

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Nathan Peitsch • Head Elder: Bruce Mohr; Elders: Gary McCall, Steve Gust, Jim Thies

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**March 2025**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I'm sure you've all noticed at this point, but the weather seems to have been all over the place recently. This has gotten me thinking about the seasons. In Ecclesiastes, we hear, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:" - Ecc. 3:1. Of course, this passage is familiar to many as it has been made famous by the song "Turn! Turn! Turn!" By the Byrds. However, I call it to your attention as the church season is about to change.

March marks the beginning of the season of Lent, starting with our observation of Ash Wednesday on March 5. The seasons change, and with each season comes something different. Winter brings us cold, snow, and ice (or at least it's supposed to, we've had some unusually warm days this winter). Spring brings new growth and rains (we hope). And so on. And the church seasons are no different. As I am writing this we are preparing to finish up the season of Epiphany. This time of the church year focuses on the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God beginning with the coming of the wise men and ending with the celebration of His transfiguration on the mount.

And next up we have Lent. Lent is a season focused on our need for the Savior who was sent to die for us. It begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with our observances during Holy Week, culminating with our celebration of Good Friday, when Christ died for us. Because of this season's focus on

our need for Christ, our savior, this season is often a time for additional religious observances. This serves as a way to help us to focus our attention on Christ who died for us and rose again to give us eternal life. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this as we remember our sinful nature, "we are dust and to dust we shall return." We recognize that we do not deserve the forgiveness and salvation that Christ has won for us, but He gives it to us by His grace.

And so throughout this season we have worship opportunities each Wednesday leading us forward as we consider all that Jesus has done for us. This Lent our theme for the midweek services is "The Hand of the Lord." We will take time to see the hands of Jesus and all they have done for us. During this time of the church year as we ponder our need for Jesus, we consider the guilt and shame that Christ bore for us on the cross.

Throughout His Word, God encourages us to do this sort of thing together. We worship together to build each other up, to share in these reminders of God's love for us, and to encourage each other towards love and service to God. And so we come together for food, for fellowship, and for worship, each Wednesday that we might be built up together as the body of Christ.

All of this leads us forward to our celebration of Easter. As St Paul tells us, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in

your sins." - 1 Cor. 15:17. His death for us doesn't mean much without the resurrection. And in the same way the resurrection doesn't mean much if we don't see our need for our Savior who died for us. So this Lent, I encourage you to join us for fellowship, worship, and to remember all that Christ Jesus went through for us all.

In Christ,  
Pastor Nathan Peitsch+



### **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

Do not forget to set clocks ahead an hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>.



### **LCW MEETING**

The LCW meetings will be Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the LYF room.

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS**

On Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, Elder's Meeting will meet at 5:30 p.m. and Council Meeting will meet at 7:00 p.m.

### **ALTAR GUILD**

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> after the worship service there will be a short Altar Guild meeting.



### **ACOLYTES SIGN-UP SHEET**

Catechism students the sign-up sheet for acolyting is in the back on church on the bulletin board.

### **CATECHISM**

During lent Catechism class times will be:

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. - 5 & 6 Grades

5:30 - 6:15 p.m. - 7 & 8 Grades

6:15 p.m. – memory work/supper

On April 17<sup>th</sup> during the Maundy Thursday service the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade catechism students will help with the Christian Questions and their Answers

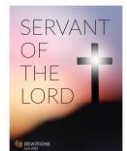
### **LYF BIBLE STUDY**

LYF Bible Study is Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:00 pm in the LYF room. We'll be diving deep into God's Word, so make sure to bring a Bible if you have one. If you don't or forget, we have some on hand for you to use. Bring a snack to share! Inviting friends is encouraged, even if they can only come once.



### **LENTEN DEVOTIONS**

Every year Lutheran Hour Ministries makes available Lenten devotions. Copies of this devotion can be picked up from the back table in church. In Jesus Christ, God Himself enters our human condition. In *Servant of the Lord*, we see Jesus as God's Son and our Redeemer.



### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." On March 5<sup>th</sup> we will have our Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm. with supper served at 5:30 p.m. During the service we will place ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the cross to reflect on the prayerful and penitential season of the church year.

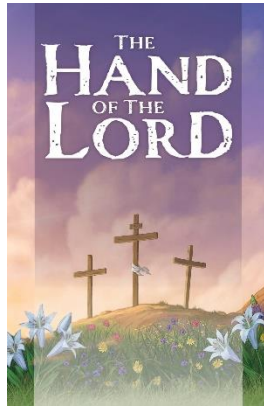
### **LENTEN SUPPER**

We are in need of volunteers to provide Lenten suppers. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church.

**MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES** Mid-week Lenten Services will be at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday starting March 12<sup>th</sup> with supper at 5:30 p.m.

### **THE HAND OF THE LORD**

Our Lenten service will be "The Hand of the Lord" series. Whether tightening a bolt, crocheting, or typing on a computer, there is so much that we do with our hands. The Greek physician Galen called them the instrument of instruments. Indeed, hands are instruments that can do a great deal of things. Hands can be used to heal or hurt, work or wreck, build or break, seize or surrender, and on and on. Hands are so often central to the ways we interact with the world that they have also become figurative symbols of power, control, craftsmanship, and possession. We daily speak of hands in many phrases, such as "Lend a hand," "Things are out of hand," "Working together hand in glove," and "Close at hand." Moreover, in our modern era of robotic, machine, and computer processing, adding "hand" as a prefix to many words can often communicate something that is personal and intentional. Labeling something as handpicked, handwritten, or handmade adds a personal touch and significance. Our Creator has bestowed on us these amazing instruments. It is no surprise that mentions of hands appear all over the Bible as God's Word speaks to us in ways that we can understand. All things are the work of the hand of the Lord (Psalm 102:25). The Lord's hand is referred to over two hundred times in the Old Testament. The Lord's hand is active in creation, power, control over happenings of the world, judgment, and 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. Perhaps surprisingly, specific references to the "hand of the Lord" are not all that frequent in the New Testament. However, it is precisely in the New Testament where the hand of the Lord takes on literal meaning. The One through whom all things were created took on real, literal hands in His incarnation (John 1:1–14). We have several examples throughout Scripture that speak of the way that Christ used His hands alongside His life-giving words to bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. The work of Christ's hands helps us to see the merciful and personal way that He has condescended to us. He has given us something to grasp, even as He holds us. Jesus used His hands to save drowning Peter, to feed the multitudes, to touch those who were unclean, to stop a funeral procession in its tracks, to lift up Jairus's daughter, and to bless the children. The hand of the Lord has come to us in Jesus. On the other hand, the literal and figurative actions of mere human hands in the Bible are often the means of our own sin. After all, our own Lord was "delivered into the hands of men" (Luke 9:44). However, on a greater level, we know that it was the hand of the Lord at work all along, most especially in His crucifixion. Christ laid down His life of His own authority as He allowed Himself to be delivered into the hands of sinful men (John 10:18). His hands were pierced for the sins of the world. His hands rested on Holy Saturday. Yet, on the third day, He rose again. He now holds us in His hands, and no one can snatch us from His hand (John 10:28). Our Lord has hands, real 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, both to literally use them in service and to make our whole lives into His instruments of witness, service, and praise.

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## **BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH**

We are listing Baptismal birthdays to remember and celebrate the day we were adopted into the family of God through the washing of the Holy Spirit. Those having Baptismal birthdays in March are:

Amy Riddle	4
Loretta Hinrichsen, Jaxson Thies	5
Emilee Meadows	8
Judy Pohlman	9
Kade Ohlmeier	10
Alyssa Thies	12
Lisa Thies	13
Gregory Hinrichsen, Leonard Trimpe	14
Kenley Bretthauer-Stephens, Breyah Kuehl	15
Ryan Goslar	18
Kevin Savery	19
Landon Mohr	20
Carter Leitz, David Pohlman, Rick Knuth	21
Bryan Rosburg, Brenda Savery, Logan Vinke	24
Sharon Gosch, Virginia Keating,	25
Kaitlyn Conto, Quintin Conto,	
Zachary Kelm, Joseph Sorensen	
Duncan Purcell, Amanda Newsom	26
Kaia Mordhorst	30



## **SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS**

Mar. 6 – Lou Anna Goslar (82 yrs old)  
Mar. 11 – Irvin Thies (88 yrs old)  
Mar. 12 – Elaine Holst (81 yrs old)  
Mar. 16 – Lillian Carritt (89 yrs old)  
Mar. 97 – Virginia Keating (98 yrs old)

## **SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES**

March 6 – Deryl & Joan Hennings (54 yrs)  
March 30 – Brent & Sue Kelm (40 yrs)

## **PLEASE GIVE US A CALL**

- before going to the hospital
- birth of your baby
- death in the family
- making wedding plans
- address and name changes
- private communion

\*We list Special Birthdays 80 years old and above.

\*Anniversaries for one & every 5 years & every year 40 above.

We will include them unless we receive a request not to.



## **MARCH HELPERS**

**Elder:** Jim Thies

**Ushers:** Steve Gust, Andy Kuhlmann

**Altar:** Linda Riddle, Deanna Sorensen

**Finance:** Linda Riddle, Dave Seieroe,  
Linda Seieroe

### **Acolytes**

**Sunday, Mar 2:** Hannah Peitsch  
Leah Kiepe

**Wed, Mar 5:** Samantha Sorensen  
Hannah Peitsch

**Sunday, Mar 9:** Lydia Kiepe,  
Morgan Teut

**Wed, Mar 12:** Xavier Schaffer  
Michael Sorensen

**Sunday, Mar 16:** Josiah Peitsch  
Landon Kiepe

**Wed, Mar 19:** Xavier Schaffer  
Hannah Peitsch

**Sunday, Mar 23:** Lydia Kiepe  
Morgan Teut

**Wed, Mar 26:** Xavier Schaffer  
Michael Sorensen

**Sunday, Mar 30:** Lydia Kiepe  
Landon Kiepe

## **MAIN STREET LIVING**

Main Street Living is a television ministry of the Lutheran churches of Missouri-Synod and of the Iowa West District. The worship service is on Sundays at 10 am on channel 9 KCAU, the ABC Network from Sioux City.

## **"THY STRONG WORD"**

Thy Strong Word is a 5 min. daily devotional message given by LC-MS pastors. It is aired at 6:25 a.m., Mon.-Sat. on KDSN, FM107.1

Mar. 3-8 Rev. Ted Torreson  
Christ, Denison  
Mar. 10-15 Vacancy Pastor  
Zion, Denison  
Mar. 17-22 Rev. Merle Mahnken  
Immanuel, Schleswig  
Mar. 24-29 Rev. Chad Trunkhill  
Our Savior, Bethlehem  
Mar. 31-Apr 5 Rev. Richard Merrill  
Multi-Point, Charter Oak

## **GOOD SHEPHERD HOUR**

This program is a 1/2 hour worship service heard on Sioux City, KSCJ, 1360 AM, at 8:00 am.



## **NEWSLETTER SPONSORS**

The newsletter this month is sponsored in honor of cancer patients & their families.

Please contact the office if you'd like to sponsor the newsletter. The cost is \$40 to sponsor a newsletter.



## **Mission Central – Visiting Missionaries**

LCMS World Mission 40718 Highway E16  
Mapleton, IA 51034 712-882-1029 Gary Thies  
(gary.thies@lcms.org) www.missioncentral.us

## **2025 SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERING**

This year our special mission is STEMM. Our goal is \$3,000.



**Mission Statement:** Changing lives for Christ through compassionate care.

**Vision:** Develop Tanzania into a vibrant Christian community

**Core Values:** Christ, Compassion, Caring, Commitment, Change  
STEMM is an inter-denominational Christian ministry.

To learn more, you can go to their website:

<https://stemm.org/>



## **SUGGESTIONS FOR A SAFE WINTER**

As we head into the winter months, realize that snow and cold awaits us. At times, services may be held in less-than-ideal conditions. We encourage those with special concerns for dangerous conditions to use suitable caution. Reasonable effort will be made to have sidewalks clear, and ice melt placed where needed. Be cautious of the north parking lot, especially on mornings after a thaw and refreezing. We understand that for some it may be wiser to listen to services at home and not take chances.

If the weather is so severe that services are cancelled, it will be announced on KDSN radio station, and posted on church facebook and website. We will also use Call Multiplier in the event of a cancellation. Please make sure we have your current phone number.

Dear Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church,

We hope this letter finds you well and filled with the joy of the Lord. As we approach the upcoming Vacation Bible School (VBS) season we are reaching out to you—our congregation—for help in volunteering. Whether you're a seasoned VBS volunteer or this is your first time, we welcome your involvement in any way you can serve. The board of education has come up with several committees making it easier for someone to sign up to volunteer. We have listed several committee's and are asking anyone who can help to sign up now. We have considered joining VBS with surrounding towns due to the decreased amount of volunteers and commitment each year. Please sign your name up to any of the committees below by April 1, 2025 if you can help. The dates for VBS 2025 have not yet been decided. You can sign up in the back of the church, e-mail, or contact any board of education member or Pastor by April 1.

There are many ways to get involved, including:

- **Craft Committee:** This team organizes and prepares the materials for the craft projects kids will create during VBS. They also set up the craft stations and assist kids in completing their projects.
- **Games Committee:** In charge of organizing fun, physical activities that align with the theme. They plan outdoor or indoor games that encourage teamwork and are safe for children to enjoy.
- **Food committee:** They plan and prepare the snacks served during VBS. This includes menu planning, shopping for supplies, and making sure all snacks are ready to be served at the right time.
- **Decorating:** Responsible for transforming the VBS space to fit the theme. This committee creates and arranges decorations to make the environment engaging and visually appealing for the kids.
- **Registration and Check-In Committee:** Handles the registration process for children, volunteers, and any necessary paperwork. They keep track of participant details and ensure that everyone is signed up before the event begins.
- **Clean up Committee:** After each day of VBS, the clean-up committee takes care of cleaning and organizing the space. This may include wiping down tables and chairs, disposing of trash, sweeping floors, and organizing any materials that need to be stored for the next day.
- **Music Committee:** This committee ensures that songs, music-related activities, and performances align with the VBS theme and enhance the children's experience.

We understand that volunteering is a significant commitment, and we are grateful for any time you are able to offer. Whether you can volunteer for one committee or several your involvement will make a lasting impact on the children and the overall success of VBS.

May God bless you as you consider how He might be calling you to help.

In Christ's service,

Board of Education: Nina Leitz, Angie Kroll, Tina Bernholtz

## Board of Ed Survey 2025

The purpose of this survey is to hear your thoughts, opinions, and ideas about various aspects of some of our youth events. Your input is crucial to help us plan for VBS and the Christmas program for 2025. We understand that your time is precious, so the survey is designed to be brief and straightforward.

We want to make decisions that reflect the desires and values of our members, and your voice is an important part of that process. Whether you've been a member for years or are relatively new to the church, we welcome your perspective. This survey is a way for you to share what you feel is important, so that together, we can continue to build a church that truly represents our collective vision.

### Christmas Program:

1. Traditional program with Costumes: \_\_\_\_\_

Program that changes every year: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Traditional program on Christmas Eve \_\_\_\_\_

Program that would fall on a Sunday afternoon/evening in December \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you have children currently in school level: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

### Vacation Bible School:

1. Saturday all Day event: \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Day VBS \_\_\_\_\_ 4 day VBS \_\_\_\_\_

Please use the following space below for feedback, comments, suggestions, or ideas on Sunday School, VBS, or Christmas programs:



# Update

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Feb. 28**      **END OF CAMP REGISTRATION “EARLY BIRD” DISCOUNT PERIOD** Registration is open for all summer discipleship programs. Visit [campokoboji.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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!



# CAMP OKOBOJI SUMMER 2025

## Discipleship Programs

May 30-June 1...Kids' Kamp  
June 5-8...JOY Camp #1  
June 22-26...Cub Week #1  
June 29-July 4...July 4 Family Retreat  
July 6-12...Junior High Week  
July 10-13...JOY Camp #2  
July 13-19...Cub Week #2  
July 20-26...Youth Week (High School)  
July 27-August 1...Family Retreat #1  
August 3-8...Family Retreat #2

## Other Events

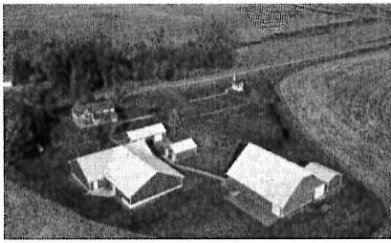
January 24-26...Family Ice Fishing Retreat  
May 2-4...Spring Volunteer Work Weekend  
June 8-10...Iowa District West Convention  
June 14...Camp Okoboji Auxiliary Quilt Auction  
June 15-21...Minneboji Lutheran Camp  
May 25-August 31...Sunday Worship  
1st Sundays of the Month (May-October)...Brunch  
October 10-11...Fall Volunteer Work Weekend

For more information and to  
register, visit  
**[campokoboji.org](http://campokoboji.org)**

**The Camp Okoboji Annual Meeting is April 26!** Delegate registration information has been sent to last year's delegates and to each of the district congregations. Please help us continue to grow the congregational representation we have seen the last three years by nominating and registering your delegate today! If additional registration materials are needed, contact the Camp Office at (712) 337-3325.

## IDW CAMP/YOUTH GATHERING SCHOLARSHIP

Iowa District West Camp/Youth Gathering Scholarships Assistance for those who need financial aid is available from the district for youth attending camps at Camp Okoboji and for district youth gatherings. The application should be filled out by the pastor or church worker from the congregation of which the applicant is a member. Applications are then sent to the district office. Click on the link and select "Youth Events Financial Aid." <http://idwlcms.org/forms-and-links.php>



**MISSION  
CENTRAL**  
*LCMS Mission Advancement*  
40718 County Highway E-16  
Mapleton, Iowa 51034



**Missionaries Gary Thies & Rev. Steve Schulz**  
**Mission Development Counselors**

**Gary.Thies@lcms.org (712) 251-1264**  
**Steve.Schulz@lcms.org (712) 882-1029**

**March 2025**

It was indeed a very cold day with temperatures in the single digits on January 14, 2025! However, that didn't stop this special group of people from Central Nebraska. It was such a great blessing to welcome this "NOT NORMAL" group of people from various congregations. The group was truly amazed at what the Lord Jesus is doing here at this MIRACLE PLACE! The group gathered in the Ministry Center in front of the statue of Jesus. It was a day these dear friends will NEVER forget.



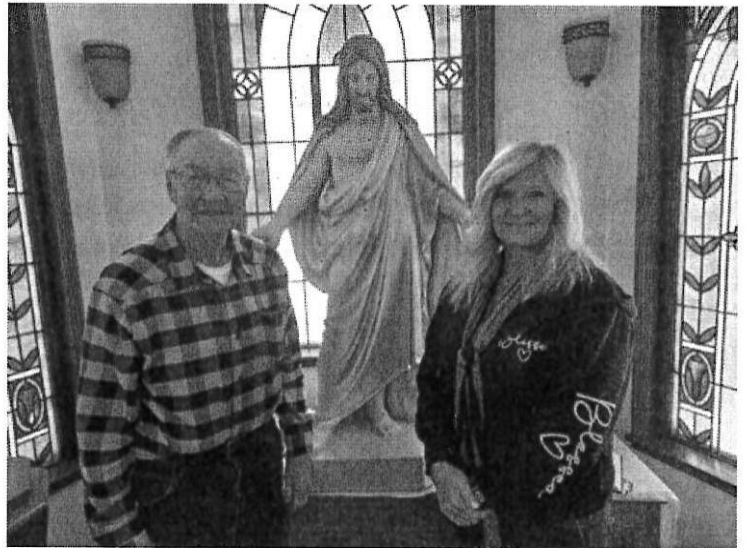
Few people realize the number of missionaries who come to Mission Central. We have so many of our LCMS missionaries come here to present their stories of how God is using them to tell people in lands of darkness about our dear Savior Jesus!

Missionaries from all over the world come here to report in person and share their miracle stories. Our bulletin board is packed full of some of the pictures of these dear missionaries who have come and are coming to tell how the Lord is using them in their individual calling!

We will soon have to get a bigger bulletin board! What a blessing to welcome these dear workers for the Lord Jesus!

The honorable missionaries Therald Arteburn, a wonderful Christian farmer who attends his church at Greenfield, Iowa and his dear daughter, Deb, who lives in Des Moines, Iowa came on Thursday, February 6. They spent a good part of the day with us to talk about missionary work and our dear Lord Jesus and what HE can do in the middle of a cornfield in the hills of western Iowa!

Therald and Deb are pictured in our little wayside prayer chapel where we had special prayer together before they left. It was a day we will never forget!



When the telephone rang, we didn't have a clue who was calling, but the Lord arranges telephone calls. A man by the name of Rubin Cain called and asked about our little wayside prayer chapel. He had seen our website and saw the little chapel and said, "Is there a possibility that my fiancé Carolyn Blythe and I could be married in the little chapel at Mission Central? Could we come see it?" These dear Christian friends came and toured this MIRACLE PLACE on February 8, 2025. They were absolutely SHOCKED by what the Lord is doing at this amazing place!

February 10, 2025, was a day all of us here at Mission Central will never forget! Jan Steenken (right) from West Point, NE and Karen Duncan (left) from Pilger, NE came for a day they will always remember!

These special NOT NORMAL people were able to enjoy a full tour of our campus. They saw first-hand why we tell other people about Jesus, and why we send missionaries to tell other people about Jesus. We want them to have what we have! We want them to have the joy, peace, and hope that we have in Jesus who died and rose again to win for us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

