

ZION PROCLAIMER

MAY 2026

"A Noble Note"

. Christ Redeemed It All!

As Christians, we're all about Jesus! After all, we call ourselves Christians, which literally means "*those who belong to Christ*". And did we all learn in Sunday school learn that the answer to every question is always "Jesus"? We believe, teach, and confess that Jesus is all about saving us and giving us a new life in Him.

But sadly, sometimes we speak about Jesus, and His redemption work for us, in ways that give off an impression that we only care about our souls and "spiritual things" and care very little about the physical world around us. If you listen closely to many of the modern, culture-driven Christians, you will hear them speaking about Jesus saving us from this world; that the goal is for our souls to escape *this physical life on earth* to live with Jesus in *the spiritual realm of heaven*. Much like the hymn I have a love-hate relationship with, "I'm but a Stranger Here." After all, that's what salvation is all about, right? Wrong!

Now, don't misunderstand me. Jesus did come in order to save us from this sin-infected, dying world and all of the evil within it. But Jesus did not come to take us out of this world, nor did He treat the physical things of this world as something to be tossed aside and forgotten. The complete understanding of Jesus' saving work is that He came to make all things new, not just the spiritual things, but the physical things too! Jesus left the throne of heaven and entered into this world in order to defeat the devil, undo sin and death, and fully reign over all of Creation! In a way, Jesus came to bring us back to the Garden of Eden, not to separate us from what God created and called good (**Gen. 1:31; Rev. 21:6**).

Jesus Christ came to save not only our souls, but our bodies and the rest of the world in which we live in! God doesn't want to take us out of this sinful world. No, God wants to take the sin out of this world! That is what Jesus came to do. And He did so when He took the sins of the world upon Himself and destroyed it through His death on the cross. His resurrection then points us not only to His victory over sin, death, and the devil, but also to our promised new beginning, to our new life in Him, and to the new heavens and earth being prepared here for us. (**John 14:1-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-28, 50-58**). That is how great God's redemption is for us and all creation!

So let's stop trying to escape this world and join in on the mission Jesus called us to do: To proclaim this Good News to a dying world, to enjoy the things God has created for us in this world, and to care for it as the stewards we were made to be. Sure, for now we can't help but see the destruction and pain that sin is causing around us, but through the Holy Spirit's work with in, we can also see the beauty and joy within it all. Thanks be to God, that in Jesus Christ, we have an abundant life her now, and in the world to come. God truly is good!

*In His Service,
Pastor Noble*

L. W. M. L.

EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle will be meeting at 4:00 pm on Wednesday, May 6 here at the church. Hostess Lajeane Shoney.



Sunday School

Our last day of Sunday School for this year will be on Sunday, May 10, 2026



The members of the LYF would like to thank everyone who supported us and attended the Easter Breakfast. The turn out for the breakfast was great and we appreciate you taking time to attend. We had a lot of help from the youth and also from the parents. Thanks again to you the members of Zion and our friends for all of your support!!!

CHANCEL

Sandy Hunter & Cindy Brockman

PARISH CIRCLE

Diane Witt & Dawn Melton

MARTHA CIRCLE

Carmen Thiedeman

V. B. S

Register at <https://vbsmate.com/events/zionarcadia>

Plans are currently underway for our 2026 Vacation Bible School "Tropical Trek" Jesus comes to seek and save. Classes are open for children 3 years old (**MUST** be 4 by Sept 1 through 6th grade (grade you just finished)

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](https://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.

V. B. S.

Monday-Thursday

June 8-June 11, 2026

8:30-11:30

Baptism
All things have
become new.
2 Corinthe 5:17, NKJV

04/19/26 Wraylen Stein, son of Sam Stein & Hillary Hagge

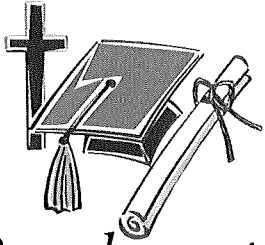
4/26/26 Lenny Petersen, son of Tyler & Jackie Petersen

THANK YOU I SAY



GRATEFUL I AM

Thank you to everyone who taught, volunteered, and participated in our Sunday School and Midweek ministries! Not only were you able to share God's Word and be a means by which God grew faith in our kids and families, but you were also a vital role to building up the future of this church! God has been, and will continue to be, at work through you! Thank you for being a blessing to us and for the wisdom, grace, mercy, and love you have all shown to all!



Baccalaureate

Please join us on Wednesday, May 13th at 7 pm for the A WV Baccalaureate service to be held here at Zion. Everyone is invited to attend.



If you like to sing, please join the members of Zion and United Church of Westside as they prepare to sing for the Baccalaureate service here at Zion. The first practice will be on Wednesday, May 6th at 6 pm.

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 2026. 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 Wyatt Ragaller, Devon Ehlers Abby Klink, Alison Skinner, Lynn Hensel, Ty Muhlbauer, Jaxx Luetje.



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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2026

Greetings to all students and friends of Zion. This is a reminder that V.B.S. will be held June 8-11 2026. Our theme this year is "Tropical Trek". Our classes will begin with opening devotions at 8:30 am (so plan your arrival accordingly) and will end with closing devotions at 11:30 am. All children ages 4 (By Sept1) through the 6th grade are invited and encouraged to attend.

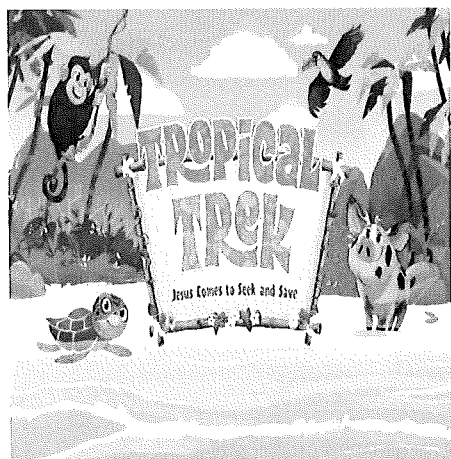
REMINDERS: 1) Students are reminded that "good" clothes should **NOT** be worn as some craft projects can be kind of messy. 2) Daily offerings will be taken and given for a special mission project.

You will be in the class that you just finished.. Whether you are or are **NOT** attending this year, or are new to the program, it would be appreciated if you could let the church office know as this makes a difference in the number of materials that we order. (689-2441)or register on line at vbsmate.com/events/zionarcadia.

QUILTS: The 5th-6th Graders will be tying quilts with anticipation of out doing the number from last year. If you have any sheets, lightweight blankets, etc, please bring them to the church as this will help with the project.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: If you would be willing to help out with VBS this year, teaching, crafts, snacks, etc please contact the church office.

Bring a T-shirt (marked with name and grade) and we will provide a decal for your shirt.



V. B. S.
Monday-Thursday
June 8-11, 2026
8:30-11:30

Register Me For
“Tropical Trek”
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Zion Lutheran Church, Arcadia
(June 8-11, 2026)

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 just finished

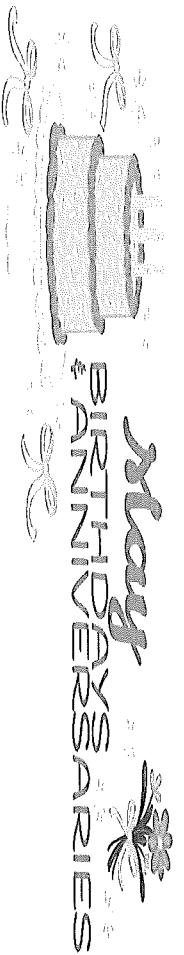
Please provide Birth date for those in preschool

Parents Name

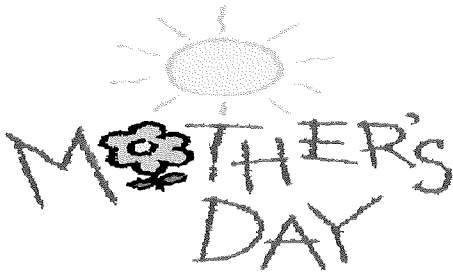


Phone Number & Or Cell Number

Emergency Contact Person & Phone Number (daycare)



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Annalee Witrock Ryan & Jenni Middleton	2 Claire Lenz Kelly Riesberg
3 Katie Riesberg	4	5 Lori Grundmeier Michael & Ashley Eggers	6 Rob & Julie Klink Jon & Amy Vetter	7 Darlys Halbur Beth Hansman	8 Shelby Dirks Calvin Liechti	9 Tylor & Cassie Audino
10	11 Jeff Meyer	12 Terry Strathman	13 Marissa Schrad TJ Sterk Kyle & Emily Gallagher	14 Michelle Hage Mark Rickers	15 Liam Petersen	16
17	18	19	20 Steve Hoogstraat	21 Brian Kraus	22	23 Linda Mumm Joey & Kimberly Bauman
24	25 Nolan Neumann Jeff & Cathy Meyer	26 Jacob Hanson Jackie Petersen	27 Caitly Heiman	28 Emmett Neumann	29	30
31 Blakely Audino Ron Cornelius Nick & Jessica Gallagher						



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.

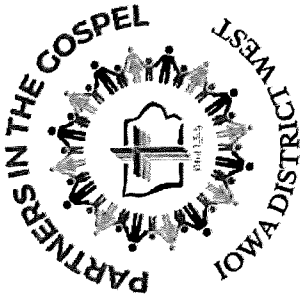
How will they know?

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



On a Mission
to Support
Christ's Mission!

May 2026

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



Oddly enough, the impetus for this little paragraph came directly from a fortune cookie, as I was wrapping up a working lunch at the Hibachi Grill in Des Moines.

For me, fortune cookies are just a bit of fun, but this one seemed a little profound. It read, "Encourage others to make a positive impact in the lives of those in need." That is a statement that we can all use to motivate ourselves, family members, and friends.

As we're gearing up for summer volunteer work, start looking around. Can you help out with your VBS in some way? We are now up to 10 congregations involved in Swaddling Clothes Outreach—would you like to make a donation to help? Meals from the Heartland packages every month and would love to have your hands and energy involved. Or can you reach out to Orphan Grain Train, who supplies and supplement so many needs? Do you know someone 16 or older who would make a great summer staff person at Camp Okoboji? Take a peek around your community and see how you can make a positive impact in the lives of those around you.

Julie Mann, IOWAY Coordinator

julie@iowadistrictwest.org

LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Webinar

Do your end-of-life plans provide for your family and the ministries you care about? Join the LCMS

Foundation for a free online webinar, *Stewarding God's Gifts: A Plan to Care for Your Family*

and *Support the Ministries You Love*, on Tuesday, June 16, from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM CDT. Led by

Leon Schoenfeld, LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor for Iowa District West, this session will help you understand the basics of Christian gift planning and how your will or estate plan can provide for your loved ones and support the ministries you care about.

To learn more and register: <https://www.lcmsfoundation.org/idw-giftplanning-webinar-2026>

Registering ensures you will receive a recording, even if you cannot attend live.

2026 Iowa March For Life

All members of IDW congregations are invited to participate in the **Iowa March for Life** on Saturday, June 20. The day begins at Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Moines (3223 University Ave.) with a Matins Prayer Service at 9:00 a.m., followed by worship at 10:00 a.m. A lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m. After lunch, participants will travel to the Iowa State Capitol for the March, beginning at noon. All are encouraged to come, pray, worship, and walk together as witnesses for life.

Camp Okoboji is still in need of staff for the Summer 2026 camp season. Youth 16 and older and college students are encouraged to explore opportunities to serve on the Camp Okoboji team. Individuals interested in serving at Camp should begin by completing a NLOMA profile. This is the first step in the application process for summer positions. Fill out a profile online at <https://nloma.org/employment/summer/serviceprofile/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 24-26... YouthLead Workshop—Hidden Acres, Dayton

May 4-5... Spring Pastors Conference, Trinity, Algona

May 8... Mother's Day

May 18... Concordia Plans Retirement Workshop, Grace, LeMars

May 24... Pentecost

May 25... Memorial Day—District Office Closed

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

LCMS Foundation
LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSI
ONARY SOCIETY OF AME
RICA

MARCH FOR LIFE





Update

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 22 - 25: WITTENBERG ACADEMY RETREAT

May 1 - 3: VOLUNTEER WORK WEEKEND

May 3: OMELET BRUNCH

May 29 - May 31: KIDS' KAMP

REGISTRATION FOR CAMP OKOBOJI IS OPEN!

Registration information is available online at campokoboji.org.

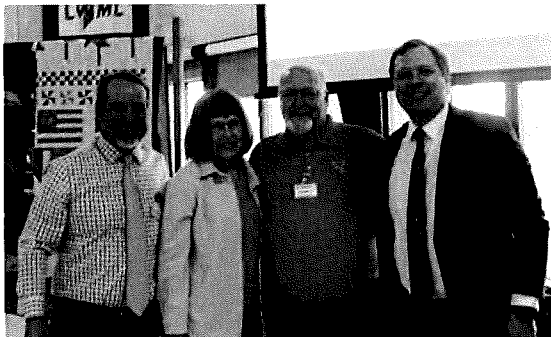
PERSONNEL: We need 2026 Summer Staff! Please encourage youth (at least 16 years of age) and college students to consider serving with us. Those interested in serving at Camp Okoboji, or any LCMS camp in 2026 should complete a NLOMA profile. That is the first step in being considered for a summer position. Visit NLOMA.org for the profile link.

New Staff: I am excited to share we have added a new full-time, year-round team member to the Camp Okoboji staff. Nichole Delgado-Hart has joined us this month as our Guest Services Manager, overseeing housekeeping and kitchen operations. She is no stranger to Camp, having worked here before in the office several years ago, and most recently as a contracted housekeeper.

THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

- We extend a very special "THANK YOU" to Reverend Ezra Grabau, Reverend Marty Davis, Kerry Burmeister, and Mark Kramer for allowing their names to be placed in nomination for the Camp Okoboji Board of Directors.

There were 55 delegates at the Annual Meeting April 11. Scott Ebel and Dalton Niemeyer were reelected to the Board of Directors and a new pastor was elected, Rev. Jason Letsche. Kirk and Delaine Warnke were named "Friends of Camp". The Auxiliary Grocery Shower and Basket Auction were very successful events to assist Camp.



Summer Chaplain Schedule

Join us for worship - 9 am

May 24 - Rev. Alex Smith – Sioux City

May 31 - Rev. Daniel Harders – Holyrood, KS

June 7 - Rev. Mark Resner – Whittemore

June 14 - Rev. Dr. B Keith Haney – IDW

June 21 - TBD

June 28 - Rev. Chris Ascher – Sioux Falls, SD

July 5 - Rev. Charlie Adams – Omaha, NE

July 12 - Rev. David Beagley – Ames

July 19 - Rev. David Matthews –

Paullina/Sutherland

July 26 - Rev. Mark Lund - Garner

August 2 - Rev. James Travis – Sioux City

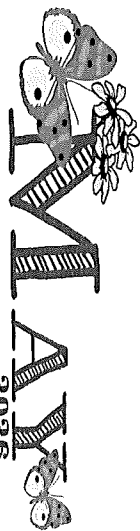
August 9 - TBD

August 16 - Rev. Dr. Joshua Lowe – Hawarden

August 23 - TBD

August 30 - Rev. Benjamin Dose – Algona

September 6 - Rev. Robert Zellmer – Lawton



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 <i>9:00 Chr Ed</i> <i>10:00 DW/HC</i> Rite of confirm 11:00 Church Council	4	5	6 4:00 Evening Circle 6:00 Choir Practice		8	9
10 <i>9:00 Chr Ed</i> <i>10:00 DW/HC</i>	11	12	13 6:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Baccalaureate Service	14	15	16
17 <i>9:00 Chr Ed</i> <i>10:00 DW/HC</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 <i>9:00 Chr Ed</i> <i>10:00 DW/HC</i>	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28	29	30
31 <i>9:00 Chr Ed</i> <i>10:00 DW/HC</i>						

USHERS

Dale Wittrock
Kurt Branning
Jake Wittrock
Kelly Riesberg

Parish Circle
Diane Witt & Dawn Melton

Chancel Circle
Sandy Hunter & Cindy Brockman

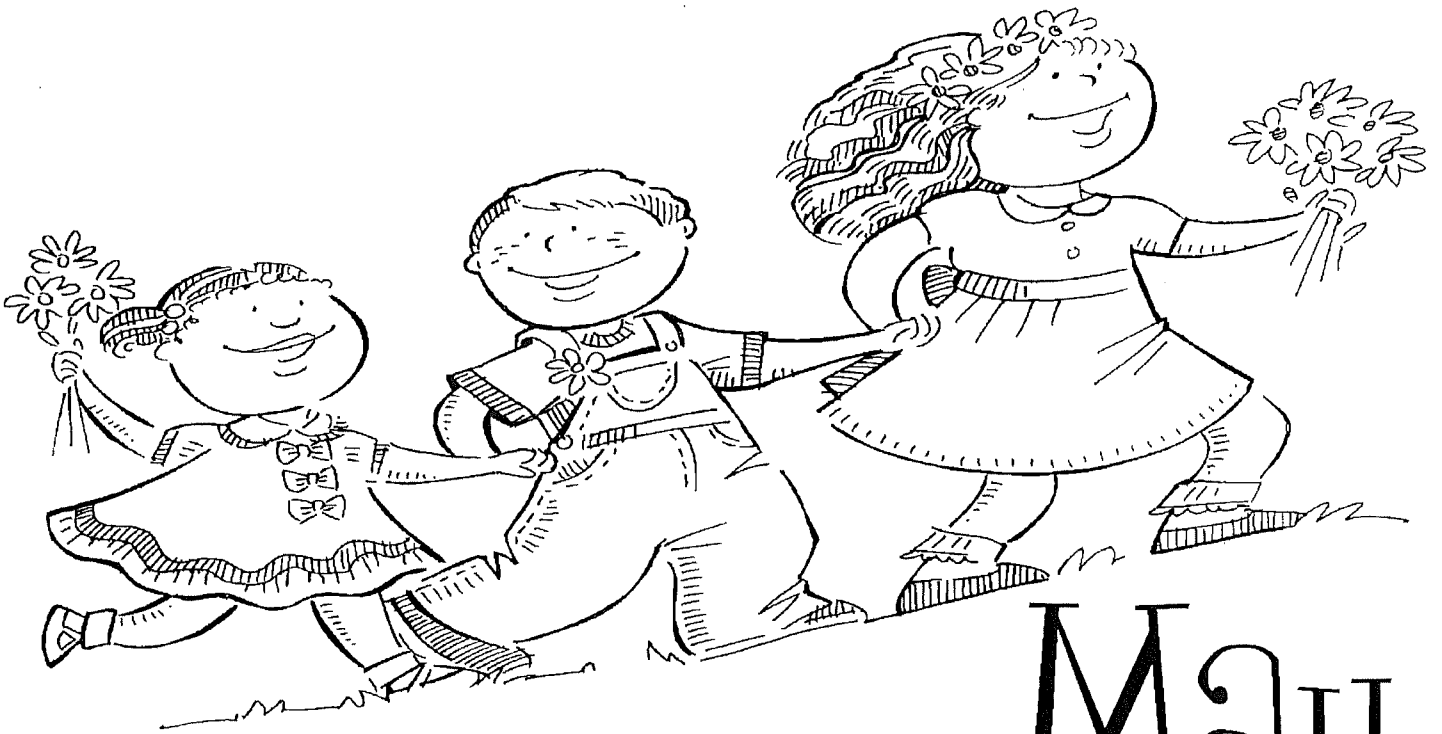
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712-689-2441

Non Profit Organization
Standard Mail
Arcadia, IA 51430

FRIENDS WHO CARE

Christian Education
Divine Worship

9:00 am
10:00 am



May