



## !AMIGOS EN CRISTO!

News from IDW Hispanic Ministry in Denison, Storm Lake, & Des Moines: **Missionary/Pastor Daniel Vogel**

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West, LCMS

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### TEACHING ENGLISH IN STORM LAKE

What could you do to help the Hispanics in your community? You can teach them English or offer a class to prepare adults to take the citizenship exam or other classes that will help them in their new life as immigrants to our communities. The steady number of Hispanics who want to take these classes shows that they are very much interested in participating in life here in Iowa and in the U.S. That's what we are doing in Storm Lake. Pastor Craig Cummins of St. Paul Lutheran in nearby Alta is teaching an English class twice a week with the help of volunteers from his church and also from Grace. It's a family affair as one of the families attending the class includes five sisters studying together. It is wonderful to watch them learn together, as well as teasing one another.

They know that their future and the future of their children rests with their understanding of the English language. In a recent article in the Omaha World Herald the Storm Lake area has the highest percentage of Hispanic population in the state of Iowa. So we know that the need to serve this community with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus will be a need for quite some time. We thank our area churches and helpers like Pastor Cummins for their support.



**Pastor Craig Cummins (center rear) with volunteers and students learning English together at Grace in Storm Lake.**

### LENTEN MESSAGES FOR OUR CHILDREN

The Lenten season with a special midweek service is a mainstay of our Lutheran celebration for this special season. In our Hispanic ministries in Storm Lake and in Denison we too offer special weekly services to share the story of Jesus' giving of His life for our sins. This photo was taken during one of our children's lessons.



**Some of the children listening to the Lenten message in Denison.**

This devotional time with the children is very important. We often have up to 25 children in our Denison Sunday service. I visit with the children in both English and Spanish, because many of our children are more comfortable in English. Yet we want those children who are weak in English (and their parents) to understand the message too and so I also speak in Spanish. Most importantly we want to very clearly teach the story of Jesus and all that He has done for our salvation. In Denison we are fortunate that many of our children attend Zion Lutheran School. These children lead the other children as they understand the Bible stories so well. I am so pleased that we have this special school for children who already have so many challenges in their lives. The love of Jesus is the perfect remedy to guide their future.



## MISSION IN MERCY OUPOST

How do we help the community with folks in special need? Pastors Dave Anthony and Brian Licht, together with volunteers from St. Paul in Carroll, have set up what they call **“The Mission in Mercy Outpost.”** The Outpost is a special storefront in downtown Carroll to help people of all cultures. It is staffed by volunteers and serves as a listening ear for those with special problems who may feel that they have no where else to turn. The Outpost was opened in January and already has been very busy.

It helps to provide resources to anyone in need. I am also working with them to serve the Hispanic commu-

nity in the Carroll area. We have an ESL (English as a Second Language) class that meets there on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The class is taught by two bilingual members of St. Paul, Mary and Dani. There is also a Alcoholics Anonymous meeting and a Bible Study that is offered. Other classes and events are planned to help the community. Already more than 80 folks have come for help and many have stepped forward to offer help as volunteers. Pastor Anthony reports that the volunteers are also from area Lutheran churches and from the community. He reports that volunteers have dealt with visitors with everything from mental problems, family issues, homelessness (yes, even in Carroll there is homelessness), immigration concerns and much more. This is a much different ministry than most congregations are dealing with. This is St. Paul’s desire to be as close to the people in the community as possible, to bring the Gospel of the mercy and love of Jesus where the people are most in need. Please pray for this new ministry of compassion that many will be helped, both those in need and those who serve.

## MY TYSON CHAPLAINCY AT THE BEEF PLANT IN DENISON

It seemed like a little change. To help our busy workers the company decided to add 15 minutes to the daily break and lunch time. They added 10 minutes to the time of the first break, (from 15 to 25 minutes) and 5 minutes to the lunch break (from 30-35 minutes). I was at the plant the day the changes began. I was surprised that there was already a change with the workers. They were more relaxed, friendly and more willing to talk. Why? Because they had more time! Of course not everyone thought it was necessary, but I’m sure all feel less rushed and more able to relax a bit before returning to work.



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## PLEASE PRAY

+ For spiritual growth during the Lenten season and for preparations for a special Easter celebration. + For new contacts through our English classes in Storm Lake and Carroll that they will help us to make new friends in these communities. + For the Mission in Mercy Outpost, a storefront counseling site in downtown Carroll that is serving those struggling in life. + For our new adult Confirmation class in Denison. + For new contacts in Des Moines and for bilingual volunteers there to help us in this new ministry. + In thanksgiving for the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who are so supportive of this ministry and the many other opportunities for outreach in their own communities.