

# Zion Proclaimer

**September 2026**

**Zion Lutheran Church**

**118 W Tracy St**

**Arcadia, IA 51430**

**712-689-2441**

**zionluth@westianet.net**

**Rev. Andy Noble**

## **Elder's**

**Doug Ehles  
Randy Bruhn**

## **Ushers**

**Dale Wittrock  
Gary Lenz  
Kurt Branning  
Kyle Lenz  
Jake Wittrock  
Kelly Riesberg**

## **L.W.M.L**

### **Parish Circle**

**Beth Wittrock  
Cindy Brockman**

### **Chancel Circle**

**Beth Wittrock  
Alison Ehlers  
Your paragraph text**

### **Martha Circle**

**Diane Witt**

## **Church Council**

### **President:**

**Jeff Luetje**

### **Vice-President**

**Chris Toft**

### **Secretary**

**Kathy Kraus**

### **Treasurer**

**Mary Bruhn**

### **Financial Secretary**

**Paulette Von Glan**

## **ELDERS**

**Doug Ehlers**

**Randy Bruhn**

**Kyle Bass**

**Ryan Middleton**

**Kevin Skinner**

**Scot Muhlbauer**

## **Bd Education**

**Chad Wittrock**

## **Bd Evangelis**

**Shelli Lenz**

## **Bd Stewardship**

**Lajeane Shiney**

## **Trustees**

**Dwight Ehlers**

**Curtis Ehlers**

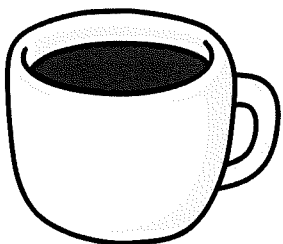
**Roger Liechti**

## **Upcoming Dates**

**9/2/26 7 pm Evening Circle**

**9/9/26 6:30 Midweek Confirmation  
Meeting**

**9/13/26 9 am Rally Sunday  
11 am Church Council**



**Johnny on the Spot Coffee  
truck will be here at Zion  
on 9/13/26 at 9 am**

# “Noble Note”

The summer months have gone by faster than Ryan Neuman's #12 Ford back in his glory days!

And not only did it go by quickly but if many of us utilized the freedom of summer to travel and get out there with the family and enjoy God's creation! But of course, with school, sports, and other extra activities and groups starting back up, the next few months will remain quite busy and fast paced.

But the saving grace is that, with a more structured and consistent schedule, we are all around and are better able to focus more on our time together in worship, study, and fellowship! This is so important because we are often overscheduled and rushing from one thing to another. And even though we enjoy every extra activity and event and group we are involved in and appreciate the benefits they give us, still we need to admit that not everything we fill our time and schedules fills us up in return.

Much like cars, if we don't regularly fill up the tanks of our mind, body, and soul with the correct gas, then we are bound to run dry and break down. Have you ever put diesel fuel in your sports car or unleaded fuel in a semi-truck? It doesn't work well and eventually does some real costly damage to the engine.

Our bodies, minds, and souls operate in the same way and need to be filled with the proper fuel.

As we're reminded in Scripture: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Duet 8:3 & Matt 4:4)

This is why I am always hounding and encouraging us all to a regular worship attendance because in the Divine Service we are filled with God's life-giving Word and Sacraments. It's then that we are weekly "fueled up" and sent out for the following week. But life is often difficult and tiresome, and we tend to quickly burn through our fuel.

So, I'm hoping to start providing several "mid-week refueling pit-stop" opportunities for us to press the brakes, refuel the tank, change the tires, and check the engine. Sure, it's going to be inconvenient and take up more time out of our already overly-scheduled week, and yes, we will have to miss out on other things that are more entertaining and enjoyable, but what we will gain from it will far outweigh any amount of inconvenience faced and fun missed. The race of faith is difficult and long, but thanks be to God that He provides what we need to be refueled and keep going: forgiveness of sins through His Word; restoration and strength through the Sacraments; community and support through the fellowship of the Church! "So let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." (Heb. 10:24-25)

In His Service,  
Pastor Noble

## Harvest Supper



The Annual Turkey Supper will be held on Saturday November 7, at the Westside Community Building. Serving will be from 4:00-7:00 pm. Cost is \$15 each meal. All meals will include: Turkey, Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green beans, Corn dinner roll, salads, and a piece of dessert (apple or Pumpkin) This will be a eat in or drive through event.

## Chicken Supper



AWV STAFF SCHOLARSHIP  
STALEY'S CHICKEN SUPPER

"DRIVE BY STYLE:

WHEN: Wednesday, 9/09/26

TIME: 5:00-7:30 pm

MENU: Staley's Chicken (3 piece)

Red Potatoes

Green Beans

Coleslaw

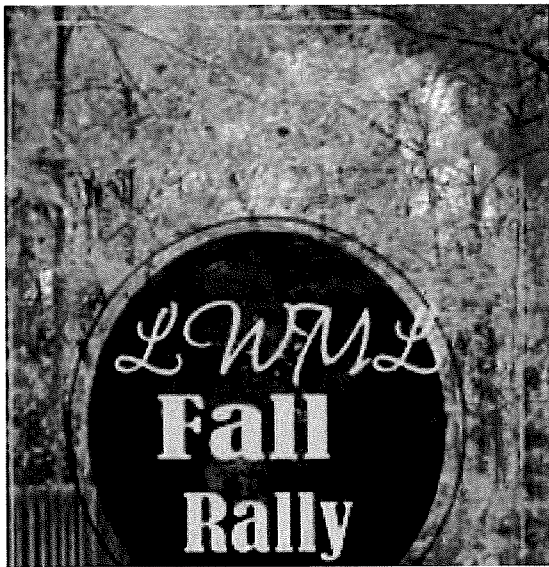
Dinner Roll & Ice Cream Cup

COST: Adults (ages 9 & up) \$20

LINEUP will start on Main Street at the Westside Park and continue North toward the Community Building. AWV staff and members of the senior class will collect tickets or money and deliver dinners at your car.

For advance tickets, call the AWV school at

712-663-4311



#### **EVENING**

##### **CIRCLE:**

Will meet at 7 pm on Wednesday,  
September 2nd here at the church.

Co-Hostess is  
Marilyn Mumm

L.W.M.L Sunday will be October 4th.

##### **PARISH**

##### **CIRCLE:**

Beth Wittrock  
Cindy Brockman

##### **CHANCEL**

##### **CIRCLE**

Beth Wittrock  
Alison Ehlers

Martha Circle  
Diane Witt

The Carroll Zone L.W.M.L Fall Rally will be held on Saturday, September 12th at St.

Paul Lutheran Church in Carroll. The registration cost is \$8. Registration and brunch will begin at 8:30 am. The Guest Speaker will be Sharon Von Qualen on the history of mites in IWD and National.



This reminder goes out endlessly, but sewing circle is ALWAYS in need of sheets, lightweight blankets, and NEW material for making quilt tops, middles and backs. A small group of ladies are the core of this worthwhile project. Quilt tops/backs are made at home and the quilts are tied at church. The large pieces of material (especially sheets) speed up the job! Help is always needed .



#### **RALLY SUNDAY:**

We are ready for another exciting year here at Zion Lutheran Church's Sunday School. Classes get started on September 13th which will be our Rally Sunday. Classes will begin at 9:00 am.



We would love to have your child's address while they are attending college so that we can stay connected with them as a church family. Please give your child's address to the church office

## Youth Gathering



### Iowa District West Jr. High Youth Gathering

The IDW Jr High Youth Gathering (grades 6-8th) will be held Saturday-Sunday, October 24-25 at the Sheraton Hotel in Des Moines. Registration forms and \$87.50 are due to Deb by September 13th The cost is \$175 per person. The church will cover 1/2 of the cost

---

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Rev. Paul Egger

Iowa District West, LCMS

[paul@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:paul@iowadistrictwest.org) / 515-576-7666

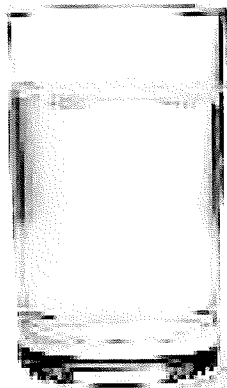
---

## Purity

I'm going to start my timer. 20 seconds. For 20 seconds, think of pure water. Nothing else. Just pure water. 20 seconds. Go!

How'd you do? Be honest. Were you able the full 20 seconds to think of pure water and pure water ONLY?

When I try, I very quickly picture polluted water.



God says, "Think about what is pure." Philippians 4. It's difficult, isn't it?!

How can I go from pure thoughts -- and in the blink of an eye, impure thoughts?! Lord, have mercy!

Saint and sinner. Godly mind wrapped in ungodliness. My mind needs help -- work -- training!

Speaking of training, consider this thought from a 100+ year old devotion: How should you, then, test amusements? Ask if they draw you nearer to Christ or remove you farther from Him; if they increase or diminish respect for Christian manhood and womanhood; if they

increase or lessen love for virtue and PURITY; if they make resistance to temptation easier or harder; and if they redound to the glory of God.

During our Evening Prayer service (LSB p.244) we sing:

*Joyous light of glory: of the immortal Father;*

*heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.*

*We have come to the setting of the sun,*

*and we look to the evening light.*

*We sing to God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:*

*You are worthy of being praised with PURE voices forever.*

Pure voices -- think of such things.

And then we pray: Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord -- and let Your loving kindness descend on us -- that with PURIFIED minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host.

God's apostle writes, "Whatever is PURE, think about such things." **Jesus is PURE.** The Greek word is "AGNA." Agna -- PURE --means "fit to be brought into God's presence & used in His service." The service of purifying you and me. God the Son! Perfect servant! Jesus certainly is "fit to be brought into God's presence and used in His service."

Jesus is PURE. Agna. It means "without stain or error or sin." Jesus certainly is w/o stain or error or sin.

Jesus is PURE. So think of Jesus and the God of peace will be with you.

**Jesus PURIFIES us!** 400 years before Jesus... God's prophet writes: When Jesus comes, He will sit as a refiner and PURIFIER. Malachi 3:3.

Daniel, the lions' den guy, writes: Many will be PURIFIED, made spotless and refined -- but the wicked will continue to be wicked. 12:10.

We think of pure air yet live in the reality of polluted air.

We think of pure water while knowing it will always have some impurities.

Our pure clothes and pure furniture over time pick up dirt and stains.

Earlier you thought briefly of pure water. Think of the expense of purifying water. Water treatment plants. Various home water purification units.

Think about Jesus' expense on His cross to purify us -- the Pure One for us impure many. Think about these things. Jesus spent much to purify you and me. Jesus spent everything to purify us. Think about such things!

Whatever is PURE -- think about these things -- and the God of peace will be with you.

*Pastor Paul Egger*

*President, Iowa District West*



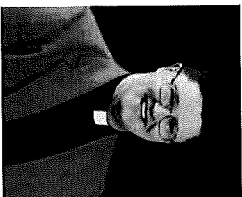
## On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

**September 2026**

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: [emilie@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:emilie@iowadistrictwest.org)

### *Why Do We Tell Other People About Jesus?*

Every Sunday, we rejoice in the forgiveness of sins that our Lord Jesus delivers to us in Word and Sacrament. We celebrate the eternal life that is given to us as a free gift because of the death and resurrection of Jesus. But what if there were no Jesus?



What if there were no Savior who lived a perfect life in your place, as your Substitute? What if there were no Redeemer who bled and died on the cross to take the horrible punishment for all your sins? What if there were no victorious Lord who rose from the dead to give you a new life with Him that will last forever? What if you had never heard about Jesus?

There are only two kinds of people in this world: those who trust in Jesus and those who trust in something else. Satan doesn't care what the "something else" is; he just doesn't want you trusting in Jesus. There are millions of people in this world who are trusting in something else that brings them nothing but doubt and fear, hopelessness and despair. They need Jesus!

That's why we tell other people about Jesus. We tell our children and grandchildren, our friends and neighbors, about Jesus! We send and support missionaries around the world to tell people about Jesus because we want them to have what we have! We want them to have the comfort and joy, hope and peace, that we have in Jesus. That's what Mission Central is all about. It's all about Jesus! This blessed assurance is ours, so let's share it!

**Rev. Steve Schulz—Assistant Director—Mission Central**

[steve.schulz@lcms.org](mailto:steve.schulz@lcms.org)

### **2026 IDW Youth Gatherings**

It is once again time to get registered for the 2026 Iowa District West Youth Gatherings. Senior Youth Gathering will be October 3-4 (with optional Friday, October 2, accommodations) at Camp Okoboji. Deadline to register for the Senior Gathering is **September 15**. The Junior Gathering will take place October 24-25 at the West Des Moines Sheraton Hotel. Junior Gathering registration deadline is **September 22**. For all gathering information, forms and a link to the registration pages, visit the District Youth Ministry webpage at: <https://idwlcms.org/youth-ministry.php>



### **Conflict & Difficult Conversations Workshop**



Join Rev. Dr. Todd Jenks for a practical and faith-centered workshop on navigating conflict and difficult conversations with wisdom, confidence, and Christ-centered communication on Saturday, November 7 at the IDW District Office in Fort Dodge. Participants will learn research-backed strategies and biblical principles for handling disagreements, reducing anxiety in challenging conversations, and fostering healthier relationships in families, workplaces, and congregations. This free event is open to all church workers and laity. Scan QR for more information.

### **Campus Ministry**

Have a student moving to college? Connect your college students to a Lutheran campus ministry. Visit <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/national/campus-ministry/lcms-u-chapter-map> to connect students with Lutheran peers and to stay connected to a faith family.



### **SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

September 7...Labor Day, District Office Closed  
September 18-19...Engaged in Mission Conference, St. Paul, Carroll  
September 21-22...Fall Pastor's Conference, Gloria Dei, Urbandale  
September 29...Administrative Assistants Conference, Fort Dodge

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

October 2-4...Senior Youth Gathering, Camp Okoboji  
October 9-11...Pastor's Wives Retreat, Camp Okoboji  
October 24-25...Junior Youth Gathering, Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines  
November 7...Conflict & Difficult Conversations Workshop, Fort Dodge  
November 7...Treasurers Workshop, Denison

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





# Update

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Sept 6: 9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM OMELET BRUNCH  
Sept. 9-11: Outdoor Education Session 1  
Sept. 16-18: Outdoor Education Session 2  
Sept. 23-25: Outdoor Education Session 3  
Oct. 2-4: IDW Senior High Youth Gathering  
Oct 4: 9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM OMELET BRUNCH  
Oct. 9-10: CAMP OKOBOJI FALL VOLUNTEER WEEKEND  
Oct. 9-11: IDW Pastors Wives Retreat



### Summer Chaplain Schedule

Join us for worship - 9 am

August 23 - Rev. Chris Nitzel - Hartley  
August 30 - Rev. Benjamin Dose - Algona  
September 6 - Rev. Robert Zellmer - Lawton

## Thank You!

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

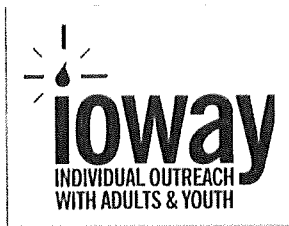
- A very special THANKS to all the volunteers who serve as Youth Camp Deans, Staff and Counselors! You are greatly appreciated! We couldn't do our ministry well without you!



### Fall Volunteer Weekend

Our Fall Volunteer Weekend will be Oct. 9-10. We will also host a dinner on Saturday evening at 5 pm to honor and celebrate our volunteers that help us throughout the year. Fall Volunteer Weekend is a great way to share your time and talents while you enjoy God's Creation at Camp Okoboji. Help prepare Camp Okoboji for the upcoming winter. Room and board will be provided for volunteers. Please save the date and make plans to come and help! For room and board accommodations, please call the office at (712) 337-3325!

We give thanks for our Summer Staff this year. We are severely understaffed, and the staff we have are working so hard. We are thankful for Martin, Jocelyn, Kimmy, Lucy, Chayo, and Paco, as well as Logan and Danielle (not pictured - Discipleship Interns). Please continue to speak with youth in your communities and congregations about serving at Camp in the future.



Julie Mann, IOWAY Coordinator  
[julie@iowadistrictwest.org](mailto:julie@iowadistrictwest.org)  
515-408-9696

This past year, I've been chatting with quite a few folks about ways to combat food insecurity among our neighbors and within our communities. Thank you for reaching out and sharing your ideas!

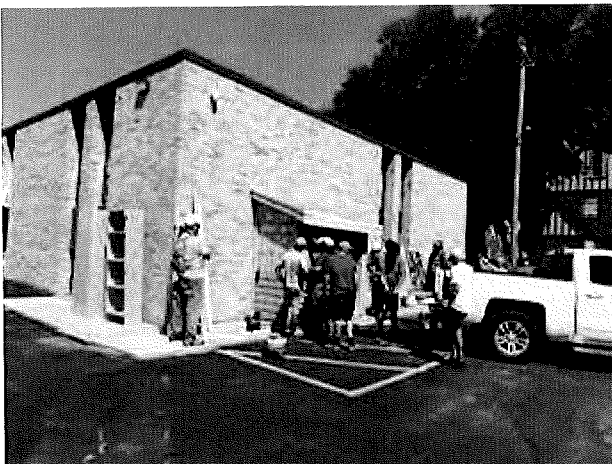
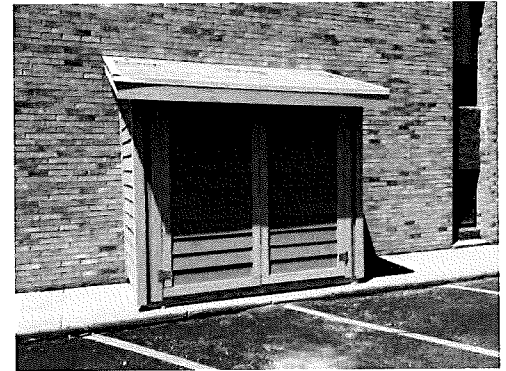
According to Food Bank of Iowa's 2025 statistics, "12% of Iowans (1 in 8) and 16.6% of Iowa children (1 in 6) face food insecurity. All 99 Iowa counties saw an increase in food insecurity in the latest report."

If you are like me, you have probably stood in front of your refrigerator or pantry and said, "Ugh, there is nothing to eat in here!" In reality, there was a bounty of options available; you just weren't in the mood for any of them at that moment. Or perhaps, as often happens in my house, the night before trash pickup involves throwing away food that wasn't eaten and has gone bad. It's a simple example of food waste.

I encourage you to consider some of the following ways to help:

- Find a food pantry in your community and make a donation. Please ensure that any donated items have expiration dates at least six months away.
- If you garden, share your harvest with neighbors or donate it through a community organization.
- Start a Blessing Box at your church or school. They are fairly simple to build and maintain.
- Volunteer at a food distribution site and learn more about the needs in your area.
- Begin planning a community garden for next year's growing season.
- Volunteer for Meals on Wheels or similar programs.
- Prepare and deliver meals to shut-in members of your congregation, and take time to sit and visit with them.
- Check your refrigerator, freezer, cupboards, and pantry before shopping so you can avoid purchasing items you already have. Consider buying smaller quantities of perishable foods to reduce spoilage and waste.

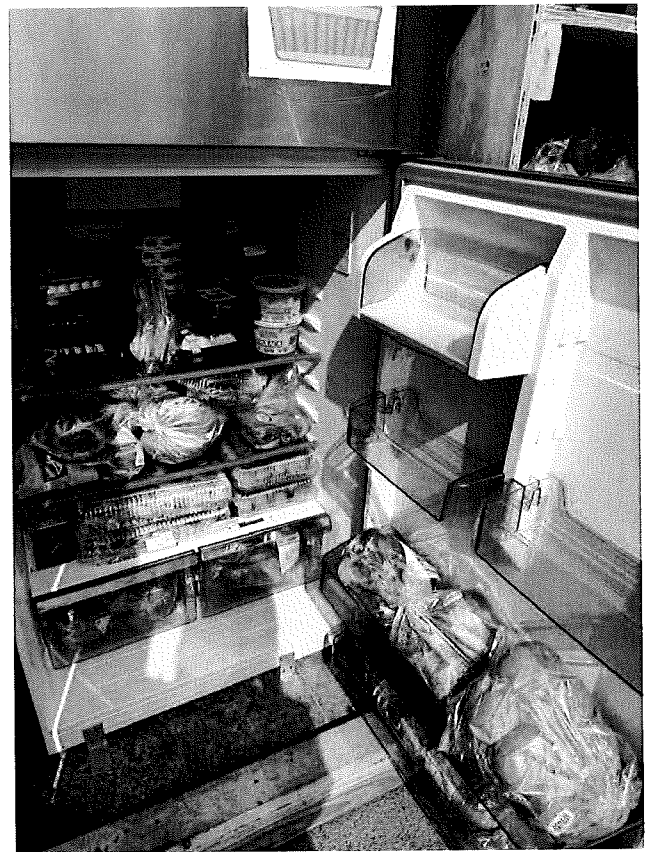
A newer idea that Timothy Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs has embraced is hosting a community refrigerator and pantry on church property. There are several community refrigerators in the Council Bluffs area and more than two dozen in the Des Moines metro area. I am currently exploring how this concept might be adapted to serve some of our smaller communities. Again, please reach out with your ideas!

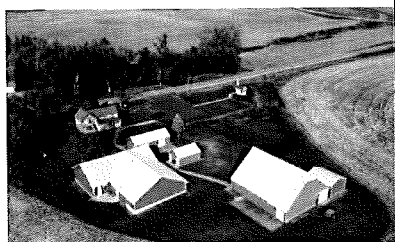


Community refrigerators are a simple yet powerful way to address food insecurity while also reducing food waste. Often located in easily accessible public spaces, they function as shared refrigerators where anyone can leave or take food. Individuals, local businesses, restaurants, and community organizations contribute fresh and healthy items. There are no forms to complete, no income requirements, and no questions asked, just a space built on trust, kindness, and mutual support.

What makes community refrigerators especially valuable is their ability to bring people together. A family facing financial hardship can pick up groceries they need. Someone experiencing housing instability can access a meal. Restaurants and grocery stores can donate excess food that might otherwise go to waste. Community refrigerators also foster collaboration. Volunteers help keep them clean and well-stocked, local organizations spread awareness and provide support, and businesses contribute food regularly. Over time, these efforts create a broader network of care that extends far beyond the refrigerator itself.

There are many ways we can reach out and make a difference in addressing this great need throughout our district and state. God has indeed blessed us, and in turn, let us be a blessing to others.





# MISSION CENTRAL

*LCMS Mission Advancement*

40718 County Highway E-16

Mapleton, Iowa 51034

[www.missioncentral.us](http://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

**September 2026**



It was a glorious day here on Wednesday, July 8. We had three special guests from the LCMS International Center in St. Louis, Missouri: Brian Gauthier, Dan Galchutt, and Katie Fiene. It was wonderful to visit with them.



That same day, we were also blessed to hear mission updates from David Preus in Eurasia and Andrew and Noel Schaff in Taiwan. Many people came to meet our missionaries and tour our campus. Praise God for all His blessings!



We celebrated a "triple-header" on July 11, with three missionary families providing us with exciting updates: the Wasmunds from Korea, Shawnen Trump (our Regional Director for all of Africa), and Raphael and Jamielynn Flores from Chile. Three missionaries. Three different regions of the world. Lots of people came to hear their presentations. WOW!

Our Lord is certainly doing amazing things to bring people to faith in Him as their Savior. Please keep these special missionaries in your daily prayers.



July 15 was HOT, but that didn't stop these special folks from Nebraska and Wisconsin. They wanted to see for themselves what the Lord has done out here in the "middle of nowhere." Many of them had never been here before, so we gave them the full tour!

They were treated to some very visible reminders of **why** we send missionaries around the world to share the Good News of Jesus. It was a day they will always remember.



Each year, we host a special catered meal for our volunteers at Mission Central to express our thanks and appreciation for all they do. On July 18, we gathered for our meal and heard a report on the many blessings God has granted us over the past year.

We also learned about the new missionaries who will be deploying to the mission field in the coming months, as well as the veteran missionaries who have visited Mission Central during the past year. It was a wonderful day to come together, and we thank God for all our faithful

volunteers and the important role they play in this ministry.

It was another "real miracle day" at the world-famous Mission Central! A wonderful group from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Milford, Nebraska, visited on Thursday, July 30, and what a joy it was to have them!

This trip was organized by Missionary Tim Rippstein and Rev. Mark and Carol Weber. What a special blessing it was for these guests to tour our entire campus. It was truly a day they will never forget.





| SUNDAY                                                                                                   | MONDAY                                                    | TUESDAY                                                                               | WEDNESDAY                           | THURSDAY                                                   | FRIDAY                                                                                                    | SATURDAY                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                          |                                                           | 1<br>Sandy Hunter                                                                     | 2                                   | 3<br>Zach Kraus<br>Thea Schurke<br>Roger & Beth<br>Liechti | 4<br>Ryan Ehlers                                                                                          | 5<br>Paul & Peggy<br>Himmers                                          |
| 6<br>Dalton Ehlers<br>Jessica Hensel<br>Jenni Middleton<br>Laynie Muhlbauer<br>Wyatt & Kenzie<br>Neumann | 7<br>Anna Noble<br>Justin & Cailynn<br>Heiman             | 8<br>Connor Hansman<br>Jenna Hausman<br>Brynn Koch<br>Sebastian Kraus<br>Cara Rosener | 9                                   | 10<br>Magen Fineran                                        | 11<br>Todd Gronau<br>Blake Liechti<br>Rachel Mohr<br>Kevin & Sara<br>Skinner                              | 12<br>Laurie Anderson<br>Kevin Skinner                                |
| 13<br>Delby Bruhn<br>Hunter Klink<br>Nate & Casey<br>Bruch                                               | 14<br>Andrew & Kelsey<br>Lupole                           | 15                                                                                    | 16<br>Matthew Dirks<br>Amanda Kraus | 17<br>Michael Brockman<br>Katelyn Himmers                  | 18<br>Lisa Gallagher<br>Tanner Hagge<br>Linda Irlbeck<br>Nick & Jami<br>Backhaus<br>Nic & Cara<br>Rosener | 19<br>Heather Hansman<br>Jamie Hausman<br>Al Hunter<br>Clayton Vetter |
| 20                                                                                                       | 21<br>Dale Lenz<br>Kelsie Weier<br>Gail & Marilyn<br>Mumm | 22<br>Taylee Travis<br>Matt & Kelli Dirks                                             | 23                                  | 24<br>Andrew & Megan<br>Myers                              | 25<br>Kris Hoffman                                                                                        | 26<br>Kalon Cleveland<br>Gary Lenz<br>Jace & Kelsea<br>Hamley         |
| 27<br>Rich & Christy<br>Hanson                                                                           | 28<br>Chris Ehlers<br>Neil Liechti<br>Michael Mahn        | 29<br>Darin Schurke<br>Willard Scott<br>Eric Vetter                                   | 30<br>Dwight Ehlers<br>Andy Noble   |                                                            |                                                                                                           |                                                                       |

# SEPTEMBER

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

## Ushers

Dale Wittrock Gary Lenz  
Kurt Branning Jake Wittrock  
Kyle Lenz Doug Gronau  
Kelly Riesberg Ty Muhlbauer

Parish Circle  
Beth Wittrock  
Cindy Brockman  
Chancel Circle  
Beth Wittrock  
Alison Ehlers