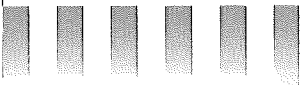




ZION PROCLAIMER



March 2025

"A Noble Note"

Hands are a very important part of our lives. You could even say that they are essential! Whether you're tightening a bolt, crocheting a scarf, or typing on a computer, there's so much that we do with our hands. The Greek physician Galen called our hands the instrument of instruments. Just think about all the ways we use our hands: our hands can be used to heal or hurt, to work or play, to build or break down, to hold or let go, and the list goes on and on. What a great gift God has given us in our hands, and the rest of our bodies!

If that's how we view our human hands, how much more important are the Hands of the Lord! And so for our Lenten Midweek worship services, we'll be spending time reflecting on "The Hand of the Lord."

All throughout the Bible, God's hands are mentioned and our focus is drawn to them. In the Old Testament alone the hands of the Lord are mentioned over two hundred times! His hands are active in creation, they have ultimate power and control over everything that happens in the world, they deliver justice and judgment, and most importantly, they give us salvation.

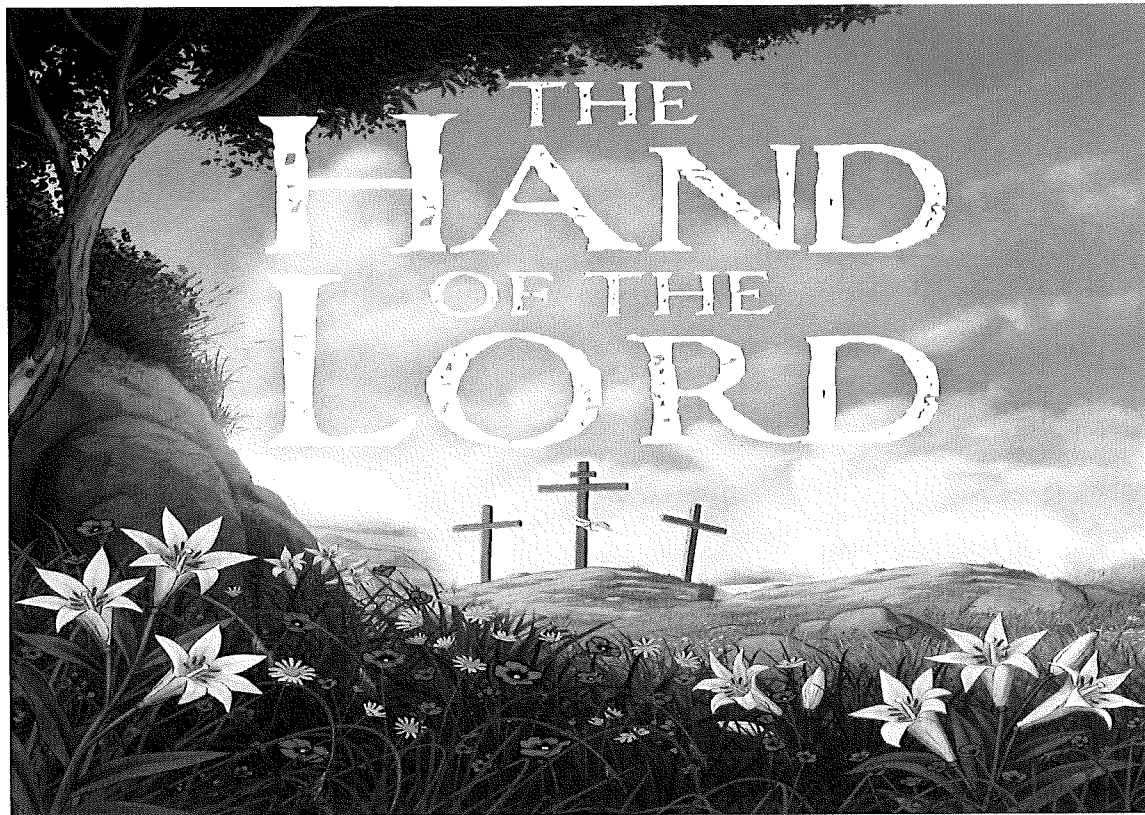
The "hand of the Lord" was upon Ezekiel when He gave him a vision (Ezekiel 3:22), and the "hand of the Lord" was against the Philistines in the days of Samuel (1 Samuel 7:13). The hand of the Lord is both Law and Gospel.

What is surprising though is that specific references to the "hand of the Lord" are not all that frequent in the New Testament. But here's why: The One through whom all things were created and cared for entered into His own creation and took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (John 1:1-14). We have many examples within the New Testament that speak of the way that Jesus used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

The work of Christ's hands help us to see the merciful and personal way that He comes to us. Jesus used His hands to save drowning Peter, to feed the 5,000, to touch those who were unclean, to stop a funeral procession in its tracks, to lift up Jairus's daughter, and to bless the little children. The hand of the Lord has personally come to us in Jesus! It might be weird to think about it, but God has hands, real hands! And through those hands, Jesus has accomplished all that we need. Amazingly, He takes our manipulative, distorted, self-serving hands and restores them into useful hands for His purposes; to literally use them in service to our neighbors and to spiritually make our whole lives His instruments of witness, service, and praise. So come join us these next few Wednesdays during Lent as we marvel at the Hands of the Lord!

Worship begins at 6:30pm.

In His Service,
Pastor Andy Noble



March 05	6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service/HC
March 12	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 19	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
March 26	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
April 02	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
April 09	6:30 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship
April 13	10:00 am	Psalm Sunday/Rite of Confirmation/HC
April 17	6:30 pm	Maunday Thursday/HC
April 18	6:30 pm	Good Friday
April 20	7:00 am	Easter Service/HC



Midweek Lenten SCHEDULE

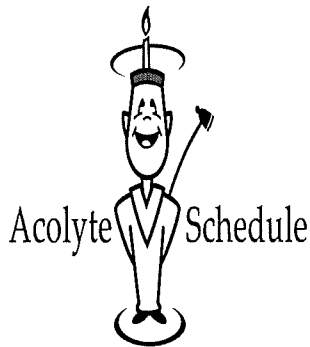


EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, March 5th following Ash Wednesday Services. We will be working on the confirmation banners



Daylight Savings time officially begins on March 9th this year. So remember to set your clock **AHEAD 1 hour** when you retire on Saturday evening, March 8th



Sunday	2nd	Audrey Hill
Wednesday	5th	Kash Riesberg
Sunday	9th	Lacey Middleton
Wednesday	12	Tyler Middleton
Sunday	16th	Laynie Muhlbauer
Wednesday	19th	Amelia
Sunday	23rd	Marissa Schrad
Wednesday	26th	Dane Dirks
Sunday	30th	Macie Schrad



The Evening Circle will be having their Senior Meals on Tuesday, Marcy 18th. Please contact Diane Witt or call the church office if you would like a Senior Meal delivered.

MARCH LIST OF DUTIES

USHERS

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

CHANCEL DUTIES

Diane Witt, Allison Ehlers

PARISH DUTIES

Diane Witt, Deb Owen

MARTHA CIRCLE

Cathy Meyer & Paulette Von Glan

ACOLYTES

Sunday 2nd Audrey Hill
Wednesday 5th Kash Riesberg
Sunday 9th Lacey Middleton
Wednesday 12 Tyler Middleton
Sunday 16th Laynie Muhlbauer
Wednesday 19th Amelia
Sunday 23rd Marissa Schrad
Wednesday 26th Dane Dirks
Sunday 30th Macie Schrad

Bible Study Hour: A Study on the Gospel of Luke

Because of our 3 year lectionary cycle, a lot of our gospel readings for the Divine Service will be from the Gospel of Luke. So let's get more familiar with it! Come join us during the Sunday morning Bible Study as Pastor Noble leads us in taking a closer look at Jesus' ministry through the eyes of Luke's Gospel.

Bible Study hour is a very important part of our week as Christians. Yes, we come together during worship to hear God's Word and to receive forgiveness through the Sacraments, but Bible study is a great opportunity to gather with others, encourage one another, learn about God and His love and care for you, grow in your faith, and have a few laughs.

Who is this for: Everyone! If you're dropping off your kids for Sunday School, this is for you! If you're an adult or high schooler wanting to learn more about Jesus, our faith, and why we believe what we believe, then we have a seat for you! If you're retired and awake too early on Sunday morning, come join us! If you have a little kid and just want some adult interaction, bring that squirmy noise maker, we'll find something for him/her to do as you learn with us (and I mean it, a little noise from toddlers never hurt no one!).

What to expect: Bible readings, Small Catechism quotes, informal discussions, comic book references, and a few dad jokes. Pastor Noble will be leading our discussions, answering questions, and even if you've read through the whole Bible 5 times already, who knows, you might learn a thing or two.

March

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

Read
1 Peter 5:6-7.
What words stand out to you in this passage?

2

Read
Philippians 4:6.
Tell God what you are worried about today.

3

Read
Colossians 1:20.
Write down something you worry about. Draw a cross over it.

4

Read
Matthew 11:29-30.
Pray, "God, lift these heavy worries from me. Amen."

5

Read
Isaiah 35:4.
Flex your arm muscles and say, "Be strong, fear not! God will save!"

6

Read
Jeremiah 17:7-9.
Draw a picture of this passage.

7

Read
Psalm 95:4.
Sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands."

8

Read
Isaiah 43:2.
March in place and repeat this verse.

9

Read
Isaiah 41:10.
Write this verse on a sticky note.

10

Read
Joshua 1:9.
Memorize this verse.

11

Read
2 Corinthians 12:10.
How does God give you strength?

12

Read
Psalm 55:22.
What burdens do you need to cast on the Lord today?

13

Read
Hebrews 13:6.
Look up the definition of confidence.

14

Read
Proverbs 3:5-6.
Look up the definition of trust.

15

Read
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.
Thank God for someone who lifts you up.

16

Read
Hebrews 10:24-25.
How does your church family encourage you?

17

Read
Matthew 6:33.
Look up the lyrics to "Seek Ye First"

18

Read
2 Corinthians 1:20.
Pray, "God, thank You for keeping all Your promises in Jesus! Amen!"

19

Read
Isaiah 40:25-26.
How does it feel to know that God is all-powerful?

20

Read
Isaiah 40:28-29.
Go outside and read this verse.

21

Read
Isaiah 40:30-31.
Pray for God's strength today.

22

Read
Matthew 14:30-31.
Repent of the times you doubt Jesus.

23

Read
Romans 5:6.
Memorize this verse.

24

Read
Colossians 3:12.
Pray for more patience, kindness, and humility.

25

Read
Colossians 3:13.
Is there someone you need to forgive today?

26

Read
Colossians 3:14.
Show love to someone who feels lonely today.

27

Read
Jeremiah 29:11.
Do you ever worry about the future?

28

Read
Matthew 6:10.
Pray for God's will to be done in your life.

29

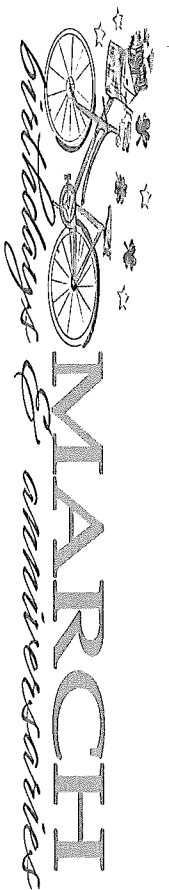
Read
Psalm 91:11-12.
Pray for safety for you and your loved ones.

30

Read
John 14:27.
Take a deep breath. Thank God for His peace.

31

Read
Matthew 6:34.
Write this verse on a sticky note for your bathroom mirror.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 <i>Alex Gallagher Nicole Winey Mark & Jolene Stoelk</i>	3 <i>Susan Ehlers</i>	4 <i>Ryan Neumann Dale & Nicky Lenz</i>	5 <i>Kurt Branning</i>	6 <i>Wyatt Neumann</i>	7 <i>Garret Cleveland Merle Witt</i>	8 <i>Jeff Luetje Patty Vetter</i>
9	10	11 <i>Kyelar Cleveland Kris Kean Shane Kraus Dwight & Melissa Ehlers</i>	12 <i>Keith Kaspersen</i>	13	14	15
16 <i>Kyle Liechti Chad Wittrock Jeff & Cheryl Vetter</i>	17 <i>Karlie Muhlbauer Jim Vetter Matt & Lisa Menelly</i>	18 <i>Scot Muhlbauer Cheryl Vetter</i>	19 <i>Kash Riesberg Lee & Lajean Shiney</i>	20	21 <i>Cat Luetje Randy & Lisa Stoelk</i>	22 <i>Derrick Cornelius Edna Hansman Jane Vetter</i>
23	24 <i>Andrew Skinner Gary & Shelli Lenz</i>	25 <i>Steve & Linda Mumm</i>	26	27	28 <i>Presley Audino Maggie Ragaller Aaron & Sarah Peterson</i>	29 <i>Brooke Bass Scot & Staci Muhlbauer</i>
30 <i>Tom Hoogstraal</i>	31					

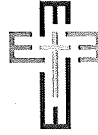


Education Youth Family Life

Rhonda J. Mohr Assistant to the President 515-573-0010

rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org

LCMS Youth Gathering
July 19-23, 2025 – New Orleans



ENDURE



Tia Pugh serves as the 2025 Iowa District West Coordinator for the LCMS Youth Gathering. She is happy to connect with congregations, pastors, and youth leaders to answer any questions about the Gathering, help plan and prepare, and help you to have a great Gathering experience. Please contact her with any Gathering related questions (tia@sotv-wdm.org).

The Iowa District West event in New Orleans is going to be a great time shared with our Iowa District East youth at the Superdome before the mass gathering. Tia will be sending out information about signing up for the event, our own unique IDW t-shirt, and payment information. The district is able to cover half the cost of the event so youth groups only need to pay \$25 per person. This will cover the meal, entertainment and the t-shirt. We have 400 youth and adults registered to attend the gathering. What a great representation of our district! Watch for detailed information from Tia SOON.

SAVE the DATES

Iowa District West JR and SR Youth Gathering Dates

Gathering teams are busy working on details to provide meaningful gathering experiences for youth in our district. You're encouraged to put these dates on your church calendar.

Junior Youth Gathering – Dean Pastor Nick Thackery

Theme – “Not Just Water” (Titus 3:5)

October 18-19 – Sheraton, West Des Moines

Senior Youth Gathering – Dean Pastor Alex Slotter

Theme – “God’s Calling Your Life” (Ephesians 2:10)

November 21-23 – Holiday Inn at the Airport, Des Moines



On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

March 2025

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

New Creation



"Spring is in the air," said no one on the day I'm writing this. The morning temperature was 16 below zero. But, we know spring is around the corner as it begins March 20. I love springtime and all the newness that comes with it. Flowers emerging from beneath the ground, grass turning from that dull brown to a bright green, trees sprouting leaves again, and everything else that goes with spring. After winter, we eagerly look forward to this newness emerging again.

All this new life in the spring makes me think of the new life we have in Christ! *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). Not even springtime, as wonderful and beautiful as it is, is better than the newness we have because of what Christ has done for us through His death and resurrection. We are a new creation — the old has passed! What GREAT news!

As you anticipate all the beauty that comes with spring, meditate on what Christ has done for you. He has made you new! Christ has given us His righteousness. As 2 Corinthians 5:21 states *"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."* What a gift springtime is to us but what an even greater gift to be made new in Christ where the old has passed away and the new has come!

May this springtime be a time of reflection on all that Christ has done for you and may you celebrate the newness with great joy!

Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President
rhonda@iowadistrictwest.org

IOWA LUTHERAN SCHOOL TUITION ORGANIZATION (ILSTO)

We are so grateful for your dedication and support of the Iowa Lutheran School Tuition Organization. Last year we raised over \$550,000 which will be used to support students in the 2025-2026 school year. Our new goal for 2025 is \$1,189,816 which is based on the number of tax credits available and our number of students. Your generous donation is eligible for a 75% tax credit on Iowa state taxes. Applications are now open for tuition assistance at Iowa Lutheran schools for 2025-2026. Visit iowalutheranschooltuition.com to apply today!

FREE UKRAINIAN RESOURCES FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL

Great news! The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS) has received a huge shipment of books carrying two FREE new resources available in Ukrainian, including the classic children's Bible storybook *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* and *Best of Portals of Prayer*. These materials are available to any LCMS church, mission or individual who wants to share the Good News with their Ukrainian-speaking neighbors. To order, send an email to info@LHFmissions.org or call the LHF office at 800-554-0723.

THE ART OF NEIGHBORING WORKSHOP

Date: May 17 — **Time:** 10 AM-12:30 PM

Location: Christ Lutheran Church, Ankeny, Iowa

Join us for an engaging workshop to build stronger, more meaningful connections with your neighbors!

Who Should Attend: Everyone is welcome, whether you're just beginning to connect with your community or are a seasoned pro.

Register now: <https://forms.office.com/r/CU6CmY8c90>

Don't miss this opportunity to learn the art of neighboring and make your community a better place to live. We look forward to seeing you there!

Calendar of Events

March 5...Ash Wednesday

March 6...Principals Meeting, Carroll

March 7-8...YES (Youth & Education Servants) Retreat, Lutheran Family

Service Ministry Center, Fort Dodge

Future Event

June 8-10, 2025...District Convention, Camp Okboji

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

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Rev. Dr. Steven Turner

Iowa District West, LCMS

steve@iowadistrictwest.org / 515-576-7666

Dear Friend in Christ,

I remember as a child when my brother and I had been naughty, my mother saying those dreaded words, "just wait until your father gets home!" That time of waiting was worse than any punishment my mother could have meted out. It was filled with fear, guilt, and anxiety because of the unknown. Just waiting for my father to come home, what would he say, or what even more, would my dad do? Would there be any escape from this dreaded punishment? If only someone would intercede for us. If only someone would put in a good word for us and direct our father to forgive us. If there is only someone in our father's house who understands us.

The good news is there is such a person in our Father's house above. The disciples of Jesus were often like my brother and I, filled with fear, guilt, and anxiety. Jesus had just told them He would be leaving them. What would this mean? They had been following Him for three years; how could they possibly go on without Him? Jesus spoke words of comfort to them and to us. **"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."** Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him" (John 14:1-7 ESV).

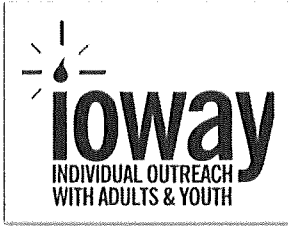
Jesus goes to our Father's house for us. Jesus knows who we are, and He knows the fear, guilt, and anxiety we feel living outside of our Father's house. He knows the fear of judgement we feel because of our acts of rebellion against His good and gracious will. He knows our guilt we feel when we have hurt others by what we've said and done. Jesus understands our anxiety when we're faced with things that are suddenly out of our control. Jesus understands the anxiety that we feel as we grow older, and our physical bodies begin to wear out. Jesus knows the sadness we face the death of loved ones. Jesus comes into our world filled with fear, guilt and anxiety and comforts us by saying "In my Father's house there are many rooms...I go there to prepare a place for you."

This is really good news for you and me. We know that Jesus has prepared a place for us. He prepared this place by all that He's done for us. It is by His life, death, and resurrection. He has made you and me ready to enter our Father's home knowing that it is a place for us. All our fears and anxieties that stem from a guilty conscience and make us afraid to step into the holy presence of our

heavenly Father, can be put to rest. Jesus is the One who intercedes for us. Jesus is the One who has made us ready when our Father calls us home.

Your Partner in the Gospel,
President Steve Turner

There needs to be a little postscript to the above. I want you to know that I have no memory of my dad ever punishing us kids with any kind of severity. In fact, the only time I can remember my dad being really angry with me is when I told him he could no longer drive his car.



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

As the Apostle Paul wrote to the people of the early Christian church who were working with Timothy in the city of Thessalonica (today Thessaloniki), “May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you” (1 Thessalonians 3:12). My prayer is the same that God’s love which He tenderly pours through us to our family, friends, and community members continues to flow abundantly.

Are you heading into spring and summer planning, looking into new ways to enjoy time with your church family, learning about your neighbors and how to partner with them, or just stumped on different ways to engage in the community? Here are a few ministries that can always use willing help.

Mercy Meals of Siouxland – Packaging meals for the undernourished and starving around the world. Meals are packaged at Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux City. In partnership with Orphan Grain Train in Norfolk, Nebraska, they are shipped to communities in need throughout the world.

Events at 8:30 and 10:30 am, volunteers aged 11 and up

Saturdays: March 22, April 26, May 10, June 21, July 26, and August 23

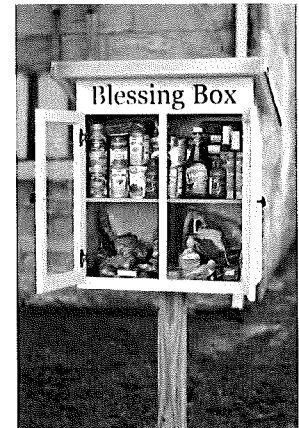
If you would like to bring a group to package, please contact by phone or email: (712) 251-0366 or mercymealsofsiouxland@gmail.com

Hope Ministries – (A two-hour evening experience in Des Moines) JOURNEY is meant to teach groups about both the root causes and difficult challenges of homelessness, as well as what the journey to life recovery looks like at Hope Ministries. [Journey: A Hope Ministries Escape Room Experience - Hope Ministries](#)

Lutheran Braille Workers – Spend some time creating braille Bibles, large print Bibles, audio materials, and/or packing for distribution (multiple MN/Twin City locations) or join with Blind and vision impaired folks for fellowship, Bible study, food, and other activities (South Sioux City). <https://www.lbwloveworks.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Blessing Boxes – Consider building a Blessing Box from scratch, from a prefab cabinet, or a repurposed piece of furniture to have on your property for the community. I would encourage that donations come into your church/school and someone checks them for expiration dates

and safety before going in the box. It can be a great intergenerational project to fill several times a month! Keep it updated with non-perishables, hygiene items, winter hats/mittens, books, etc.



<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/Food-Safety-in-Blessing-Boxes>

I would also really enjoy hearing from you about what is going on through your congregation in outreach in your communities. Are you willing to have others from the district come join you sometime? Serving together often brings much joy and relationship building! It may be a way to find out, in conversation while serving, that you have something in common with another volunteer, or you/they have a skill set that the other is wanting to learn more about. I recently found out that two of my fellow travelers from this past holiday mission trip to California have been talking about gardening, one a seasoned gardener and one a newbie who is going to have a great mentor.

You never know who God has intended for your path cross with while doing work in His name. Have a blessed Easter!



Update

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Feb. 28 **END OF CAMP REGISTRATION “EARLY BIRD” DISCOUNT PERIOD** Registration is open for all summer discipleship programs. Visit campokoboji.org to learn more about our programs and registration.

April 26 **CAMP OKOBOJI ANNUAL MEETING**

May 2-3 **VOLUNTEER WORK WEEKEND**

Summer Staff: Summer Staff is greatly needed! Please encourage youth within your congregations to consider serving as Summer Staff. Invite youth (at least 16 years of age) and college students to consider serving with us in 2025 for an unforgettable summer at the lake. Application profiles can be completed at NLOMA.ORG.

We have started our search for organists to play for our summer worship services. If you would like to share your talents with the worshipers at Camp, please contact me at (712) 337-3325 or adam.campokoboji@gmail.com.

Please remember **CAMP OKOBOJI AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES** held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. The day of the Annual Meeting, the Auxiliary hosts the Grocery Shower (to support the dining hall), the Theme Basket Auction (to support camper scholarships) and the Bake Sale (to support miscellaneous expenses).

Thank You!

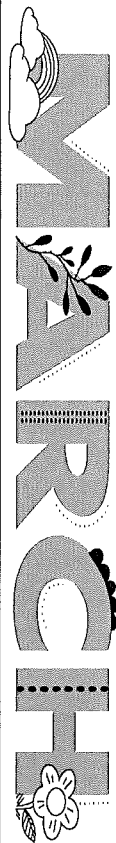
THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

- We extend a very special “THANK YOU” to all the volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors for Camp Okoboji, Camp Okoboji LCMS Foundation, and the Camp Okoboji Auxiliary.
- We extend a very special “THANK YOU” to all volunteers who helped us share Camp Okoboji through our “Family Fun Fest” in connection with the Okoboji Winter Games.

NEEDS/WANTS:

- Gas grills
- Outdoor Rocking Chairs
- Laundry soap, bleach and hand soap
- Queen size mattress pads
- New commercial grade vacuums, coffee pots, toasters, crock pots
- Thrivent Action Team Cards (contact Kellie Jones for potential projects; 712-337-3325)
- Also, ask us about our Amazon Wish List!

Ash Wednesday 3/5



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW	3	4	5 3:45 Midweek 6:30 Ash Wed Service/HC 7:30 Evening Cir	6	7	8
9 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC 11:00 Council Meeting	10	11	12 3:45 Midweek 6:30 Midweek Lenten Service	13	14	15
16 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW/HC	17	18	19 3:45 Midweek 6:30 Midweek Lenten Service	20	21	22
23 9:00 Chr Ed 10:00 DW	24	25	26 3:45 Midweek 6:30 Midweek Lenten Service	27	28	29
30	31					

USHERS

Keith Vetter
Rick Vetter
Jeff Luejfe
Gene Thiedeman
Kim Brockman

Chancel Circle

Diane Witt
Alison Ehlers
PARISH CIRCLE
Diane Witt
Deb Owen

ACQYLTES

Sun 3/2 Audrey Hill
Wed 3/5 Kash Riesberg
Sun 3/9 Lacey Middleton
Wed 3/12 Tyler Middleton
Sun 3/16 Laynie Muhlbauer

Wed 3/19 Amelia Schmitz

Sun 3/23 Marissa Schrad
Wed 3/26 Dane Dirks
Sun 3/30 Macie Schrad

Zion Lutheran Church
118 W Tracy St
Box 59
Arcadia, IA 51430
Rev Andy Noble
712-689-2441
zionluth@westianet.net

Non-Profit Organization
Arcadia, IA 51430
Standard Mail

FRIENDS WHO CARE

Christian Education	9:00 am
Divine Worship	10:00 am

