God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.
Selah
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress (Psalm 46:1–7).

A one-person majority of the U.S. Supreme Court got it wrong – again.[1] Some 40 years ago, a similarly activist court legalized the killing of children in the womb. That decision has to date left a wake of some 55 million Americans dead. Today, the Court has imposed same-sex marriage upon the whole nation in a similar fashion. Five justices cannot determine natural or divine law. Now shall come the time of testing for Christians faithful to the Scriptures and the divine institution of marriage (Matthew 19:3–6), and indeed, a time of testing much more intense than what followed Roe v. Wade.

Like Roe v. Wade, this decision will be followed by a rash of lawsuits. Through coercive litigation, governments and popular culture continue to make the central post-modern value of sexual freedom override "the free exercise of religion" enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

The ramifications of this decision are seismic. Proponents will seek to drive Christians and Christian institutions out of education at all levels; they will press laws to force faithful Christian institutions and individuals to violate consciences in work practices and myriad other ways. We will have much more to say about this.

During some of the darkest days of Germany, a faithful Lutheran presciently described how governments lose their claim to legitimate authority according to Romans 13.

The Caesar cult in its manifold forms, the deification of the state, is one great form of the defection from the [true] idea of the state. There are also other possibilities of such defection. The government can forget and neglect its tasks. When it no longer distinguishes between right and wrong, when its courts are no longer governed by the strict desire for justice, but by special interests, when government no longer has the courage to exercise its law, fails to exercise its duties, undermines its own legal order, when it weakens through its family law parental authority and the estate of marriage, then it ceases to be governing authority.

Raising such a question can lead to heavy conflicts of conscience. But it is fundamentally conceivable, and it has time and again become reality in history, that a governing authority has ceased to be governing authority. In such a case there may indeed exist a submission to a superior power. But the duty of obedience against this power no longer exists. [Hermann Sasse, "What Is the State?"(1932)]

[1] On July 5, I addressed this matter from the pulpit. You can watch the sermon online www.zionmanning.com or request an emailed/printed copy of the sermon by contacting the church office.

As faithful Christians, we shall continue to be obedient to just laws. We affirm the human rights of all individuals and the inherent and equal value of all people. We respect the divinely given dignity of all people, no matter their sexual preference. We recognize that, under the exacting and demanding laws of God, we are indeed sinners in thought, word and deed, just as are all (Romans 3:9ff.). We confess that the "blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all our sins" (1 John 1:7). We confess that God's divine law of marriage and the entire Ten Commandments apply to all, and that so also the life-giving sacrifice of Christ on the cross is for all. It is a "righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe" (Romans 3:22).

However, even as we struggle as a church to come to a unified response to this blatant rejection of the entire history of humankind and its practice of marriage, "We shall obey God rather than man" (Acts 5:29). Christians will now begin to learn what it means to be in a state of solemn conscientious objection against the state. We will resist its imposition of falsehood upon us, even as we continue to reach out to those who continue to be harmed by the ethic of radical sexual freedom, detached from God's blessing of marriage. And we will stand shoulder to shoulder with Christians, churches and people of good will who are resolute on this issue.

God help us. Amen.
Pastor Matthew C. Harrison

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

NOT FOR SALE

A message to planned parenthood; A call to

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We logged on to the Internet and Facebook yesterday only to be hit with a sickening story: undercover video footage seemingly implicating Planned Parenthood in the sale of the body parts of aborted children.

In the video, Planned Parenthood Federation of America's Senior Director of Medical Services, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, discusses how she adjusts abortion procedures to procure certain parts of a child's body, even as she notes that "we've been very good at getting heart, lung, liver."

Listen long enough, if you can handle it, and you'll hear her suggest that such items could eventually be listed on a Planned Parenthood "menu" for affiliate organizations to purchase for a price.

Later in the day, Planned Parenthood released a "nothing to see here" kind of statement, asserting that the discussion was merely one revolving around a patient's right to donate tissue, as with any medical procedure. But why does Nucatola then mention the costs of body parts ("Thirty to one hundred dollars," she says)?

Lord, have mercy.

If what Nucatola says is, in fact, the truth, we as Christians cannot allow this story to go untold or be buried by the media. We simply cannot remain silent while the reprehensible act of killing a child in the womb is made even worse by selling portions of that child's dismembered body simply because there is a market for them.

Speaking up about the shameful act of killing children — as well as harvesting their body parts — may be uncomfortable. We may lose friends and

create awkward tension at work. Our professors may mock us, and our family may roll their eyes at us. If that is the case, so be it. Because as Lutherans, as Christians, we are for life, no matter the cost.

As Lutherans, we confess that every life has value, that it has worth, that it matters … from the moment of conception until natural death occurs. We confess that what Nucatola calls "17-weekers" are actually children — with beating hearts and little moving fingers and toes.

We confess that even the tiniest of humans are just that — regardless of what scientific term the culture uses to make them seem like something less. We confess that they are created in the image and likeness of our Lord Himself. And we confess that because of Him, their hearts and lungs and livers matter, no matter how small they might be.

We also admit our own failings in this regard. Where we have failed to speak and act for life, we repent. Where we have not cared for mothers in crisis-pregnancy situations, we ask for forgiveness. Where we have thought more of ourselves than giving to an organization that can assist those moms and babies, we are sorry. Where we have been apathetic to this pandemic of death, we grieve.

But we are not without hope, because our Lord is for life too.

He is so pro-life, in fact, that He has given His own life for us, even as He has laid it down for these tiniest of children. Where their short lives are taken, He offers up His willingly. Where their little bodies are sold, He gives His freely to us at His holy table for the forgiveness of our sins.

Today let us confess life with renewed vigor — to our friends over supper, through letters to the editor of our local paper, by writing our congressmen, in tweets and emails to Planned Parenthood, on our Facebook pages.

Let us pray that our Lord would bring an end to abortion altogether and that He would stop the horrible sale of infant bodies.

And let us pray that He would forgive us, renew us and bolster us to make a good confession in season and out of season: one that is always, no matter what, for life.

Rev. Bart Day, executive director
Life and Health Ministries
LCMS Office of National Mission

After Rev. Day released the above statement, the Center for Medical Progress released a second video in which another high-ranking Planned Parenthood official (Mary Gatter, the medical director at Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley in California), discussed selling body parts of aborted babies and a third showing a Planned Parenthood vice president negotiating the sale of aborted babies in an attempt to get as much money as possible from them.

If crushing an unborn baby's skull and ripping his limbs from his body wasn't enough, Planned Parenthood is apparently trying to pad its profits by selling dead babies' organs. This is beyond barbaric; it's evil. And yet our governing officials continue to call this "health care." Nothing about this promotes health or is truly caring.

And while it's illegal to profit from the sale of fetal body parts, it remains legal to crush, rip, cut, and tear them from unborn babies in abortion. Sadly, our tax dollars (to the tune of $3.6 billion since 2007) have gone to Planned Parenthood and our current administration indicated that it had no intention of cutting off federal funding from Planned Parenthood. Our own president addressed Planned Parenthood's National Conference in 2013 and vowed, "I want you to know that you've also got a President right there with you fighting every step of the way. Thank you Planned Parenthood. God bless you." Our president has asked for God's blessing on evil.

What can you do? Contact your representatives, vote pro-life, get educated, pray, and confess Christ in your vocations. For more ideas, visit with Pastor Conner.

August Ministry Apps—Zion Lutheran Church

What's on your August anticipations list: a day at the State fair; a few days of family vacation; the beginning of another school year? August is also a month of anticipation at Zion.

"Generations" remodeling

Praise God for the continuing work of the Laborers' for Christ and the many volunteers who have been assisting. Continuing volunteer opportunities will be available in August. Contact project coordinator Dan Werner or building committee co-chair Bob Genzen for specific volunteer opportunities. God willing, the classrooms will be ready by early September. The generous gifts to the "Generations" campaign make these exciting updates possible. Thank you for your faithfulness in completing your campaign pledge. If you have not been able to be part of the early campaign stages, your participation at any point is welcomed.

Sunday School

The Christian Education Committee has determined that "Rally Day" will be September 13. We invite all children of the congregation and community to be part of our Sunday school program. Sunday school classes meet right after the Sunday worship services at 10:30.

It is important that families complete a Sunday school registration for each attending child. The registration includes family contact and emergency information. Registration forms are available at the church office or can be completed online at www.zionmanning.com.

Christian Education Chairperson Shelly Gruhn is making contacts for Sunday school staff. If you'd like to assist as a classroom teacher, or occasional substitute, please contact Shelly or one of the pastors. The Sunday school staff will meet on Wednesday, September 2 at 7 p.m.

Midweek Classes

Parent and student orientation for the Midweek year will be held on September 9th with classes beginning on September 16. All Zion children (and friends) in grades five through eight are encouraged to participate.

Adult Bible Classes

Pastor Conner's Sunday morning class will resume in September. Pastor Riggert's midweek Bible study "Leap for Joy" (The Gospel According to Luke) will begin the week of September 13. Pastor Conner continues to be available for adults seeking to begin classes for membership.

Youth Ministry

Youth will have the privilege of gathering in their new lower level (previously locker room) space. Bary Kienast and Jodi Ramsey will share in offering a Sunday morning youth class. Youth look forward to participating in District and National gatherings. The agenda includes: October 24-25 "Searching" Junior High (grades 6-8) gathering; November 20-22 "Hello, My Name is . . ." Youth Gathering (grades 9-12), and the July 16-20 2016 "In Christ Alone" National Gathering in New Orleans.

We anticipate a great year of Christian education at Zion.

Pastor Riggert

Practical Advice for Teaching Kids about Money

Parents, when it comes to teaching kids about money, far too many of us are jellyfish parents – we have no backbone. That has to change. We are the adults in the house and it's time that we acted like it. Children aren't born with financial wisdom; it has to be taught. And it begins with something called a budget. This doesn't have to be difficult and there are dozens of free templates available online. Check out Daveramsey.com[2] or Mint.com for two great examples. The basic premise is this: expenses must not exceed income. It's that simple. Take the time to look at these resources and find what works for your family. Now, in this article we're going to address three areas of financial management that parents absolutely must address with their children in order to teach them to be wise with money.

Teach Generous Giving

Generous giving begins with the tithe (giving 10% of income to your local church). Yes, I said *begins* with the tithe. Anything less than that may be giving, but it certainly isn't generous. If you're not tithing, don't get your hackles up and don't start listing your excuses yet. Nobody is insulting you; it's just that you need to be honest with yourself and avoid any ego stroking. Generous giving begins with the tithe.

[2] Check out: http://www.daveramsey.com/everydollar or http://www.daveramsey.com/tools/budget-forms/ for super easy budget forms.

Remember Paul's words to the Corinthians? He exhorted them to excel in the grace of giving (2 Cor. 8:7). Would Paul consider anything less than a tithe, which was the requirement for Old Testament Israel, excelling? Hardly. But be clear, Paul wasn't establishing the tithe as a law for Christians. Tithing isn't a law Christians *must* follow; it's an opportunity in which we are blessed to participate. In fact, Paul said generous giving provided the opportunity to demonstrate love for God and neighbor. Tithing is your opportunity to demonstrate love.

Parents, teach your kids to tithe – to give 10% of their income to their local church. And keep this very simple: if it comes in, it's income. So if they earn $10 babysitting, teach them to give $1. Simple, right? Start there, and then look for additional areas to give (consider Manning's Food Pantry or one of Zion's missionaries or Lutherans for Life or one of your personal favorites) – that's generous giving. But as you teach, keep this in mind: wise financial management is more caught than taught. Your consistent teaching matters, but your consistent living of what you teach matters more. If you want your children to grow up to be wise with money, they have to see it in action.

That means the tithe needs to begin with you.

Okay, catch your breath. I know you have bills to pay and you live on a limited income; welcome to the human condition. But! You can afford to tithe. Okay, if your hackles didn't come up before, they probably will now because what you might not be able to afford is your lifestyle. Your financial decisions might be hamstringing your generosity. Ask yourself, Did you need a *new* truck? Do you need cable to survive? Did you need to order pizza again last week? Do you really need that fancy tea every time you fill up with gas? These might be unpleasant questions, but if these things are keeping you from the beginning of generous giving, then you need to ask them.

But let's be clear why generous giving matters. It matters not because the church needs your money

(although if you want a place to worship, the utility bills need to be paid). Generous giving matters because, as Jesus teaches (Mt 6:19-21), your heart always follows your treasure – always. And guess who is watching you follow your treasure? Your children! So if you want your heart to pursue heaven's joys and if you want your children to follow suit, start tithing and teach your children to do likewise.

Teach Planned Saving

Before the world of credit cards, people bought things with cash. So if you wanted to buy something you didn't have the money for, you saved your money until you had the amount you needed. But since that connection has been severed, children struggle to understand the purpose of saving. They reason, If you can't afford it, charge it! This insanity has to stop and we need to teach them! Further, we have to stop buying everything for them. That's not helping our children because buying everything for them doesn't teach them to save and it doesn't teach them the connection between work and money. Further, parents should seriously reconsider the allowance. Life doesn't work that way. Nobody hands out money every week simply because we existed another seven days. If parents want to give their children money, make them earn it through weekly chores. If the job gets done, they get their commission. If they don't do the job, they don't get the money. That prepares them for reality.

Now, it's well and good to buy gifts for your children for birthdays, Christmas, and special occasions, but wisdom makes them work for some of the things they want. Teach them goal-directed saving. So, if they want a specific toy, maybe you shouldn't buy it for them; maybe you should let them work for it and then plan their saving until they can afford it (but make sure they tithe on their income along the way). And maybe you shouldn't buy them a car when they turn 16; maybe they should work to earn it (and maybe it wouldn't hurt them to drive a beater car if that's what they can afford). And maybe you shouldn't simply foot the college bill; maybe you should have them work to pay for some or most of it. Let reality be the teacher here. The goal is to instill the connection between work and money and the need to save with a goal in mind. It's the same thing we as adults have to do as we save for retirement – that's goal-directed saving.

Teach Wise Spending

After you've taught them how to make a budget, trained them to tithe and to give generously, and instilled goal-directed saving, kids are ready to practice wise spending. These initial steps are critical and they function a lot like the bumpers at the bowling alley that keep the ball out of the gutter. A solid budget, tithing and generous giving, and goal-directed saving keep our children's spending (and ours!) out of the gutter. Now when our children consider a purchase, they will filter it through these questions: Is this purchase in line with my budget? Does this purchase inhibit my tithing and generosity? Does this purchase impede my goal-directed saving? These questions will keep their spending out of the gutter and move them down the road toward wise financial management.

For more information on wise financial management check out any and all of the following resources or come visit with me. Get your backbone back and equip your kids today.

www.stewardship.com
www.daveramsey.com
www.smartmoneykids.com
www.lcef.org/yi_club

But Jesus Never Mentioned Homosexual Behavior

You've heard the claim: "Jesus never mentioned homosexuality, but He did affirm love and acceptance." The implications are obvious: if Jesus didn't' condemn homosexual behavior, but exhorted us to love and accept people, then we should love and accept homosexual behavior.[3]

As with most lies, this one is laced with a thin thread of truth. It is true that Jesus never specifically mentioned homosexual behavior. It's also true that Jesus exhorted His followers to love and welcome sinners. The question we must ask, though, is, "Does this equal Jesus' affirmation and approval homosexual behavior?" The simple answer is "No."

Before we explain why, let's first acknowledge that it's an abuse of Gods' Word to pit the words of Jesus against God's Word in the other books of the Bible. While Jesus didn't explicitly mention homosexual behavior, Paul did. We don't have space to treat his words in any detail here other than to highlight two of his clearest treatments of the topic in Romans 1 and 1 Corinthians 6. In these texts Paul describes homosexual behavior as "dishonorable passions" and "contrary to nature." And in 1 Corinthians 6 he refers to the active and passive partners in homosexual behavior as "unrighteous" and offers that they "will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Paul built his theology off God's created order and the Old Testament. Jesus did, too. Anyone who tries to drive a wedge between Jesus and Paul (or tries to reinterpret Paul as being ignorant of "committed homosexual relationship" or only condemning of exploitive homosexual behavior) does violence to God's Word. Further, as confessing Christians we acknowledge that the Scriptures were inspired by the Holy Spirit, so even if Jesus didn't explicitly name homosexual behavior, the Holy Spirit did.

Now, let's return to the initial claim that Jesus was silent on the matter of homosexual behavior and that his exhortation to love people can be interpreted to mean that we should affirm homosexual behavior. By such reasoning, we would be forced to affirm a whole host of sexual sins that Jesus didn't mention by name, including incest, pedophilia, and bestiality. Does Jesus' silence on these behaviors require us to affirm them? Of course not. But we are told by homosexual-behavior-affirming churches that love requires us to affirm homosexual behavior. Why does it require us to affirm that behavior and not incest or pedophilia?[4]

And if it's not unloving to condemn some sexual behaviors, why is it unloving to condemn homosexual behavior? Is love not able to disapprove of certain behaviors? Are parents not able to love their children and disapprove of some of their behaviors? Are spouses not able to love one another and disapprove of some of the other's behaviors? Must love equal complete affirmation and celebration of all behaviors?

Is that the love Jesus demonstrated in His earthly ministry? It's true He ate with sinners, including tax

[3] I am using the phrase "homosexual behavior" on purpose. Loving the people who engage in this behavior is not the question; we are commanded by Jesus to love all people. In this article, we are asking whether this love includes affirming and celebrating the behavior.

[4] Homosexual-behavior advocates usually respond that incest is repugnant and pedophilia lacks the informed consent of the child. But advocates of these behaviors disagree. They counter that close family members are capable of "loving relationships" and that children are able to offer consent. Our point for now is simply that the very arguments that are often offered to support homosexual behavior, can be offered to support less socially acceptable behaviors.

collectors and prostitutes. But notice something! The Bible calls them *sinners*. And sinners need a savior. Jesus didn't affirm or celebrate their sin; he loved them by calling them out of their sin. That's what love does; it rescues from sin. Is that not what the Scriptures teach?

Paul writes, "God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8). And John writes, "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). And in the book of Revelation he makes this rescue-oriented love explicit: "[Jesus] loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood" (Rev. 1:5). Love doesn't affirm sin; love rescues from sin.

And that's precisely why Jesus came into the world. Mark tells us Jesus exploded onto the scene proclaiming, "The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). This is God's gracious invitation to leave sin and be saved. And even though Jesus didn't explicitly name homosexual behavior, He spoke about it and all sexual sins when he named man's heart as the source of "sexual immorality" (Mark 7:21).

Further, Jesus built His doctrine of marriage and sexuality squarely on the creation account in Genesis 1 and 2. Mark records His words:

> From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh. 'So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate' (10:6-9).

Dr. Robert Gagnon, in his definitive work on this subject, *The Bible and Homosexual Practice*, writes, "Jesus… understood that marriage was ordained by God 'from the beginning of creation' as the union of a man and a woman, not of a man and another man, or a female and another female" (193). In fact, contrary to what many liberalizing voices claim, any honest reading of the Gospels won't reveal a Jesus who moved to liberalize or broaden His followers' sexual ethic, but a Jesus, as Dr. Gagnon explains, who moved "to narrow or constrain the Torah's sexual ethic to disallow any sexual union other than a monogamous, lifelong marriage to a person of the opposite sex" (194).

Does this make Jesus unloving? Gagnon answers:

> The essence of love in Jesus' understanding… was not maximizing free self-expression for others. For Jesus, love involved orienting others away from self-interest and in the direction of the interests of the kingdom of God, inculcating in others a desire to love their comrades with the same love that they extend to themselves. Fidelity to the covenant of marriage and to a relationship still binding in God's eyes, in short, love for one's spouse, takes precedence over sexual self-actualization. Love is a two-edged sword; God grants it and demands it of those who receive divine love (205).

Will this be hard for people inclined toward homosexual behavior? Yes! And we should never make light of their struggle or downplay it. But the call to sexual purity is applied evenly to all and it's a hard call for all. Men and women are called to divert their eyes and bodies from pornography. Spouses are called to remain faithful. Singles are called to remain chaste and pure.

All people who desire to follow Jesus are called to die to their fleshly desires so that they can follow Jesus and we are all warned that living to our fleshly desires will render us dead to God and cause us to miss the kingdom of God. The plain truth is that repentance isn't easy. The desires of the flesh are strong. This is why we need a community of Christ-followers (i.e. the church) to walk with us, share our burdens, and love us enough to continually remind us of our kingdom goal. And that's something Jesus talked about incessantly. – Pastor Conner

Zion Preschool Praises—August 2015

Praise God for NEW Teacher/Director Elissa Riesberg

The Zion Preschool Board is thrilled to announce that Elissa Riesberg has been contracted as teacher/director of Zion preschool beginning in August. After months of searching for a new teacher/director God has provided a servant to children right from the Zion family. Elissa Rutz was educated as God's child and confirmed at Zion and continues to be an active member. Elissa and her husband Joe farm near Halbur and are the parents of Brooklyn and Ryan.

Elissa graduated from Manning High school and attended Buena Vista University and Kirkwood Community college earning an AA degree. She is excited about exploring the field of early childhood education. Elissa has had several jobs in the community, most recently at First National Bank. Elissa has been an active community volunteer serving on the Kinderfest committee. The vacancy on the Zion Preschool staff gives Elissa an opportunity to respond to her love for little children.

Elissa describes herself as "caring, fun, and creative." Certainly those attributes will serve the children and families of Zion and the community well. Her ready smile, abundant energy, organizational and public relation skills will be a daily blessing to children, church, and community. When asked "How do you see a Christ-centered, faith-based philosophy of Zion preschool implemented, she respond, "We are all children of God and created differently. God loves us all and we love others who are different from us." Elissa envisioned a classroom setting where parents (and the congregation) are actively involved in the Christian education of little children.

Board chairperson and accredited early childhood educator Diane Riggert will be one of Elissa's mentors. Pastor Conner will continue to offer his strong support and spiritual direction.

Praise God for Associate Janice Nemitz

Janice Nemitz returns for a third year as classroom associate. Her familiarity with the program and families will be a blessing to Elissa. Janice lives in Denison with her husband Dave.

Praise God for New Opportunities

Registrations for the 2015-2016 school year continue to be received. Two three year-old classes (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday) (Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday) will be offered and a single (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) 4 year old class will be offered. Share the opportunity with family and friends. Application forms are available in the church office. Register SOON to assure a classroom space.

Zion is fully accredited by the Department of Human Services and offers financial assistance to qualifying families through Partnership with Families.

Praise God for Professional Partners

The preschool staff, Pastors Conner and Riggert, and Board representative Diane Riggert will be attending the Iowa District West Early Childhood Conference at Gloria Dei Urbandale on Friday, August 14. The conference theme is "Wonderful" based on Psalm 139:14.

"Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children. God is love. God is love!"

Miracles At Mission Central

Zion has been blessed to participate in and observe the miracles at Mission Central near Mapleton, Iowa. For two decades Mission Development Counselor Gary Thies has shared the mission of the church to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19) at Mission Central programs, congregation settings, and at kitchen tables. The mission messages touch the hearts of the hearers, and they respond prayerfully and generously in personally supporting missionaries around the world.

A retired banker, Gary Thies, would be the first to say it's not about the numbers and it's not about the dollars. It's always about Jesus! However, blessed by the Spirit and Gary's passion for the mission of the church, the numbers and dollars are staggering. The past year (fiscal year July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015) over 5,000 visitors came to Mission Central to hear the stories of missionaries, to see the mission museum, and to celebrate as part of God's mission team.

The financial support through Mission Central presently supports 100 missionaries in 30 countries. Millions of dollars for missions are raised annually making Mission Central the primary mission support organization of the The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Gary notes that "not normal" people from all walks of life are missionaries as God calls them to His mission team.

On Saturday, July 18, representatives of the Zion Mission Committee traveled to Mission Central to hear our "adopted" missionary, Rev. Steve Oliver. Zion Midweek students visited the mission museum and heard a mission report from Gary on April 29. The Laborers' for Christ team made a visit on July 27. The mission prayers and mission support of Zion individuals and families continues to be a blessing. You can learn more about Mission Central at www.missioncentral.us. Pastor Conner and Pastor Riggert can also facilitate contacts with Gary and Mission Central as individuals and families explore personal mission support. In requesting some statistics for this article from Gary, he noted that the data, "Truly tells of our Dear Lord's hand of blessing on this miracle place." Praise God for Mission Central!

July Highlights

Ladies Guild

Zion Ladies Guild—July 8, 2015

Pastor Conner led a devotion on the 3rd chapter of Lamentations, specifically verse 22, which reads, "Great is God's faithfulness", in the middle of most trying times. Margaret Backhaus followed with a Christian Growth reading entitled "God's Fireworks".

President Buhr called the meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. Roll call was answered by 12 members and 3 guests with a favorite hobby. The secretary's minutes were read and approved. Correspondence included notes from the closing Clarinda Home, Janet Gruhn, and Zone President, Barb Brockelsby noting that the mission goal for International LWML for 2015-2017 is 2 million dollars. Treasurer, Barb Anderson followed with her report. The mite box prayer was read as the mite box was passed.

Sue Puck gave a report on the International LWML Convention held in Des Moines. The theme was Sow, Reap, Nourish. We need to be intentional sowers of the Word of God, with an investment of time.
Human Care Chairman, Audrey Roe, said ladies continue to sew quilt blocks together over the summer months and that she had taken the old confirmation gowns and made quilt blocks out of them. Sunshine Chairman, Bev Grundmeier, had sent 4 cards since the last meeting.

Cynthia Genzen, reported on the Gruhn funeral luncheon and said her circle will continue with the Sunday morning coffees for the month of July.

There was no old business except to encourage sign up to provide snacks for the laborers for Christ.
In new business there was motion to give $40.00 back to the Kinderfest committee from the proceeds of the cookie walk sponsored by the Guild. The motion was seconded and carried. The Guild was asked if it wished to have a bake sale fundraiser at the farmers market this summer. A motion was made, seconded and passed to not take part this year. In the matter of a membership drive for Guild, it was decided to postpone our August potluck until October. Guest Day will still be in September.

Important dates to remember: Circle #3 serves a funeral luncheon on July 18th. The worship service at Trinity Church will be held on July 23rd at 7:00 P.M. July 24th is Plaza Bingo with Sandra Vahl as chairman, Shelly Gruhn, Margaret Kuchel and Susan Schilling as helpers. With the August potluck being changed until October, the August meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M.

The meeting closed with the Table Prayer. Lunch was served by Charlene Hickman and Margaret Backhaus. Hostesses for August will be Connie Ahrendsen and Cynthia Genzen

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

On July 18, I, along with several members from Zion, had the privilege of hearing Professor Oliver speak at Mission Central. He thanked the gathered guests for their faithful prayer and support. China Lutheran Seminary in Taiwan, where he teaches, trains not only pastors for ministry in mainland China, but it welcomes dozens of lay students every year who are equipped to share Jesus in the congregations and communities.

Professor Oliver shared that over the last few decades China has gone from roughly 1 million Christians (out of over 1 billion citizens) to approximately 100 million Christians. That's a hundredfold increase! But it still only represents 10% of the population. As such, China Lutheran Seminary needs to continue training pastors and lay people to bring Jesus to their communities. Thank you members of Zion for your faithful prayers and continued support of Professor Oliver. – Pastor Conner

August Newsletter—LCEF Update

Lutheran Church Extension Fund Serves Zion

Lutheran Church Extension Fund
› where investments build ministry

The Laborers' for Christ team serving Zion is a ministry arm of Lutheran Church Extension Fund. We praise God for our team and from the administrative support of the LCEF office in St. Louis. Zion is also blessed to have an LCEF low-rate loan which allows us to complete the office, fellowship hall, and Christian education areas this summer. With only a few more LCEF investors, Zion will also qualify for a loan rebate.

ConnectPLUS offers up to 3% interest for new 2 year investments. PartnerPLUS offers up to 2.5% interest for present investors (4 year note). A StewardAccount bears interest and provides the convenience of account debits, checks, and online services. Children and Youth receive 3.5% interest on their investments by joining the Young Investor (Y.I.) Club where they learn the joys of being God's stewards. Information on these opportunities is displayed in the Zion fellowship hall. Contact Pastor Riggert or LCEF Vice President Carole White (877-439-5233; carole.white@lcef.org) for additional information.

Y.I.

The Zion Y.I. Club meets every 3rd Sunday (August 16) as children, parents, and grandparents have the opportunity to start a Club membership or add to their savings. Contact Warren Puck for more Y.I. Club Information. The Y.I. Club membership is a great gift to a child or grandchild.

Thinking about retirement? Whether retirement is just a year or two or a decade plus away, it is important to have a retirement plan that addresses the financial, emotional, and spiritual dynamics. LCEF is hosting a retirement workshop at Boulders Conference Center in Denison on Thursday, September 17 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. It will be free and fun. Watch for more information in the next newsletter.

!Amigos En Cristo!
News from IDW Hispanic Ministry
Missionary/Pastor Daniel Vogel

Iowa District West, LCMS
Year 11, Issue 7, July 2015

It's Official! We are now an Iowa District West church. After 15 years of mission work in the Denison Hispanic community, God has blessed our congregation with the joy of becoming part of Iowa District West. Our church received the approval of the District Convention on June 22 at Camp Okoboji. As the pictures at the right show, our representatives came forward as the delegates voted by voice vote followed by singing the Doxology. It was a great moment for our church and for the District as this is the first Spanish language church to be received into membership in Iowa District West. We thank President Sieveking, Missions Executive Mark Gerken and all the District churches for the years of support for our ministry.

That work was evident at the Convention as another resolution was overwhelmingly passed by 98% of the delegates to "Bring Christ to the Hispanic People of Iowa District West." The representatives of our congregation were the following two families: Jose Domingo Mendoza and wife Marbella, daughter Adriana and granddaughter, Yamilet. They are originally from Mexico. The other family (with the same last name but not related) was Marcia Mendoza and her children, Moises, Jasmin and Laura. They are originally from El Salvador. Both families made special sacrifices to be present for this ceremony. It has been a long process to reach this milestone, a process that our Hispanic members have never experienced. Now the work begins as we develop leadership, stewardship plans, evangelistic outreach and much more. At present we have 28 confirmed members and 50 baptized members with an average attendance of 25-35. May the Lord continue to bless.

New Youth Group: Last month Paula and I started a new group with our Hispanic kids and their friends to help them live out their Christian faith. On the left are four of the five who came for the first gathering. Jasmin (eating pizza) and brother Moises (not pictured) from our church are helping us to organize this new group. The girls all come from different religious backgrounds. With pizza, games, and God's Word, we pray God will bless and grow our group to serve this special group.

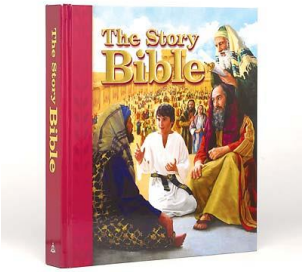
PLEASE PRAY: + For the blessings this past month, especially our wonderful reception at the Iowa District West Convention. + For the blessing of leading worship at Immanuel, Charter Oak; St. Luke, Ricketts; and Zion, Denison. + For God's guidance for our Hispanic church in Storm Lake as Pastor Moeller will be leaving. + For the growth of our Hispanic Pro-Life group following our second meeting. + For plans for our 11th Annual Family Retreat at Camp Okoboji in August. + For safe travels for our vacation to see family and friends. + In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who monthly support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants in Denison and in our other three Hispanic missions.

Please Continue to Support our new church: For our mission friends financial support checks should now be sent to: Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Church: 1004 S. 1 Ave., Denison, Iowa, 51442

NEW E-MAIL: E-mail me at: daniel.vogel@ ziondenison.org

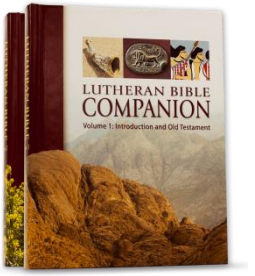
TO CONTACT ME:
Rev. Daniel Vogel
32678 Aspen Ave. Manning, Iowa, 51455
1-712-653-2354 or Cell: 712-309-1292 or
E-mail me at: Dan.Vogel@idwlcms.org

Right now at Concordia Publishing House bibles, children's bibles, and bible companions are on sale. Go to www.cph.org and click "Books and Bibles" to see the entire list (or call 800-325-3040). Below are some that I highly recommend.



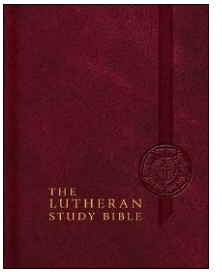
130 Bible stories communicate God's words to children with faithful texts and vibrant artwork. Special emphasis has been made to highlight Old Testament promises about the coming of Jesus so children can make a connection with Jesus' work of salvation in the New Testament.

This is the children's Bible we have in our pews and the one our preschoolers have received for the last few years. On sale now for $19.99.



Immerse yourself in historical, archaeological, theological, and biblical knowledge with this new two-volume set. Each book of the Bible – as well as the Apocrypha – are covered in detail, along with commentary from Lutheran theologians. Includes more than 600 color photographs and art illustrating stories, daily life, and landscapes. On sale now for $57.99.

You can order directly from CPH or through the church office.



Engage in devotional, Christ-centered Bible reading and study with comprehensive notes and practical application. This best-selling study Bible features the English Standard Version and distinctively Lutheran notes. Available in hardback, larger print, compact, and now paperback. Additional options include thumb indexes and leather or bonded leather covers. This is the text we read from in the Divine Service and in Bible study and is a very faithful translation that follows a word-for word methodology.

Sale prices range from $24.99 up.

2015 YOUTH GATHERINGS

What:	**Jr. Youth Gathering**
When:	**October 24-25**
Where:	**Sheraton, West Des Moines**
Who:	**6th-8th graders**
Speaker:	**Brad Alles**
Music:	**Swen and Dean**
Why:	**To join hundreds of 6th – 8th graders for a weekend of searching God's Word!**

What:	**Sr. High Youth Gathering**
When:	**November 20-22**
Where:	**Embassy Suites, Des Moines**
Who:	**9th – 12th graders**
Speaker:	**Audrey Duensing-Werner**
Why:	**To understand the name we have been given in Christ**

Ladies of Zion

Dear Ladies of Zion: We are writing to each of you because we need help! The members of Ladies Guild invite you to join us in serving our God by helping us serve the coffees after church services, organizing and serving funeral luncheons, helping residents at the Plaza play Bingo and have a treat the last Friday of each month and most importantly, joining us as we grow closer to each other at our Guild meetings the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00. We are making an effort to recruit, so expect a visit from a member and PLEASE consider how you might be willing to help.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

1. David Kusel
2. Justin Musfeldt
3. Sophia Beck
4. Jade Dawson
   Madilyn Trost
5. Janet Brus
   Kent Hilsabeck
6. Matthew Alexander
   Zachary Grove
   Morgyn Irlbeck
   Alison Peters
   Beverly Rix
   Donna Rutz
   Grace Sextro
7. Mitch Robinson
   Kevin Struve
   Katie Weitl
8. Haylie Irlbeck
   Arlene Mohr
   Makenzie Trost
   Logan Vonnahme
9. Mckenna Benton
   John Ferneding
10. Rhonda Grimm
    Griffin McManigal
    Kent Vollstedt
11. Scott Dreier
    Ashley Ehlers
12. Kelly Ferneding
    Stan Musfeldt
    Audrey Roe
14. Elizabeth Alexander
15. Emma Reese
    Rick Spack
17. Jill Arp
    George Doyel

18. Carol Schroeder
    Paula Wulf
19. Jean Borkowski
    Miranda Hansen
    Randy Mahnke
20. Margaret Blisten
21. Jacob Rosener
    Mitchell Walters
23. Karl Rutz
24. Jasmine Bauer
26. Kadynce Ketcham
27. Mary Grimm
    Dorothy Kusel
    Coltan Lesle
    Linnet Nissen
    Leggy Thomson
    Gale Vinke
28. Brian Vetter
29. Justin Weller
30. Abby Bruch
    Cash England
31. Margaret Kuchel

1. Scott & Lisa Dreier
2. Dewayne & Cheral Buhr
5. Don & Susan Lamb
6. Scott & Mitch Robinson
   Daniel & Paula Vogel
8. Walter & Joan Noelck
10. Daniel & Taya Vonnahme
12. Bob & Irene Genzen
13. Kent & Annette Hilsabeck
    Alan & Jennifer Morris
18. LaVern & Judy Bald
    Robert & Brenda Ehlers
22. Bob & Diane Henkelman
23. Gary & Bonnie Witt
24. Curtis & Rachel Hofbauer
25. Dwight & Jeanne Gruhn
    Tim & Joni Kienast
26. Ryan & Mandi Sandage
30. Larry & Cynthia Genzen

Official Acts in July

Funerals: Delone Joens memorial service was held here on July 18, 2015
Baptism: Aubri Kay Kucik; daughter of Mark and Jessica (nee: Kienast) Kucik; July 11, 2015

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

In Our Prayers

Athena Bess, Lyle Borkowski, Franklin Mohr, Walt Noelck, Mandi Sandage, Dave Grundmeier, Judy Musfeldt, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Steve Rutz (Karl Rutz's Brother), Natalie Mason (Bruce and Mary Grimm's daughter), Ray Christensen, Greg Neumann, Melvin Schemm, Tyler Saunders, Emma Lacey