

VOLUME 1 (A NEW START)

APRIL 2023



**THE CHURCH OF THE
DAMASCUS ROAD**
PRISON MINISTRIES

Matthew 25:35-36

"For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Introducing the new CoDR Pastor/Ministry Director - Pastor Kelli Glasgo
- Identifying the need and casting vision for the future
- Deepest thanks to all the faithful supporters of CoDR through the last 3 years!
- Letters from the guys inside

We would love to here from you!
If you have questions about the ministry, an article you would like to submit for the newsletter or any other feedback, just send us an email at our new address
(codroffice23@gmail.com)
Thanks!



We've got a new look and some new contact info:

If you check out our website and Facebook pages you'll notice we've been doing some much needed updating with new information, new ways to connect and support the ministry. Check us out at - codrcare.org and <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchoftheDamascusRoad>
FortDodge

Our Phone # is the same (515) 955-3579



GREETINGS FROM PASTOR KELLI

Hello from the CODR "bat cave"! Ok, it's not really a bat cave, but we have moved. Our office is still at St. Olaf but we've moved to the upstairs, back hallway so that St. Olaf can begin remodeling and preparing for their new Child Day Care Center. We're a little harder to find, but it's working out well. We're certainly grateful to all the great staff and members of St. Olaf for all their support. It's a great church to be a part of! If you want to visit, just call first and we'll meet you at the front door.

The last 3 years has been crazy to say the least for everyone and the CODR ministry has definitely had it's share of challenges. During the pandemic, volunteers were not allowed in the prisons so we could not hold our weekly services or bible studies. As the pandemic passed, we have still been restricted from entering due to staff shortages inside the facility and new DOC policies requiring correctional officers to be present at all groups. This not only shut down our ministry inside the facilities at Fort Dodge and Rockwell but also effectively shut down our reentry ministry outside the walls. We couldn't do much to establish relationships on the inside so it was hard to identify new candidates for the reentry/mentoring process.

But it certainly seems as if a new day has dawned! I'm happy to report that we are now conducting weekly worship services inside Rockwell prison and should be back inside Fort Dodge very soon. We've also been establishing great new relationships with the good folks down at the Fort Dodge Residential Correctional Facility (men's halfway house), and have partnered with Charles Clayton (AFES) to provide reentry support for the men there and those who have moved out on their own. We've updated our website and Facebook pages and are rebuilding our volunteer base and community support partners to gear up for this new exciting season of ministry. God is definitely on the move and we're busier than ever sharing the Gospel with people who desperately need it!

The CODR Council has wisely decided to spend a few months focusing on our own organizational health (getting our communication platforms updated and reestablishing our support base), but we're excited about the growth opportunities for the future. Finding safe, healthy and affordable housing is one of the biggest issues men face when they are transitioning out of prison. To this end the council is investigating what it would take to establish a Christ-centered residential facility here in Fort Dodge. This would give us the ability to engage in real discipleship full time with men and not be limited by whether or not we can get into the prisons to lead services. So please be holding us in your prayers as we are discerning God's will in this area.

Lastly, I just want to thank you all for continuing to support this ministry these last 3 years. Your generous support has enabled us to start up strong and we would not be where we are today without you. Several men in the Rockwell prison have expressed immense gratitude for having us back inside conducting services and we've already been able to touch the lives of several men out here in the community who would not have gotten support any other way. Your continued support enables us to do this work. We are humbled and grateful. Thank You!

Pastor Kelli Glasgo

MINISTRY SUPPORTERS

CHURCHES, ORGANIZATIONS & INDIVIDUALS

Mission Partners \$3,000+ per year

Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church, Lytton
Faith Lutheran Church, Odebolt
St. Olaf Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge
St. John's Lutheran Church, Le Mars
Trinity Lutheran Church, Rutland
Dale & Nancy Bruns, Jolley
Lee & Molly Gallentine, Webster City
Lyle & Hilda Hartling, Lohenan, MO
Rev. Carroll & Judy Lang, Fort Dodge
Charles & Mary Sukup, Dougherty

Sponsors \$2,000-2,999 per year

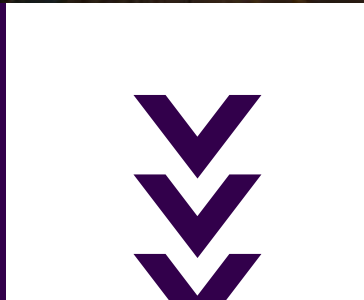
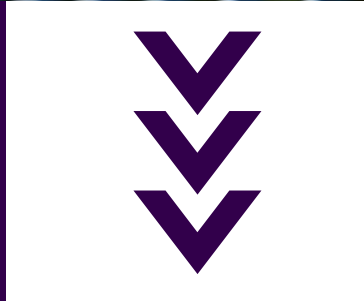
First Lutheran Church, Milford
St. John Lutheran Church, Pomeroy
Hands of Hope Conference
Dennis & Candace Booth, Lytton
George Hedges, Scranton
Troy & Karyn Leininger, Spencer

Extra Milers \$1,000-\$1,999 per year

Augustana Lutheran Church, Manson
Badger Lutheran Church, Badger
Bethany Lutheran Church, Laurens
Bethany Lutheran Church, Emmetsburg
First Lutheran Church, Algona
First United Methodist, Fort Dodge
Grace Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge
Hope Lutheran Church, Everly
Lost Island Lutheran Church, Ruthven
New Covenant Church, Fort Dodge
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Albert City
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Audubon
Peace Lutheran Church, Glidden
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Palmer
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Rockwell City
Trinity Lutheran Church, Ottosen
Zion St. John Lutheran Church, Sheffield
Stanley & Marlene Ahrendt, Sioux City
Dave & Luann Bohnet, Jefferson
Richard Hersom, Fort Dodge
Rev. Jim & Mindy McColley, Fort Dodge
Norman & Alice Nielsen, Spencer
Elwood & Lavon Ricke, Fargo, ND
Adam & Inga Sanford, Allen, TX
Melba Shelby, Fort Dodge
Noel & Linda Singer, Webster City
Judith Walrod, Somers
Leonard & Geoganne Woodruff, Fort Dodge

Friends \$500-\$999 per year

American Lutheran Church, Melvin
Faith Lutheran Church, Holstein
First Presbyterian Church, Jefferson
First Presbyterian Church, Lakota
Good Hope Lutheran Church, Titonka
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Harlan
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Humboldt
Samuel Lutheran Church, Eagle Grove
St. John's Lutheran Church, Corwith
St. John's Lutheran Church, Treynor
Ullensvang Lutheran Church, Thor
Darin & Linda Dykstra, Maurice
Glen & Sharon Houts, N. Sioux City, SD
Fr. Margaret Jackson, Fort Dodge
Duane & Carol Kropf, Kimballton
Ken & Heidrun Mechler, Sheffield
Roger Natte, Fort Dodge
Dale & Lisa Siebrecht, Curlew
Rev. Paul Stone, Eagle Grove,
Christopher & Rebecca Worley, Alexandria, MN



DID YOU KNOW?

The United States has the largest incarcerated population in the world. And although the United States has only 5% of the world's population, it has 25% of the world's inmates

Unemployment rates can be as high as 70% among ex-offenders. Without a job or a home, as many as 50% of released parolees become homeless and resort to living "on the streets." Unemployment, homelessness, and incarceration become an inescapable cycle, and with few real options, many men return to a life of crime

The United States Department of Justice reports that ex-offenders commit nearly 70% of all crimes. These statistics demonstrate the vast need for rehabilitative programs that are specifically focused on career development, including entrepreneurship training, beginning in the prison system—prior to release—and that continue to offer support post-release.

How Can I Get Involved?

This is an exciting time for CODR ministry because we have a great foundation established and some awesome ways for people to get involved right away, but we also have a lot of space for creativity and new ideas.

We know God is putting His ministry team together by calling people from many different locations and backgrounds. If you feel that God is nudging you in this direction, we would love to get to know you and help you find where God wants you to serve.



CODR Worship Services

Help support great worship inside of the Fort Dodge and Rockwell City Prisons. We looking for Pastors, Mentors, Lay leaders, and Musicians. The guys love to see volunteers at their worship services. It shows them that they are not forgotten, that they still matter and are loved.



Reentry support

Help us help the wonderful folks down at the Fort Dodge Residential Correctional Facility (halfway house) by providing:

- Clothing/hygiene supplies
- Transportation to appointments
- Mentoring
- Spiritual/emotional support



CODR Organizational support

- Serving on CODR Council
- Helping with Social Media/Digital Communications
- Helping with Volunteer coordination



Financial support

Our financial partners enable us to provide

- Fulltime spiritual care for the men and their families
- Support for men paying rent, deposits, medical expenses and meeting basic needs
- Administrative support for all ministry needs

Consider becoming a sustaining member by setting up automated giving through our online portal - <https://codrcare.org/donate/>



Possibilities we're considering for the Future

- Weekly Bible Study/Worship night for guys
- Christ Centered Residential Facility for men in Reentry Program

LETTERS


Hello readers, I am currently incarcerated at north central Correctional Facility in Rockwell City. I've repeatedly made a lot of bad choices in life. I've only known Christ for 3 years now and life seems more at peace. I try to make the best choices in life now and let God take care of the rest. 80-90% of the prison population are fatherless including myself. I'm fatherless and somewhat motherless also. I've been abused and neglected and didn't get the attention I needed as a child. I have mental health issues. 1 out of 4 inmates has ADHD. Growing up I didn't have any male role models or any positive ones. In my teens I started using alcohol and marijuana. As a teen it was peer pressure/curiosity. Since I didn't get the attention I needed growing up. Negative attention is what I got. I now know that I carried this into my adult years. To sum all this up, no father or positive male role model, not taking my dedication for ADHD turned into self medicating, not getting the attention I needed growing up, years of making bad choices put me where I am at today. I've never known God until recently, but I know Jesus has forgiven me for my sins. All is forgiven. The abuse, neglect, the trauma is forgiven. I just hope the wrong I have done to others will be forgiven. I feel God is bringing me out of bondage. My addiction and the criminal lifestyle is bondage. I look forward to meeting you readers at CODR once I am released. Take care and God bless!

Jake

As a young man sent to prison and as a convicted murder, the only things on my mind were survival. I must fight to stay alive. And in 13 years of the 27 years I spent in prison, I was fighting to stay alive and everything seemed as if I was still losing the fight. After reading a message on the wall that said "by the hands of men, the work of God is done" set me on a whole new path in life. And now I'm out of prison after 27 years by the grace of God. Through the help of many people

The world is not like it was when I went to prison. A lot has changed and it can seem overwhelming. Without mentors and other support, a person can fall back into what they used to know because it's comfortable. That's why programs like this are so important, that's why the church is so important for those who are re-entering society from prison.

Vanice

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