

February 2026

THE GRAPENVINE

Our Savior

Bethlehem



Chad Trunkhill, Senior Pastor
Jarryn Wiley-Pearce, DCE
Church Office, Stephanie Hatterman

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“Who Has Your Six”

A Note from Jarryn

When I was a teen both my grandparents and parents were concerned about who I hung out with. Back then I just didn't get why it mattered. Why did they care who I was around, it didn't make sense. The older I got though the more it made sense. The more I watched how people I knew acted and how they changed depending on the people they associated with I finally understood. In Sunday School for the youth we are looking at that exact thing.

The series is called 'Best Year Ever', its focus is on how we handle your relationships with family and friends, and looking at how Jesus put those people in your life for a reason. If you have never stopped to think about how the people we have in our lives shape who we are take a moment to do that. Are the people that you associate with do they build you up or are they people who lead you to questionable decisions. And I don't mean every once in awhile, let's be honest when we're with our friends sometimes we make questionable choices. Do the people we call friends do they make us better people or do they make us angry at people and the world? Are they people that follow Jesus or let the world lead them?

As Christians we know we have the best friend we could ever want in Jesus but do our earthly friends mirror that or something else.

There are five keys points through out this study that it wants the youth to walk away with.

1. Choose Carefully—friends will affect our lives, will they bring us closer to God or take us away. Another way to look at it is are they are going to build us up or tear us down.

*Proverbs 12:26 : One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor,
but the way of the wicked leads them astray.*

2. Choose Wisdom—look to friends that will influence wise choices not poor decisions that can affect your future.

*Proverbs 13:20: Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise,
but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

3. Choose Reliability—look for those friends that will be there for you when you need them, not people who only want something for themselves out of the relationship.

*Proverbs 18:24: A man of many companions may come to ruin,
but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

4. Choose Levelheadedness or a right attitude—if you chose someone that is quick to anger or has a bad attitude you will find yourself falling into the same attitudes.

*Proverbs 22:24-25: Make no friendship with a man given to anger,
nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways
and entangle yourself in a snare.*

5. Choose Integrity—if you are around people that lack character, it won't be long till you find yourself doing the same things and treating people the way they do.

1 Corinthians 15:33: Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals.

The last question this study leaves the youth to think about, I will leave, "What kind of friend are you?"

In Christ,
Jarryn Wiley-Pearce

YOUTH

Upcoming

Valentines Dinner



Valentines Dinner Fundraiser

This year we will be hosting a Valentines Dinner! What that means is we will need to pick a theme for decorations, a menu and get the word out. We will need to decorate the room we use and have parents help with the cooking, youth will be serving. If we have youth willing to share their musical talents for the evening that would be a fantastic addition to the evening.

We will also need youth to volunteer to take care of children if the adults wish to have a nice meal with out the rest of the family. The goal of this is to give families/couples a nice evening out while raising funds for the future youth activities.

Youth Group
Sr. High Connect
Wednesdays @ 6:30
NO Connect Feb 11 & Feb 18

Sunday Connect
Sundays @ 4:30
NO Connect Feb 8th & Feb 15th



**Jr. High
Mini Lock-in**
Sunday Feb 1
6 pm to Midnight

We will be having a Jr. High Mini—Lock the first day of February.

We will be playing games, eating snacks and of course there will be devotion time. We ask that you please bring a drink and snack to share.

Friends are welcome!



Check the bulletin for more youth activities.

Sunday School

Sundays @ 10:15 am



Elementary

Pre-k—5th Grade Upstairs in the South Classroom

With Two or More we will celebrate how we can help kids to be seen, known, and loved. Just like Jesus taught to a small and large groups, Two or More leads the kids whether it is a small group or large group of kids to share Bible-rich experiences as they grow in faith together.

Youth

6th—12th Grade Downstairs in the Youth Room

We will be starting a new Bible Study called "Best Year Ever" If you're ready to have the BEST YEAR EVER, how you handle your relationships with family and friends will be a huge factor.

Jesus put those people in your life for a reason.

Starlight by the Sea 2026 Valentine's Dinner

February 21, 2026

Seating's at 4:30 & 6:30

Make Reservations Today!

Beef tips in an au jus sauce, baked potato, seasoned fresh green beans or General Tso seasoned brussel sprouts, rolls, salad & choice of dessert.

Gluten Free Available upon request

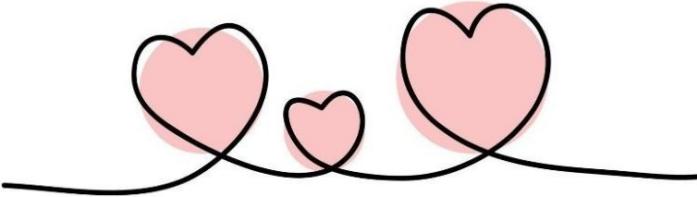
Child Care will be provided

Proceeds support the youth

OUR SAVIOR
(BOLD & BLACK)

February 2026

BETHLEHEM
(BLUE, BOLD, ITALICIZED)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 LWML Noisy Offering 9:00 OS Worship ✝ After Service: Adult BBS & Sunday School 9:15 Beth Adult BBS & Sunday School 10:30 Beth Worship ✝ 6:00pm-12:00am Jr. High Youth Lock-in	2 9:00 Coffee Crew 9:00 Quilters 7:00 Elders Meeting 6:00 Cub Scouts (Basement)	3 5:00pm-8:00pm Chuck Downing Rental (Gathering Area)	4 4:00: WBS 4 yr. old – 3 rd grade 4:00: Rock 456 Classes 5:30: Meal/Snack Time 5:45: Choir 6:00: 7 th – 8 th grade Confirmation Classes 6:30: Sr. High Connect	5	6	7 5:30 OS Worship
8 9:00 OS Worship After Service: Adult BBS & Sunday School 9:15 Beth Adult BBS & Sunday School 10:30 Beth Worship	9 9:00 Coffee Crew 2:00 Women's Guild Meeting	10 7:00 Council Meeting	11 4:00: WBS 4 yr. old – 3 rd grade 4:00: Rock 456 Classes 5:30: Meal/Snack Time 5:45: Choir 6:00: 7 th – 8 th grade Confirmation Classes 6:30: Sr. High Connect	12	13	14 Happy Valentines Day! 5:30 OS Worship ✝
15 9:00 OS Worship ✝ After Service: Adult BBS & Sunday School 9:15 Beth Adult BBS & Sunday School 10:30 Beth Worship ✝	16 9:00 Coffee Crew 9:00 Quilters 6:00 Cub Scouts (Basement) 7:00 Bethlehem Leadership Meeting	17 LWML Hour of Prayer @OS 9:00 Fellowship 10:00 Service CCHF @ Presbyterian Church: 1:00 Preparation 3:00 Distribution	18 Ash Wednesday 5:30 Ash Wednesday Service Beth ✝ 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service OS ✝ 	19 9:45 BBS @ OS	20 Valentines Dinner Setup 4:00-7:00 March Grapevine Info Due	21 Valentines Dinner! 5:30 OS Worship
22 9:00 OS Worship After Service: Adult BBS & Sunday School 9:15 Beth Adult BBS & Sunday School 10:30 Beth Worship 4:30: Jr. High Connect	23 9:00 Coffee Crew 6:30 Discipleship Meeting	24 7:00 Right to Life Meeting	25 4:00: WBS 4 yr. old – 3 rd grade 4:00: Rock 456 Classes 5:30: Lenten Meal 5:30 Lent Service (Beth) 6:00: 7 th – 8 th grade Confirmation Classes 5:45: Choir 6:30: Sr. High Connect 7:00: Lent Service (OS)	26 9:45 BBS @ OS	27	28 5:30 OS Worship ✝
					<p>Communion will be served during this service ✝</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Mon – Fri, 9:00 – 2:00 712-263-3282</p> <p>Updated: 1/30/26</p>	

Please contact the office directly if you have a new event/meeting in the next 7 days. If it is in the future, please put it on the large calendar posted in the office or contact the office directly. To make changes, communicate directly to the office. Thank you!

Our Savior Women's Guild Meeting Minutes January 12, 2026

Our Savior Women's Guild met for our regular monthly meeting on January 12th, with six members in attendance. President Dianne led us in the LWML Pledge and then the Common Table Prayer. We enjoyed shared treats along with good conversation.

Dianne opened the business meeting with Secretary's Report by Sandy, and Treasurer's Report by Jan N. Both were accepted as read. Jan reported that she has sent a gift of \$50.00 to each of 14 Seminary students in our district.

Jan Jacobsen shared from Stephen Ministry for her Christian Growth presentation, entitled "The Most Important Thing You've Done in Life".

She followed with a John Wooden poem "Don't Look Back". Both readings gave us inspiration for life.

Reports:

- Gracewell - Gracewell Auxiliary \$50 dues will be paid. A volunteer list for helping will be available in January
- Quilters - Quilt sale was a big success. They donated to several mission groups
- Cards - Sympathy and Easter cards available
- Altar - Beautiful purple banners hanging on each side of the altar are much appreciated. Thank you, Kathy Schneider!

District Convention will be June 11-13 at Camp Okoboji. Our Denison District Zone will host along with the Council Bluffs Zone. We will need two delegates to attend the Convention and will need those names at our next meeting on February 9th. Please give this your prayerful consideration.

Hour of Prayer will be on Tuesday, February 17th at Our Savior. Fellowship is 9:00, and Service at 10:00. We will be serving coffee and coffee cakes at 9:00.

Noisy offering will be on January 31st and February 1st

\$5 dues can be paid anytime.

Mite box was passed. We adjourned the meeting by praying together The Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be on February 9th at 2:00. Please upon us.

Dianne treated us with information about "We Three Kings of Orient Are", by author John H. Hopkins in 1989. We joined in singing together five verses of this carol.

Sandy Johnson, Secretary

LWML Hour of Prayer

The LWML hour of prayer will be on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Denison. At 9:00am there will be coffee and fellowship. the worship service will be at 10:00am. Please contact Dianne Furne with any questions.

A Few Thoughts on Stewardship...

God calls us to be faithful stewards who use our time, talents, and money as participants in His mission "*to seek and save the lost*" (Luke 19:10). We are to be about God's mission with all the resources He entrusts to us. God's mission becomes our mission. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we become God's tools through whom and with whom He works. We become faithful stewards by God's grace and His Spirit's power.

**CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP IS THE PART GOD ALLOWS
EACH OF US TO PLAY IN
CARRYING FORWARD HIS PLAN OF SALVATION.**

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation" (2 Corinthians 5:18).



Prayers & Praise

"Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests, while giving thanks." **Philippians 4:6**

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THOSE WITH VARIOUS HEALTH ISSUES:

Lowell Neumann, Tammy Schurke, Denise Buckholdt, Jerry Blackmore, Gabby Riessen, Doris Neumann, Raven Stone, Pauline Meeves, Norma Berens, Eli Riessen, Cheryl Rath.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SHUT INS

Ruth Blackmore, Jenell Beam, Adlyn Ohl, Mary Jane Petersen.

REMEMBER THOSE SERVING AS MILITARY PERSONNEL

Cody Vogt – United States Air Force, Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, son of Mike & Lisa Vogt
Tanner Krayneski – United States Marines, Camp Pendleton, Grandson of Byron & Pauline Meeves
Rob Garvey – United States Air Force, Fort Mead, Maryland, son in law of Ron & Catherine Lechtenberg
Alex Wingert – United States Navy, California, nephew of Larry Gittins
Payton Malone – United States Air Force, Grand Fork, North Dakota, Grandson of George & Julie Malone
Hanna Alexander – Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia, Granddaughter of Lynn & Clarence Hoffman
Kaya Auen – United States Navy, Fort Sam, San Antonio, Daughter of Kristin Kastner
Jed Wiley – United States Army, Tacoma, Washington, Brother of Jarryn Wiley-Pearce
Chandler Lee – United States Air Force, Missouri, Grandson of Sam Lee, and nephew of Travis & Rondi Wessel

REMEMBER THOSE WE SUPPORT SERVING AS MISSIONARIES

Benjamin and Ella Goehring – Romania	Rev. Jason and Emily Groth and Family – Belize
Rev. Dr. Thomas Park – Taiwan	Ruth Maita - Puerto Rico
Vicar Gavin Johnson – Dominican Republic	Hannah Hester - Asia Region
Rev. Jonathan Anderson – Panama	Pastor Carl & Chenhsie Li Hanson and Family – Korea
Rev. James and Angela Sharp – Puerto Rico	Zachary Turley – Japan
Eddy & Jamie Bynum – Spain	

Our Savior Prayer Chain Co-Captains

Doris: 402-350-3022, Shelly: 263-4376

Bethlehem Prayer Chain Co-Captains

Julie: 269-7715, Sue: 263-9613

FEBRUARY THY STRONG WORD

Tune in Monday through Saturday, 6:25 a.m. KDSN (104.9 FM) 3-4-minute devotions sponsored by the local LCMS congregations.

February 2nd—February 7th

February 9th—February 14th

February 16th—February 21st

February 23rd—February 28th

Rev. Jeffrey Wade

Rev. Merle Mahnken

Rev. Chad Trunkhill

Rev. Richard Merrill

Zion LC, Denison

Immanuel LC, Schleswig

Our Savior & Bethlehem

Multi-Point, Charter Oak

To financially support these broadcasts, please send donations to Our Savior and earmark for "Thy Strong Word."

Our Savior's Website
www.oursaviordenison.com

Facebook

Our Savior Lutheran – Denison, IA
Our Savior Denison-Youth Ministries

APP

"The Church App"-Our Savior Lutheran

The Lutheran Hour

6:30 a.m. Sundays:
KDSN-FM 104.9 Denison
10:30 a.m. Sundays:
KDSN-AM 1530

"Thy Strong Word"

Every Mon-Sat. 6:25 a.m.
KDSN-FM 104.9

Iowa District West

www.idwlcms.org

Camp Okoboji

www.campokoboji.org

Mission Central

www.missioncentral.us

Lutheran Family Services

www.lfslowa.org

Crossroads of Crawford County

www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.com

3707 Timberline Dr., Denison

712-263-9950

Director@Crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org

FCC (Family Crisis Center)

712-449-7196

michellej@familycrisiscenters.org

Additional online resources:

Lutheran Hour Ministries: www.lhm.org

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod: www.lcms.org

Lutheran Women's Missionary League: www.lwml.org

Men's Network: www.lhmmen.com

Online Bible: www.biblegateway.com

Concordia Publishing House: www.CPH.org

Rightnow Media: www.rightnowmedia.org

lets Connect!

CHURCH MAILBOXES

Don't forget to check your church mailbox. Located in the gathering area.

If you do not currently have a church mailbox and would like one, or if you have any name corrections you need made, please contact Stephanie at the church office, as I plan to re-do name labels on the mailboxes soon.

Happening in February

Our Savior 2025 Annual Report

We have begun to put together the 2025 Annual Report. If you are the head of a church board, committee or group, please turn in your 2025 report information to the office by February 16th, or sooner. Thank you for your help to prepare this document on time for the congregation.



2025 Contribution Statements Available

Contribution statements for 2025 have been placed in your church mailboxes in the Gathering area. If you should have any questions, please contact the office. If you would like your statement sent via USPS, please let the office know. Thank you!

Discipleship Joy Bags

Discipleship Joy bags are now available again! Pick one up from the Welcome Center, if you are going to visit someone in the hospital, the nursing home, someone in their home, or just for someone that needs a "pick me up". Take them a Joy Bag and put a smile on their face!

BPM Conference:

BPM, which stands for **Best Practices in Ministry**, is a conference hosted by Christ Church Lutheran. For over 10 years they have offered this conference to remind professional and lay church workers that you are loved, you are not alone, and you matter. February 11th – February 15th Pastor Chad and Brenda, Jarryn and Ben, Stephanie and her husband Tristan, Chuck Downing, Darin Johnson, Rachel Greene, and Sue Bergamo will be traveling to Phoenix, Arizona to attend this conference.



Cost: \$600
Check bulletin for more information or speak to Jarryn if you are interested.

Come Build Home
Mexico Mission Trip
March 14-20, 2026



Reminders:

Elders Meeting: 2/2 @7:00

Women's Guild Meeting:

2/9 @2:00

Council Meeting: 2/10 @7:00

Bethlehem Leadership Meeting:

2/16 @7:00

Discipleship Meeting: 2/23 @6:30

2026 Valentine's Dinner
Starlight by the Sea
February 21, 2026
Save the Date!



more things to share

Ash Wednesday
Services
February 18th.
Bethlehem: 5:30pm
Our Savior: 7:00pm



Join Us for Wednesday
Lent Services
Wednesdays, February 25th
through March 25th
Bethlehem: 5:30 pm.
Our Savior:
Lenten Meals at 5:30,
Service at 7:00 pm



check out our NEW app!



Search and download "THE CHURCH APP" in
the App Store. Once you've downloaded you
can search "our savior lutheran" You can
also scan the QR code. If you have any
questions, please contact the office.



CAMP OKOBOJI 2026

Discipleship Programs

May 29-31	Kid's Kamp
June 4-7	Joy Camp 1
June 14-18	Cub Week 1
June 28-July 3	July 4 th Family Retreat
July 5-11	Jr High Week
July 9-12	Joy Camp 2
July 12-18	Cub Week 2
July 19-25	Youth Week
July 26-31	Family Retreat #1
August 2-7	Family Retreat #2

Other Events

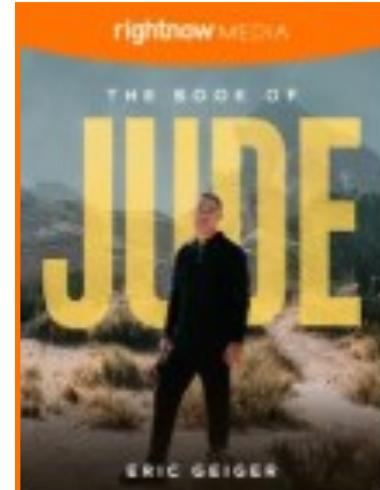
January 23-25...	Family Ice Fishing Retreat
May 1-2...	Spring Volunteer Work Weekend
June 10-13...	Iowa West District LWML Convention
June 20...	Camp Okoboji Auxiliary Quilt Auction
June 21-27...	Minneboji Lutheran Camp
May 24-September 6...	Sunday Worship
1st Sundays of the Month (May-October)...	Brunch
October 9-10...	Fall Volunteer Work Weekend

For more information and to
register, visit
campokoboji.org



ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

Everyone is Welcome!



SUNDAYS

9:15 am Bethlehem Bible Study & Sunday School
10:15 am Our Savior Bible Study & Sunday School

THURSDAYS

9:45 am Bible Study @ Our Savior

January 2026 PARISH RECORDS

January Official Acts		
Deaths:		
Bob Hamilton	Born: April 10, 1950	Died: December 28, 2025
	Service: January 5, 2026, Our Savior	Pastor Chad Trunkhill
Marlene Giermann	Born: February 1, 1934	Died: January 23, 2026
	Service: January 31, 2026, Our Savior	Pastor Chad Trunkhill
Sharlene Hansen	Born: March 15, 1940	Died: January 27, 2025
	Service: January 30, 2026, Our Savior	Pastor Chad Trunkhill

Flyers and events to Share



2026 IOWA PRAYER RALLY FOR LIFE

THU, FEB 5 | IOWA STATE CAPITOL

Join the Movement | 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM | Iowa State Capitol

EVERY life is precious! Join the Iowa Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders at the Iowa State Capitol for a day of prayer, education, and advocacy.

Learn to Lobby | 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM | Room TBD

Your voice matters. Veteran lobbyists will equip you with practical tools to confidently engage legislators and advocate for life-affirming policies.

Exhibitors & Pro-Life Resources | 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM | Rotunda

Connect with pro-life organizations from across Iowa offering resources, information, and meaningful ways to get involved.

Prayer Rally for Life | 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM | Rotunda

Invited speakers include: Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird, Iowa Representative Jon Dunwell, and other governmental, faith, and pro-life leaders.

Lobby Your Legislators | 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Meet with legislators to encourage, pray with, and advocate for life-affirming legislation, including: Life at Conception, Black Market Abortion, and support for mothers through the MOMS Bill.

COALITION OF
PROLIFE
LEADERS | Stronger Together

You're invited to SESSION 3 OF SUPPORT ON THE ROCKS

Sit down for some straight talk about aging – served with a twist. Pull up a chair, pour yourself something strong (or soothing), and join us for real conversations about aging, caregiving, and planning ahead.

Session 3: Tab Open!? What Aging Really Costs (and Who's Paying) February 5, 2026 | 5:00 PM

Retirement realities, estate planning & avoiding surprise costs. Understand the financial side of aging – for your parents or yourself.

Speakers: Brad Bonner, Attorney and Tina Thompson, Eventide Campus Business Office Manager

Each session will take place at Gracewell, located at 114 South 20th Street in Denison. The series is free and open to the community. Registration is appreciated but not required. Please call Morgan Saunders at Gracewell, (712) 263-3114, to learn more or register for a program(s)!



Scouting for Food Chili Supper 20th Year!



Sunday, February 1
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Denison First United
Methodist Church

Please bring non-perishable donations and/or a free will monetary donation for T.A.P. and the Emergency Food Pantry at the Denison Methodist Church.

People who are not able to attend Sunday evening may drop off their donations in support of Scouting for Food in the fellowship hall at the church beginning at 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Red Bean Beef Chili or White Chicken Chili Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Dessert & Drink

Drive-thru is available by driving
through the alley beside the church!



Sponsored by local Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Boy Scouts.

All food and monetary proceeds from the drive will go directly to Crawford County T.A.P., the Woodbine Community Food Pantry, and the Emergency Food Pantry. None of the money donated is used to purchase the materials to make the food.

Donations have also been made in the past by local businesses, including HyVee, Family Table, Fareway, FSC, Casey's, and Crawford County Cattlemen. Scouts contribute toward the purchase of supper ingredients and make the desserts.

Contact Christy Welch at 712-269-1987 for more information.



Please Join Us . . . IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON



Sunday, February 15, 2026

11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Serving: Chili, Potato & Chicken Noodle Soups
Sandwiches ~ Desserts

Dine-In and Drive-Thru Available
\$10 per meal

All proceeds will support Immanuel's mission projects.

Immanuel Lutheran Church
5th and Glad Street, Schleswig, IA



Notes & Letters Received



December 23, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church - Denison
500 N 24th St
Denison, IA 51442-1704

Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the men, women, children, infants, couples, families, and church workers we serve who will receive the help they need because of your generosity, thank you! Your gift of \$375.00 was received in our office on December 22, 2025, bringing your total gift of support for the year to \$1,500.

Many come to us for help with overwhelming grief, mental distress, unplanned pregnancy, the pain of infertility or miscarriage, marriage and family relationships that are estranged and at risk of breaking, and hundreds of other burdens. I ask you to pray for them, even though you don't know their names. We exist as an extension of the ministry of the LCMS church to serve these folks during times of need with professional and Christ-centered help.

Pray also for those whose struggles who are known to you. Encourage them to reach out to us for help. It's why we're here!

Thank you, and God bless you all for your love and care for people in need, and for your partnership with us in this life-changing, life-saving work!

In His Service,

Wanda Prizel
Wanda Prizel
Director of Ministry Advancement

Dear Our Savior Members,

The Board of Directors of the Orphan Grain Train express their sincere gratitude for your generous commitment.

We are immensely grateful for your continued support of the Orphan Grain Train with your donation of \$500. This will be used to cover shipping costs as we continue to send needed personal items to those less fortunate in the US and around the world. Thank you and God Bless!
Orphan Grain Train
Iowa West Branch

Dear Our Savior Women's Guild,

Thank you so much for remembering me this Christmas with your kind gift, & thank God for your generosity as I continue my studies at CTSFW! God's blessings to all of you as we enter the new year!

*In Christ,
Jonathan Schuy*

Dear ones,

Merry Christmas! Christ is born!

We write to you from Puerto Rico, where the weather is so cool we need sweatshirts and socks in the morning. Ruth misses the white Christmases of Canada, but she is also content with the warmer weather here. Mikaela (6) and Isaiah (4) make do with snowballs made out of the sand, and they dream of playing in the snow one day.

But, some things are the same. Christmas lights and Christmas trees. You can buy a real evergreen tree (shipped from somewhere up north) for \$60. Christmas meals. Except here the meal is pork, rice with beans combined, potato salad, pasta salad and a "pastel". Thankfully, the most important thing is the same. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11 We gather with our church family on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to celebrate. Ruth plays the trumpet to Joy to the World (in Spanish it's Al mundo gozo).

For the first time in eight years, we celebrated with the Maita family in Puerto Rico. This has been the biggest change. We received Gustavo's brother, as a fellow missionary pastor on the field, and his family arrived this summer. Gustavo's parents also received visas to immigrate and arrived this fall. It has been such a blessing to have time together. We do not know what the future holds but are very thankful for each day we have near them. We were also blessed to be with Ruth's parents to celebrate their 60th anniversary, and her father's 60th year in the ministry – he's currently serving a vacancy in his 89th year on Earth!

This summer we traveled through parts of the States, visiting churches and thanking all for the support given to continue serving here. We are ever so grateful for this. Thank YOU for your support and prayers.

This Christmas season we held a "Pastel"- making workshop at church. We invited families to come and learn how to make part of a Puerto Rican Christmas meal. Sonia, our church member, prepared the meat mixture and green banana "dough". She taught how to put the "dough" on a banana leaf, fold meat into the middle, wrap up the leaf and tie with string. We met three new mom and their children – one mom will lead our next workshop in January. These opportunities draw more families into the church to hear the Gospel and become connected, God-willing, as members of the His family here.

By the time this arrives at your home or church it will be Epiphany! God's blessing on your new year. May His Word by your light and lamp as we continue into 2026.

With love, Pastor Gustavo, Ruth, Mikaela, Isaiah, Ivanna and Zachariah Maita



VISION: Refreshing Body & Spirit
MISSION: We provide Sanctuary which connects guests with God and His Creation
VALUES: Gospel, Safety, Excellence, Wellness, Stewardship, Legacy

December 26, 2025

Dear Our Savior,

I am so grateful for your generosity to Camp Okoboji!

Your donation of \$500 in support of our Annual Fund is a great blessing.

Thanks to your support, Camp Okoboji continues to be a Sanctuary where guests can connect with God in the beauty of nature.

This year, as families, friends, and individuals gathered here at Camp Okoboji, we saw firsthand the powerful impact of your gifts. Whether it was through quiet moments of prayer by the lakeside, joyous worship services, or simply experiencing the peace that only nature can provide, countless lives were touched and strengthened in faith.

Your commitment to our mission allows us to continue this vital work, creating a space where guests can draw closer to God and each other. As we prepare for the Christmas season ahead, we give thanks for your partnership, which sustains and inspires us through every season.

Thank you for being an essential part of our mission at Camp Okoboji!

In Christ,

Adam Hengeveld
Adam Hengeveld
Executive Director

*Thank you for
this wonderful
gift! I appreciate
your partnership!*

*love is patient,
love is kind.*

IT DOES NOT ENVY,
IT DOES NOT BOAST,
IT IS NOT PROUD.
IT DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS,
IT IS NOT SELF-SEEKING,
IT IS NOT EASILY ANGERED,
IT KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS.
LOVE DOES NOT DELIGHT IN EVIL
BUT REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH.
IT ALWAYS PROTECTS,
ALWAYS TRUSTS, ALWAYS HOPES,
ALWAYS PERSEVERES.

love never fails

Our Savior Lutheran Church
500 N 24th Street
Denison, Iowa 51442

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