Invite your friends, neighbors, and family and be a part of history. June 8th is your last Sunday to worship on our existing pews. Volunteer crews show up on the 9th to begin the removal process. Join the generations of Zion for this celebration on the 8th and then come back on the 9th and 10th to participate in the renovation process.

Celebration Sunday: The Zion Church Council invites the congregation to a special celebration after the service on **Sunday, June 8**. The congregation will celebrate Pastor Conner's 10th ordination anniversary and the completion of his Master's Degree in Christian Apologetics. Grilled burgers will be provided and members are invited to bring salads or desserts. The service celebration will also include VBS songs and summaries. The day of celebration will continue with the C3 concert at Heritage Park. Mark your calendar and be watching for more information.

MINISTRY APPS—Zion Lutheran
Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Home

Extreme Makeover—Zion Mission and Ministry Notes—June 2014

God is the author of extreme makeovers: *"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17* The Apostle Paul goes on to explain that the "new" is a result of Christ's reconciliation. Through His sacrifice Christ has brought us into a new relationship with His Father and with one another. We live in the "new" in hearts, homes, and church. June is a month of makeovers at Zion.

Extreme Spy Search—VBS (June 2-6)
Children from the congregation and community will spend a week at the International Spy Academy where they will search the Scriptures. Children from ages 4 through grade 7 will gather from 8:45 a.m. to 11:30 each morning. Thanks to the many academy volunteers who will assist with Bible stories, crafts, music, recreation, snacks, and other academy activities. Pray for extremely good weather and many heart makeovers.

Extreme Makeover Worship
The facility makeover provides an opportunity to emphasize even more important spiritual makeovers.

June 8—Extreme Makeover Church Edition (Pentecost)
VBS children will share a summary of the week and the Spirit's gifts in their lives. The service provides an opportunity to celebrate Pastor Conner's pastoral ministry at Zion and the Spirit's use of God's "called and ordained" servants. Following the service there will be a special fellowship meal. Grilled sandwiches will be provided. Members are invited to bring a salad or dessert as side dishes.

June 15—Extreme Makeover Children's Edition (Trinity Sunday; Community Kinderfest)
God is in the makeover business through baptism. He chooses children to be His own and invites the family and church to share in nurturing the faith of children. Our "Gifted Generations" emphasis provides an opportunity to celebrate the gift of children. Continue the Saturday Kinderfest celebration at Sunday morning worship. If you have something ORANGE, wear it.

June 22—Extreme Makeover Heart Edition
King David prayed, "Create in me a clean heart, O God." God answers our prayers and gives us a new heart. **Note**: Beginning June 15 and continuing for several Sundays, the Sunday morning worship will take place in the fellowship hall. The setting may be a little more casual, but the focus on the cross of Christ will continue.

Extreme Makeover in the Nave
The vision becomes reality. The generous contributions to the "Generations" campaign allow us to proceed with the first phase of the facility improvements. Beginning June 9 the old pews, carpeting, tiles, etc. will be removed. Shortly thereafter the new carpeting, flooring, and tiles will be installed. Many volunteers will be needed in June (especially June 9 and 10). In addition to physical laborers, kitchen and cleaning helpers will be needed. This is a great opportunity for us to work together.
Celebrating all things "new" in Christ,
Pastor Riggert

Defeating Fear and Becoming Manly Men

In his profound little book, *The Silence of Adam*, psychologist and Bible teacher Larry Crabb recalls a painful childhood experience. As an eight year old he joined the little league team with youthful optimism. He recounts his first at bat: a strike-out. One strike out was nothing to stress over, but Dr. Crabb recalls how the strike-outs continued. As more and more teammates connected bat to ball, he kept missing. The other boys rounded the bases amid enthusiastic cheering while he would return to the dugout in defeat.

Eventually, he noticed that some boys were getting on base without hitting the ball. They were walked. If a good hitter followed, they could experience the joy of rounding the bases and even tagging home plate amid the cheering crowd. So at some point he decided to stop swinging. He still struck out, but sometimes he was walked, and on occasion, he was even able to enjoy the thrill of crossing home plate.

Dr. Crabb reflects on that experience: "When a man swings and misses, he knows failure and humiliation. Incompetence is exposed and shame is the by-product." He adds,

> It was the picture of my life: a man standing still, afraid to move, refusing to move, wanting to move, holding back because of a greater and prior commitment to safety, whether in vocation, in relationships, or in the responsibilities of daily life.

Such is the case for many men. Despite what they might claim, men are often paralyzed by fear. When men don't know what to do, their insides freeze up, their muscles tighten, and they are afraid to swing. And yet, as Dr. Crabb explains, God has wired energy into masculinity, "a natural momentum within the heart of every man, a power and an urge to move into life in a particular way." "Men are manly," Dr. Crabb shares, "only when they live in the power of released masculine energy."

When this in-born desire to express masculine energy is coupled with paralyzing fear and an uncertainty about how to move forward into life, men often resort to unmanly behaviors. Dr. Crabb explains,

> When masculine energy is not released, when it is either suppressed or distorted, men
>
> 1. feel powerless; they compensate by committing themselves to controlling something. They become AGGRESSIVE MEN.
> 2. experience rage and persuade themselves that vengeance is their due. They become ABUSIVE MEN.
> 3. live with a terror for which there is no resolution or escape, only relief. They dull the terror with physical pleasure and become ADDICTED MEN.

Notice how these men feel: powerless, angry, and fearful. These are the painful emotions lying beneath their controlling, destructive, and selfish behaviors, but men are VERY uncomfortable talking about these feelings and will often expend much energy denying them.

The Powerless Man

The man who feels powerless will struggle to admit that his desires for predictability and competence motivate him to avoid areas of uncertainty for fear of looking incompetent and weak. This is unmanly. Dr. Crabb explains,

> Unmanly men are haunted by the possibility of something happening that they cannot handle, something that requires them to enter unfamiliar territory where their adequacy remains unproven, where their proven talents may be useless… An unmanly man feels nothing more strongly than that fear but denies how strong it is within him.

Personal relationships often spark such feelings in men. They don't know how to create closeness with their wives, how to demonstrate wisdom to their

children, or how to have a deep conversation, and this makes them feel incompetent and powerless. So they find things they can control. Dr. Crabb says,

> It may be something as mundane as keeping a car clean, as wrong as seducing another woman, as irritating as lightening up every serious conversation with a joke, as well-received as writing a best-selling critique of culture, or as consuming as growing a business or expanding a ministry. Powerless men spend their lives controlling some outcome and deceiving themselves into thinking it matters.

The Angry Man

The angry man is easily irritated when he is asked to do something beyond his comfort zone, beyond his competence zone. For the angry man, the typical responsibilities of life feel like unreasonable demands and he is often and quickly provoked by seemingly reasonable requests. His wife wants him to complete a home project he believes he can't do, his children want him to help with homework he doesn't understand, his church wants him to lead a Bible study he thinks he's unqualified for. In his mind everyone is after him and he responds in anger. The anger is an outlet for his masculine energy.

As Dr. Crabb explains, "Unmanly men feel strangely good when they sense a power within themselves capable of destroying. They feel even better when they release it." He continues,

> This release of corrupted masculine energy may take the form of sarcasm, of telling 'in' jokes that purposefully exclude others, of using a sharp intellect to intimidate, of simple neglect. It may be experienced more violently, either in fantasy or through physical abuse."

This is unmanly. As Dr. Crabb puts it, "Destructive men are not manly: they are mad with the energy of distorted masculinity; they are mad at people and mad at life and mad at God. They are full of vengeful judgment toward everyone but themselves."

The Terrified Man

The terrified man lives with the powerful, persistent fear that someone or some situation will expose his incompetence, his inadequacy, or his insufficiency. Day after day he is plagued by it, like a stalker that never sleeps. Relief in any form seems justified. Dr. Crabb explains that when this terror erupts, "unmanly men panic or get depressed; sometimes they feel the urge to commit suicide, to kill someone else, or to enjoy the unique pleasures of immorality." Because the goal is relief, the terrified man is susceptible to addictive behaviors such as alcohol, pornography, and other relief-promising activities.

The Manly Man

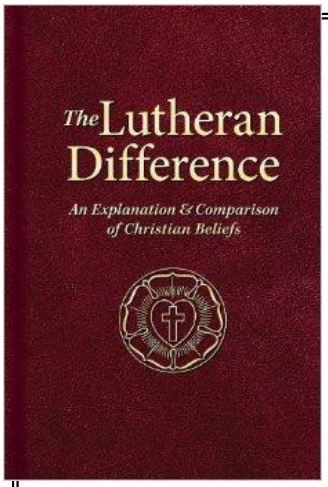
The manly man sees things differently. He knows that true manliness isn't rooted in power, control, or competence. True manliness is rooted in godliness. As Dr. Crabb says, "Men who learn to be fascinated more with Christ than with themselves will become the authentic men of our day." As such, the manly man understands that his primary calling is to reflect God's character in his vocations, and this compels him to action more than any promise of power or any fear of inadequacy. Dr. Crabb puts it this way:

> A manly man is not an aggressive man; he is an ACTIVE Man, involved in offering quality relationships to others, more committed to developing a strength that others can enjoy than to achieving for himself a sense of power and control.

Further, a manly man isn't threatened by life's demands. He lives in the peace of Christ. He doesn't deny life's demands or resent the responsibilities placed on him; neither does he deny the brokenness of the world in which he lives. Instead, he moves forward into his vocational responsibilities and into the broken world with masculine energy in courage. As such, as Dr. Crabb explains, "he is a GENTLE Man, not weak, a man whose power is controlled for good purposes."

Finally, a manly man is not overwhelmed by fear. Instead, as Dr. Crabb says, he exists "in FREEDOM… There is always something to BE, even when there is nothing to DO." In other words, instead of retreating into sinful relief, the manly man is "drawn by the opportunity to exhibit something good, to reflect the always hopeful movement of God." He is not addicted to sinful pleasures, but "He fights hard against his relentless desire for pleasure. He moves according to a plan. He is a PURPOSEFUL MAN who knows what he's about and what he can contribute to the purpose for which he's living."

"Every day," Dr. Crabb points out, "we move either toward godly manhood or away from it." In the coming months we will explore this movement toward godly manhood. For now we need to understand that beneath many of men's destructive behaviors lie fear, anger, and uncertainty. Men trapped in unmanly and ungodly behaviors have the pressing urge to do and to act, but are allowing their fears to drive them toward unmanliness and away from godliness. The first step, then, in achieving manliness and godliness is for men honestly to acknowledge their feelings of impotence, incompetence, and inadequacy. From there we will be able to move with confidence and masculine energy into God's unique call for men. We'll get to that, however, next month. If you want to talk more about this, stop in and visit with Pastor Conner.



So you're Lutheran? What does that mean?

Whether you've been Lutheran all your life or are new to the Lutheran Church, you've been asked what makes Lutherans different. In this masterfully organized resource, *The Lutheran Difference,* you'll find what Lutherans believe on a wide array of subjects including God's Word, Law and Gospel, Creation, Angels and Demons, Justificaiton and Sanctification, Predestination, and more!

And not only that, you'll find helpful comparisons to other confessions.

On sale now from Concordia Publishing House for $20. Log on (www.cph.org) or call (800-325-3040) or visit with Pastor Conner to get your copy.

Holding Your Family Together

A few months back we started our journey through five simple steps to help you hold your family together (listed below) (from Dr. Rich Melhein's *Holding Your Family Together*). Thus far we've explored Step 1 (Sharing), Step 2 (Reading), and Step 3 (Talking). This month we arrive at Step 4: Praying.

Once everyone has shared their highs and lows, heard God's Word, and talked that Word into their lives, you're ready to lift everyone's highs and lows in thanksgiving and supplication to God. Praying like this as a family strengthens the family bond not only with one another, but also with God. Dr. Rich asks, "What happens to a family or family of friends in prayer? Bonding, bonding, bonding. People bond to God, bond to one another, and bond into the greater body of Christ." Who doesn't want that in their family! Praying bonds families because praying for one another communicates powerful messages of love. As Dr. Rich explains, "When someone is praying for you, you feel important, loved, heard, and validated." And who doesn't want these messages to echo in their family!

Share the highs and lows of your day.

Read a Bible verse or story.

Talk about how the Bible reading relates to your highs and lows.

Pray for one another's highs and lows.

Bless one another.

But there's more! Dr. Rich details the great blessings of the nightly routine of sharing, reading, talking, and praying:

> Listening to others as they share their lows provides both great introspection (*intro* + *spect*, meaning 'to see inside') and 'extrospection' (my homemade term for *extro* + *spect*, meaning 'to see outside'). These regular practices promote internal awareness, empathy and sympathy. Wouldn't it be great to raise children who not only understood what was going on in their own heads but who also knew and felt their parent's joys and pain? You can't buy that kind of love, depth and maturity. You have to invest in it.

This is why the nightly ritual is so important. Life is constantly throwing curveballs at us and wreaking havoc on our schedules. Sadly, praying as a family is too often one of the first things to fall by the wayside. We need rituals that will, as Dr. Rich explains, "hold [us] when we can't hold [ourselves]." "Just having the ritual of prayer in place," Dr. Rich continues, "creates a safe space in which your children can open up wounds before those wounds have a chance to get infected." Making family prayer your ritual will help your children see your home

> As the kind of place where your children can deal with the down-and-dirty disappointments of life. You will raise emotionally healthy and spiritual aware children who will become emotionally healthy and spiritually resilient adults. Your children will learn to whom they can turn to help them cope and get hope when times get tough.

Practical suggestions

As you unite in family prayer, consider the environment you establish for prayer. Make sure it's conducive to communication and thought. Blaring TVs, beeping smartphones, and scrolling banners on tablets and laptops can keep you from meaningful prayer time and disrupt your family's bonding with

one another and God. If your space allows, you may consider creating a family altar or lighting a candle to mark the space and family devotional time as sacred.

As your children mature, you can invite them to take turns as the prayer leader. This will be a blessing to you and to them. As Dr. Rich offers,

> Sometimes leaders wear out if they are doing all the heavy lifting. For this reason, as soon as your children are old enough, invite them to take the lead and to pray aloud for your highs and lows… It will be a beautiful and powerful gift to you and wonderful training for them.

Finally, don't worry about the answers to your prayers. In His wisdom, God will answer them as He sees fit. Dr. Rich records a conversation between several pastors and a wise theologian on the topic prayer. The pastors were expressing exasperation over what they saw as unanswered prayers. Some were considering giving up on prayer. The wise theologian listened patiently and then asked, "Who told you that you were in charge of answering prayer? That job's already taken. Your job is to *pray*." The same goes for us. Our job isn't answering the prayers; our job is to pray. God will take care of the answer.

You can do this. You can hold your family together. Start tonight. Share your highs and lows, read Scripture together, talk Scripture into your family's life, and start praying for each other. Want to talk more about prayer, family devotions, or the faith practices we've discussed? Come visit with Pastor Conner.

Pray Every Day

Sunday:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Monday:

Humble yourselves… under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. – 1 Peter 5:6-7

Tuesday:

The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:6-7

Wednesday:

I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. – Luke 11:9

Thursday:

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. – John 15:7

Friday:

When you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. – Matthew 6:7

Saturday:

Is any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. – James 6:13

Counterpoint

Countering falsehoods with facts for the sake of life

Last month in our *Counterpoint* series we investigated some of the claims made on Planned Parenthood's website regarding in-clinic abortions. If you missed it, check it out online at www.zionmanning.com under the "Newsletters" tab. This month we'll discuss Planned Parenthood's claims regarding the abortion pill or "medication abortion."

Claim: Medication Abortions end pregnancy and are safe and effective.

When you log on to Planned Parenthood's website you are given the opportunity to learn "The Facts On" various subjects. When you click on "Abortion," you can choose "in-clinic abortions" or "medication abortions." This month we are discussing the latter. After selecting "the abortion pill" (medication abortion), you are given these "at a glance" bullet points:

The Abortion Pill at a Glance

- Take medicines to end an early pregnancy
- Safe and effective
- Available from many Planned Parenthood health centers
- Costs about $300-800

The last two points are simple statements of fact; the first two, however, obscure truth. We'll discuss each in turn.

Point One: Medicines end an early pregnancy

Point one rightly states that medication abortion ends pregnancy, but it strategically avoids mentioning that this entails ending an unborn child's life. This is an intentional and misleading half-truth. In fact, in the detailed description that follows the "at a glance" section, Planned Parenthood uses the word "fetus" once, but never uses "child, unborn, baby," or even "mother or mom." Revealingly, on their adoption page the phrase "your child" is used eight times, "your baby" once, and "birth mother(s)" four times. One can't help but question Planned Parenthood's motives for such word choices. Why is the child and the mother only mentioned in Planned Parenthood's discussion of adoption and never even acknowledged in the abortion section? Do the unborn child and mother only merit mentioning when the woman doesn't want the baby dead?

In the detailed description of the abortion pill, Planned Parenthood describes the three steps of a medication abortion. In the first step, a woman is instructed to take an abortion pill called "mifepristone" along with infection-fighting antibiotics. This pill, according to Planned Parenthood, "works by blocking the hormone progesterone. Without progesterone, the lining of the uterus breaks down, and pregnancy cannot continue." Notes how Planned Parenthood obscures the truth by hiding the unborn child beneath the condition-describing word "pregnancy." A "pregnancy" that "cannot continue" is Planned Parenthood's euphemism for "the unborn child's life cannot continue."

In step two, Planned Parenthood instructs women to take a second pill (misoprostol) which "causes the uterus to empty." As before, Planned Parenthood has employed obfuscating language to hide the death of the unborn child.

According to Planned Parenthood, misoprostol "will cause you to have cramps and bleed heavily." Then women are told, "You may see large blood clots or tissue at the time of the abortion." Heartbreakingly, Planned Parenthood has reduced the unborn child to "tissue," which women are expected to dispose of on their own. Many do so by flushing the remains down the toilet or tossing them in the trash. It is a lamentable and appalling truth, but untold unborn children in our country are treated like dead gold fish every year as they are flushed down the toilet or taken out with the trash. This, as we discussed last month, Planned Parenthood boasts of as "Care. No

matter what." It is strange and grievous care that would celebrate the "emptying of a uterus," the disposal of "tissue," and the reducing of unborn children to goldfish status. How can we as a people not weep for these children and women who have been deceived by such lies?

In step three, Planned Parenthood instructs women to follow up with their abortion provider "to make sure your abortion is complete and that you are well." In the event of an "incomplete abortion" women are counseled "to have an aspiration abortion," to ensure the "pregnancy" is terminated.[1] Once again, Planned Parenthood has purposely chosen shady language to conceal the child whose life is being taken.

Point Two: Safe and effective

In the detailed explanation section, Planned Parenthood assures women that a medication abortion is safe. They caution, though, "All medical procedures have some risks…" Once again Planned Parenthood has cautiously chosen its words. This time they conceal the death of the unborn child under the phrase "medical procedures" as if an abortion is no different than having one's appendix removed or tooth pulled. They go on to list the risks of this "medical procedure." Some of these include:

- incomplete abortion — part of the pregnancy is left inside the uterus
- failure to end the pregnancy
- infection
- blood clots in the uterus

Planned Parenthood's choice of words is again stunning and disturbing as they desperately try to avoid any mention of the unborn child. "Part of the pregnancy" is employed to avoid admitting that parts of the unborn child may remain inside the uterus. Further, Planned Parenthood lists the survival of the unborn child (hidden beneath the euphemistic "failure to end the pregnancy") as one of the risks of medical abortion.

Finally, Planned Parenthood acknowledges, "In extremely rare cases, very serious complications may be fatal." In tragic irony, Planned Parenthood warns women of the fatality risk medication abortion has on their lives, while shielding the near-certain fatality risk the procedure has on the unborn baby's life. They even go so far as to warn women that the procedure might not "end the pregnancy," which would let the child live. Then, to assuage women's fears of their fatality risk, Planned Parenthood assures women that, "The risk of death from medication abortion is much less than from a full-term pregnancy or childbirth." The message is clear: if you are afraid of potentially fatal life events, you would be safer aborting your baby than carrying him to term.[2]

Planned Parenthood has made a habit of hiding truth with deceptive language. Tragically, the truth that's hidden is dead babies and deceived women.

Counterpoint: Medication Abortions are generally effective at ending the unborn baby's life. Besides being fatal to the baby, they pose serious health risks to the mother.

In the name of love Christians must speak truth, and in the name of truth Christians must extend love. Let us pray that God would guide us to speak and love well.

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[1] In "aspiration abortion," a suction curette (a hollow tube with a knife edge) is inserted into the womb. A high-powered vacuum is turned on and the unborn baby is sucked from the womb in pieces and then disposed of as medical waste.

[2] Since 2008 Iowa Planned Parenthood clinics have been offering medication abortions through something called "telemedicine." We detailed this in the August and September 2013 newsletters. Women may make a virtual appointment with an abortionist through a webcam. If she desires the abortion pill, the abortionists may dispense it by pressing a button that will open a drawer where the woman is that will offer it to her. She then takes it and goes home to wait for her baby to die. And then she must dispose of the dead baby herself. Last fall the Iowa Board of Medicine halted this unthinkable procedure only to have their order stayed when Planned Parenthood sued. Currently Iowa House Republicans have passed a bill to ban this procedure (Local representative Dan Muhlbauer was one of three Democrats to vote to ban the procedure), but it is unlikely to pass the Democrat controlled senate.

Stewardship
a way of life

A few weeks ago a letter came in the mail from International Justice Mission (IJM), one of my family's favorite Christian organizations. As you may know, slavery is a global epidemic. At this moment nearly 30 million people are enslaved worldwide (nearly 2 million children are enslaved in the commercial sex trade!). IJM is dedicated to freeing these slaves. More than that, they are dedicated to stopping the men and women who are enslaving them. In their words:

> Every day, IJM lawyers, investigators and aftercare professionals answer the Bible's call to justice—and every day, they see the power of the Church to "seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan and plead for the widow." (Isaiah 1:17)

They do this through something called Justice System Transformation. In this three-phase model IJM professionals partner with local governments and communities 1) to rescue victims and to bring criminals to justice, 2) to transform local justice systems so as to improve their effectiveness in combatting slavery, and 3) to sustain gains by monitoring these justice systems' results. You can learn more at www.ijm.org.

In the letter we received, a senior investigator told about his recent recognizance trip to the African nation of Ghana. They had heard reports of young boys being taken into slavery under the guise of education and job training. During their investigative tour they were able to speak with 782 children. To their dismay they discovered that 472 of them were slaves – nearly 60 percent!

These boys are enslaved as fishermen on Ghana's Lake Volta (the largest man-made lake in the world). The senior investigator describes what he saw with these words:

> These boys wore torn, dirty and ragged clothing. Many had no clothes at all—nothing. **Most of the boys had distended stomachs, skin diseases, hair falling out, and open sores and wounds. Some were starving and openly crying as we approached.** Others looked completely exhausted and their eyes vacant of emotion.

You can see why we are moved to support IJM's work. Because we think it's important to educate our children not only on the reality of slavery in the world, but also on the opportunity we, as Christians, have to set slaves free, I read the letter to them one morning before school. They immediately wanted to contribute. Because our family, like many families at Zion, has been participating in LCEF's stewardship training program (now call Y.I. Club), which equips children to allot their money into Share, Save, and Spend categories, they had money to give. One of the boys was clearly moved by the plight of boys his age on the other side of the world and said, "I want to give all my share money."

As stewards we have the opportunity to share not only with our local congregation (which we do with our tithe), but also with Christian missions (like IJM). Imagine, we are able to take money and turn it into freed slaves, justice, and transformed cultures, or we can turn money into funded missionaries who will bring Christ to unsaved people! How will you use your "share money"? Want suggestions? Come visit with Pastor Conner or Pastor Riggert.

May Highlights

Ladies Guild

Zion Guild was hosted on May 14th by Margaret Kuchel and Judy Musfeldt. There were 18 members in attendance.

The devotion, entitled "Look Up", was given by President Susan Schilling who had us looking up to Jesus' transfiguration, His suffering on Calvary and finally to His ascension into heaven. She was followed by Christian Life Chairman, Margaret Backhaus, who talked about special strength through prayer.

President Schilling led the group in the League Pledge and opened the business meeting.
The secretary's minutes were read and approved. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit. Human Care Chairman, Audrey Roe, gave a yearly summary of the quilting done. There were 16 volunteers that met from September through April. They tied 167 quilts, gave 90 to Orphan Grain Train, 44 to Lutheran World Relief, donated 30 locally and kept 9 for gifts. Sunshine Chairman, Bev Grundmeier, reported sending 10 cards this month.

Circle reporting indicated Circle # 3 had the May fellowship coffees. Circle # 4 will have June coffees. The Fellowship Club will host the July coffees and Circle #1 will take August. Circle #2 served the Daryl Genzen funeral lunch. Circle #3 will have the next funeral.

Old business:
President Schilling has placed a box in the fellowship hall to collect certain items for "Phil's Friends". A list of items needed has been attached to the box.

New business:
A box has been placed in the fellowship hall for Operation Barnabus to collect items for veterans. Items will be collected until June 1st.

Sandra Vahl is in charge of the graduation breakfast for the 8 seniors on May 18th. The Guild will be giving the graduates bookmarks with their confirmation verses on them.

The Memorial Day luncheon will be held from 10:30 until 1:00. The board of education is in charge and the money will support vacation Bible school to be held June 2nd through 6th. June 14th is Kinderfest. Donated cookies are to be at the church by 10:30 that morning. Joni Kienast has supplied certain 8" plates and plastic bags to cover them.

Plaza Bingo will be held on May 23rd. Sandra Vahl is chairman with Judy Bald, Mary Grimm and Bev Grundmeier on her committee.

The meeting adjourned with the table prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

May 14, 2014

The Ferry Family is Gone!

Thanks to your help and prayers, we're on our way.

The bags are packed and loaded and we've counted heads several times. We've said tearful goodbyes to family and friends, and we're on our way out. The kids have been incredibly patient and flexible, and we're counting on that to continue going forward. By the time you read this, we'll most likely be on the airplane and headed overseas to make a new beginning. We'll spend a few days in Singapore, making preparations and submitting documents. Then it's off to Indonesia, the Lord willing.

Many thanks to all of you for your support, your encouragement, and your prayers. Please continue praying! Now more than ever we need our gracious Lord Jesus whose promises never fail. We know He goes before us, and is already building His Church through His chosen Means of Grace.

More to come soon from the other side of the world!

Peace be with you through Jesus Christ,
Charles Ferry and the Ferry Family
(Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, and Cassie)

May 16, 2014

Hello from Singapore!

The Ferry Family has landed enroute to Indonesia...

Yesterday was a LONG day. Between flying and time zone changes, we lost all of Thursday, and woke up on Friday morning to find ourselves in Singapore. The kids did very well during our long day flying (22 hours total, plus prep/waiting in Chicago), and were each able to sleep at least a few hours in the planes.

Now we're spending a few days here in Singapore to arrange our visas for Indonesia. These days are not only good for catching our breath, but as a very useful stepping stone on our adjustment to life in Asia. This is a very Asian city, but most everyone speaks English, and you can find many of the comforts of home (even Subway and McDonald's!). We're jet lagged, but excited and happy to be this close to where we've been called to be.

I'll also be hosting a [Lutheran] Service on Sunday, having the privilege of giving out the gifts of our Lord Jesus to those here in Singapore who would not normally receive them, since our LCMS pastor isn't able to be here this weekend. Anyone in the area is welcome to join us!

We're grateful for your prayers, for our Lord indeed kept us safe during our travels, and continues to grant us strength as this journey continues.

Easter Celebrations:
The wonderful celebration of Easter came to Storm Lake and to Denison with the declaration: "He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed" (Ha Resucitado,Ha Resucitado en Verdad!). In any language Easter is special as we experienced in worship, and with traditional and cultural activities. We worshipped in Storm Lake with family and friends in a special festival service. As part of that service we met a new family, Carlos and Teresa, who have since been worshipping with us. Teresa had never been baptized and so she is studying with me to become a member by baptism and adult confirmation. Easter blessings! Following the worship service with 60 in attendance we had an afternoon celebration of family fun and fellowship. We began with our annual Easter egg hunt in the school gym. All kids found plenty of treats. Then we had our traditional Piñata with more candy followed by a delicious fellowship meal of Hispanic foods. Easter blessings for all!

Praying for Pastor Moeller for Storm Lake:
As I wrote in my newsletter last month Grace Lutheran in Storm Lake called Pastor Eric Moeller on behalf of our Hispanic ministry. During the past month we have been praying for Pastor Eric Moeller to accept our Call to serve as Pastor and Chaplain. We are working with the Storm Lake Tyson pork plant to hire him as Chaplain of the plant (see my Tyson report on the back). It's an exciting time for our mission among Hispanics in Storm Lake!

Our Hispanic Youth Visit Concordia University in Seward:
In April, seven of our high school youth from both Storm Lake (Cinthia, Jacilin, Ronald, Kimberly) and Denison (Azucena, Kevin, Jocelyn) traveled with District youth to Concordia. Thanks to Ellie Menz & IOWAY for this free trip for District youth. Let us pray that these youth consider studying at Concordia and even consider studying for a church career.

My Tyson Chaplaincy at the Plants in Denison & Storm Lake:
"WORKING WITH HR: **The picture at right** shows me with Will Sager, the Storm Lake Human Resource manager, and Irma Ardon, Tyson's Community Liaison. Both are my supervisors as they are responsible for managing the Chaplaincy program at the plant. Both are a blessing to work with and I give thanks that they both are members at Grace Lutheran. Will attends the English service and Irma is part of our Hispanic ministry. They are now interviewing candidates for the Chaplain position at Storm Lake. We are praying it will be Rev. Eric Moeller as we have now called him to our Hispanic ministry. All Tyson Chaplains are pastors of a local church and need the permission of their local church and denomination. God bless our faith in the work place!

Garage Sales:
Join us for these special sales on June 6-7 in Denison at the Zion gym, and on June 14 in Storm Lake at Grace. Donations are welcome. Funds raised will be used for the summer retreat and scholarships. For more information call me at 712-309-1292.

TO CONTACT ME:
Rev. Daniel Vogel
32678 Aspen Ave. Manning, Iowa, 51455
1-712-653-2354 or Cell: 712-309-1292 or E-mail me at: Dan.Vogel@idwlcms.org

Photo: THE OLIVERS
Maggie, Isaac (6), Stephen, Ginny (2), Gary (4)

We make no contribution to God's wonderful free gift of our salvation, forgiveness, justification, and reconciliation with our Creator, but we trust in the redemption Jesus has fully accomplished for us. This is what Paul emphasized (as did Luther) with the message of Justification by Faith, especially in Galatians, which I'm now privileged to teach for the first time in China Lutheran Seminary's branch course. Our branch courses take in a wide variety of students, including many local church members, seminary staff, regular seminary students, and others. In addition to this Galatians course, I'm also privileged to be helping to edit our translation into Chinese of Luther's full (600 page) lectures on Galatians (1535)!

Pray for the Galatians course (every Tuesday night until June 3) and the translating (by Teacher Ku Mei-fen) and editing (by David Lin and myself) of Luther's Galatians lectures.

Photo: GALATIANS BRANCH COURSE
Pastor Oliver is teaching Galatians in the China Lutheran Seminary branch school every Tuesday night from April 29 to June 3.

June Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

1. McKensie Bess
   Monica Christensen
   Jonathan Conner
   Russell Mohr
2. Janice Ress
   Autumn Winter
4. Kelli Grimm
5. Warren Puck
6. Angela Albertsen
   Brandon Ranniger
7. Jarod Gruhn
8. Jacob Ewoldt
   David Vetter
9. Jon Saunders
10. Amy Bradley
    Luke Doyel
    Deanna Hagedorn
    Judy Jacobsen
    Steve Page
11. Luke Ramsey
    Nolan Ramsey
12. Janet Plumb
13. Nick Backhaus
    Travis Neumann
14. Jessica Winter
15. Ann Ranniger
    JoAnn Wittrock
16. Michael Gore
    Greg Peters
    Ashley Wulf
17. Jeff Bald
    Lily Doyel
    Lucille Ranniger
    Dale Reinke
18. Dan Kerkhoff
19. Wilma Bogatzke
    Daniel Vogel
20. Aubrey Alexander
    Lorrell Borkowski
21. Rodney Kurth
22. Duncan Hilsabeck
23. Brooklynn Booth
    Mary Grimm
    Matthew Vogel
24. Holly Borkowski
    Inez Mahnke
25. Jared Rosener
26. Shirley Ahrendsen
    Russell Bruhn
28. Jordynne Bauer
29. Hannah Willison

1. Gordon & Donna Schmarzo
2. Duane & Janice Monson
6. Ken & Gerry Stripling
7. Floyd & Donna Forman
10. Stan & Nancy Baack
    Ryan & Heidi Crawford
11. Lyle & Arlene Bald
    Lyle & Marlene Borkowski
    Barry & Jean Kusel
15. Lynn & Sonia Nulle
    Dan & Lois Peters
22. Jeff & Sharon Bald
24. Jeff & Amy Bradley
    Curt & Debra Janssen
25. John & Barb Anderson
    Sam & Judy Musfeldt
27. Jerry & Carla Backhaus
29. Craig & Luann Langel
30. Albert & Sandra Vahl

If we missed or misspelled your name, please inform the church office.

Congregational Servants

Council:
Curt Struve, President
Sam Musfeldt, Vice President
Donna Forman, Record. Sec.
Amber Neumann, Fin. Sec.
Karen Kienast, Treasurer
Jeff Hargens, CFO

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LaVern Bald, Stan Musfeldt
Dave Grundmeier
Tim Kienast, Lynn Kruse Don Lamb
Craig Musfeldt,

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Ryan Crawford, Eric Ramsey
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Sandra Sextro, Heather Kusel,
Jen Morris
Elder: LaVern Bald

Altar Guild:
Monica Christensen, Director

Ladies Guild:
Susie Schilling, President

Stewardship Board:
Rick Lohrmann, Chair

Fellowship Club:
Russ Mohr, President

Choir:
Dr. Tom Ulrickson, director

Children's Choir:
Susie Ulrickson, Jill Arp

We ended our 2013-2014 school year with a celebration of songs, certificates, food, gifts and fellowship. I will end our preschool year with this poem.

A, B, C Farewell
A is for the alphabet which we know how to say.
B is for busy bodies -- at work and at play.
C is for colors - red, yellow, blue, and green.
D is for drawing pictures, the best you've ever seen.
E is for exercise to keep our bodies strong.
F is for the fun we've had as we have gone along.
G is for the good friends we made throughout the year.
H is for happy faces filled with love and cheer.
I is for imagination used at every turn.
J is for good jobs and the praises we have earned.
K is for kindness – how to be a good friend!
L is for learning -- more and more each day.
M is for minding and showing our respect.
N is for numbers. One, two, three...correct?
O is for the obstacles we learned to overcome.
P is for puppets and for playing rhythms on a drum.
Q is for all the questions we've asked throughout the year.
R is for reading stories, even those that bring a tear.
S is for different snacks, several we have tried.
T is for talking.
U is for unusual; it fits some things we've done.
V is for our volunteers -- parents and everyone!
W is for the world of words we've barely dipped into.
X is for extra special kids -- it's him, it's her, it's you.
Y is for yes, it has been a great year!
Z is for preschool zest. We're ready, have no fear!

Thank you for your support and prayers. Have a great summer!
Blessings, Deb Fink and Janice Nemitz

ZION Lutheran Preschool
Manning, Iowa
Christ Centered... Child Focused... Family Connecting