



March, 2020

Fred & Donna Aljets  
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Sending Church:

Lighthouse Baptist Church

503 West Main St

Anamosa, IA

Pastor: Bob Heasty

## Living the Dream

Perhaps you have heard the phrase, "living the dream." Often people use this to describe how wonderful things are going in their lives. Television shows promote, "Living the dream." But it should make us stop and take stock of our own lives and the lives of those around us. Our work with children often causes us to stop and assess what is happening in the children's lives. There are obvious things that we can see such as how well they are physically cared for. Many times it is clear that they are troubled emotionally. We see that in their be-

haviors and lack of attention. When we dig a little deeper we find that there are huge problems they must face not often apparent on a first meeting.

Just to caution you, you may be shocked by some of what we are going to share but these are realities in the lives of many of the children we deal with on a weekly basis. How would you respond to a child that says, "we don't have any food in the house." Several of the kids we are working with face this reality on a daily basis. Without the programs at school, they would be totally hungry. What about the child that says, "I'm not

sure if I am a boy or girl, but I can decide what I want to be." Others say, "My mom just cries all day and is super sad. We might have to move away." Over and over these are some of the things that we hear from the children. It breaks your heart to think that little ones 3 and 4 years old don't know where they will be sleeping or if they will get more to eat. In some cases, the parents are trying their hardest to care for them and train them to do right. In other cases, they are left to fend for themselves. One girl told me, "It's ok to steal if you are hungry." Continued

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### Ministry Schedule

Chapels with Multiple sessions at all locations

Ascension Lutheran PS

Caring Corner

Cedar Valley PS & K

Holloway House

Lighthouse Baptist Kid's Club every Wednesday starting at 6:00

See VBS and Summer SCHEDULE inside



What has to happen before we, as Bible believing Christians, step up and try to minister to these boys and girls? Recently, Donna was informed by the girls that most every girl by the age 14 has given up her virginity. For some, it is cruelly taken by the reality of living on the street. The truth it is happening at even younger ages. Families are in trouble and need help to learn how to parent correctly. They need help to manage the few finances they have at their discretion. The children need to learn of the Saviour who loves them and will never forsake them. Without setting their feet on the right path, they will be lost forever. Only Jesus has the answer to these complex social issues but most importantly, He has the answer to the spiritual issues. He wants to be their Saviour. It is our job to go and compel them to come. Luke 12:23 says, "... go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." That word compel has some interesting history. Bible Hub says, it is to urge them, press them earnestly, one and all. You are not to hear their excuses because of their station in life but rather encourage them to overcome and lead them. We are to do everything in our power to bring them to hear the Gospel. The word hedges in this verse references an inclosure around a field or vineyard. It would be thickly planted and have thorns. Poor laborers were given the job of planting them or trimming them. They were the lowest class of people and in great poverty. In this section of scripture, these are the people that were to be compelled to come and partake of the bounty. The invitation was for all as it is today. All the children from every home are invited to come and partake of the gift of salvation. It is our job to compel them to come in and hear this wonderful truth.

Across our nation, the examples are the same, but our job is in this local area. In Jones county, the drug use, homelessness, joblessness, and moral depravity seems higher than normal. Home after home that we visit is involved at some level of dysfunction. Our church, Lighthouse Baptist, along with our Pastor Robert Heasty, is seeking to raise the bar and make an extra effort to reach down and lift families out of their situation. We have been able to help with feeding the children on Wednesdays but most importantly, we have been able to feed them spiritually. Just two weeks ago a seven year old, who had been coming for a few months, came to Christ. Over this past year we have seen many come to the Lord along with some parents but there is so much more to do accomplish. We must press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14) We are not doing this alone. The Eppersons are a part of the work as well as most of our churches members. Praise God for everyone's faithfulness.

We are excited for June to come. Joe Larsen, a trainee from two years ago is coming to work with us and do an internship at Lighthouse Baptist through December. God has given this young man a remarkable testimony and desire to serve Jesus to the best of his ability. He has already met the children and shared his heart with them. Joe comes from Fort Dodge and will be living with us as he ministers at Lighthouse and with the children this summer in VBS.

Thanks to each one of you who prays, gives and encourages us in this endeavor. Without the backing of each one we could not continue. Our goal is to reach more this coming year.

Whenever you see a jet in the sky, pray for the Aljets. God isn't done with us yet.



## 2020 VBS UPDATE KID'S COUNT TOO!

It looks as though 2020 will be very busy time for our team. Because schools are releasing earlier this year, we will be beginning the first full week of June. Currently, we can take about one more VBS late in July but it is going to be a full summer. KID'S COUNT TOO is our theme and will include the story of Naaman's maid, the Prodigal Son, David and Goliath, Josiah the boy king, and the Feeding of the 5000. Doming the Popsicle Boy is our Missionary lesson. (This comes from the Philippines) We aren't just focusing on children. Adult VBS times continue to grow. What we have found is that along with the children, they enjoy all the aspects of vacation bible school.

We also will be continuing to work with the Kid's Club in Anamosa by having several special events during the summer months. We will list them along with the VBS locations so that you can pray for the outreach they afford in the area. Thank you for your prayers and support. We will have extra travel costs but thankfully we can contain them to, two on the road stays, gas, and some groceries. We will have places for two weeks that we can cook our own meals. If God lays it on your heart to give something extra for the summer, we would be grateful. The work that is laid before us and will not lack God's supply. (quote from Hudson Taylor)

### JUNE

7—11 VBS with Noelridge Park Church at  
Hawthorn Hills Apartment in Cedar Rapids

6:15—8:30 PM PS—Highschool

14—18 VBS with Lighthouse Baptist Church

503 West Main St in Anamosa

6:15—8:30 PM PS—Highschool

21 - 25 VBS with Rockford Baptist Church

Rockford, Minnesota

6:15—8:30 PM PS—Adult

28—7/2 VBS with Noelridge Park Church at

1147 Clifton NE in Cedar Rapids

6:15—8:30 PM PS—Adult

### July

6—10 VBS at Daycare in Monticello  
10-12 AM

19-23 VBS at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church

Near Burnsville, North Carolina

6:15-8:30 PM PS—Adult

Special KID'S CLUB at Lighthouse Baptist Church  
In Anamosa

June 3 MARSHMALLOW MANIA 6—8 PM

July 8 HUMAN SUNDAE 6—8

August 5 WATER BALLOON NIGHT

September 2 CRAZY OBSTACLE COURSE—kicking off  
the Kid's Club school year program.



**We are ready to load up and take the team to VBS. This year we will be loaded with candy for ALL ages! Plan to come and enjoy VBS with us.**

## Personal Notes for Prayer

Many of you remember our last newsletter told of Donna's mother's diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Through September and October, things were not looking positive but about mid October, things begin to change. Donna was able to remove many of the heavy pain relievers and other medications. Slowly her mom's appetite came back and she began to be able to function without assistance. By November, there were no symptoms only a nagging question, could it have been misdiagnosed. Caregivers had been insistent about the diagnosis. Donna continued to question and raise the possibility that this had simply been a bad case of pancreatitis with a lot of inflammation. A call to the primary doctor, brought a new round of blood tests and amazingly, they came back without any evidence of cancer. The cancer marker which had been 134 (normal being 34 at the upper end) was now 10. Life is now back to handling the day to day needs with any aging parent. April 28, mother will be 95 but still going strong.



We are praising God for removing this concern and heartache. People make mistakes but God never does in His infinite plan for each of our lives.



It has been a bit of a journey with Fred's health as he has some issues from sleep disorders and ADHD. One of the medications he was prescribed caused some untoward affects so we are continuing to work through the process of finding more appropriate treatment. The down side, he is often very sleep deprived. Pray for a resolution soon since summer is a rugged schedule.

Our daughter also is in need of prayer. She has struggled for a long while with various illness and often takes much longer to recover. Again, we are seeking answers to help her live a more productive life without all the aches and pains she often has to endure.



The Eppersons are happy to announce the upcoming marriage of their daughter Amanda to Reece Leuenberger. The wedding will be taking place on August 22.

### What will be happening in the fall?

The chapel schedule continues to grow. There are always changes due to facilities opening and closing but currently, things are on the upswing. Beginning in September, we are planning to add a location on the NW side of Cedar Rapids. Details are still being put in place but we are excited about what God is doing. It looks as though one of our locations is adding a class and the others will continue to move forward as well.



We wish we could bring you to class and see the excitement the children have when we walk in the door. Their responses are nothing short of invigorating. Recently, we were explaining the salvation message and without prompting a kindergarten boy came and wanted to ask Jesus into his life. There is not way to express how important we think reaching into this younger age group with the Gospel.