

THE IMMANUEL MESSENGER

BELIEVE
the
GOOD
NEWS

AUGUST 2023

Volume 37, Issue 10



From Your Pastor

Practicing the Secret

Amy Hall of *Stand to Reason* (www.str.org) introduces us to a wonderful, grace-filled truth with these words of introduction: “I don’t need to tell you that life is hard. The older you are, the better you know this. The heavy burdens of past grief, present suffering, and anxiety about the future can easily overwhelm us, but they don’t have to. There’s wisdom about handling suffering to be learned from those who have gone through it before us.”

Hall then continues with an illustration given by Tim Challies, who wrote about the unexpected loss of his only son in *Seasons of Sorrow: The Pain of Loss and the Comfort of God*. He had this to say:

“My father was a landscaper, and he used to take me to work with him from time to time. I remember one day when he brought me with him to be an unskilled but low-cost source of manual labor. He showed me a skid of bricks that had been delivered to the end of a client’s driveway and then a walkway he was building to the front door. My job was to get the bricks from the first spot to the second. I remember gazing at the giant pile with despair. How could I, at twelve or thirteen years of age, possibly move what looked like a literal ton of bricks? I realized I would have to do it the only way I could. Piece by piece, brick by brick, step by step, I carried each one to my father. He laid them as quickly as I could bring them to him until a perfect path led to the entrance of that beautiful home.

“And just so, while God has called me to bear my grief for a lifetime, and to do so faithfully, He has not called me to bear the entire weight of it all at once. As the pile is made up of many bricks, a lifetime is made up of many days. The burden of a whole lifetime’s grief would be far too heavy to bear, and the challenge of a whole lifetime’s faithfulness far too daunting to consider. But the God who knows my frailty has broken down that assignment into little parts, little days, and has promised a grace that is sufficient for

each one of them. My challenge for today is not to bear the grief of a lifetime or to be faithful to the end. But only to carry today’s grief and only to be faithful on this one little day that He has spread out before me.”

The truth “discovered” by Tim Challies by experience, and learned by many unnamed Christians throughout time, was actually the “secret” revealed by Paul two thousand years ago in Philippians 4. Here’s what he said about living in an unpredictable world where suffering and death are inevitable: “I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know both how to have a little, and I know how to have a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through Him who strengthens me” (4:11-13).

That’s the secret: “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” That is the truth we have to practice trusting, and as we practice, we will experience God’s faithfulness and get better at trusting over time. There are two related principles in Challies’ illustration for us to grasp and learn to live by: 1) Don’t try to bear all the griefs and sufferings ahead of you all at once—especially not the imagined ones; and, 2) Trust that God will give you what you need to bear your grief and suffering on the day when you need it. This is how we fight both despair about our present and anxiety about our future. Letting go of anxiety and trusting God like this can feel like leaping off a cliff into an abyss. But the ledge is there, just out of sight, and it will hold you.

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32).

Your fellow servant for Christ,

Pastor Mahuken



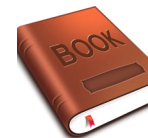
August 1.....**Brenda Brinkley**
 TJ Bubke
 Jennifer Hennings
 Kerry Meseck
 Kandi Teut
August 2.....**Dorothy Pingel**
 Mara Streck
 Morgan Wood
August 3.....**Trisha Abbe**
 Bennett Lickteig
August 4.....**MacKenzie Jorgensen**
 Whitney Weiss
August 6.....**Alex Harm**
August 8.....**Deidra Brown**
 Marlene Hight
August 9.....**Jay Fink**
 Carmen Schmidt
 Jeramie Streck
August 10.....**Justin Johannsen**
 Mariya Streck
August 11.....**JoAnn Clausen**
 Jerry Ernst
 Joshua Mitchell
 Calvin Segebart
August 12.....**Tamara Chubb**
August 13.....**Mackenzie Teut**
 Carol Walde
August 14.....**Joyce Detlefsen**
August 16.....**Jeffery Hummel**
 Roger Prussing
August 17.....**Lori Kragel**
August 18.....**Derick Bruhn**
 Andy Hennings
 Delores Sonksen
August 19.....**Charlotte Ogren**
August 20.....**Brently Cameron**
August 21.....**Allan Gierstorf**
August 22.....**Coleen Fredericks**
 Aubryana Hoffmeier
August 23.....**Cameron Brown**
 Hailey Brown
 Cory Martinson
 Steve Slater
 Cindy Stoppel
 Logan Stoppel
 Weston Stoppel
August 24.....**Austin Otto**
 Joann Riessen
August 25.....**Mckinzie Hargens**
August 26.....**Francisco Cruz**
 Christine Wunschel
August 28.....**Donna Harm**
 Jeff Kragel
 Judy Schultz
August 29.....**Amanda Ashbrook**
 Maria Valdez
August 30.....**Dustin Ogren**
 J'Lynn Schmidt
 Jace Schmidt
 Denice Schultz
August 31.....**Trevor Kline**
 Troy Kline
 Matthew Wunschel

Harry & Kay Riessen.....**August 1, 1987**
Lydell & Lauri Schoenfeld.....**August 2, 2008**
Dakin & Mary Lynn Schultz**August 5, 2000**
Mike & Kathy Korner**August 7, 1976**
Matt & Dana Kolln**August 11, 2018**
Lowell & Judy Lee..... **(50th) August 11, 1973**
Neal & Doris Nahnsen**August 12, 1989**
Mike & Melanie Hargens.....**August 14, 2004**
Kevin & Jill Andresen.....**August 15, 1987**
Troy & Kris Kluender**August 15, 1987**
Derek & Beth Rothe**August 15, 2020**
Erik & Crystal Bowman**August 16, 2008**
Derick & Amanda Bruhn**August 23, 2003**
Craig & K'Lynn Harm**August 24, 1991**
Rodney & Shelley Segebart**August 25, 1990**
Josh & Ashley Hanke**August 31, 2019**

Please notify the office of any omissions or corrections.



From the Church Record Book



Baptized: *“Let the little children come unto Me....”*

June 17, 2023
Kassidi Hennings

Adult Confirmation: *“Welcome in the name of the Lord...”*

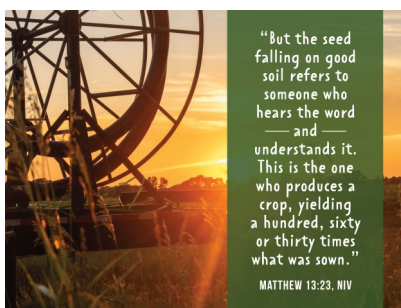
June 17, 2023
Kassidi Hennings

Marriages: *“...and the two became one.”*

Austin Hennings and Kassidi Pranschke, were married at Immanuel on June 3, 2023.

Dismissals: *“May God continue to bless you.”*

Dolly Swearingen was released on June 11, 2023.





Name Your Own Price Garage Sale

Saturday, August 19
8:30 am—3:30 pm
St. John's Lutheran Church
17 S Orchard, Kiron

All Proceeds go to Missions

Serving: coffee, cinnamon rolls,
loose meats and chips.



August 23

- * First Day of Public School
- * Preschool Open House @ 6 pm
- * Parent/Confirmand Orientation Meeting @ 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

August 29

- * First Day of Preschool

September 10

- * Sunday School Rally Day

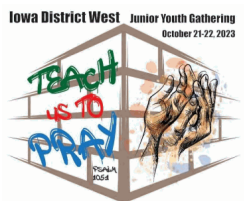


Iowa District West Youth Gatherings

Registration information will be coming out soon!

Junior Youth Gathering

October 21-22, 2023



The Sheraton-West Des Moines
Topic: Teach Us to Pray
Theme Verse: Psalm 105:1

*"Oh give thanks to the Lord;
call upon His name; make known
His deeds among the peoples!"*

Senior Youth Gathering

November 17-19, 2023



Holiday Inn at the Airport-Des Moines
Topic: Ready, Set, Go
Theme Verse: Matthew 28:19-20a

*"Go therefore and make disciples of
all nations, baptizing them in the
name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy
Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have
commanded you."*

"FOR HER, WITH HER"
Pregnancy Center Volunteer Training

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A PREGNANT WOMAN IN NEED? THIS FREE TRAINING WILL EQUIP YOU TO WORK AS A VOLUNTEER MENTOR IN OUR DENISON AND CARROLL PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTERS.

Training Dates:

Mondays 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2 in Denison OR

Tuesdays 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26 in Carroll
Training will be at 6:30 pm at both sites

LEARN OUR NON-JUDGMENTAL, PRO-WOMAN, PRO-BABY, PRO-LIFE APPROACH TO HELPING WOMEN IN DIFFICULT PREGNANCY SITUATIONS.

EMAIL JANETTE@CROSSROADSOFCRAWFORDCOUNTY.ORG TO SIGN UP!

THIS TRAINING IS PROVIDED THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN:



**HEALTHY TOGETHER
HEALTHY WORKERS/
HEALTHY CHURCH**



OCTOBER 6-7

St. Paul Lutheran Church
400 S 13th Street, Fort Dodge, IA
LODGING INCLUDED FOR CHURCH WORKERS
ALL MEALS COVERED BY SPONSORS

The last few years have put tremendous stress on our rostered workers, congregational leaders, and members. In partnership with the LCMS, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Lutheran Family Service and Iowa District West, this retreat will provide you with a time to refresh and reinvigorate. Join us for this time to reboot.

Friday - Dinner & Evening Program

6 PM - 9 PM
"The Sabbath Breaker"
Keynote: Dr. Dale Meyer

Saturday - Major Forum Part 2

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
"Learning Anew the Fullness of our Faith in Jesus"
Dr. Dale Meyer

Saturday - Major Forum Part 1

9 AM - 10 AM
"It's a Great Time to be the Church! Really?"
Dr. Dale Meyer | Concordia Seminary - Emeritus President, Office of the President & Emeritus Professor of Practical Theology

Saturday - Lunch

12:15-1:00 PM

Saturday - Sectional 2

1:00 PM -2:00 PM

Saturday - Sectional 1

10:15 AM - 11:00 AM

Saturday - Closing

2:10-2:30 PM

Sectional Topics Include:

Healthy Conversations, Healthy Outreach to Diverse Communities, Healthy Leadership, Healthy Care For the Elderly, Healthy Leadership, Healthy Finances, Healthy Elders, Healthy Churches Recruit Volunteers, Healthy Planning and Goal Setting, and more to be announced!

Event Organized By:



Register by September 1 to reserve with accommodations or September 23 without accommodations
idwlcms.org/human-care.php

~ THE LWML INVITES
ALL LADIES ~



Immanuel LWML had regular meetings in both June and July.

In June, the LWML had its National Convention in Milwaukee which was attended by some of our members. Reports from the convention were given at the July meeting.

We continue to work on getting the chairs purchased for the church library. Other possible projects were discussed.

Visits were made to care facilities and shut-ins and members assisted with Bingo at Gracewell in June.

At every meeting we enjoy our time of fellowship and we are treated to some yummy desserts.

Donna Harm, Secretary

The National LWML Convention was held June 22-25, 2023 in Milwaukee, WI. Pastor and Chris Mahnken, Loretta Riemers, Deb Green and Peggy Wunschel attended.

Here are some of the high-lights:

- * 3,550 in attendance
- * New Mite Goal \$2,350,000!
- * 31 New Mite Goal Projects
- * 1,300 Mission Walkers for Mites raised over \$100,000
- * 125 Golfers for Tee Up for Mites raised \$35,000
- * 1,200 participated in the Servant Events
- * 79 units of blood donated
- * 83 Countries have received LWML Mite projects
- * 309 in the choir

Standing hand-in-hand with sisters in Christ singing the Doxology--Priceless!

From Your library . . .
“Have we got a book for you!”



Distant Echoes
By Colleen Coble

Kaia Oana is a research biologist with Seaworthy Lab Research on Kauai, one of the islands in the beautiful Hawaiian Islands. She has been training an orphan bottlenose dolphin calf, along with two other dolphins, to understand signs and signals that she gives them. She has been working hard with them to prove their worth so that her boss won't carry through with his threat of selling their research center for a more profitable tourist dolphin show.

One morning while she and her brother are out on her boat working with the dolphins, they hear an explosion and find that a tourist boat has been hit by an errant missile from the local navy base. Many injured survivors are in the water and Kaia and her brother start to rescue the injured. She calls her dolphins and they swim among the injured, letting them grab onto their fins. Jesse Matthews Lieutenant Commander of the local Navy base soon arrives with a crew to help evacuate the wounded. Jesse is amazed by the rescue efforts by Kaia, her brother and the dolphins.

The Navy will soon recruit Kaia and her dolphins to help them patrol the coast and harbors looking for anything that might be involved in the sabotage of their new missile system.

This was a good story full of Hawaiian culture, language, traditions and interesting personal stories.

Note: We have many Colleen Coble books in the adult library. This is the first of the “Aloha Reef” series.

—Submitted by Elaine Teut

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
Voter's Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2023**

- I. Opening Devotion and Prayer**
Led by Pastor Mahnken
- II. Reading/Approval of Minutes and Agenda**
Leroy Hight moved that the minutes from April 16 and the agenda for July 9 be approved. Dennis Gierstorf seconded the motion and the voters approved the motion.
- III. Reports of Officers and Boards**
- A. Elders (Curtis Korner)**
A cookout was held to celebrate the summer Youth Rec Program. Grant Clausen's term as an elder will expire at the end of the year and Curtis let people know so they can consider serving in that way when they October election of officers and board members is upon us.
- B. Trustees (Dave Friedrichsen)**
Dave reviewed what will all need to be replaced/ repaired due to the hail storm in our area on April 19. (Val has an extensive and detailed report from the insurance company outlining damages incurred.) Gill Hardscapes will do some re-sloping of dirt both at the parsonage and church as well. Re-seeding and watering those areas will follow. LED lighting will be installed in the Education Unit. There were 2 stumps ground as well.
- C. Treasurer/Stewardship/Finance (Dick Fredericks)**
Currently, Immanuel is ahead \$10,892.94 in the budget for 2023. After reviewing insurance coverages/levels, no policy changes will be made at this point.
- D. Education/Youth (Kris Schultz)**
Confirmation questioning was held on April 19. There were 6 confirmands this year. Confirmation was held on April 23. There were 2 high school graduates from Immanuel this year. Koen Miller was selected as the recipient of the Weifenbach-Russell Scholarship this year. VBS will be held from July 9 until July 13.
- E. Preschool**
No report.
- F. Mission/Fellowship (Judy Gierstorf)**
\$1,200 was raised at the garage sale in June. Additionally, over \$800 was raised in Rachel Mentink's plant sale..
- G. Memorial Committee (Lodean Voss)**
There was nothing to report at this time. Let the record show that Lodean courageously and confidently approached the podium, announced there was nothing to report, and returned to his seat. A lesser man would have made the announcement from his seat so we applaud his efforts!

H. Pastor's Report (Pastor Mahnken)

Pastor shared membership data with the voters.

Pastor also encouraged members to attend Saturday evening worship if Sunday morning was not an option. Also, if you are vacationing, check out the LCMS website and use the "Church Finder" tool to locate a place to worship if you are away from Immanuel. The plea was made again to pray for the spiritual well-being of the members of Immanuel. More of Pastor's report can be found elsewhere in the Messenger.

IV. Old Business**V. New Business****A. Schleswig's 125th Anniversary**

This will be held September 13-14, 2024 in conjunction with Calf Show Days. It sounds like BBQ Fest in Denison will NOT be on the same weekend.

VI. Adjourn With Prayer

Pastor Mahnken led the closing prayer by reciting the lyrics to the hymn "May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill":

*May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfill
And do on earth our Father's will
As angels do above;
Still walk in Christ, the living way,
With all Thy children and obey
The law of Christian love.*

Submitted by Craig Bogatzke, Secretary

Father's Day 2023

To celebrate Father's Day the Sunday school children and their dads played a game of Bible Trivia kickball and cooled down afterwards with DQ dilly bars!



**Pastor Mahnken's Report
Voters' Meeting--July 9, 2023**

We began 2023 with 608 baptized members on the books; and 501 communicant members on the books. We have received 9 by Holy Baptism (2 adults, who were also added as communicant members). We have added 7 communicant members by adult confirmation. We added six to our number of communicant members by Jr. Confirmation. We have had two deaths: Larry Clausen and Judie Clausen. We released two from our roll by personal request. As of today, July 9, 2023 we have 618 baptized members on and 510 communicant members on our roll.

I again encourage you, as I did at our last quarterly meeting, to please remember our Saturday evening worship (5 p.m.) if you have other plans on Sunday. Please do not let the busyness of life keep you from worship! Plan ahead and keep the most important time of your week. The same is true if you will be vacationing in the coming months. Plan ahead and visit a church where you will be. You can search for churches and worship times by going to our Synod's website—lcms.org. When you open the site, click in the upper right hand corner on the "Locators" tab. Then click on "Find a Church." The congregation's phone number will also be listed. I encourage you to call ahead, because sometimes the worship times have been changed from what is listed on the web site.

Please remember in your prayers your brothers and sisters in Christ who are members of St. John, Kiron and Faith, Deloit as they soon consider options for their pastoral care. Pastor Kluzek has accepted the call to serve the Lord's saints at St. Peter, Wapello, Iowa. President Turner and our Circuit Visitor, Pastor Chad Trunkhill will be meeting with the Elders of those two congregations this coming Wednesday.

Also, this coming Wednesday will be the first Annual Meeting of Unity Ridge Lutheran School. The Board of Directors will be elected and reports will be given. I have served as the Pastoral Counselor for the Unity Ridge Board this past year and I have submitted my name for the ballot for the coming year. The term of service for the Pastoral Counselor is one year.

Also please keep in your prayers Christ Lutheran Church in Denison as they have called a pastor to serve them. He visited with leaders of the congregation this past week.

I will be our Circuit's Synodical Convention Delegate in Milwaukee, from Friday July 28 until my return, Thursday, August 3. Pastor Kaiser will be covering during that time.

Please pray for our Vacation Bible School which will be this week, from this evening through Thursday evening.

I encourage all of our boards to be aware of which of their board's member(s) terms of service may be ending this year. Please be prayerfully considering whom we may invite to join us in these opportunities for service. If you are asked to serve, please seek the guidance of our Lord for your life.

As some of you know, Pastor Steve Schulz has accepted the call to serve as a Mission Development Counselor along side of Gary Thies at Mission Central. Pastor Schultz and his wife Sue will be moving later this month and taking some time to get settled. We will share with you his installation date when we learn of it.

Finally, I again remind you of my prayer challenge for us all: Please join me three times a day in prayer for the spiritual growth of the members of Immanuel. Please pray three times a day! Pray that the eyes of our hearts may be opened to the wonder of God's grace. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work among us. Pray on behalf of the families and children of Immanuel that they will be blessed with a love for Jesus and a growing zeal to live for Him in this darkening age. God's Word through Moses applies to all of us as God's people for all time: "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children" (Deut. 4:9). And again, "Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His rules and His statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God" (Deut. 8:11-14). "Remember Jesus Christ our Savior, the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8).

"And thank the Lord Jesus for His promise that whatever we ask the Father in His name, He will give it to us for the glory of our Savior (John 15:16)." I thank you for your prayers.



Anticipation. It's a loaded word, isn't it? It can bring up the image of something wonderful or dread-filled. You can be at the doctor preparing to receive a shot and clench your arm in anticipation of the prick or at a wedding anticipating the bride's walk down the aisle with a grin of eagerness on your face. (Okay men, you might have to pretend you're the groom.) The type of anticipation you experience is directly connected to the event you are awaiting. Of course, it makes sense.

Anticipation is the word I would currently connect to the upcoming preschool year. It's mid-July as I type this newsletter, and I'm already anticipating children walking through the doors in a few weeks. Because I am anticipating their arrival, I am also preparing. It actually increases the level of expectancy to have things to do to "get ready."

A theme has been chosen for the year, "Jesus' Love is a Bubblin' Over". Does it sound familiar? Yes, it's a song most of us know and likely sang as children. It's the prayer for the year and holds the expectant anticipation of what we will see unfold. I pray (please join me as God brings them to mind) that the children will arrive and sense the Spirit of God awaiting them. I pray they will see Jesus in the teachers, staff, parents, and each other. I pray as they enter through the front doors they will know He is at work simply by experiencing walking into a place where He resides. I pray His love is bubbling over so strongly in this place that children's and families' lives will be touched and changed. And I pray that as Jesus' love continues to take root in them, it will "bubble over" into the lives of their family members. I pray that parents and grandparents will be bubbling so big that they look like a pot of boiling water. Oh, yes, we are expectant with anticipation.

I have been ordering name tags, bulletin board materials, and am gearing up to send out the summer mailing. Doris has graciously organized the rooms and a huge shout out to Neal for building the shelf to hold supplies. There is a lot behind the scenes that goes into anticipating the arrival of the littles and we want to be ready.

There is also the anticipation of some challenges. While I don't want to bring on anything negative by expecting some bumps in our year, it is safe to assume someone will scrape their knee, get their feelings hurt, and think listening to the adults doesn't sound like fun. Yes, I anticipate some of these things as well. But we are also not afraid of them. Why? Because they present more opportunities to bubble over with Jesus' love. After all, part of loving others is demonstrating compassion, grace, and teaching them to trust Jesus in their choices.

During my Quiet Time this morning, I was reading in 3 John and Jude. I can't quote the exact location of the verse from memory, but it was defining love. (Feel free to dig in and see if it strikes you as it did me. I was reading from the Amplified.) It was a great reminder that the Lord and the world don't always define love the same way. Love towards God includes trusting Him and obeying His Word. It was actually quite convicting. The Israelites trusted God to be set free from bondage, but didn't believe Him to protect them and enter the Promised Land. As a result, they wandered around in the desert for 40 years. Yes, demonstrating Jesus' love to the children will include hugs, laughter, Jesus' lessons and joy. It will also include teaching them to seek Him, trust Him, obey Him, and rest in Him.

It's time to close. We aren't even in session yet, and it seems there is a lot to say. Please, be in prayer as we anticipate the beginning of the year. Ask the Lord to calm hearts, plant seeds, bring about salvation, and help children/families learn to walk in faith and obedience.

It's going to be a great year! We are eagerly anticipating God's work during the upcoming school year! Praise Jesus!

Mrs. Gustafson

AFRICAN RADIO MINISTRIES—NEWS

Dear Mission friends,

Ethiopia Updates: Through ARM ministries, 100 people declared their faith in Christ as Lord and Savior. Currently, 389 inmates are attending confirmation class and learning how to follow Jesus. 420 Bibles and tracts were distributed to new believers. 221 listeners called in and 3 listening groups were established.

God heals soldier through ARM radio listener: Mulugeta is a regular listener of ARM programs even in the war zone of Northern Ethiopia. No matter the circumstances, he is comforted every week by listening to the message. He can't help but tell his friends and one them was a soldier Sintayehu. One day Sintayehu was in a battle when she suddenly went deaf and fell ill. She was unresponsive in pain and couldn't speak. Due to the war, she was unable to get medical treatment, so Mulugeta called the ARM phone number, asking Rev. Mengistu for prayer. They prayed together asking for healing for his friend in Jesus' name with a resounding Amen! It wasn't until this month, a year later that Sintayehu called and reported to Rev. Mengistu that she was healed at the very time they had prayed for her. She shared how she is now telling many people about God's miraculous healing!

Liberian Updates: Rev. Emmanuel Tengbeh of St. Joseph Evangelical Lutheran Church baptized 14 radio listeners. While the initial hearing from Rev. Tengbeh and District President Rev. Ezekiel Saah is critical, so is the follow-up. The evangelists in the Foya region have been empowered to go and make disciples. They visited listeners who called in from nearby communities, and encouraged whole villages in the Word of God. The Lord moved in the hearts of the 14 but we trust He is not finished yet. These new believers are also taking the invitation back home with them.

They planted, we water, God is increasing! St. Joseph Lutheran Church and School, Foya Tengia is one of several Liberian locations LCMS planted seed prior to the civil war. Rev. John and Kathy Duitsman's family were in SE Liberia while several families were in Lofa County. LCMS missionaries Rev. Bob & Kristi Roegner lived in Foya Tengia training church leaders in the 1980's. The tangible connection of the Roegner's seeds and the current church leaders now watering is evident. Rev. Tengbeh and his family live in the home built by the Roegner's. The palm trees they planted now bear fruit for oil, providing sustainable income for the church ministries and the Tengbeh family. The ministry overseeing all ARM work is Hope and Care of Children, in Liberia. HCC's Executive Director, Rev. Patrick F. Nanning, baptized by Rev. Roegner, went on to plant many churches and establish the first ELCLS school in Liberia. Soon, ARM and Hope and Care Outreach will welcome Rev. Bob & Kristi Roegner, daughter Amy Hamlin and a team from Woodlands Lutheran Church, FL. A portion of their time will be spent in training with pastors, wives and church leaders of the national church, ELCLS.

In closing, we ask you kindly to remember Kathy in your prayers. She is about to begin treatment for breast cancer. God is good and His steadfast love endures forever.

In His service,

John & Kathy Duitsman
and Missionary Linda Kurtz

!AMIGOS EN CRISTO and GRACIA!

News from *Las Iglesias Evangélicas Luteranas*
Amigos en Cristo in Denison and Gracia in Storm Lake
Pastor Pedro Lopez

July 2023

Hello everyone, enjoying this beautiful weather and God's majestic creation here in Iowa. Here I am ready to share once more the great things God is helping us put together to meet new friends around our communities.

We finished our ESL (English as a Second Language) programs around IDW. We had a great time celebrating with graduates and sharing lots of food! By God's grace, several of our students are now worshipping with us either in the English worship services or our Spanish worship services. Some were confirmed as members of our congregations. Thanks be to God, His kingdom is growing!

We are ready to take on Fort Dodge's Hispanic community. A group of us participated in the Fort Dodge parade on June 3. It was a great opportunity to meet new friends of all races. We will be participating in St. Paul's Vacation Bible School, July 19-23, planning to engage in meeting volunteers and Hispanics for our future Hispanic Ministry there.

Our LWML Hispanic branch had their third meeting and made plans to send some ladies to the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee, WI in July. Please pray for them.

We thank God for Noel. Noel is a new member and is already taking responsibilities within the Hispanic Ministry. He will be taking the SMP classes to prepare to become a Pastor in our IDW very soon. We have several women preparing to enroll in the Deaconess program. God's will is happening, we are preparing new workers to go into the harvest!

In the Denison Hispanic Church (Amigos en Cristo), we celebrated the farewell for the Mendoza Family, Doming and Marbella as they retired and are moving to Mexico. Doming was our congregation President for many years and served in many roles helping several Pastors during his tenure here. Gracias Domingo and Marbella, we will miss you.

We are preparing to serve several hundred people during the RAGBRAI bicycle riders event as they will be passing through Carroll. The congregation of St. Paul and other volunteers from different churches are helping us as we prepare to serve the most delicious Mexican tacos on July 24. This is a fundraising opportunity and, in advance, we thank all the people who will volunteer July 22-24. We will need people to cut tomatoes, lettuce, onions, and prepare everything at the church in Carroll. If you can donate a case or cases of water, please let us know. Everything has to be delivered to St. Paul in Carroll by the 23rd. Thanks in advance for your prayers and support.

Gracias and bendiciones,
Pastor Lopez

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS at Immanuel was held July 9-13 with the theme "God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace." THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way whether in gifts of your time, talents, money, donations of snacks or crafts, and especially your prayers, we appreciate and thank you!



SOUND OF FREEDOM



Premiering on July 4, *Sound of Freedom* has been a box office hit. The following review is provided by Movieguide® ~ www.movieguide.org.

Sound of Freedom follows the inspiring true story of Tim Ballard, a former government agent who puts his life on the line to rescue hundreds of children from sex trafficking. After an operation that saves a young boy from trafficking, Tim learns the boy's sister has also been sold into the sex trade. At first, he continues to operate under Homeland Security, but when funds run out, he takes matters into his own hands. With the help of a small team, Tim launches an investigation to save the boy's sister, save many other children and bring the perpetrators to justice. *Sound of Freedom* is gripping and heart-breaking, but hope-giving. The movie sheds light on the need for strong people to stand up for God's children around the world who are caught in the vicious, abusive system of sex trafficking. *Sound of Freedom* has a strong Christian, moral worldview that promotes sacrifice and the message that "God's children are not for sale."

Rating: Rated PG-13 for thematic content involving sex trafficking, violence.

Foul Language: Some brief foul language includes one use of an "s" word.

Violence: The movie addresses the reality of child sex trafficking in a nuanced and creative way that doesn't show outright sexual abuse or rape, but all of those are implied, plus in one scene a doctor confirms that an 8-year-old boy has been sexually abused, a man kills a man who is about to rape a young girl, but the man is killed in a subtle and non-graphic way, one scene has gunfire, a man hits a young girl in the face, and some real-life footage plays of children being kidnapped.

Sex: No sex depicted, but there are many conversations about sexual abuse of minors (all sexual relations mentioned in the movie are in the context of sex trafficking).

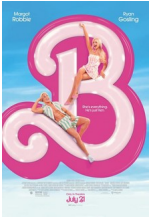
Nudity: No nudity, but a man starts to take off his pants in one scene, though nothing is shown.

Alcohol Use/Abuse: There are many scenes with alcohol, for some of the movie the protagonist and his team run a sting operation where they play the role of a sex trafficker and during these encounters they are drinking alcohol.

Smoking and/or Drug Use and Abuse: One character smokes a cigar and cigarette throughout, and rebels are seen sorting large piles of cocaine.

More Detail: *Sound of Freedom* is an incredible, gripping and heartbreaking, but hope-giving, movie with a strong Christian, moral that sheds light on the need for strong men and women to stand up for God's children around the world who are caught in the vicious, abusive system of human trafficking, but MOVIEGUIDE® advises strong and extreme caution for the movie's mature subject matter, some implied and depicted violence, implied abuse of children, and a scene of some bad guys using cocaine. *The Sound of Freedom* shines a light on the reality of sex-trafficking, and the terrible global impact it has on children. Despite its heavy subject matter, *The Sound of Freedom* offers a voice to the voiceless in this inspiring true story. Tim is motivated by hope and the biblical idea that "God's children are not for sale." This becomes the movie's anthem, and the message the filmmakers want to convey to audiences. The violence, sex trafficking and sexual abuse in the movie is primarily implied rather than shown. However, it remains a tough, intense and honest look into one of the largest industries that plagues today's world today. *Sound of Freedom* is an important movie that aims to help save children and grow awareness about the reality of the global sex trafficking industry. MOVIEGUIDE® advises strong and extreme caution, however, because of the movie's mature subject matter, implied and depicted violence, implied abuse of children, and a scene of some bad guys using cocaine.

About Movieguide® Now more than ever we're bombarded by darkness in media, movies, and TV. Movieguide® has fought back for almost 40 years, working within Hollywood to propel uplifting and positive content. We're proud to say we've collaborated with some of the top industry players to influence and redeem entertainment for Jesus. Still, the most influential person in Hollywood is you—the viewer.



WARNING: Don't Take Your Daughter to Barbie By Movieguide® Staff

The new BARBIE movie forgets its core audience of families and children while catering to nostalgic adults and pushing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender character stories.

Furthermore, the movie was poorly made with multiple premises, losing even the most die-hard fans. To make an appealing movie, executives must define their audience. For Barbie, there was a built-in audience of little girls and merchandise for the movie. "They had a built-in market and audience for this franchise that they completely ignored," said a Movieguide® staff member. "Millions of families would have turned out to the theaters and purchased tickets, but instead, Mattel chose to cater to a small percentage of the population who has proven over and over to abandon the box office. Movieguide®'s 40 years of research indicate this just isn't true, and Mattel has made a grievous mistake."

Families need to know how bad this is. Not only is it a missed business opportunity for a beloved brand, the movie itself is badly made. Mattel distributed the movie through Warner Bros., which is not the only studio to forget its core audience. Pixar and Disney recently suffered severe losses with ELEMENTAL, which also promoted LGBT characters. ELEMENTAL had the lowest opening of any PIXAR movie ever. Disney's last eight studio releases have lost the company more than \$900 million as they continue to move away from family-friendly values. These studios perform best when they make movies that promote pro-family and biblical values. Even the Barbie cartoon movies promote redemption, compassion, team work, kindness to strangers, self-sacrifice and more. Parents trust the brand, and that is why they must know the truth about the upcoming movie. Movieguide®'s full review of BARBIE will be available soon at www.movieguide.org

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Missionaries Eric and Johanna Stinnett

Our Adult Bible Class is now supporting The Rev. Eric and Johanna Stinnett, who serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Ethiopia. If you would like to join in supporting the Stinnetts, you can put your gift into an enveloped maked "Stinnetts," and put it in the Offering when you worship. You can also bring your gift to the Church Office.

Reverend Stinnett teaches at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This seminary is dedicated to training faithful Lutheran pastors and other church workers to serve in Ethiopia. Eric was born in Great Falls, Montana. He earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Montana, Missoula. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Prior to becoming a missionary, Eric worked as a hospital clinical staff pharmacist and as a triple parish pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Stanford, Montana, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Denton, Montana, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lewistown, Montana. In his free time, Eric enjoys woodworking, reading and bow hunting. Johanna was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She earned her bachelor's degrees in biology and nursing from the University of Windsor and is a registered nurse. Before heading to Ethiopia, Johanna served as an obstetrics nurse at Hutzel Women's Hospital, Detroit, and with Benefis Health Systems, Great Falls, Montana. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, reading, playing the piano, being an organist and teaching choir. Eric and Johanna have four beautiful children – Rachael, Naomi, Luke and Levi – who join them on the mission field.

Prayers

Pray for Eric, Johanna and their children as they serve in Ethiopia. Pray God gives their entire family strength and peace as they continue to adjust to life overseas, learning the culture and the language. Pray for the church in Ethiopia and for the students attending Mekane Yesus Seminary. Ask God to give Eric His wisdom and guidance as he teaches these students and helps them prepare to become faithful Lutheran pastors, lay evangelists and other professional church workers. Let us give thanks to God that Eric, Johanna and their family have answered the call to serve His people in Ethiopia.



Julie Mann
IOWAY Director / Disaster Response Coordinator
julie@iowadistrictwest.org
515-408-9696

Hello Iowa District West. With great excitement, and the humbleness of following such legendary footsteps, I am introducing myself as the new IOWAY Director. It can be a bit daunting to take on a new role, although understanding that God has been preparing you and surrounding you with people to do His mission together opens the doors wide. My career over the last 32 years has seen me in the role of teacher, athletic director, coach, and principal in LCMS school ministries, a stint in management with the Kansas City Chiefs, as well as being a teacher and building team leader in our current community's public high school.

My husband, Dave, and I have three children Hannah, Seth, and Morgan. Our home is in Fort Dodge; however, Hannah and Seth have started their adult lives, both in the Kansas City area. I am the daughter of LCMS missionary teachers and spent my early life in Papua New Guinea before years living in Lincoln, Nebraska; Altus, Oklahoma; Winfield, Kansas; and Irvine, California. I am a Concordia University Irvine grad and have enjoyed being an active member of congregations through my own journey in Kansas City, the Twin Cities, and now Fort Dodge.

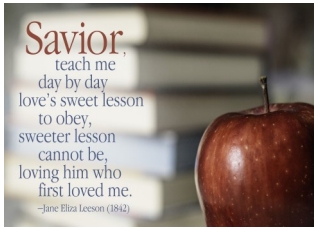


I am looking forward to getting to know members of congregations throughout IDW, finding out what kinds of missional visions you have within your communities, and partnering with you as we share God's Word through our actions and compassion.

IOWAY is back on the move already, although I know some of you have been waiting for several months to hear what is going on. The **Pasadena/Petal Pusher** trip is going to happen for this year (December 28-January 4) and I am in the process of finalizing things to get the registration to your congregations in the next few weeks. God is already making interesting connections. I spoke with Letty, who heads the mission LOT318 who we'll work with while in California, and she was literally getting ready to go on a mission field opportunity trip to Cuba with my former college volleyball coach.

Last week, I had a great opportunity to meet with some volunteer coordinators, Ellie, and Lynn to fellowship and hear stories about past trips and current outreach going on around the state. What a wonderful gift to have coming into this new position. I'm even more excited now that I've heard about some of the compassionate and interesting ways congregations are reaching out through western Iowa.


I appreciate your patience, grace, and prayers as God leads me in working with all of you!



AUGUST 2023

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Schleswig, Iowa



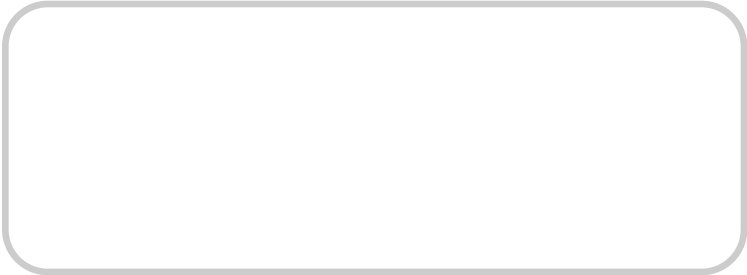
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<p>Preschool: Mon., Tues., Thurs. 8 a.m.— 3 p.m. Wed. 11:45 a.m.—3 p.m.</p> <p>Confirmation: Wednesday's 5th & 6th grade: 3:30-5:15 p.m. 7th & 8th grade: 6:15-8:00 p.m.</p>		1	2 No Bible Study	3 1:30 p.m. LWML	4	5 5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										
6 9 a.m. Worship w/HC 10:15 SS & BC 4 p.m. Adult Instruction	7	8	9 6:30 Bible Study	10 9 a.m. Quilting	11	12 5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										
13 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 11:30 Board of Ed. Meeting 4 p.m. Adult Instruction	14	15 <i>Messenger</i> Deadline for September issue 7 p.m. Elders' meeting 	16 6:30 Bible Study 1 p.m. Volunteers to OGT	17 Pastor @ District Board of Directors meeting	18	19 5 p.m. Worship w/HC																																										
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27 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 SS & BC 4 p.m. Adult Instruction	28 Pastor Steve Schulz installation at Mission Central	29 First Day of Preschool	30 6:30 Bible Study 8:45 a.m. Newsletter Assemblage Confirmation classes begin	31	<p>September 2023</p> <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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Loren and Janice Jepsen



**OUR MISSION
STATEMENT:**
*"Together in Christ,
we grow through the
Word and
Sacraments, serving
our Lord and
sharing His saving
grace with all
people."*