

## "Dose of Wisdom"

### **Mark's thoughts: A Preview of What's Ahead: The Chief Services of Holy Week and Easter**

During Lent we prepare to observe our Lord's death and celebrate his resurrection. It is a time of spiritual discipline as we contemplate His sacrifice on the cross. We repent of our sin and seek to grow in the faith. During the season of Lent we are preparing. The season and its mid-week services are moving to a crescendo. They are moving towards **Holy Week**. During Holy Week we will focus with renewed intensity on the death of Christ for us. The eastern part of Christianity has called Holy Week, "the Great Week," because of the great things accomplished by the events we celebrate then.

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday**. Following a tradition that began in the fourth century A.D. in Jerusalem, we will process into the church bearing palms as we remember our Lord's entrance into Jerusalem in the week of His passion. Palm Sunday is also called the Sunday of the Passion since on that day we will read the passion account of our Lord. This will provide a "roadmap" of the events we will be observing in the coming week.

Holy Week provides us with the highpoint of the Christian year. The highpoint of Holy Week itself is the Triduum. **Triduum** means "three days." It refers to the last three days before Easter Sunday: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday. The services that occur on these days are in fact considered to be one service that takes place over the course of three days.

**Maundy Thursday** derives its name from the Latin word for "commandment," *mandatum*. This word is a reference to our Lord's statement at the Last Supper, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you" (John 13:34). At this service we will again contemplate Christ's gift of the Sacrament of the Altar which He instituted at the Last Supper. We are reminded that through this miraculous meal our Lord gives us the benefits of Good Friday.

The service consists of four parts: the Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution, the Service of the Word, the Service of the Sacrament and the Stripping of the Altar. The Service of Corporate Confession and Absolution signals the end of the Lenten preparations with the absolution and peace of Christ that stand at the center of the Triduum. The Service of the Word focuses on Christ's humble service demonstrated in His washing of His disciples' feet. This servanthood was enacted on the Cross and its benefits are bestowed in the Lord's Supper. The Divine Service culminates with the Lord's ministry to His people through the Sacrament of the Altar.

The depth of Christ's servanthood is demonstrated as the altar is reverently stripped in preparation for the Church's observance of Jesus' death. In this service, the Church and her catechumens begin the journey through the three days of Christ's Passover as she passes from death to life and from captivity to freedom. The Divine Service does not conclude with a Benediction, since the service of the Triduum continues the next day.

On **Good Friday** we pause and consider our Lord's death on the cross. Crucified between two criminals He took our sins upon Himself and died in our place. The darkness and earthquake that accompanied that event (Matthew 27:45, 51) demonstrate the cosmic significance of Christ's death as part of God's end-time action. The Good Friday service includes the Bidding Prayer (a prayer in which the topics for prayer are introduced and then the prayer itself is offered) which is one of the most ancient prayers in the liturgy of the Western Church. It also contains the Reproaches which are the words of the Lord directed against his people, the Church. To this the congregation responds with a plea for mercy. The Passion of Our Lord according to St. John is read.

The **Vigil of Easter** on Holy Saturday is a celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord and of our Baptism. The Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday marks the final service of the Triduum – the three day service that leads up to Easter Sunday. Jesus remained buried in the tomb on Holy Saturday. The apostle Paul says in Romans 6:3-4 that when we were baptized, we were buried with Christ into death. Because of the connection between Holy Baptism and Christ's death, the early Church began the practice of baptizing new Christians on Holy Saturday. On this day when Christ was buried in the tomb, Christians were buried with Christ into His death through the waters of Holy Baptism. By at least the early third century A.D. Christians began observing the Vigil of Easter in connection with these baptisms (for more background on this see the post "The surprising history of Romans 6 and baptism in the early Church").

At the same time Holy Saturday stands on the verge of Easter Sunday and is celebrated as the first service of the resurrection. In the Jewish reckoning of time used in Jesus' day, a new day began at sunset. The church in its liturgy has adopted this as well, and therefore Saturday evening begins the celebration of Easter. Baptism on the evening of Holy Saturday reminded Christians that as Paul says in Romans 6:5, their own baptism provided the guarantee that they would also share in Christ's resurrection when He returns in glory on the Last Day.

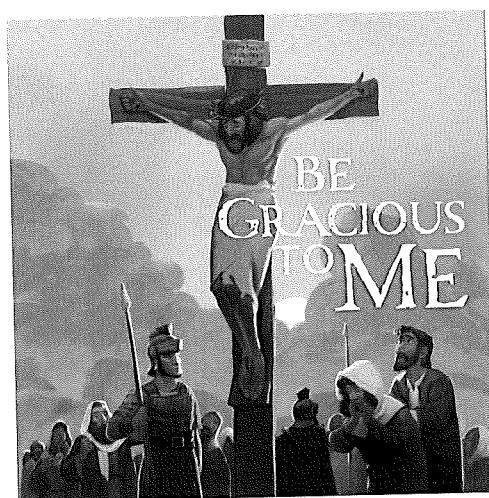
The Vigil of Easter falls into six parts. In the Service of Light the Paschal Candle is lit and processes into the nave of the darkened church. Individual candles are then lit from the Paschal Candle. The light that pierces the darkness and emanates out among the people represents the resurrection of Jesus Christ that has pierced the darkness of death and brought the hope of resurrection and everlasting life to all who believe in Him.

In the Service of Readings we hear recounted God's saving acts in the Old Testament that prefigured and pointed forward to Christ's great victory that he shares with us through Holy Baptism. In the Service of Holy Baptism we hear Romans 6 read and then renew our baptismal vows. In the Service of Prayer we pray the Litany of the Resurrection which recounts our Lord's death and resurrection. In the Service of the Word the Easter Gospel is read and we hear the first news of our Lord's resurrection, which points us forward to the full and joyous celebration that will follow in the morning on Easter. Finally, in the Service of the Sacrament

the risen Lord comes to us in His true body and blood as He gives us a share in His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sins.

Then, on Easter Sunday we will celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord. After observing His death *for us* and the means through which Christ gives us a share in that death, we will then rejoice in His resurrection from the dead and celebrate the fact that through His resurrection we have the assurance that He will raise us up on the Last Day.

**Sometimes Christians want to focus on Easter and ignore those services leading up to Easter Sunday. However, we are only prepared to celebrate our Lord's resurrection if we have walked the way that led to Easter Sunday. Congregation members are encouraged to view the Triduum – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday – as one service and attend it accordingly. The services on these three days will deepen our appreciation of our Lord's sacrifice during Holy Week and will strengthen us in the faith. Then, after observing these great events of the Great Week, we will celebrate the victory of our Lord's resurrection on Easter Sunday.**



March 06	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 13	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 20	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 24	10:00 am	Palm Sunday/Rite of Confirmation
March 28	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday/HC
March 29	6:30 pm	Good Friday Service
March 30	6:30 pm	Easter Vigil
March 31	7:00 am	Easter Service/HC

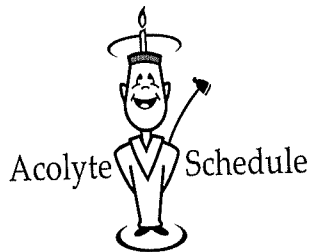


## EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, March 6th following the Midweek Lenten Services. We will be working on the confirmation banners



Daylight Savings time officially begins on March 11th this year. So remember to set your clock **AHEAD** 1 hour when you retire on Saturday evening, March 10th



3rd: Joy Luetje  
 6th: Payton Gallagher (Wed)  
 10th: Kendyl Riesberg & Kash Riesberg  
 13th: Cara Schuette & Audrey Hill (Wed)  
 17th: Grant Wilken  
 20th: Lacy Middleton & Tyler Middleton (Wed)  
 24th: Marissa Schrad & Laynie Muhlbauer  
 31st: Hannah Dose, Jax Cleveland & Grant Wilken



## Midweek Snack List

March 06	4 pm	Hannah Dose
March 13	4 pm	Faith Neumann
March 20	4 pm	Kash Riesberg



A reception for our New Confirmads will be held on Wednesday, March 20th following our Midweek Lenten Service. Everyone is invited to attend.



## Midweek Lenten SCHEDULE

March 06	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 13	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 20	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 24	10:00 am	Palm Sunday/Rite of Confirmation
March 28	6:30 pm	Maunday Thursday/HC
March 29	6:30 pm	Good Friday Service
March 30	6:30 pm	Easter Vigil
March 31	7:00 am	Easter Service/HC

### MARCH LIST OF DUTIES

#### USHERS

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

#### CHANCEL DUTIES

Diane Witt, Allison Ehlers

#### PARISH DUTIE

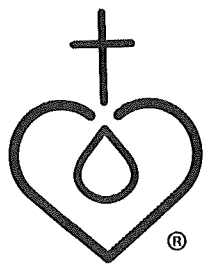
Diane Witt, Deb Owen

#### MARTHA CIRCLE

Cathy Meyer & Paulette Von Glan

#### ACOLYTES

3rd: Joy Luetje  
6th: Payton Gallagher (Wed)  
10th: Kendyl Riesberg & Kash Riesberg  
13th: Cara Schuette & Audrey Hill (Wed)  
17th: Grant Wilken  
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# Lutheran Women *in Mission*

Serve the Lord with gladness  
Psalm 100:1

**LWML IWD**

**Carroll Zone**

**Servants Events Spring Rally**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carroll**  
**Saturday, April 13, 2024**  
**9:00 am - 11:30**

Servant events for Phil's Friends:

Fleece tied blankets

Cards of Hope

Port Pillows

In-gathering:

~women's fuzzy socks, 5 oz. or smaller toothpaste, puzzle books  
(ie.sudoku, word find, crossword, etc.)

No registration fee

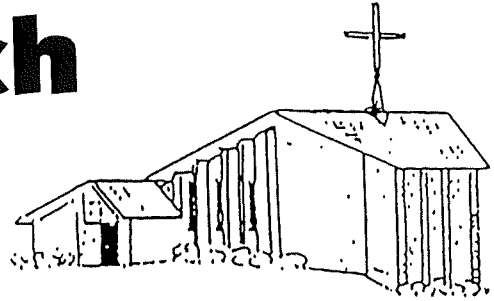
Snacks and beverages provided



The LYF will be serving an Easter Breakfast following our 7am worship service. On the menu will be scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & gravy, rolls and muffins. This is a free-will donation.

# United Church Westside

will be holding their



41<sup>st</sup>

Drive-Thru

# Windsor Chop Supper

## SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Drive-Thru at United Church Westside

(Please drive to the north on Main Street in front of the church.)

from 5-7 p.m.

*Serving:*

**Thick-cut Windsor Chops**

Along with generous portions of  
**Potatoes, Green Beans,  
Salad, a Dinner Roll  
and a Cookie!**

*Tickets:*

**\$15**

*Thank You For  
Your Support!*

**MARCH**  
Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Lydia Dose Alex Gallagher Nicole Winey Mark & Jolene Stoelk (50 yrs)
<b>3</b> Susan Ehlers	<b>4</b> Ryan Neumann Dale & Nicky Lenz	<b>5</b> Kurt Branning	<b>6</b> Megan Gehling Myatt Neumann	<b>7</b> Garrett Cleveland Merle Witt	<b>8</b> Jeff Luetje Patty Vetter	<b>9</b> Nick Bender
<b>10</b> Jeff & Hollie Schnitz	<b>11</b> Kylar Cleveland Kris Kean Shane Kraus Dwight & Melissa Ehlers	<b>12</b> Keith Kaspersen	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Timothy Dose	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Kyle Liechti Chad Wittrock Jeff & Cheryl Vetter
<b>17</b> Karlte Muhlbauer Jim Vetter Matt & Lisa McNelly (40 yrs)	<b>18</b> Scott Muhlbauer Cheryl Vetter	<b>19</b> Kash Riesberg Lee & Lajean Shiney	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Cat Luetje Randy & Lisa Stoelk	<b>22</b> Derrick Cornelius Edna Hansman Jane Vetter	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Andrew Skinner Gary & Shelli Lenz	<b>25</b> Steve & Linda Mumm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Danielle Nelson	<b>28</b> Maggie Ragaller Aaron & Sara Peterson	<b>29</b> Brooke Bass Connor Julia Scott & Stacie Muhlbauer	<b>30</b> Tom Hoogestraat
<b>31</b>						





1531 Edgewood Drive

Milford, IA 51351

712-337-3325

[www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org)

[camp@campokoboji.org](mailto:camp@campokoboji.org)

*Greetings from Camp Okoboji*

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!** It opened February 1. Early Bird discounts are available until April 1. Online registration and registration information is available on our website at [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org).

**THE ANNUAL MEETING IS APRIL 6!** Delegate registration information has been sent to last year's delegates and to each of the District congregations. Please help us continue to grow the congregational representation we have seen the last 2 years by making sure your congregation nominates and registers a delegate today! If you need additional registration materials, contact the Camp Office at 712-337-3325.

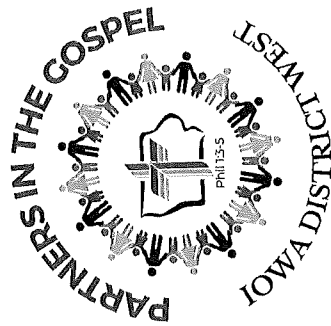
**DON'T FORGET THE CAMP OKOBOJI AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES** held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The day of the Annual Meeting, the Auxiliary hosts the **GROCERY SHOWER** (to support the dining hall), the **THEME BASKET AUCTION** (to support camper scholarships), and the **BAKE SALE** (to support miscellaneous expenses). In addition, their year-round **CANS FOR CAMP** campaign collects funds from gathering and redeeming cans to assist with the purchase of needed mattress rotations.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES!** Camp has a full-time office position available at the present time. Position responsibilities would be bookkeeping and general office assistance.

We are also looking to hire two part-time, summer season cooks. Position responsibilities would be preparing/serving meals and after meal clean up.

Summer Staff positions are still available. General time frame would be around May 15 to August 15 with flexibility based on student needs. Especially looking for Summer Staff that would be Lifeguard certified or interested in becoming certified!

Inquire about any of these positions by contacting Kirk or Kellie at Camp Okoboji, (712) 337-3325 or [kellie@campokoboji.org](mailto:kellie@campokoboji.org) or [kirk.campokoboji@gmail.com](mailto:kirk.campokoboji@gmail.com). Please share with anyone who might be interested.



On a Mission  
to Support  
Christ's Mission!

March 2024

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

**Time to review your will/trust?**

Is 2024 the year to finally review your will or trust?



Many things may have changed in your life since you had your attorney write your will/trust.

There have been changes in your family situation. There have been changes in your assets. There have been changes in the tax laws. Have you included your favorite ministries including your LCMS congregation in your planning?

I can help you get ready to meet with your attorney if changes are needed. Contact me and we can schedule a no-cost one hour appointment to help encourage you to keep your estate plan up to date.

Jim Schroeder  
*Christian Estate Planning Counselor*  
515-490-7371  
[jim@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:jim@iowadistrictwest.org)

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

**IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (ILSTO)**

Thank you again to all who donated to ILSTO this past year as we received \$616,469.67. 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. Please help ILSTO make our new goal for 2024 of \$1,148,202 so that more students may benefit from our program. Applications are now being taken for ILSTO tuition assistance for the 2024-2025 school year. Call Dewey Torkelson at 712-260-2991 for more ILSTO information.

**THE 2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING** is 18 months away, but plans are already underway to make this event successful. The Gathering will provide thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

A major part of Gathering's success is the thousands of volunteers—including Gathering Ambassadors—who dedicate their time and energy pouring into the youth participants and adult leaders attending. Gathering Ambassadors are humble servant leaders, age 26 and older, who are joyful, energetic, quick to listen, and safety-minded. They are fun, friendly, and flexible! Most of all, Gathering Ambassadors love Jesus and shine His light in all circumstances.

If you or someone you know would love to serve as a Gathering Ambassador, applications are open through March 15. To apply to become a Gathering Ambassador, visit [www.lcmsgathering.com/volunteer](http://www.lcmsgathering.com/volunteer). For more information, please contact the Gathering Ambassador Leadership team at [gatheringambassador@gmail.com](mailto:gatheringambassador@gmail.com).

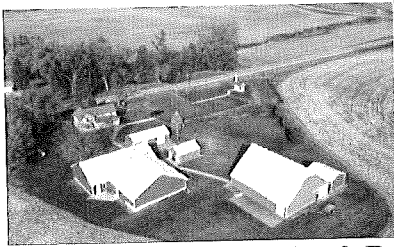
Thank you for considering serving in this way!

**NEW FREE RESOURCE: Daily Lutheran devotions for Spanish-speakers!**

*La Palabra del Señor Permanece Para Siempre* ("The Word of the Lord Endures Forever") is now available from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation at <https://pubsearch.lhfmissons.org/>. From the link, search by language or title to download the most recent edition. These quarterly collections of devotions are written by LCMS Latin American missionaries and by pastors of LCMS Latin American partner churches.

**Calendar of Events**

- March 2... VBS Best Practices Workshop, Zion-Manning
- March 29... Good Friday, District Office Closed
- March 31... Easter Sunday
- April 13... Concordia Plans Pre-Retirement Workshop, Grace-Storm Lake



# MISSION CENTRAL

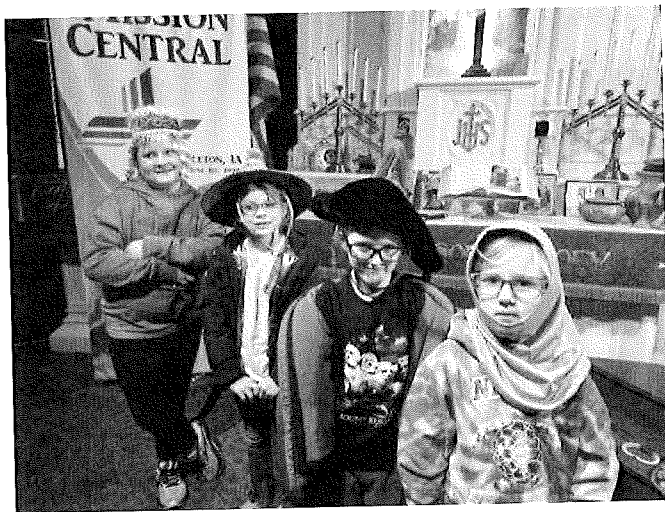
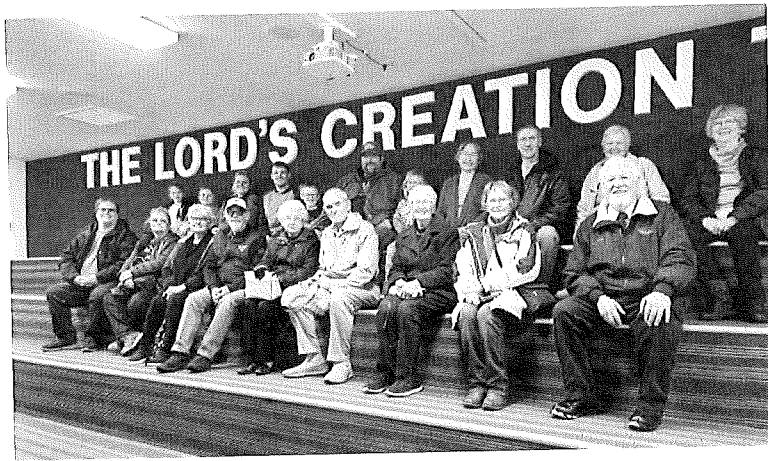
Office of Mission Advancement  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Missionaries Gary Thies & Rev. Steve Schulz  
Mission Development Counselors 712.882.1029

Gary.Thies@lcms.org  
Steve.Schulz@lcms.org

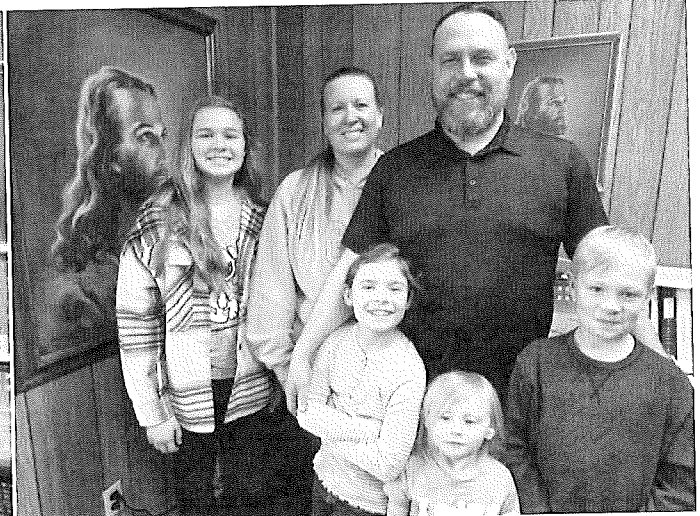
We have the honor and privilege of meeting some amazing people here at Mission Central. We hosted a whole busload from Sherburn, Minnesota on Monday, January 22. We welcomed them with four-foot snow drifts and frigid temperatures! What a JOY to welcome these dear friends and give them a full tour. It was truly a REAL MIRACLE DAY that the Lord provided for all of us.



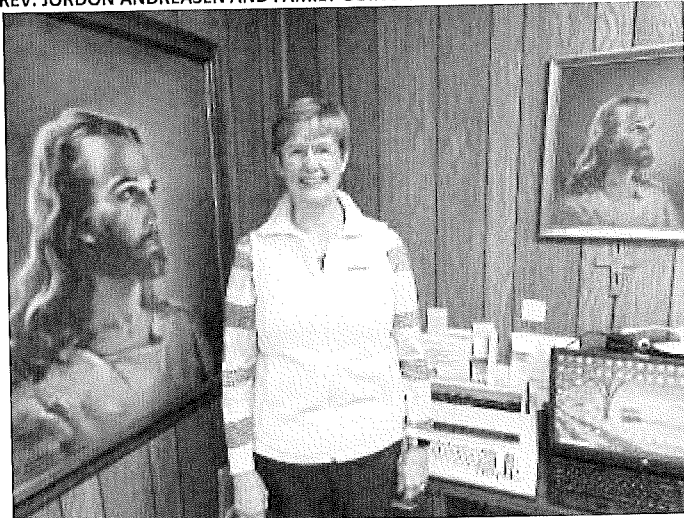
The Lord Jesus sent five missionary families to visit us for training, orientation, and a tour. God is still calling special people to His mission fields around the world. These five families are the newest LCMS missionaries heading for Germany, the Dominican Republic, and Romania to tell many people about our Savior Jesus. It was a joy to meet them and to pray for God's continued blessings on them.



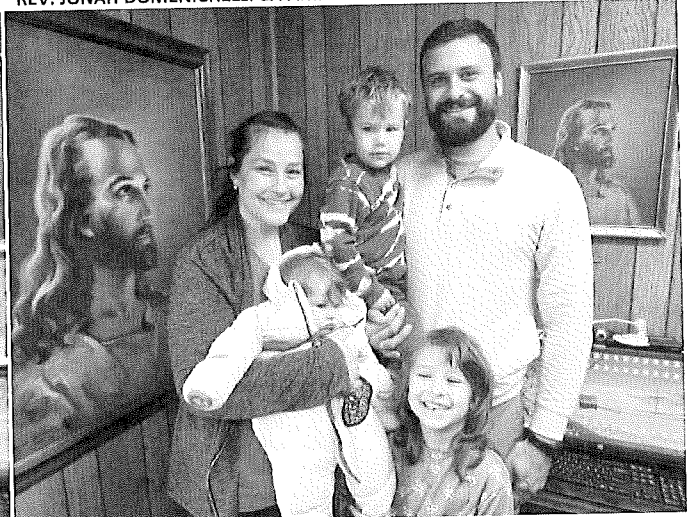
REV. JORDON ANDREASEN AND FAMILY GOING TO ROMANIA TO SHARE JESUS!



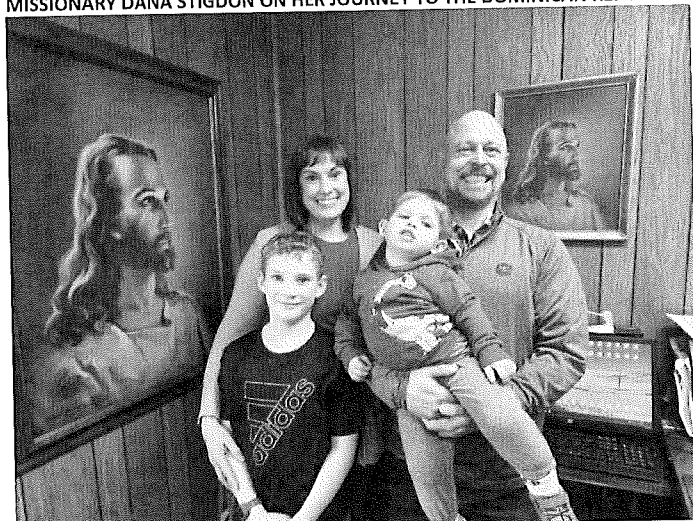
REV. JONAH DOMENICHELLI & FAMILY GOING TO GERMANY TO SHARE JESUS!



MISSIONARY DANA STIGDON ON HER JOURNEY TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC!



REV. ROBERTO WEBER TO TEACH IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC SEMINARY!




REV. ROSS SHAVER & FAMILY GOING TO TEACH IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC!



FIVE MISSIONARY FAMILIES CAME FOR TRAINING ON FEBRUARY 6, 2024!

# MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	4	5	6 4:00 Midweek 4:00 Make Subs	7	8	9 
10 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC 11:00 Council Meeting	11	12	13 4:00 Midweek 6:30 Midweek Lenten Service	14	15	16
17 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	18	19	20 4:00 Midweek 6:30 Midweek Lenten Service	21	22	23
24 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC Confirmation	25	26	27	28 6:30 Maunday Thursday/HC	29 6:30 Good Friday Service	30 6:30 Easter Vigil Service/HC
31 7:00 Easter Service/HC 8:00 Breakfast						

**USHERS**

Rick Vetter                      Gene Thiedeman  
Keith Vetter                     Jeff Luetje

**ACOLYTES:**

3/3 Joy Luetje  
3/6 Payton Gallagher (wed)  
3/10 Kendyl Riesberg & Kash Riesberg  
3/13 Cara Schuette & Audrey Hill (Wed)  
3/17 Grant Wilken  
3/24 Marissa Schrad & Laynie Muhlbauer  
3/31 Hannah Dose, Jax Cleveland & Grant Wilken

**PARISH CIRCLE**

Diane Witt & Deb Owen  
  
Chancel Circle  
Diane Witt  
Alison Ehlers

Zion Lutheran Church  
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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

