


August, 2025

August Worship Assistants Ushers: Wheeler Family Altar Guild: Sharon Teig Acolytes: Amree Hilfiker, Max Sogard Tech Assistant: William Nibe					Fri, August 1	Sat, Aug 2
Sun, August 3 8th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Bible and Brew	Sun, August 3 Scripture: Lisa Peterson Greeter: Matt Carlson Family Treats: Board of Trustees	Mon, August 4 10-am Coffee 1-2 pm Lord's Cupboard is open 3-pm Worship Service on Channel 14-CCS 5-6:30 pm Lord's Cupboard is open	Tue, August 5 12:00 Tuesday Together Time potluck - the community is invited 12:30 Riverside Conference Pastors' Text Study 2:00 pm Worship at Timberland – all are welcome! 3-pm Worship Service on Channel 14-CCS	Wed, August 6	Thu, August 7	Fri, August 8 Sat, Aug 9
Sun, August 10 9th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Worship Mission Sunday: Seminary Students 10:00 Fellowship	Sun, August 10: Scripture: Wyatt Thelen Greeter: Lori Peterson Treats: Board of Deacons	Mon, August 11: 10-am Coffee 3-pm Worship Service on Channel 14-CCS 5-6:30 pm Lord's Cupboard is open 7:00 pm Church Council	Tue, August 12: 12:00 Tuesday Together Time – for the community 12:30 Riverside Conference Pastors' Text Study 3-pm Worship Service on Channel 14-CCS <u>MOBILE FOOD TRUCK</u> <u>WILL BE HERE THIS DAY!</u>	Wed, August 13:	Thu, August 14	Fri, August 15: Sat, Aug 16
Sun, August 17 10th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Bible and Brew	Sun. August 17: Scripture: Susan Lund Greeter: Eudene & Sue Lund Treats: Board of Education	Mon, August 18: 3-pm Worship Service on Channel 14-CCS 5-6:30 pm Lord's Cupboard is open	Tue, August 19: 12:00 Tuesday Together Time – for the community 12:30 Riverside Conference Pastors' Text Study 3-pm Worship Service on Channel 14-CCS	Wed, August 20	Thu, August 21: 	Fri, August 22: Sat, Aug 23
Sun, August 24 11th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Worship with Kid's Church; Blessing of the Backpacks <div style="border: 2px dashed green; padding: 10px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> 10:00 RALLY DAY </div>	Sun. August 24: Scripture: Greeter: Julia Johnson Family Treats: Board of Youth	Mon, August 25: First day of school at South Hamilton- Rise and Shine! 10-am Coffee 3-pm Worship Service on Channel 14-CCS 5-6:30 pm Lord's Cupboard is open First day of school at South Hamilton	Tues, August 26 12:00 Tuesday Together Time – for the community 12:30 Riverside Conference Pastors' Text Study 3-pm Worship Service on Channel 14-CCS	Wed, August 27	Thu, August 28	Fri, August 29 Sat, Aug 30
Sunday, August 31 12th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Worship with Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship 10:15 Bible and Brew	Sun. August 31 Scripture: Eudene Lund Greeter: Nancy Tjaden Family Treats: Executive Board	Upcoming events – August: Sunday, August 24 Kid's Church with Blessing of the Backpacks followed by Rally Day!		Upcoming events – September: 1st day of Sunday School: Sunday, September 14 Bibles will be given to 3-year-olds, 2nd graders, and new confirmation students during the Worship service 1st day of Wednesday Kids: September 17		



August Birthdays

- 1 Jarren Streight
- 2 Bridey Scott
- Eden Scott
- 3 Kris Koehn
- 6 Miranda Carlson
- 7 Susan Lund
- Josh Hanson
- John Hays, Jr.
- 8 Zane Consier
- 9 Ruth Hermanson
- Connor Deppe
- 13 Natalie Muller
- 14 Mary Crioyos
- Khloe Buck
- 15 Madeleine Medina
- 16 Jaedyn Heeren
- 17 Shelli Klonglan
- 18 Julie Heeren
- 19 Brant Barquist
- 20 Heath Johnson
- 22 Clark Vold
- Mark Miller
- 24 Meg Reiter
- Ashley Etnier
- 25 Tristan Koopman
- 27 Nicole Ferguson
- 29 Anthony Stouffer
- Lisa Peterson
- 30 Tami Jewell
- Tyler Koehn
- Zach Hilpipe
- Libby Wetherby
- 31 Brianna Hilpipe

August Anniversaries

- 2 Jon & Fallon Sogard
- 3 Mark & Dede Henderson
- 10 Lynn & Joyce Knutson
- 18 Matt & Carol Carlson
- 27 Brian & Janelle Oakland
- Bruce & Lori Thompson
- 31 Ron & Linda Wheeler

From **LUTHERAN SERVICES IN IOWA**: Your Support makes this Testimony possible:

"A New Beginning: Carmen's Journey to Safety and Self-Reliance"

Carmen Ortiz was born in Charco, Nariño, Colombia. At 11, her family relocated to Buenaventura, where she finished high school and watched her father build a small business. Violence in the region forced the family to move again — this time to Bogotá, in search of safety and stability.

In Bogotá, Carmen reconnected with a childhood friend who would become her life partner. Together, they launched *Frutería*, a fruit-selling business Carmen successfully operated for 17 years. During that time, she also became a mother to her son, Adiel Jesús.

In 2023, violence once again disrupted their lives. Fearing for their safety, Carmen and Adiel fled to Ecuador and applied for asylum through the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Life in Ecuador was grueling.

"We were homeless. I had to sleep with my son under a bridge," she recalls. "He got sick and had to be hospitalized."

After more than a year, IOM helped process their immigration status and arranged travel to the U.S. In July 2024, they arrived in Houston — exhausted, hungry, and unsure of what came next. The guide assigned to help them was rarely available. Desperate for help and food, Carmen approached airline staff to ask about a delayed flight.

"We were so hungry. I just wanted to know when our flight would leave and instead, three employees brought us full meals. I started to cry. I had just arrived, and people were already helping me."

Their flight to Des Moines departed at midnight and landed at 2 a.m., where they were welcomed by Chuck, a caseworker from LSI (Lutheran Services in Iowa). He brought them to a hotel, where Carmen remembers feeling overwhelmed.

"I was scared and confused. I remember thinking: Are we safe? Are we okay?"

Sixteen days later, LSI helped Carmen and Adiel move into their first apartment. From that point, life began to change. Carmen enrolled in English classes, received assistance with legal paperwork, healthcare, and food — and soon found two jobs: one with Des Moines Public Schools, and another at Sam's Club.

"I'm incredibly grateful. LSI helped me with everything."

But life without a car in a Midwestern winter was difficult. Carmen walked long distances through the snow, waited for buses, or spent \$60 a week on rideshares, just to get to work and get her son to school. During a routine check-in, Carmen's caseworker Shaima heard about these challenges and referred her to Duaa, an IDA Specialist at LSI. Duaa introduced her to the matched savings program, which helps participants purchase essential assets — like a car — through financial education and support.

"I'd wake up my son very early so we could catch the school bus from our old address. Then I'd rush to work and still be late."

Carmen had already saved \$2,000 on her own, knowing a car would be vital for her family's stability. Through LSI's Individual Development Accounts program, she opened an account at Veridian Credit Union, completed budgeting and asset-specific classes, and received one-on-one coaching from Juan Lourido, Business Development Specialist at LSI. Juan helped her understand financing, credit, and how to identify reliable used cars online. With his help, Carmen purchased a safe, fuel-efficient 2015 Toyota Prius that fits her family's needs and budget. "I never thought I could buy a car especially one that was safe and good quality. Now I take my son to school and go to work. That means everything to me."

She also opened a secured \$500 credit card to begin building her credit history.

"These classes helped me prepare for when income slows down in the summer. I feel independent now, especially with the car."

Today, Carmen is preparing for her driving test, building a new life, and planning for the future. *"When we left Colombia, we were running from threats and violence. Now I'm getting used to a new life, looking for opportunities to grow, maybe buy a house, and support my son's education."*

When asked to describe her journey in one word, she answers without hesitation:

"Apoyo" — Support.

LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, from families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children at every stage of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.

