

ZION PROCLAIMER

July 2026

“The Lord God took [Adam] and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15).

The first two chapters within the book of Genesis are familiar to us all. We know them best as the Creation Account. Chapter one is where we hear the familiar creating command of God saying, “*Let there be...*” and then there it was! Chapter two focuses in on that sixth day of creation, giving an account of Adam who was formed by God’s own hands from the dust and became a living being when God breathed the breath of life upon him.

Within these first chapters of the Bible, we find more than just a historical narrative of how man and all of creation was brought into being. These verses also teach us the purpose and result of God’s design for His creation and our relationship with God, each other, and our environment. We were created distinctly by God to dwell with Him in holiness, to find joy in this world and life, and to “work and keep” it on His behalf. We summarize this God-given design and purpose for our lives as **stewardship**.

Most people equate stewardship with money and the offering plate. But that is a far cry from it’s full meaning. This word holds a deeper meaning that just being wise with your finances and paying the bills on time. Historically, a steward is someone who has been entrusted to care for his master’s property. He is to manage it as his master would; he is to love and respect it as if it were his own. But he dares not assume ownership of it, because at the end of the day, even though he is the one who is working and caring for it, it rightfully and fully belongs to his master.

What was meant to be a joyful and fulfilling task in the Garden of Eden, man took it, rebelled against it, and made it a four-letter word. Now, not only does this work and labor feel burdensome, but we also face pain, hardship, and suffering due to our failure to faithfully steward and care for God’s creation. But by God’s grace, mercy, and love, the steward failed but was never fired.

Which is why we have such an issue with stewardship to this day. We continue to live out a pre-fall vocation in a fallen world as failed stewards. That’s why we need to be often be reminded of our vocational call to be stewards of our lives and all that God has given to us. We so easily forget that we are not our own and that this world and it’s resources are not ours to do with as we please. As **Psalm 24:1** declares, “*The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness of it, the world and those who dwell in are His.*” Nothing is ours; everything belongs to God. And yet, He entrusts us as stewards to manage this creation for His glory and the benefit of others.

As mentioned earlier, this involves every part of your life and being. God has blessed you with your life, your mind, your body, your soul, your talents and desires, your family

and community, your church and Bible, your work and efforts, your food and drink, and all things needed to support your body and spiritual life.

This is the joyful task we have been made, redeemed, and called to do. We can't do it on our own. We need Jesus' forgiveness, grace, and life won for us on the cross. We need each other as the Body of Christ. We need the ongoing enrichment and work of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament. Because our task involves more than the physical things of this world, but the spiritual things of Heaven. The greatest gift given to us is the Gospel, the forgiveness and sins made by Christ's death on the cross and our new creation and life in Him through the resurrection.

Jesus, who is the Perfect Steward, took what the Father gave Him and managed it to our benefit. And because we have been united to Him through baptism, we too are given this important, life-giving Gospel to steward and care for. So may we use whatever God has given us to join Jesus in His work and care for us and all of creation. May God grant us the will and joy to be His hands and feet in this world, not for our benefit or praise, but for the good of others and for the glory to God!

Lord Jesus, *"Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days and let them flow in ceaseless praise."* (LSB 783:1)

*In His Service,
Pastor Noble*

L.W.M.L.



“Serve the Lord with Gladness”

MARTHA CIRCLE:

Marilyn Mumm

CHANCEL CIRCLE:

Marilyn Mumm

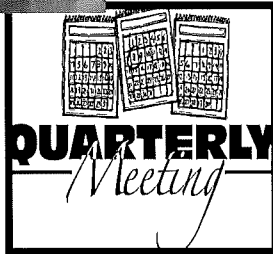
PARISH CIRCLE:

Deb Owen & Dawn Melton

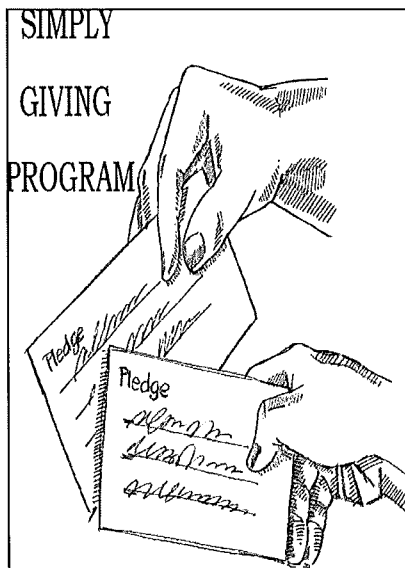
On Sunday, July 12th the Evening Circle will be having their Noisy Offering. All proceeds will help Ar-We-Va Teacher's Wish List



Please join us after worship for refreshments as Pastor Andy is excited to visit with our members after the service. If you (or your family) would be **interested in providing refreshments on a Sunday, please see the calendar by the office or contact Deb.** (Doesn't have to be anything fancy) coffee is already here and available.



The Quarterly Voter's Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 12th at 11 am Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend



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 200 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



“Jesus Comes to Seek and Save”

“Tropical Trek” (CPH) was the theme of the 2026 Vacation Bible School at Zion Lutheran Church in Arcadia. The goals for the annual program are to fulfill the reaching, teaching and discipling mission; to involve members to grow as Christians; to provide Christian education for our church’s children; and to encourage children to bring their friends to learn about Jesus. It was held Monday-Thursday, June 8-11, 2026. Students who were 3 years old (preschool) and will be attending Preschool in the fall, through the sixth grade were enrolled.

A total of 95 youngsters were involved throughout the week. The Bible theme for the week was

The sessions ran from 8:30 to 11:30 each day with opening and closing devotions in the church led by Pastor Andy Noble and music instruction by Maddie Owen

“Our offering collected this year went towards our mission project of New Opportunities Food Pantry, We collected \$427 and had several boxes of non-perishable food items that were donated.

*“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.
(Proverbs 22:6)*

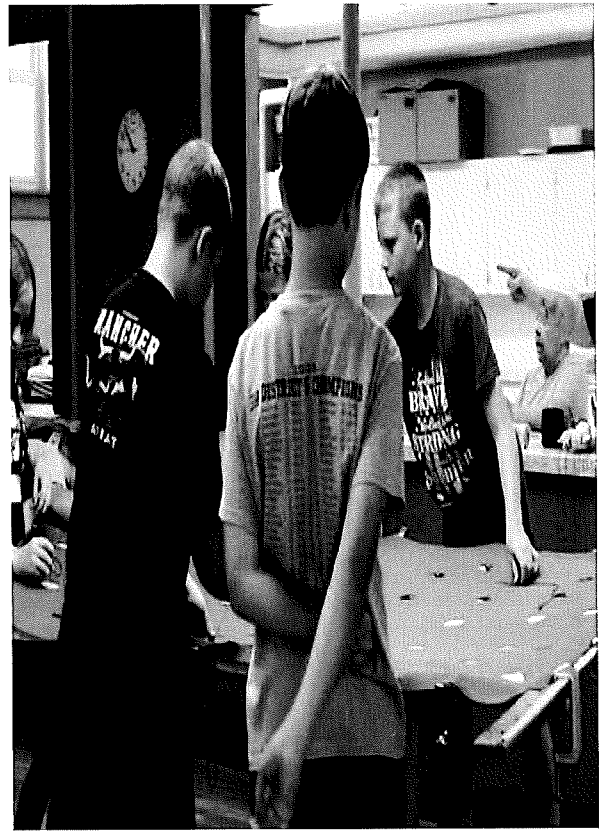
Deb Owen assisted with the secretarial needs and newly confirmed teens, other church members and their friends assisted in all areas of need. Shawna & Chad Wittrock provided the craft project ideas. The 5th-6th graders also did an outstanding job of tying **53** quilts this year. Since 1993, VBS students have tied **1,145 quilts**. The ladies prepare all the materials for the quilts and the students tie them using the two frames that keep all the helpers hopping. There are **many, many** helpers who volunteer each day both with the crafts and the snacks.

It is truly appreciated how everyone comes forth each year for the week of Vacation Bible School. Thanks to all who helped the week of VBS whether it be in the kitchen, teacher, helper, crafts or games, it is a fun week and hopefully, memories are created that will last a lifetime.

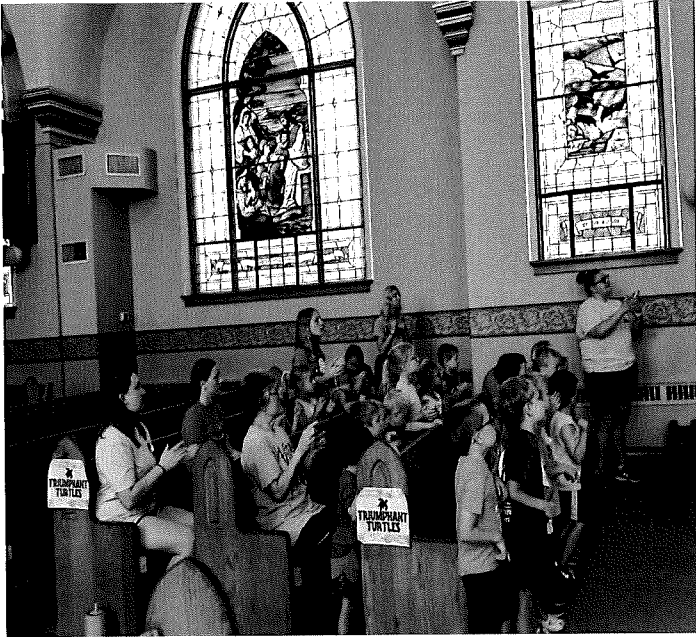
*“The Son of Man came to seek and
to save the lost!”*

Luke 19:10

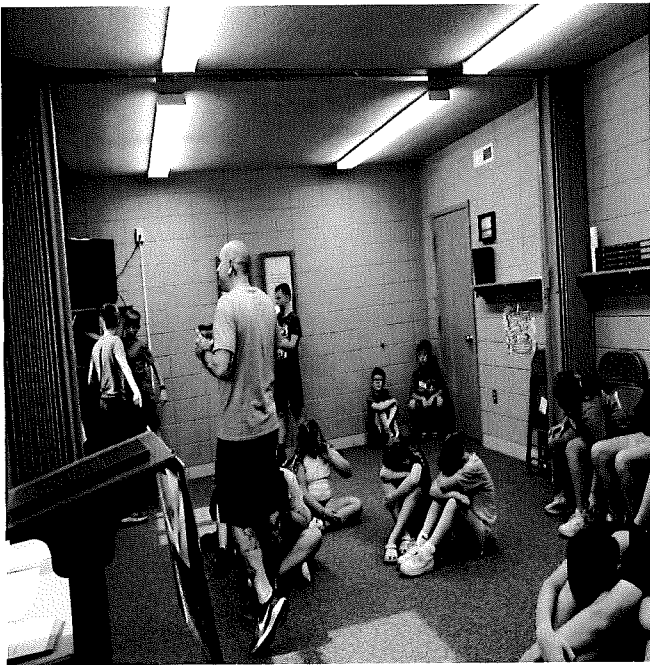
Tying quilts & Crafts



Music



Bible Challenge & Story Telling



Games & Snacks







*“The Son of Man came to seek and
to save the lost!”*

Luke 19:10

Zion Lutheran Church

Box 59

Arcadia, IA 51430

712-689-2441

Please feel free to contact any member of the Elder Board about any aspect of our ministry here at Zion.

Ryan Middleton: Cell: 712-830-3396

Randy Bruhn: Home 775-2692 Cell: 712-790-2491
email: mary@randysdiesel.com

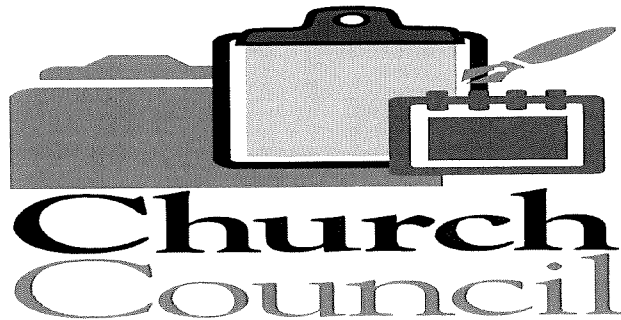
Doug Ehlers Home 663-4449 Cell: 712-830-0062
Email: daehlers@westianet.net

Kyle Bass Home Cell: 712-292-8830
Scot Muhlbauer Cell: 712-830-5582
Email: muhlbauerss@gmail.com

Kevin Skinner Cell: 712-830-4484
Email: kskinner@westianet.net

CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	Jeff Luetje	Vice President	Chris Toft
Secretary	Kathy Kraus	Treasurer	Mary Bruhn
Bd Evangelism	Shellie Lenz	Bd Education	Chad Wittrock
Bd Stewardship	Lajeane Shiney	Financial Sec.	Paulette Von Glan
Trustees:	Dwight Ehlers, Curt Ehlers, Roger Liehti		



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Rev. Paul Egger

Iowa District West, LCMS

paul@iowadistrictwest.org / 515-576-7666

Whatever is Right

Who do you know in this picture?

Here they are – our delegates preparing for this summer's Synod convention in Phoenix. A pastor and a layperson from each of our sixteen circuits in Iowa District West.

Convention preview: How can we best prepare men to pastor God's dear sons and daughters? Family, youth and campus ministry opportunities. Social and political issues affecting Christ's church. Scriptural closed communion practice. Divine service lectors. National and international witness. Mercy opportunities. Life together.



Our Heavenly Father is well aware that, every day, your life is like a synod convention: Issues and opportunities. Discussions, celebrations praising God, questions looking for Scriptural answers, and prayers.

Knowing you, God has His apostle write to you, "Whatever is RIGHT, think about such things. And the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:8.

Whatever is "RIGHT." Greek: Dikay; Dikaios. Right. Righteous. Righteousness. ***My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and RIGHTEOUSNESS.*** Definitions: Just, equitable, fair, innocent, pious. "Right" means duty faced = duty done. Like when the Jewish court commands Peter and John to stop speaking about Jesus because this riles people up – Peter and John reply using the word "right." They say, "Judge for yourselves whether it is RIGHT in God's sight to obey you rather than God." And then of course they go on working in God's kingdom – spending their years bringing Jesus' righteousness to the unrighteous. Their duty faced = their duty done. RIGHT.

Peter quoting Psalm 34 writes, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the RIGHTEOUS. 1 Peter 3. So here Peter defines "RIGHT" as keeping tongue from evil, as turning from evil and doing good. Peter defines "RIGHT" as seeking peace. And as you think about these things (whatever is RIGHT), God promises that His eyes are on you, and God promises that His ears are attentive to your prayer.

Where does RIGHT, RIGHTEOUS, RIGHTEOUSNESS come from? God's apostle tells you! Righteousness comes from God. Righteousness comes from God through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. All have

sinned and fall short of the glory of God – and are MADE RIGHT freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Jesus Christ. Romans.

And thinking about what is RIGHT, Paul looks to the end of his work in God's kingdom. Paul writes, "Now there is in store for me the crown of RIGHTEOUSNESS, which the Lord, the RIGHTEOUS Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing. 2 Timothy 4.

And when He comes with trumpet sound, O may I then in Him be found, clothed in His RIGHTEOUSNESS alone, redeemed to stand before His throne! Clothed in His righteousness alone. Think about that! "Whatever is RIGHT, think about such things. And the God of peace will be with you." Philipians 4:8.

As Jesus lives,
Pastor Paul Egger



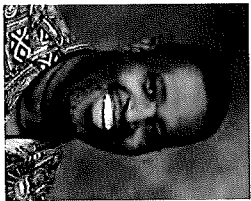
On a Mission
to Support

Christ's Mission!

July 2026

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

Engaged in Mission: Congregation and Community



Step into a gathering alive with purpose and possibility—where passionate voices, heartfelt prayers, and practical wisdom converge. The "Engaged in Mission: Congregation and Community" conference on September 18–19 at St. Paul in Carroll is for clergy and laity from across the region who are eager to ignite new energy for evangelism and outreach. From the first plenary session to the closing prayer, participants will be immersed in dynamic discussions, hands-on workshops, and inspiring fellowship, all designed to equip and empower every believer for the mission field—both within the congregation and beyond its walls. The event is a partnership with the Office of National Mission of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It will feature plenary sessions and targeted sectionals led by Rev. Dr. Heath Trampe and Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff.
Key sessions will include:

- Evangelism and Outreach:** Rev. Dr. Trampe with strategies for effective outreach.
- Outreach at the Congregational Level:** Clergy will explore practical approaches, while laity will discuss the "Priesthood of All Believers and Evangelism" with Dr. Cundiff.
- The Church and Mission:** Dr. Cundiff will the Church's role in mission work.
- Discipleship Ministry and Church Planting:** Clergy will focus on discipleship, laity will be introduced to the LCMS church-planting process.

The Rev. Dr. B.Keith Haney—Assistant to the President for Mission, Stewardship, and Human Care
keith@iowadistrictwest.org

It is never too early to be thinking about a donation to the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization. Our students are enjoying summer, but we are busy ensuring every student has the proper funding to make Lutheran education possible. Help our organization serve a record number of students by planning your 2026 donation to ensure future students have ample tuition assistance. More students are able to hear the gospel daily when you give today!



IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL
TUITION ORGANIZATION

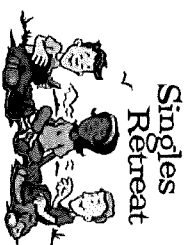
Give what you can, when you can, to the work of the Lord.



The Iowa District West Office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day. We wish everyone a safe and happy 4th of July!

Lutheran Singles

Adults ages 21–41 are invited to join us for the 4th Annual LCMS Lutheran Singles Retreat August 21–23! Enjoy a weekend of fellowship, faith-building, and fun at the beautiful setting of Camp Okobojo. Cost is \$100 for the weekend (includes lodging, meals, and activities). This retreat is an opportunity to grow in your faith, experience uplifting worship, engaging conversations, and relaxing time in God's creation. Contact Rev. Dr. Keith Schweitzer for more information at 641-745-5143 or keithlcm@gmail.com.



JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 3... District Office closed
- July 4... Independence Day
- July 18-23... Synod Convention, Phoenix, AZ

Upcoming Events

- August 7... Early Childhood Conference, Gloria Dei, Urbandale
- August 28-29... Spiritual First Aid, Fort Dodge
- September 21-22... Fall Pastor's Conference, Gloria Dei, Urbandale
- September 29... Administrative Assistants Conference, Fort Dodge
- October 2-4... Senior Youth Gathering, Camp Okobojo
- October 9-11... Pastor's Wives Retreat, Camp Okobojo
- October 24-25... Junior Youth Gathering, Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines

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



Update

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- June 14-18: CUB WEEK 1
- June 20: Auxiliary Quilt Auction - 12:30 pm
- June 21-27: Minneboji
- June 28-July 3: 4TH OF JULY FAMILY RETREAT
- July 5: OMELET BRUNCH - 9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM
- July 5-11: JUNIOR HIGH WEEK
- July 9-12: J.O.Y. CAMP 2
- July 12-18: CUB WEEK II
- July 19-25: Youth Week

REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN AT CAMP OKOBOJI! Registration information is available online at campokoboji.org. Have your youth join us for Junior High Week, Cub Weeks, or Youth Week, as well as our Family Retreats.

Summer Chaplain Schedule
Join us for worship - 9 am

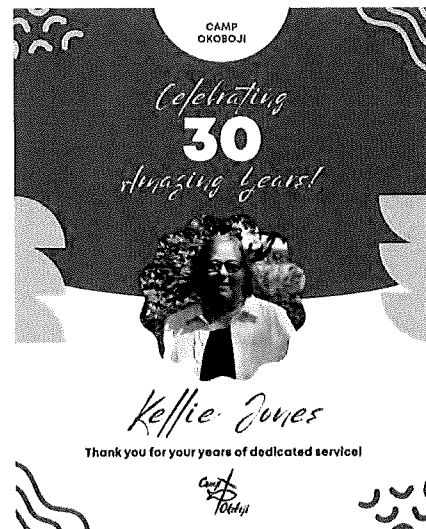
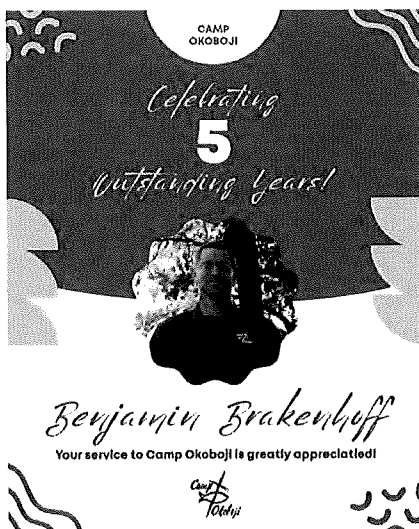
Thank You!

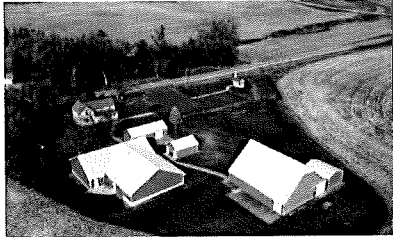
THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

- A big thanks to Dean Peterson for helping us take down several dead trees and trim up some others. I'm glad he's not afraid of heights!

We give thanks to God for 5 years of service from Benjamin Brakenhoff, our Maintenance Director. We also praise God for 30 years of faithful service from Kellie Jones, our Operations Director.

- June 14 - Rev. Dr. B Keith Haney – IDW
- June 21 - Rev. Andrew Noble – Arcadia
- 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 - Rev. Dr. Kristopher Morris - Seward, NE
- August 16 - Rev. Dr. Joshua Lowe – Hawarden
- August 23 - TBD
- August 30 - Rev. Benjamin Dose – Algona
- September 6 - Rev. Robert Zellmer – Lawton





MISSION CENTRAL
LCMS Mission Advancement
 40718 County Highway E-16
 Mapleton, Iowa 51034
 www.missioncentral.us



Missionary Gary Thies, Director and Mission Counselor
Rev. Steve Schulz, Mission Advocate and Pastoral Advisor
Mr. Jim Schroeder, Gift and Estate Planning Counselor

Gary.Thies@lcms.org (712) 251-1264
Steve.Schulz@lcms.org (712) 882-1029
Jim.Schroeder@lcms.org (515) 490-7371

July 2026



We celebrated the Ascension of our Lord on May 14, 2026, with a special meal and a worship service in the barn/worship center. And what a celebration it was! We were blessed to have Rev. Richard Snow, President of the Nebraska District, as our guest preacher, and he shared the Good News about Jesus with a barn full of missionaries from Iowa and Nebraska.

Cody Mock, originally from Pella, Iowa, was here to provide us with a mission update on May 16. Cody serves our Lord in Eurasia as a computer (IT) expert who works with our missionaries to help them use the latest technology to reach out to people with the Gospel. It was so great to have him, and his family visit us at Mission Central.

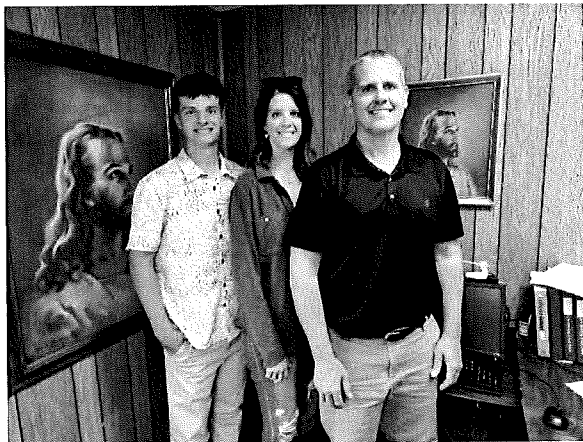


Pastor Martin Hill and members from Trinity, Martinsburg, NE, plus a few folks from other surrounding congregations, brought a busload here to celebrate a special Ascension "Mission" Sunday on May 17, 2026. They also had a full tour of our campus and a fabulous noon meal. It was a wonderful, joyful time of fellowship and celebration that we will always remember.



May 23, 2026, was a day filled with joy and thanksgiving, as we were blessed to have TWO veteran missionaries here with us. Paul and Gena Nelson came all the way from Indonesia, AND Adam and Christine Lehman and their family are serving in Puerto Rico. They had such wonderful pictures to show and stories to tell of how the Lord Jesus is blessing their work in truly miraculous ways.

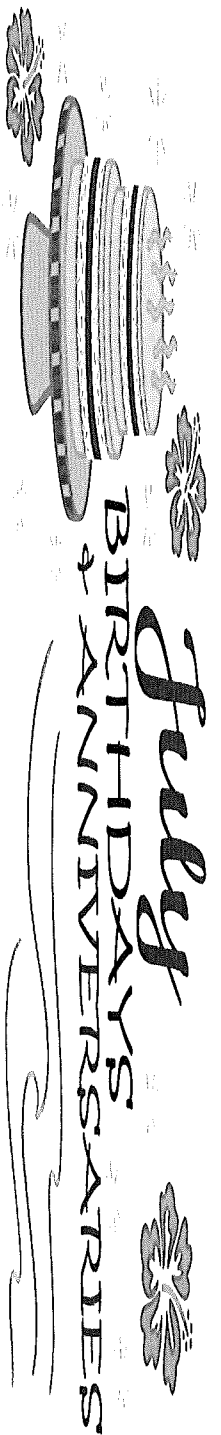
A very special group came to visit us on May 27, 2026, from Winterset, Iowa—the Bucchop and Niklasen families. Every single one of those young people knew the story of our dear Savior Jesus. They enjoyed a full tour of our campus, and we so very much enjoyed their visit. It will be a day they will always remember.



On May 12, 2026, we had several visitors from Pierce, Neb. Ryan, Brooke, and Brock Collison came to visit us in the morning, and Gahlen and

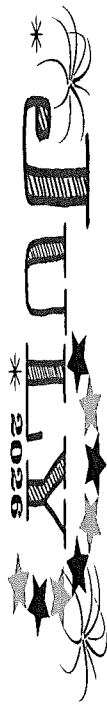



Diane Anderson came in the afternoon. They had a full tour of our facilities because some of them had never been to Mission Central before. It was a very special time that they will always remember.



July Birthdays & Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Matthew McNelly Mark & Diane Schurke Denny & Diamme Vetter	2 Ashley Eggers Levi Lenz	3 Scott Linde	4 Corey Erps
5 Dawn Luetje Gary & Jane Vetter	6 Tyler Ehlers Ann Peterson	7 Andrea Gronau Betty Klink	8 Devon Ehlers Daxton Schurke	9 Steve Koch Joel & Clarae Mumm	10 Maren Myers	11 Connie Bradshaw Blakely Bruch
12 Brooklyn Brockman Darin & Donna Schurke	13 Sophia Koch Diamme Vetter	14 Ross & Michelle Schuette	15 15	16 Chase Eggers Ellie Eggers Dan Wittrock	17 17	18 Jay Luetje Randy Stoelk Mason Stork Rick Vetter
19	20 Brad Maasen	21	22 Steve Leiting	23	24 Kathy Kraus	25 Mark & Donna Rickers
26 Andrew Myers	27 Lane Kraus Caden Travis Denny Vetter	28 Dawn Melton Nick & Krista Koch	29 Doug Gronau	30 Lola Ehlers	31 Kyle Bass	



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

USHERS

Rick Vetter
 Jeff Luetje
 Rob Klinsk

Gene Thiedeman
 Kim Brockman

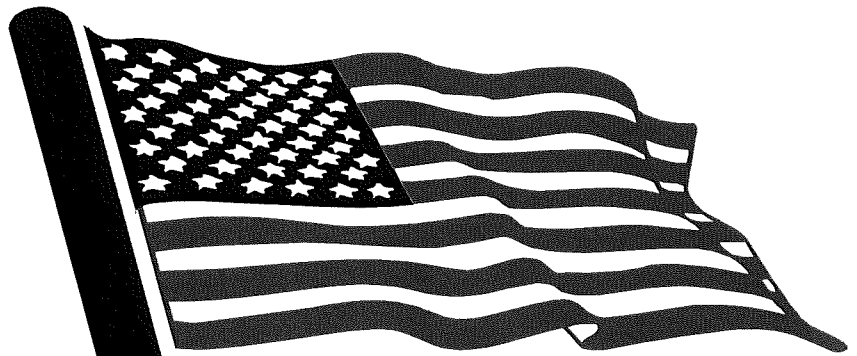
Chancel Circle
 Marilyn Mumm
 Parish Circle
 Deb Owen Dawn Melton

Martha Circle
 Marilyn Mumm

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
118 W. Tracy St
Box 59
Arcadia, IA 51430
Rev Andy Noble
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712-689-2441

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Arcadia, IA 51430
Standard Mail

Friends who care	
Divine Worship	10:00 am



JULY