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Chronicler

MISSION CENTRAL
not normal.

What in the world is Mission Central?

Happy Easter!

See the Article and Insert with this issue to read more!

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Message From Pastor

Dear fellow redeemed in Christ,

Journeys and travels are part of living the Christian life. As I write this, we are preparing for Holy Week once again. We walk with Jesus down the road from the cheers of Palm Sunday to the jeers of Good Friday. Along the way, we stop to mark Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, and usher in the joys of Easter on Saturday evening with the Easter Vigil. Easter is such a big celebration that we mark it with three completely different services. After the Vigil, we gather once again early on Easter Day for the Sunrise Service; after breakfast together, we assemble again for the Chief Service of the Resurrection of our Lord. As we walk the road that Jesus trod, through the readings and the hymns, we are mindful of our sins that caused this to be the only way for us to be made right with God. Jesus gave Himself for us; He allowed Himself to be beaten, scourged, and killed, so that we might live. Understanding this allows us to have a greater appreciation for the unbridled joy that is ours in Christ Jesus and His resurrection.

Right after Easter, in fact, later on Easter day, my family and I are going to be traveling up to northern North Dakota. Doesn't sound like the most logical place for a vacation in the early spring, now does it? (Although, as many of you know, I don't do well with heat, so it might be more appropriate than not!) The reason for this trip is that I have been given a call to be the pastor at Zion English Lutheran Church in Grafton, ND, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Drayton, ND. Since I also have a call to serve you here at OSL, I now have to deliberate and see what the Lord of the Church wishes for me to do. We're going up there to "take the pulse" of the area, meet some of the folks, and investigate the specifics of those two groups of believers. Please pray for me as I deliberate on these three calls, one here and two "up north". My fervent desire is to do God's will and use the skills that He has given me to be His faithful under-shepherd, whether here in Iowa or there in North Dakota. Once we return, I will be making a decision within a couple of weeks, and will keep you informed.

This is always a difficult process, both for me and for you, the people of God. Let me be clear – I have NOT made a final decision either way at this point. If you would like to talk with me more about this; if you have questions that I might be able to answer more fully; if you want to give your opinion on this situation, I'd highly encourage you to do so. Just give me a call, send me an email or text, or send a message with a carrier pigeon (just kidding!). I truly seek your advice whether to go or to stay. To cite our Synod President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, "I covet your prayers". Most importantly, God already knows what is best to serve His kingdom, and He will reveal it in His good time. Whether I go or whether I stay, His promise to be with all of us remains secure and certain. He will watch over us, and give us His peace, joy, and love.

Please plan to join us for the special services that accompany this special time of year. As I've said before, and remind you once again, Maundy Thursday begins the sacred Triduum (three-day period of time) in the church year. It's as if there's one continual service from Thursday, through Friday, up until Saturday night, which anticipates the Day of the Resurrection. There's no benediction Thursday night, no invocation or benediction on Good Friday, and no invocation to begin the Vigil on Saturday night. It's as if we finish the service, go home, and resume where we left off the next day. Please consider attending all these services during Holy Week, as they will help you to see the connectedness and the journey that Christ walked, and that we walk as followers of Him.

I hope to see you in church, in Bible study (I haven't even mentioned those, but you know when they are) and around the community.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Daniel M. Provost

Single White Envelope Seeks Companion…If your box of envelopes is number 846 please let Donita know. She'd love to make the match official and keep the relationship going throughout the year. You can catch her after church or at 319-330-5626.

Thank you, Maria, for sharing the talent and inspiration greeting us on the bulletin board at the front entrance. As Maria Casad was among the new members we welcomed last spring, many of you have met Maria. If you have not, she would welcome the opportunity to meet the next time you see her.

After living most of her life on the "east coast" of Iowa, DeWitt specifically, Maria was contemplating a move to a more central Iowa location to be nearer her growing and spreading family. Newton was among the finalists, so she was especially interested in conversation with a "tableful of bikers" from Newton that she met while working the food stand sponsored by her Dewitt church during RAGBRAI. One of the riders was our own Julie Dlouhy. When Maria selected Newton as her new hometown, she remembered the invitation from a woman named Julie to come to Our Savior Lutheran whenever she was in town.

Little did she realize, when she entered the office asking for help in contacting "a woman named Julie", that she would be talking to that woman. (As you know Julie is often seen in the office "as needed".) In addition, Marie's first visit was a scheduled "quilting day" so she was welcomed by several others as well.

Maria is the mother of three and grandmother of ten, (five of which we were privileged to congratulate last year with our "graduating grandchildren" effort). She also has two surviving sisters with whom she visits as often as possible.

In addition to the display of "The Fruits of the Spirit" that graces the bulletin board, Maria has a variety of other interests and abilities to share. She is an active volunteer and participant here at Our Savior as well as in many ways across Newton. Again, we say, Thank you, Maria

APRIL

Thank you for volunteering this month!

ELDER
Jary Boger

USHER(S)
Joel Tool

GREETER(S)
Larry & Thelma Pettet

ALTAR GUILD
Loretta Tool

FELLOWSHIP
Chris Roby

MUSICIANS
Joy McGinley
Ophie Hart

MEDIA TEAM
Julie Dlouhy
Deanna Ihde
Doug Woebbeking

On February 28, Jo Moses and Maria Casad made a delivery to **Orphan Grain Train** at Clemons, Iowa. In addition to several bags of donated items, over 50 pairs of t-shirt shorts, 100 pillowcase dresses, baby blankets, and a quilt were delivered. These items had been sewn by some of our OSL gals and friends. Maria had received a **Thrivent Action Team** project so the delivery also included items to fill their school health care, and baby care kits.

THE MISSION OF ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN is "to serve our Lord by providing for the needs of people all over the world, both in other countries and here at home." Their latest shipments have gone to Ukraine (April & July 2022) and Lithuania (September 2022). The cost of shipping is tremendously expensive. A few years ago it was $5,000 - $6,000. **They truly appreciate all we do to support them materially, financially, and prayerfully.** They always welcome visitors every **Tuesday from 8 – 12**. They would love to have you join them for coffee/snacks at 10.

Spring is here! Can Graduation be far behind? Care and Share again plans to mail best wishes from the Our Savior Family to grandchildren of our members who are graduating from high school, or receiving additional post-high-school educational recognitions. Start gathering the information, including name, mailing address, and milestone reached.

GOD IS STILL PROVIDING

"REAL MIRACLES"…WE JUST DON'T HEAR ABOUT THEM!

Reprinted from the Mission Central Website, 3/27/23

It all started about 20 years ago! The Lord sends special friends at "just the right time" and that was the case so many years ago, when Pastor Jerry Doellinger was pastor at the congregation of **Our Savior Lutheran Church in Newton**, Iowa! Pastor Doellinger said, "Gary, you can come and report at our congregation!".....and that was the beginning of all of these years of a special Christian Friendship!

Pastor Doellinger was called to serve for years at Concordia Lutheran Church at Cedar Rapids, Iowa and then to help serve at St. Paul Lutheran Church at Marion, Iowa! Just last year he and his dear wife Jan, noticed that something was NOT RIGHT WITH HIS HEALTH. Then they found out that Pastor was losing the function of his kidneys, and that it was so, so, so serious. Yes, it could have been terminal, but the Lord was ready to show Pastor that HE STILL HAD WORK FOR HIM TO DO….HE WAS GOING TO PROVIDE A REAL MIRACLE FOR PASTOR DOELLINGER! A young lady was found to be a willing donor, and the kidney was a REAL MIRACLE MATCH…the kidney started to function immediately, and then everyone realized that our Jesus provided absolute proof that HE had more work for Rev. Doellinger to do for HIS kingdom work.

This past Sunday Rev. Doellinger provided all the liturgy for both services at St. Paul in Marion, Iowa and was able to continue HIS work for Jesus! What a JOY to be with Pastor and Jan. *(See picture)* Here you see this miracle couple in their home in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. **GOD IS STILL PROVIDING MIRACLES…WE JUST DON'T HEAR ABOUT THEM… NOW YOU DO!**

Plan to Attend the Day Tour at MISSION CENTRAL (Mapleton, IA) on Sat., 5/6 Sign-up TODAY!

It's truly a life changing experience to see what God has done at the Wonderful Place called ….MISSION CENTRAL!

A day tour to Mission Central will be one of the most amazing experiences of your life! Please read the additional insert about Mission Central in this Chronicler. You will find that God can do ANYTHING! He can even use an old set of farm buildings to get his kingdom work done in such an amazing way, using just ordinary kind of people, who are NOT NORMAL! Yes, 91 Volunteers, and 5 Volunteer Pilots, have been the backbone to see what God can do! Thousands of people come to Mission Central, because it is now the largest Mission Supporting Agency for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the entire United States...in the middle of a cornfield! Amazing! **Our plan for the day will include:**

7:00 am Depart church – Bring your coffee along if necessary, but we need to get an early start. Transportation will be defined as we determine how large a group will be attending. Please let Doug DeJong know if you'd like to drive.

10:30 am Arrival – Tour the world famous Creation Museum to hear the story of what God did on the 6th day of creation… then tour the Mission Museum in the barn which can seat 300 people. The amazing stories of the stain glass window, the altar, the cross, the pews, and 21 loads of manure! The morning will be complete with these two tours.

12:00 noon – Free dinner meal which is prepared by the volunteer farm ladies. Mission Central does not charge for any meals, as the food is all donated by the LWML ladies with "in-gatherings."

1:00 pm – Special Mission Presentation with video and DVD with amazing stories of the latest things happening in the Mission Field, that will include some of the most beautiful photos that were taken by Missionary Gary from his visits to 75 countries. **Rev. Micah Wildauer** (missionary to Belize) also will speak at this time. A special Mission Bible Study will be included, to make sure we are spiritually fed for the day!

2:30 pm – 3:00pm depart Mission Central: We'll give ourselves a few minutes to satisfy any lingering curiosities.

6:30 pm – Return to Newton in time to have supper at home, or any other plans you have for Saturday evening.