



TABERNACLE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

October, 2020

Fred & Donna Aljets*
1340 Starry Drive
Marion, Iowa 52302
319-373-2097

Sending Church:

Lighthouse Baptist Church

503 West Main St

Anamosa, IA

Pastor: Bob Heasty

Life in and out of the Storm

2020 has been a year of moving in and out of storms. March brought on the storm of Covid 19. Churches, businesses, factories, and offices were shut down. Children were kept home from school and administrations struggled to find a balance for learning. Many became ill and fought through weeks of illness and the unknown. Life took on a new routine.

This storm found many without the means to maintain their households financially. Children all of a sudden experienced isolation from friends. The enemy of possible illness

was upon our nation. Yet, through it all the truth of Psalm 61 was available. Verse 3 says, *"For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy."* No matter what storm we face God is our shelter.

From the beginning of the shutdown, we were on the frontline trying to encourage and keep the children engaged. We delivered groceries and activities weekly in the Anamosa area. Some of us were able to meet and pray for the families and gain encouragement from the Word. In May, the restrictions loosened and we realized, we had to get the children back

to church. Wanting to practice safety, the Lord provided an outdoor shelter to begin meeting. We have dubbed it the Lord's Tabernacle. Verse 4 of Psalm 61 says, *"I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust the covert of thy wings. Selah."* The young people were so happy to be back and ready to learn more about the Lord. The Tabernacle was a symbol of hope and care. Under it's cover, we could convey the truths of God a little more safely than in a confined space.

Just when you thought things were returning to normal, we were hit with a hailstorm landing



Ministry Schedule

Chapels with Multiple sessions at all locations

Ascension Lutheran
Preschool

Happy Hollow Daycare

Holloway House

Cedar Valley Preschool
and Kindergarten

Kid's Club every
Wednesday at

Lighthouse Baptist in
Anamosa 6 PM- 7:45



tennis ball size hail on our car, siding, and roof. Thankfully, the insurance company paid to have the damage repaired and we were back in business.

In June, after another short shutdown because of an exposure possibility, we held VBS. The Lord blessed the VBS with six making decisions. The final verse of the Psalm says, "So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows." We are committed to continue reaching the children wherever they are found. Following this, we had another VBS in Minnesota where forty three children gathered and five made decisions. Next, we were at Noelridge Park Church in Cedar Rapids and 7 made decisions. Sadly, three other scheduled VBS times were canceled because of the Covid 19 but God knows and we simply worked where the doors were open. At Lighthouse Baptist in Anamosa, we resumed Kid's Club and saw many gather to reconnect and learn about the Lord. We have seen quite an level of growth in the children that have been attending. Please continue to pray for more to be reached and for more workers.

In July, both of us had some illness that put us in bed. In particular, Donna had it harder and was so weak, she fell getting out of the bathtub, landing primarily on her nose. This took us to Mercy's ER. She was down for about two weeks. Finally, she improved and we were back on the path to recovery.

In August, we took the opportunity to go and see our grandchildren in Phoenix. Not only did we want to celebrate our grandson's graduation from high school, but all the missed times of birthdays. We had a short time and then, another storm hit, the derecho of August 10. The young man staying in our home, called from his work and told us what was happening. This of course meant Donna's 95 year old mother was at home alone. Phone lines shut down, communication was very limited. Slowly, news of the storm filtered through. Finally, the wonderful neighbors on Starry Drive were able to get through and check on mom. Our fellow partner in ministry for the past 30 years, Wayne Epperson, spent two plus hours driving across town to check on her too. When it was all said and done, they found a great amount of damage. Part of our tree had fallen on Mom's part



of the house impacting her bedroom area. He and the young man staying with us spent over two hours trying to get to through the backyard and into the shed for tools. Finally, we got word in Phoenix of the devastation all around Iowa and to our home. Verse 2 of Psalm 61 says, "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee,, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I." God sent us direction. First, we connected with one contractor but he was not able to get over right away to cover the damage. Next, we called our Pastor Robert Heasty who is also a contractor, asking if he could go and tarp the roof. Even though he had his own damage, he headed there with his son and accomplished the task, finding two very large tree parts on both sides of the roof. We realized we must return immediately since the house was seriously compromised. As we searched, the Lord led us to Priceline and we booked return tickets the next day for only \$300. This flight was through Dallas-Fort Worth. We arrived there to be faced with another storm. The original plane was not going to be able to refuel due to power shutdown in Cedar Rapids. Passengers were asked to volunteer to change their plans.

Finally, the answer came, we were going to be able to board on a smaller plane and head home. Again, our good friend Wayne Epperson met us at the airport and drove us through the devastation. God is good and provides even in the storms of life. First, driving through the area from the airport, our hearts were hurting for all the people who had no home left. It was painfully obvious that there was a mountain of work to be done to even travel in the area. After getting home, we set right to work. Until late that night, we swept up wet insulation, removed wet carpet and items. We gathered the contents as best we could from the bedroom which was affected and set to removing debris closest to the house. It was exhausting but God was there. Verse 7 of Psalm 61 says, *"He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him."* God was faithful to preserve mother's life. When the power was ripped from our house, it caused the siding to be burned. The Lord spared our home from completely burning down. The tree could have fallen in the living room where she spends a large amount of time, ending her life. Sweet neighbors were there as soon as the wind stopped checking on her. The young man staying with us was there and she wasn't alone. Our Pastor provided protection from the elements. He also got an electrician to come and repair the power head. The storm was great and powerful but not as powerful as our God. In the midst of the storm, He was there and He is still on the throne.



You can imagine our life has been a bit chaotic but we persevered. Thankfully, we had generator power for the twelve days our electricity was down. Since our daughter and son in law were also with us in Phoenix, we tended to their home on Elmhurst Drive NE. The devastation was great in that area but the Lord kept them from losing their roof and their repairs are minor. They were able to purchase a generator and have it delivered so we could keep their refrigeration going. Together, we both worked to clean up and gather the debris. In addition, our insurance company was fairly prompt to respond. We have spent many hours making calls, finding replacement items, and repairing what we could. Our Pastor/contractor was able to repair the three broken trusses and find someone to reroof our home. Just this past week, we completed putting the inside of Mom's home back together. There are still repairs to be made but that can wait until spring and will include some siding where it was burned, a window which had damage from blowing debris, final repairs on our fence, and simply cleaning and repairing yard damage.

God is good! One favorite portion of scripture from Psalm 91:4 says, *"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shall thou trust: his truth be thy shield and buckler."* He covered us through the storm. We are still here and still ministering to children. Chapels in all but one location have resumed and Kid's Club is in full swing. We have seen three saved in the past two weeks. Our young people are excited and growing in the knowledge of the Lord. **He is OUR STRONG TOWER!**



Thank you for your patience with our lack of communication the past few months but we are attempting to stay on tract. We appreciate all your prayers and love. Certainly, many of you have had damage of your own to deal with and we have been in prayer for you although we don't know all the specifics. As you deal with the repairs and inconvenience, remember, God is still on the throne and will see you through. Thank you for being our partners in ministry.

Personal Notes for Prayer

Pray that we are able to stay safe from the coronavirus and continue to minister effectively to the children.

Pray for the families who are struggling financially due to the layoffs.

Pray for the children throughout area who are doing school virtually that they will be attentive and stay on track. Also pray for parent's patience in helping them.

Pray for continued spiritual growth in the children we minister to.

Pray that Caring Corner chapel location opens up fully so we can meet beginning in January.



Derecho 2020



Lighthouse Baptist
Marshmallow Mania



Rockford Baptist



Noelridge Park VBS



Lighthouse Baptist
Water night



Lighthouse Baptist Tabernacle



Lighthouse Baptist Missionary GO



Lighthouse Baptist human sundae



Lighthouse Baptist VBS



Rockford Baptist VBS