

Dose of Wisdom

This month is the beginning of Lent, a time of testing, a time of suffering, and a time of grace trusting in the work of Christ crucified... and risen. Our Synodical president writes this very testing in his monthly newsletter article as well. I share it to bring into perspective what is going on in the world and will happen here. Comfortable country club Christianity is no more. We must be ready for something different. It's a hostile world we live in. Come receive Christ in the word and sacraments on Sunday in the Divine Service and come to focus your time and energy on Wednesday mornings or evenings in study of the Word, prayer, and song at either 11:00 or 6:30. "Be bold. Be courageous. Nothing can diminish our hope. Nothing can daunt our confession."

Pastor Dose

By Matthew C. Harrison

The church is not, and never has been, a country club — though in the last century, especially in North America, it might have been confused for one. There was a time you could... unofficially govern the affairs of the city from the church parking lot and use your Sunday morning bulletin to get a discount at the local buffet. Pastors could get a "clergyman's discount" at retail stores. These were the "good ol' days," when being a member of a Christian denomination was expected, normal, even American.

Those days are gone. Thanks be to God.

As I write this, our good friends Bishop Juhana Pohjola of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland (ELMDF) and Dr. Päivi Räsänen, a member of the Finnish Parliament, are on trial for charges of "hate speech" for confessing what Scripture simply and clearly teaches about God's design for marriage and the sinful nature of homosexuality. They made the great "mistake" of quoting what the Bible says in Romans 1 and other passages. Their trial began on Jan. 24, the Feast of St. Timothy. It was scheduled to conclude Feb. 14, the Feast of St. Valentine. As the March issue of Reporter goes to press, we are still awaiting a verdict.

Both Timothy and Valentine were martyrs, killed for their confession of Christ. ***They were witnesses to the Gospel by means of the shedding of their own blood. They never got clergyman's discounts or tax benefits.***

Jesus promised His apostles, ***"You will be hated by all for my name's sake" (Matt. 10:22). He knew of the fate of His apostles when He sent them out. He knew of the persecution that would afflict His Christians for the first centuries of the church.***

Jesus knew the fate of Timothy and Valentine even before He formed them in the womb. He knew of His holy martyrs Justin, Perpetua, Felicitas, Polycarp, Cyprian, Robert Barnes and all the others whom we commemorate throughout the Church Year. If you don't know the stories of these saints, look them up.

Jesus also knew that Bishop Pohjola and MP [Member of Parliament] Räsänen would stand before the Finnish courts. And, while we do not know how their trial will be decided, He does. The rest of Jesus' words to His apostles in Matthew are telling:

Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. (Matt. 10:16–22)

Christianity has never been comfortable. When the church gets comfortable in the culture, her confession gets watered down. The proclamation of the Law is diminished, and the proclamation of the Gospel gets lost.

As goes Europe, so, soon, follows North America. Canada already has “hate speech” laws similar to Finland’s. Probably not in this generation, but maybe in the next, Christians in America will likely have to stand before the courts like our Finnish brother and sister. What will we say? We will confess, as our friends in Finland have at every opportunity, that all humans are precious and created in the image of God, and that all of us are sinful and in need of a Savior, Jesus.

We preach Christ crucified. **The church is cruciform (i.e., cross-shaped). That’s not comfortable.** It never has been. But we have a hope beyond the creature comforts of this life. Jesus promised persecution. And He promised resurrection.

Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 10:28–33)

Jesus rose triumphant from the grave. He will not abandon to the grave those who belong to Him. He will raise His martyrs, His confessors, His saints from all time and all places. Body and soul will be back together. All the elect will be gathered into His new heavens and new earth to life in perfect bliss in the presence of the Triune God and of one another.

This hope is what emboldened and encouraged the martyrs. It is what emboldens and encourages Bishop Pohjola and MP Räsänen. It will be what emboldens and encourages us, our children and our grandchildren when we face persecution.

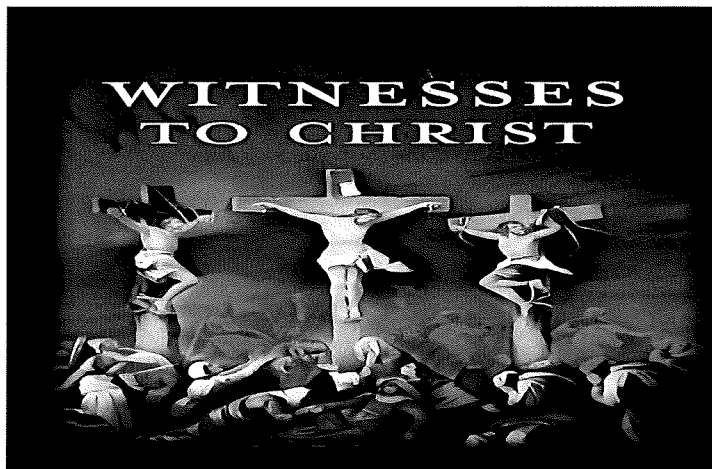
The era of comfortable, “country-club” Christianity is over. I’m OK with that. It will sharpen our confession of Christ crucified for sinners. As the church faces increasing harassment in the West, harassment will soon turn to persecution. It will fix our hopes on the certain resurrection that awaits all the Lord’s church.

A decade ago, the official (once Lutheran) Finnish church defrocked Bishop Pohjola. It expelled his vibrant and growing congregation from their building for refusing the state church’s unbiblical practice of female pastors and false teaching about marriage and sexuality. What happened to Pohjola’s congregation? Did it die?

No. While it lost a beautiful building, it soon rented a space from some Seventh Day Adventists. Now the ELMDF (the LCMS’ newest partner church) has planted 40 congregations. When I ask my friend, the bishop, how things are going, he responds, “Every time they attack us, we grow.”

Be bold. Be courageous. Nothing can diminish our hope. Nothing can daunt our confession.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



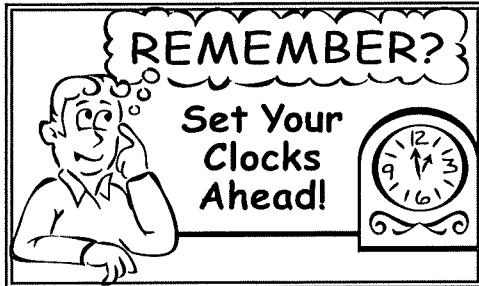
WOMEN IN MINISTRY L.W.M.L.

LADIES AID:
NO MEETING
See you in April



EVENING CIRCLE

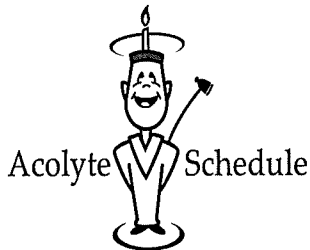
The Evening Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, March 2nd following the Midweek Lenten Services. We will be working on the confirmation banners



Daylight Savings time officially begins on March 13th this year. So remember to set your clock **AHEAD 1** hour when you retire on Saturday evening, March 12th

Thrivent Financial Members

If you have not designated your 2021 Thrivent Choice dollars, do it now! The March 31 deadline is fast approaching.



- 2nd Lilly Julin & Connor Julin (Ash Wednesday)
- 6th: Abby Klink & Lynn Hensel
- 9th: Ty Muhlbauer & Laynie Muhlbauer(Wed)
- 13th: Wyatt Ragaller & Marissa Schrad
- 16th: Alison Skinner & Madison Stork(Wed)
- 20th: Devon Ehlers & Grant Wilken
- 23rd: Lilly Julin & Connor Julin (Wed)
- 27th: Abby Klink & Cara Schuette
- 30th: Ty Muhlbauer & Anna Schuette



Midweek Snack List

March 02	4 pm	Allison Skinner
March 09	4 pm	Jacob Hanson
March 16	2 pm	Kendyl Riesberg
March 23	4 pm	Hannah Dose
March 30	4 pm	Connor Julin
April 06	4 pm	Jax Cleveland



A reception for our New Confirmads will be held on Wednesday, April 6th, following our Midweek Lenten Service. Everyone is invited to attend.



Midweek Lenten SCHEDULE

March 02	11:00 am & 6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service/HC
March 09	11:00 am & 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 16	11:00 am & 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 23	11:00 am & 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 30	11:00 am & 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
April 06	11:00 am & 6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
April 10	10:00 am	Palm Sunday/Rite of Confirmation
April 14	11:00 am & 6:30 pm	Maunday Thursday/HC
April 15	11:00 am & 6:30 pm	Good Friday Service
April 16	6:30 pm	Easter Vigil
April 17	7:00 am	Easter Service/HC

MARCH LIST OF DUTIES

-
-

USHERS

Keith Vetter	Rick Vetter
Jeff Luetje	Kim Brockman
Gene Thiedeman	Michael Brockman
Mark Rickers	Rob Klink

CHANCEL DUTIES

Diane Witt, Allison Ehlers

PARISH DUTIES

Diane Witt-Jolene Stoelk

MARTHA CIRCLE

Cathy Meyer & Paulette Von Glan

March 6, 2022

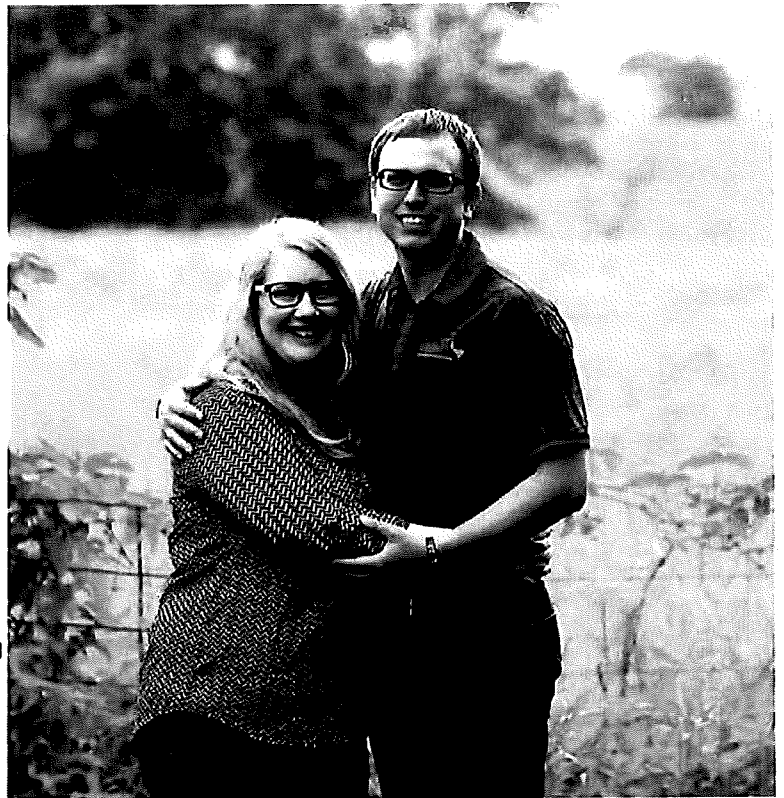
Free Will Donation Meal From 11:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Silent Auction and Live Auction Starting at 1:00 pm

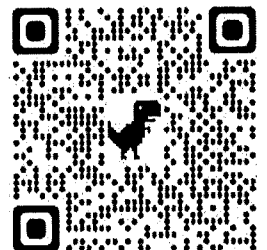
Memorial Hall, Main Street, Manilla, Iowa

**A Benefit For
Pastor Andrew
and Tiffany
Johnson**

**The Fight Against Cancer
Continues...**



Pastor Andrew has had a relapse with his cancer. He has been receiving chemo treatments at the Mayo Clinic and will be undergoing a tandem autologous stem cell transplant that requires he and Tiffany to stay in Rochester for up to 10 weeks total. Please consider helping this young couple by attending the benefit. We will be serving pork loin sandwiches, cheesy potatoes, salads and desserts. Silent auction items are available and the live auction starts at 1:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend checks can be made to The Johnson Benefit and sent C/o Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 340, Manilla, IA 51454 or dropped at Bank Iowa in Manilla. A GoFundMe page has also been set up to assist with expenses. You can give online at: gofund.me/c9030b3b or scan the QR Code provided.





On a Mission
to Support

Christ's Mission!

March 2022

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

Personal Finances Impact the Lord's Work



A busy lifestyle doesn't mean you can't manage your daily finances with the Lord's work in mind. With LCEF, your choices in personal finances provide funds for LCMS ministries to expand, renovate, and repair. LCEF offers a variety of cash investments to meet your personal (and corporate) financial needs. For example, with our standard StewardAccount, you can write checks, use a debit card, and conduct online transactions through MyAccount. Also, LCEF has an exclusive investment for LCMS rostered and lay church workers. You earn a competitive return, pay no fees, and are not impacted by market fluctuations. Your StewardAccount goes where you go and supports ministries in Iowa District West and throughout the Synod. Various ministries in Iowa District West are expanding and need support; your daily finances impact these ministries, making a difference in things eternal. Contact me for more information.

Carole White, LCEF Vice President
carole.white@lcef.org or 515-240-2229
www.LCEF.org

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Neither LCEF nor its representatives give legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation. UMB Bank n.a. serves as the custodian for the LCEF IRA/HSA programs.



Attend one of these workshops and hear from lay people and church workers who have been involved with planning VBS. Learn best practices and share ideas to have an impactful VBS in your community.

When: Saturday, March 5, 2022
Where: St. Paul, 2326 Story Avenue, Battle Creek (country church)
Time: 9:30am - 1:30pm (includes lunch)
OR

When: Saturday, March 19, 2022
Where: Christ the King, 500 4th Ave SW, Spencer
Time: 9:30am - 1:30pm (includes lunch)

Register at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VBS2022BP>

Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization (ILSTO)

Thank you again to all who donated to ILSTO this past year as we received \$314,860. While this made our goal, it does fall short of the total need for students in our Lutheran schools. Now is the time to talk to your tax advisor about the advantages of an ILSTO donation. You will feel much better about writing a check to support students than one to the Department of Revenue. This year, the Iowa STO program has the opportunity to increase to \$20 million in tax credits due to a new tax law. Please help ILSTO make our new goal for 2022 of \$1,050,836 so that more students may benefit from our program.



IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL
TUITION ORGANIZATION
Approved by the Iowa State Board of Education

Chaplains Serving in Iowa District West

Council Bluffs/Omaha: Rev. Michael Petri – 712-309-2622
Des Moines: Rev. Donald Boeschel – 515-278-4134



Calendar of Events

March 5... VBS Workshop, St. Paul, Battle Creek
March 19... VBS Workshop, Christ the King, Spencer

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



1531 Edgewood Drive
Milford, IA 51351
712-337-3325
www.campokoboji.org
camp@campokoboji.org

MISSION: We provide Sanctuary which connects guests with God and His Creation.
VISION: Refreshing Body & Spirit
VALUES: Gospel, Safety, Excellence, Wellness, Stewardship, Legacy

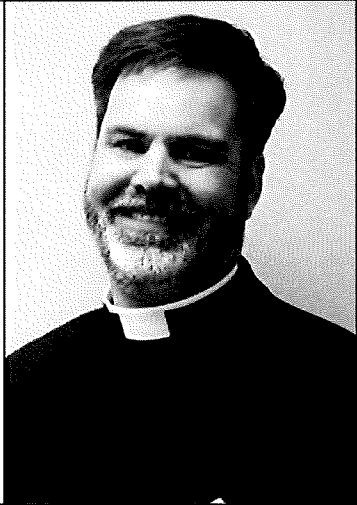
UPCOMING EVENTS

Continuing Education

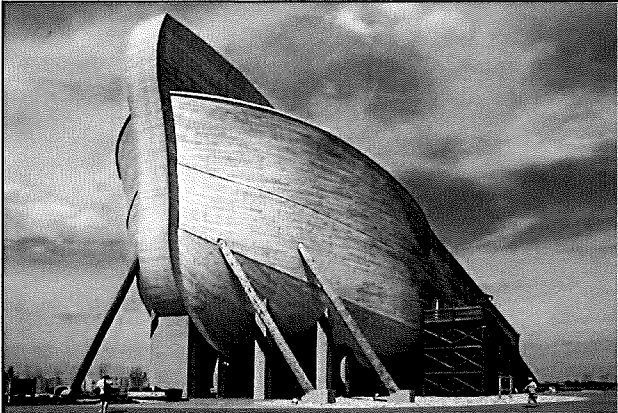
May 11-13, 2022

Ministry & Discipline in the Midst of the Digital Age

Rev. Dr. David H. Petersen



Join us at Camp Okoboji as Dr. David Petersen guides this Continuing Ed. Course. We will walk through Johann Gerhard's methodology for preaching, compare this to classical rhetorical training as encapsulated in Cicero, and walk through some of Luther's and Walther's preaching to see how they fit this pattern.



Travel Camp: ARK Encounter & Creation Museum

September 5-9, 2022

SAVE THE DATE! We'll be traveling to the ARK Encounter & Creation Museum. For more information, visit campokoboji.org

HELP PROMOTE CAMP!

We need your help! Print off the following flyers for Youth Camps, Family Retreats, Counselors, Summer Staff, and JOY Camp! We want as many people as possible to hear about & receive the Camp Okoboji Discipleship Experiences!

You can also print off these flyers at this link.

SUMMER 2022 SCHEDULE

CLICK THE LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION!

JUNE 3-5.....KIDS' KAMP

JUNE 9-12.....JOY CAMP 40th ANNIVERSARY

JUNE 12-15...CUB WEEK #1

JUNE 30.....OPEN HOUSE VBS (more info soon)

JULY 3-8.....JULY 4 FAMILY RETREAT

JULY 10-16.....JR HIGH WEEK

JULY 17-23.....CUB WEEK #2

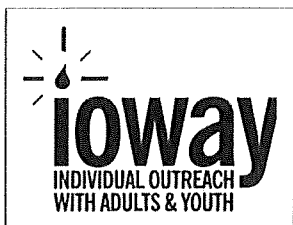
JULY 24-30.....YOUTH WEEK

JULY 31-AUGUST 5.....FAMILY RETREAT #1

AUGUST 7-12.....FAMILY RETREAT #2

Summer 2022 Theme:





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

Honor God by Serving Others

As Christians, we want to show our thanks to God for all His amazing blessings. How do we do that? Jesus gave us the answer, “What you do for the least of these, you do for me.” You may be asking, “But what can I do?”

There are numerous ways to reach out to others. Following, in no particular order, are a few of the many ways for serving others.

1. Your family: The best place to start is with your family. God gives us many opportunities to show love and kindness to our family. Often it is easier to be kind to a stranger than to your friends and family.
2. Beacon of Hope, Home for Homeless Men in Fort Dodge: They appreciate receiving paper products, hygiene items, coffee, tea and other miscellaneous items. Your family or church group can prepare food and/or serve the evening meal at Beacon of Hope. Contact Annette Howard at 515-302-4128.
3. Lotus Community Project (Women’s Shelter) now has a Thrift Store in Webster City. You are invited to donate items you no longer need and purchase needed items. Contact Ashley Vaala at 319-429-4955.
4. Moulton, Madison, and Capitol View Elementary Schools in Des Moines. Their needs change so it is best to contact me for their current needs. General needs include healthy snacks, sweatpants, underwear, school supplies, quilts, hats and gloves. (Pictured is Audri LuUhlken, Madison Elementary School in Des Moines, with the “line up” of 55 quilts, nine body pillows, hats, gloves and clothes which I delivered on February 15.)
5. Orphan Grain Train in Ida Grove: Currently donations of towels and washcloths are needed. Also needed are volunteers to sort clothes on Tuesday mornings or by appointment. Contact Sharon Irwin at 712-660-1380.
6. Quilts: Many church quilters have donated hundreds of beautiful quilts and more are needed.
7. Backpack Blessing Sunday: Sponsor a backpack blessing for students in your congregation at the beginning of the school year. The Sunday before school starts, all students are asked to bring their backpack to church.
8. LLL booth at the Iowa State Fair: Offer to help at the booth for a few hours. Distribute children's Bibles, Bibles to adults, witness bracelets, Portals of Prayer devotional books and other LHM Project Connect booklets.
9. Haiti: Sponsor a student in Haiti through the Ministry in Mission program. Contact me.



10. Bandages: Collect sheets from hotels or nursing homes in your area. Rip the sheets into strips and make bandages that are sent throughout the world through Global Health Ministries. Contact me for a free “roller” and additional information.
11. Pop cans: Provide a collection point for pop cans and use this money to sponsor missionaries at Mission Central or projects at Camp Okoboji.
12. Thrivent Action Team grants: If you are a Thrivent member, take advantage of the \$500 each year that you can receive for outreaches in your church and community.
13. Fleece blankets: Make blankets for nursing home residents, homeless shelters, etc.
14. Mission Central: Gift cards are appreciated to help pay for needed supplies.
15. Mercy Meals of Siouxland at Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux City: Package fortified meals which are shipped by Orphan Grain Train. This is a great way to involve youth and adults. Contact Larry at 712-574-3279.
16. Council Bluffs area: Collections can include liquid laundry soap for Micah House (women), coffee for Mohm’s Place, diapers for Birthright, knitted or flannel baby blankets for Assure Women’s Center. Assure has a store where new and expectant mothers can shop. Contact Nancy Goddard at 515-360-2450.
17. Trunk or Treat event and/or movie nights: Offer witness bracelets to your members to give to their trick-or-treaters. Contact me for free bracelets.
18. Flowers: On Veterans Day, provide a flower and vase to the veterans in nursing homes in your community.
19. LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team): Help with tornado/disasters clean-up.
20. Local food pantry: Apply for a Thrivent Action Team card to purchase needed items.
21. Acorns and Oaks Daycare Center: This is a multigenerational daycare located at the Perry Lutheran Home. Walmart gift cards and snack items are needed by the daycare.
22. Local law enforcement appreciation: Gift cards to the local bakery or restaurant.
23. Teacher appreciation: Deliver baskets of snacks to the teachers in your local schools.
24. Crossroads of Crawford County, Denison: Contact Janette Clausen (712-393-4673) for their current needs.
25. Camp Okoboji: Collect food. Contact for current needs (712-337-3325).
26. Swaddling Clothes Outreach: Collect donations of diapers, wipes and clothes for sizes newborn to 4T. Everything is free to those in need. Contact Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Farnhamville (515-544-3264).
27. Parade: Sponsor an entry in your local parade. Matching t-shirts are a hit! Members and friends can hand out candy and Jesus witness bracelets. Contact me for free bracelets.
28. Workday: Sponsor a mission workday. Contact me for ideas.
29. Sundae Sunday: Sponsor an ice cream social. Give proceeds to a mission of your choice.
30. Undie Sunday: Collect underwear and diapers. All sizes are needed. Contact me for details.

Pray and ask God for guidance and wisdom as you reach out to “honor God by serving others.”

Ellie Menz
 515-370-1159
ellie@iowadistrictwest.org

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Lydia Dose Alex Gallagher Nicole Winey Mark & Jolene Stoelk	2 Susan Ehlers	3 Ryan Neumann Irene Stark Dale & Nicky Lenz	4 Kurt Branning	
6 Megan Gehling Wyatt Neumann	7 Garrett Cleveland Merle Witt	8 Jeff Luetje Patty Vetter	9 Nick Bender	10 Jeff & Hollie Schmitz	11 Kyelar Cleveland Kris Kean Shane Kraus Dwight & Melissa Ehlers	12 Keith Kaspersen
13 Morgan Furrer	14 Timothy Dose	15	16 Kyle Liechti Chad Wittrock Jeff & Cheryl Vetter	17 Pat Branning Myra Luetje Karlie Muhlbauer Jim Vetter Matt & Lisa McNelly	18 Scot Muhlbauer Cheryl Vetter	19 Dustin Ewoldt Kash Riesberg Lee & Lajeane Shiney
20	21 Cat Luetje Randy & Lisa Stoelk	22 Derrick Cornelius Edna Hansman Jane Vetter	23	24 Alyssia Giermann Jill Kasparbauer Andrew Skinner Gary & Shelli Lenz	25 Sharil Lawler Steve & Linda Mumm	26
27 Braydon Lay Danielle Nelson Keith & Jane Petersen	28 Heather Cornelius Maggie Ragaller Aaron & Sarah Peterson	29 Brooke Bass Connor Julin Scot & Stacie Muhlbauer	30 Tom Hoogestraat	31		



SPECIAL, SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM FRIEND AT SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WEST DES MOINES!

It is likely that many of us are tired of hearing day after day about “the virus” and when are we going to get back to “NORMAL?”

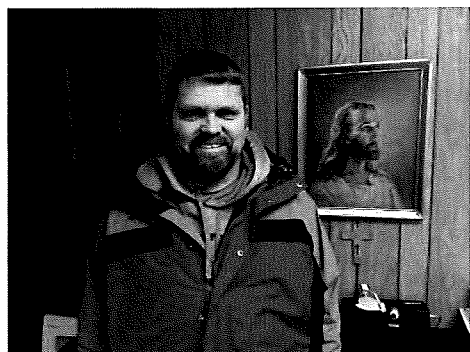
When old Missionary Gary spoke on Sunday the 17th of January in both services and the Bible Class down in West Des Moines, there was someone very special there and this dear lady had the EXACT answer for our questions of our society today!

HE IS COMING! THOSE 5 LITTLE WORDS OF MATTHEW 28:20 GIVE US JOY, PEACE AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE... “I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS.” OUR JESUS HAS ALL THE ANSWERS, IF WE JUST TRUST AND BELIEVE IN HIM WITH OUR WHOLE HEART!



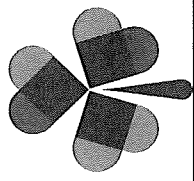
SPECIAL MISSIONARY FRIEND COMES TO WRITE A STORY OF THE LORD'S MISSION CENTRAL!

It was a special afternoon that brought Missionary Brent Harm from his newspaper office in Ida Grove, Iowa, to Mission Central. The thought came to Brent that he was interested in writing a story of a place in the middle of nowhere, with a set of old farm buildings!



Brent came to the Lord's Mission Central for a purpose and reason and that was to encourage people that MIRACLES are still happening! We took his picture in our “trademark spot” with our Boss in the background.

This young man took many pictures to include with his story. Brent currently serves as an elder in his hometown church. He was so interested in what the Lord is doing at this amazing place! We thank God for special friends like Brent Harm. It was a very good day!



MARCH 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 11:00 Ash Wed/HC 4:00 Midweek 6:30 Ash Wed/HC 7:00 Evening Cir	3	4	5
6 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	7	8	9 11:00 Midweek Lenten Service 4:00 Midweek 6:30 Midweek Lenten Service	10	11	12
13 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC 11:00 Council Meeting	14	15	16 11:00 Midweek Lenten Service 2:00 Midweek 6:30 Midweek Lenten Service	17	18	19
20 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	21	22	23 11:00 Midweek Lenten Service 4:00 Midweek 6:30 Midweek Lenten Service	24	25	26
27 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	28	29	30 11:00 Midweek Lenten Service 4:00 Midweek 6:30 Midweek Lenten Service	31		

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

Non-Profit Organization
Arcadia, IA 51430
Standard Mail

FRIENDS WHO CARE

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

