

Every August a couple of events take place that, for me and many others, have been a tremendous blessing from the Lord. One of those events is the Quilt Auction weekend at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp. This year the weekend begins on Friday, August 4 with the Scandinavian Feast and Glenn Henriksen concert, and continues on Saturday the 5th with a 5k run/walk in the morning, and the auction starting at 1pm. This event is, of course, a great blessing for the camp itself, as it is a major fundraiser. But as Kara and I have gone the last few years, we have been richly blessed to see and connect with all of the people whom, over the years, the Lord has touched in a powerful way through the ministry of IOLBC. And this year one of the quilts up for auction is from the quilting ministry of our own Women of Hope! More information about the weekend event, and the camp in general, can be found at www.okoboji.org.

The other event, which this year is scheduled for the week of August 5-13, is the Bible Conference in Arnold's Park. The 9 days of the conference are filled with wonderful concerts, worship music, bible teaching and much more! Since its opening year in 1935, the conference has seen all kinds of powerful preachers come speak God's Word, including Billy Graham! And there has been, and continues to be, absolutely no admission fees for any of the conference – it is entirely supported by offerings and gifts. More information about the conference can be found at www.okobojiconference.com.

If you haven't experienced either of these events before, I'd encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities for growth and fellowship in Christ that are not very far away!

God Bless, *Pastor Dan*

Sowing Seeds of Stewardship
John W. Jensen

It's hard to believe that August is almost here (or is here, depending on when you read this). The new month means starting over in the cycle of paying bills and reconciling checking accounts. Between all my jobs, I have 10 checking accounts to reconcile! No wonder I sometimes dread the beginning of the month.

A few years ago, a biographer researched the life of the Duke of Wellington. He had no difficulty tracing the major events of his life, but pushing beyond public knowledge to an understanding of the private side of the Duke remained difficult. Then this researcher came across a box of his financial records. When the researcher learned what the Duke had done with his money, he finally discovered the Duke's deepest values and most important priorities.

If someone were to come across our financial records a hundred years from now, what would our checking account or our Quickbook files say about us? Would we be embarrassed by our use of money? Would our financial records give any sign that we sought to live as faithful stewards of the treasures God had entrusted to us?

We don't use the word "steward" very much in our culture. The only steward most of us meet is the one who brings us a cup of coffee or a bag of peanuts on a flight. But in biblical times, stewards were among the most important people in society. A steward had command over the resources of another.

In a world without fax machines, cell phones, or pagers, a wealthy man had no choice but to entrust his holdings to his steward while he was away from his estate.

In the Parable of the Talents from Matthew, Jesus teaches that all of us are stewards entrusted by God with wealth.

Some with 5 talents, some with 2 talents and some with 1 talent. Even the steward who received just one talent was given a fortune worth the equivalent of thirty-five years of daily wages. And for the stewards who used their talents wisely, Jesus said, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"* (Parable of the Talents: Matthew 25:14-30)

But exercising our stewardship is often intimidating. Whenever we use our gifts, we risk what we think might be failure. We fear not having enough. It's tempting to think that if God is really so powerful, God hardly needs our meager efforts to multiply his wealth!

Each of us faces the temptation of compromising our calling. Is it really so evil to do nothing with the resources God has left in our keeping? Jesus' parable answers this question with a resounding yes! As the master illustrates, God treats us severely when we offer excuses to justify our reluctance to be stewards.

It is good to know that another option is open to us. We can seize our role as stewards with the eagerness of the first two stewards in the parable. Both of these faithful stewards multiply the master's resources. And both receive the same reward at their master's return: *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"*

When you reconcile your checking account, what does it say about the use of the talents the Lord has given you? At the end of times, will we hear those same words from the Lord, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"*? To God be the glory. Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Come and Go Bridal Shower for Angie Geerdes, bride-to-be of Ty MacConnell, **Saturday, August 12** from **9:30-11:00 a.m.**

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Jeremy Dose	7 Logan Ehlers	20 Richard Goeken	30 John Heuck
2 Jessica Curran	12 Ryan Berends	20 Teresa Hansen	30 Jeff Schoelerman
2 Don Dose	13 Rick Follon	23 Jennifer Steuben	30 Ben Thomsen
2 Rich Englert	15 Molly Juza	23 Skyler Tessum	30 Jake Thomsen
2 Keegan Hutchinson	15 Kyle Kolb	24 Lee Geerdes	31 Millie Scharnberg
4 David Hoye	15 Andrew Quail	24 Kris Keene	
5 Kirsten Glackin	19 Rachel Schoelerman	24 Stephanie Steuben	

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

2 Jeff and Rachel Schoelerman	4 Dan and Kara Taylor	14 Dick and Rita Goeken
2 Tyler and Ashley Tessum	6 Lee and Katie Geerdes	15 Dave and Cheri Hoye
3 Bud and Arlene Meyer	7 John and Jessie Curran	21 Loren and Julie Ehlers
4 Tom and Pat Kunzman	7 Curt and Kari Tessum	

AREA OPPORTUNITIES

One of the biggest weekends of the year at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp! AUGUST 4 & 5!

Scandinavian Feast: FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Uffda! Get your fill of fine Scandinavian fare, all the coffee you can drink, and don't forget the lefse! Everyone's welcome to this feast of fun and fellowship... and lots of traditional desserts! Quilts available for viewing from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

Glenn Henriksen Concert: FRIDAY, 7:00 PM

Glenn is from Armstrong, IA. He is a versatile pianist and organist. Glenn's lifetime experience in many musical genres has enabled him to develop a unique musical style, resulting in one-of-a-kind improvised arrangements. Concert free will offering.

5K Fun Run/Walk: SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 8:00 AM

Go to okoboji.org to see more information about the 5K Fun Run!

Quilt Viewing: 9:30 - noon

Lunch: 11am - 1pm

30th Annual Quilt Auction: SATURDAY, 1:00 PM

Afternoon: pie and ice cream



Okoboji Bible Conference SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 - SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

What is the conference? Come and go as you like, there are many ways to learn and grow. Morning bible studies, morning sessions (varying topics) for adults and also for youth. Evening worship, speakers, musicians, concerts. And more.

The 2017 theme is Embrace HIS World. Learn how to live out the transforming power of Christ in an increasingly complex context for Christian life and mission.

Visit okobojiconference.org for the full schedule and all the details. No registrations fees - all free will donation.

COMMUNITY SHOWERS

Come & Go Baby Shower in honor of Tenee Jessen, Saturday August 5, 9:30-11 a.m. at Everly United Methodist Church.

Salad Bar Luncheon for Tori Campbell, bride-elect of Derek Meshke, Saturday, Aug 12, 11-1 at Bethlehem in Royal. Noon program.

Church Council Meeting - JULY MINUTES

President Adolf called the meeting to order at 8:08 PM on July 12, 2017. Pastor Dan gave devotions from Psalm 119 v. 137, which talked about praising the Lord for his righteousness.

Members present: Kevin Adolf – President Todd Meyer - Trustee Brian Kahl – Trustee
John Jensen – Treasurer Carol Schmeling– Deacon Monica Glime – Secretary

Secretary's report reviewed. M/S/C by Meyer/Kahl to approve report.

Treasurer's report reviewed – within budget in all areas halfway thru the year with positive cash position, M/S/C by Glime/Schmeling to approve report as presented and pay current bills.

Member's report: Baptism: Elizabeth Geerdes (Lee & Katie)

Trustee's report: Bell Tower repair – waiting for estimates

Painting update on outside – we are waiting for them to come

Parsonage projects – M/S/C Kahl/Schmeling for \$620.00 in landscaping to be purchased, work to be done by congregation help.

Getting chimes working again in bell tower – checking into it

Kitchen window doors – Kathy Behrens has found them and the cost will be covered by donations, ok to order them.

Board of Education: Confirmation: Class resumes in the fall

High School Youth: Approved to hire Chris again at the same rate as last year in contract with OLBC, M/S/C Jensen/Kahl.

New Business: Painting – Fireside Room ceiling is in need of being painted. Going to check with painters when come for outside to see on price.

Prayers – 6 CCE Spanish students are traveling to Nicaragua from July 24–Aug 1. Hannah Stimson and Brooke Kathman from our congregation are traveling with this group. Please keep them in your prayers.

The next council meeting will be **Wednesday, August 9 at 6:00 PM, picnic in the park.**

Tidings material is due in the office by July 25, 2017.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:54 PM.

Secretary, Monica Glime

STEWARDSHIP KIT FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Supplies are being collected for the next months for school kits. Place donations in the basket in the narthex.

School Kit taken to Lutheran World Relief

- *Please use new items in good condition.
- 4 70-sheet notebooks of wide-or college-ruled paper
- 1 30-centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 blunt scissors-safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers-secure together with a rubber band
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens-no gel ink-secure together with a rubber band
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 2 ½" eraser
- 1 sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag-14" X 17" with shoulder straps

School Kit taken to Orphan Grain Train

- Student-sized backpack
- 2-3 spiral notebooks-any size
- 2 or more pencils
- 2 or more pens
- Package of construction paper
- Crayons
- Ruler
- Glue sticks
- Blunt scissors
- Washable markers
- Protractor

Coordinators: Shirley Adolf & Linda Harders

AUGUST

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Altar: Emma Pearson & Holly Pearson Ushers: Jon Berends, John Geerdes, Quinton Harmon, Neil Scharnberg Communion: LayVonne Peters & Karla Saboe Service Group #1			2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 7:00 WOW Bible Study			
9:00 Worship/Communion Greeter: Jeff Pearson & family Reader: Rachel Schoelerman Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Denny Harmon 10:00 Fellowship & Adult Study	10-2 Food Pantry		2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 6:00 Council Picnic & Mtg			9:30-11 Geerdes Shower
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00 Worship Greeter: Jay Pearson & family Reader: Jeannine Bunge Pianist: Sue Hartmann Projection: Judy Englert 10:00 Fellowship & Adult Study	10-2 Food Pantry		2:00 Martha Bible Study 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:00 Worship/Communion Greeter: Mark Hansen & family Reader: Mark Scharnberg Organist: Cynthia Knapp Projection: Teresa Hansen 10:00 Fellowship	10-2 Food Pantry	Tridings Material Due	2:00-6:00 Food Pantry 7:00 WOW Bible Study			
27	28	29	30	31		
9:00 Worship Greeter: Irv Maaland & family Reader: Quinton Harmon Pianist: Connie Goeken Projection: Kara Taylor 10:00 Fellowship	10-2 Food Pantry		9:00 Quilt Day 2:00-6:00 Food Pantry			

Martha Bible Study - Held at Judy Englert's home. Study by Nancy Heuck.
Women of Word Study - Fireside Room.