 9:00 DW.HC 10:00 Bible Class	30	31				

USHERS

Doug Schuette
Ron Cornelius
Jeremy Ehlers
Derrick Cornelius

Dan Wittrock
Doug Ehlers
Merle Witt
Paul Ehlers

CHANCEL CIRCLE

PARISH CIRCLE
Darlene Linde

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Non Profit Organization
Arcadia, IA 51430
Standard Mail

Friends Who Care

Divine Worship 9:00 am

**September 6, 2020
10 am Divine Worship**

