Generations

With cause for Celebration

As Phase 2 of our Generations campaign move forward, the people of Zion have much to celebrate.

Celebrate the tireless and selfless work of our laborers. All summer, from Tuesday through Saturday, these workers have arrived at Zion by 7:00 a.m. They begin each day with prayer and joyfully go about the tasks set before them, stopping only for water breaks and morning devotions. No matter how difficult or dirty the task, they complete it with humble and willing spirits. They truly have embodied Christ-like service.

We also celebrate their faithful presence in worship and service. Along with their wives, they have ensured that our facilities are ready for Sunday mornings and have blessed our worship with their joyful presence. We celebrate the work, presence, and example of our Laborers for Christ.

Celebrate the faithful work of our volunteers. Throughout the summer, many Zion members have served alongside our laborers. In addition to the members who have participated in the physical labor, numerous members have made and served food to our laborers. We celebrate the spirit of volunteerism among the members of Zion.

Celebrate the hospitality of Zion. Throughout the summer our laborers were privileged to enjoy the Christ-like hospitality of many of our Zion members. Some welcomed them into their homes, some took them to various events in the area, some took them out to eat, some stopped by to visit them at the campground, some brought them fresh produce or baked goods, and all welcomed them and loved them with a smile. We celebrate the loving hospitality of the people of Zion.

Celebrate the generosity of the many members who have given and who continue to give generously toward our Generations campaign. This generosity has allowed us to move forward with joy and confidence. We celebrate the generosity of the generations of Zion.

Celebrate our building team. Zion is blessed to have a knowledgeable, energetic, fiscally responsible, and unified building team. Throughout the planning process and into the implementation, our building team has worked together to make our campaign goals a reality. We celebrate the teamwork of our building team.

Celebrate our continued progress. Zion will be saying goodbye to our laborers in the next weeks, but the work continues. Although a few materials were delayed in their shipment, work continues. The metal beam for the moveable wall in the fellowship hall will be arriving soon, as will the metal for the east entrance. Once the beam in the fellowship hall is in place, the vaulted ceiling can be completed. The new youth room on the first floor of the education wing will begin to take shape as soon as the electrical work is finished and the walls are dry walled. The tile for the fellowship hall and education wing was delayed by the manufacturer, but it will be installed by the first week of October. The family bathroom is waiting for the arrival of the countertop so that it can be completed. Once it is completed, the remodeling of the restrooms in the education wing will be completed.

We also celebrate the completion of the church offices and the Sunday School classrooms. Please stop in and see the excellent work!

Generations of Zion, we have much to celebrate!

LCMS Speaks: Recent Videos Lay Evil Bare

"It had a face. … Its nose was very pronounced. It had eyelids." In the seventh Center for Medical Progress video, Holly O'Donnell, ex-procurement technician for StemExpress, describes what she witnessed in a Planned Parenthood clinic: A baby boy, an abortion survivor, was rinsed off and dropped in a pie plate for the procurement of his organs.

She continues, recounting the doctor's words and her own thoughts: "'I want you to see something cool, kind of neat.' … She has one of her instruments and she just taps the heart and it starts beating. I'm sitting here and I'm looking at this fetus, and its heart is beating. 'You know why that's happening?' I knew why it was happening. It's because an electrical current, nodes were still firing."

Her words are heart-stopping.

A child, still alive, is then cut — through the chin and face and forehead — so that his brain can be invoiced and sold. "I can't even, like, describe, like, what that feels like," O'Donnell says.
But we as the Church can. It feels like — it is — evil.

The infanticide that is occurring at Planned Parenthood must end. It is not simply time to defund that organization; it is time to end abortion in the United States altogether.

As for us, we can no longer claim that we didn't know Planned Parenthood doctors killed children so ruthlessly or that we weren't aware human bodies were cannibalized for their organs.

We can't just say it's a woman's choice or shrug our shoulders and mumble, "Who are we to judge?"

We can't hide behind the half-truths that women have no other place to find health care or that Planned Parenthood provides millions of mammograms per year.

It doesn't matter. **None of it matters.**

Children are being killed, their organs are being sold, and their mothers are left with physical scars and — greater still — haunting memories that sometimes never fade. The death of these children is barbaric, and it is evil, and we are without excuse. Silence and attempts at justification are no longer options. The only option is for each one of us to act. Here's what you can do:

Write a letter to the president and to your congressman or senator regarding this issue. Ask them if they've watched the videos. Tell them why you believe life — no matter how young — has innate worth. Encourage them to end abortion and to defund any organization that performs them.

Support LCMS Life Ministry. Its staff members are committed to teaching why human lives and bodies matter and why there is hope and healing in Christ.

Call your LCMS representatives who serve at local, state or federal levels of government. Remind them of their Baptism and confirmation vows, of the faithful confession they are called upon to make, even when it's unpopular.

Use your social media channels to share pro-life resources or LCMS life-relatedsocial media imagery (click on "Religious Freedom Toolkit").

Share resources from Lutherans For Life, start a life team or kick-start a young adult life team in your congregation.

Pre-order a new, free resource from the LCMS — the Ultrasound Education Project — that will bring the miracle and sanctity of human life into the middle-school and high-school classroom through the use of ultrasound technology.

We see in these videos how Satan thrives on darkness and chaos, how he delights in baby boys and tiny girls picked apart with sterile utensils. And while we are repulsed and horrified, we no longer have the option to turn away. In this, we have been provided with the biggest opportunity of all: to highlight a still greater need that every person — pro-abortion or pro-life — has for the mercy and forgiveness of Christ.

Without Him, we are all capable of performing equally horrifying acts, of seeing children as nothing more than line items or cadavers. But our Lord is merciful. Because of Him, we have been given consciences that cause us to act and tongues that can speak truth in the midst of evil. We have been given His forgiveness in water and Word, and so we speak it, in turn, to hurting mothers and repentant participants in the deaths of these babies. We have the truth, and we are no longer ashamed to call the deaths of 55 million children what it is: genocide.

Our heavenly Father, it turns out, knows a thing or two about hearts. He knows our own, and He knows each heart of each child, even as He knows their faces and noses and eyelids. We are the reason He allowed His own Son's heart to stop beating for a time, so that ours may thrive for all eternity. In so doing, He shows us His own heart, full of grace, mercy and compassion.

Through each of these videos, He has seen fit to lay evil bare, and by His grace, our hearts and lips are freed to speak, to act, to pray, to repent, to call upon His name and to trust in His heart, which is ever turned toward us in Christ.

It's all that matters.

Rev. Kevin Robson, Chief Mission Officer
Rev. Bart Day, executive director, Office of National Mission
Rev. Heath Curtis, coordinator, Stewardship Ministry
Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray, director, Black Ministry
Rev. Joel Hempel, interim director, Specialized Pastoral Ministry
Rev. Dr. Carlos Hernandez, director, Hispanic Ministry, Church and Community Engagement
Rev. Ross Johnson, director, Disaster Response
Rev. Mark Kiessling, interim director, Youth Ministry
Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director, Rural & Small Town Mission
Deaconess Dorothy Krans, director, Recognized Service Organizations
Tracy Quaethem, project coordinator, Life and Health Ministries
Deaconess Grace Rao, director, Deaconess Ministry
Rev. Steve Schave, director, Urban & Inner-City Mission
Terry Schmidt, director, School Ministry
Rev. William Weedon, director, Worship
Rev. Mark Wood, director, Witness & Outreach Ministry
Rev. Marcus Zill, director, Campus Ministry and LCMS U

September Ministry Apps—Zion Lutheran Church

Time for Joy

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes Through Christian Education Partnerships

Every year and every season is a "Time for Joy" as our salvation is sure in Jesus and His presence fills us and directs us. Even as the agony of His cross was only hours away, Jesus spoke of joy to His disciples (John 15:9-11). As we begin the fall series of worship and Christian education, we invite every Zion and community child (of all ages and stages) to experience His joy in the sanctuary and classrooms of Zion.

Time for Joy in Sunday School

Sunday School Rally Day (official beginning/transitions to new grade levels) will take place on Sunday, September 13. All children and youth are encouraged to be in attendance. Every classroom has been painted and re-carpeted and will provide a warm and welcoming learning environment. All families are asked to complete a registration/emergency form for every child. This information helps us to respond appropriately in emergency situations and assures accurate information for church records. Sunday school superintendent Shelly Gruhn welcomes additions to her substitute teacher list. Contact Shelly if you can occasionally assist in this important ministry.

Time for Joy in Midweek Classes

All students and families (grades 5-8) are asked to be represented at the Midweek orientation on Wednesday evening September 9 at 7 p.m. Midweek classes begin on Wednesday, September 16.

Time for Joy in Youth Ministry

Jodi Ramsey will be assisting youth leader Bary Kienast with the Sunday morning youth class. All high school youth (and friends) are invited to be part of the hour of Scripture exploration and faith application. The youth are excited about the new youth ministry area in the former locker room area.

Junior Youth (grades 6-8) are encouraged to register for the October 24-25 Iowa District Junior Youth Gathering at the Sheraton Hotel in West Des Moines. The gathering theme is "Searching." Registration forms were shared with all families in a recent education mailing. Additional forms are available at the church office and are due (to the church office) by September 20. Financial assistance is available through Iowa District West for families needing additional financial assistance. Contact either pastor for assistance information.

Time for Joy in Adult Study

"Time for Joy"—The Gospel According to Luke—will be the focus of a Monday morning adult Bible study. The class will begin on Monday, September 21 at 9:45 a.m. Everyone invited. Friends welcome! No charge for materials.

Time for Joy in Retirement

The joy of retirement is sometime tempered by the financial and emotional changes. Lutheran Church Extension Fund is hosting a workshop entitled, "What is God's Plan for Me in Retirement" on Thursday, September 17 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Boulders' Conference Center in Denison. The event is free and includes a light meal. RSVP by September 8 (lcefuppermidwest.org/retirement; or call 515-576-7666). Pastor Riggert can also provide additional information. Anyone ages 50 and over will benefit.

Time for Joy in Jesus!
Pastor Riggert

The Pride of Our Media; The Shame of Our Nation

Throughout the month of July one name dominated the media: Cecil the Lion. Surely his was a tragic story. An American big game hunter acquired what he thought were the legitimate licenses to hunt a lion in Africa (apparently they weren't). Cecil was the ill-fated victim of his hunt. Unfortunately for the unknowing hunter, Cecil was the most famous lion in Africa. When American media outlets caught wind of Cecil's demise, they stampeded to cover the story.

Their stampede stirred up such a storm that this American big game hunter has received hate mail, had his property vandalized, and had people call for him to be extradited to Zimbabwe for trial. Several celebrities have condemned him and three major airlines now no longer allow the transport of animal trophies. And, to date, over 1.2 million people have signed a "Justice for Cecil" petition calling on Zimbabwe to stop issuing hunting licenses for endangered animals.

Throughout July another story rippled through our nation that received comparatively little coverage – Planned Parenthood's sale and profit from the organs of aborted babies. At the time of this article's writing, eight undercover videos have been released depicting high-ranking officials casually (even flippantly at times) discussing the means and methods of acquiring better organ samples through altered abortion practices, negotiating prices for organs, explaining how they can hide the added costs for acquiring these organs through creative accounting, boasting about their contribution to the company's profit, depicting an intact aborted baby that would be sold for parts, admitting many aborted babies were sold for parts without the mother's consent, and a biotech company requesting more whole dead babies.

How can we as a people allow this?

Are we not a living example of the people Paul described in Ephesians 4:

> They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

And how can our media go to such great lengths to ignore this story? With Cecil the lion they explored every angle and uncovered every wrinkle imaginable to drum up an outrage in our country, but, they have remained comparatively silent on the horrific practices of Planned Parenthood. Why aren't they asking questions?

How did the sale of aborted babies begin? Who arranges the sales? What companies purchase them and why? Are the buyers of these aborted babies and their organs receiving federal funds? Are mothers notified when their dead babies or organs are sold? Do they sign a consent form? Are they compensated? What do the presidential candidates think about it, especially those who have supported Planned Parenthood and received campaign donations from them?[1] Should tax payers be forced to subsidize an organization that specializes in dismembering unborn babies and selling their organs? Why aren't reporters asking these questions?

We must once again realize that the media isn't neutral. They choose the news. They frame it and

[1] These questions are numerous more were detailed by Mollie Hemmingway at *The Federalist* in her article "Ideas for Reporters Struggling to Cover Planned Parenthood (Update)." Available here: http://thefederalist.com/2015/07/20/ideas-for-reporters-struggling-to-cover-planned-parenthood/

use it to shape culture. We, as confessing Christians, must be discerning or we will be duped. Planned Parenthood (like the Nazis who dehumanized the Jews) has dehumanized the unborn by terming babies "products of conception," by labeling the harvesting and profiting from their organs "donation of fetal tissue," by terming aborted babies "specimens," and by calling their services "health care." And the media has been and continues to be complicit in this (as have many of our politicians). Our passive absorbing of the media's worldview-shaping content needs to stop. What Planned Parenthood is doing and what our media is propagandizing and what many of our politicians are defending and receiving funds from is evil – vile, wicked, pernicious evil.

And anyone who supports it, whether private citizen, corporation, or politician, is supporting evil. This cannot continue. We cannot knowingly support corporations that financially bolster the dismembering of unborn babies and the selling of their organs and we cannot vote for any politician who insists that our tax dollars should support such acts, let alone insists that such acts should be legal.

What then should we do?

First, we need to hear the Word of God preached and taught and we must confess Christ in our vocations. We must hear and digest the Word to equip our minds to be discerning and we must faithfully confess Christ in the callings in which God has placed us. Fathers and mothers need to hear the Word so they can teach their children. Citizens must hear the Word so they can be a voice of truth, goodness, and life in their communities. Youth must hear the Word so they are not coopted into causes they don't understand.[2]

I've written and spoken on this before, but we need to make the church the hub of our life (not merely one of the spokes). Our vocations should be the spokes that stretch from the hub into the world, and we need to be firmly connected to the hub so that we can be a blessing to our world.

Second, we need to turn off the media – especially for our children. It's garbage. Remember, the media chooses the news. They choose what they want you to see and how they want you to think about it. Break free from the spell! Spend more time hearing the Word of God, digesting its truths, and confessing Christ, and less time absorbing the propaganda of a callous and darkened media.

Third, refuse to vote for any politicians who won't defend the defenseless. We cannot give our vote to any man or woman who defends the dismembering of the unborn and the selling of their organs. We cannot give our vote to any politician who receives funds from organizations who profit from dead babies. Don't buy the lie that this makes you a one-issue voter; this is a foundational issue. If a politician allows the dehumanization of the unborn, something is wrong with his or her moral compass. And do we want someone with a broken moral compass leading our nation?

Finally, pray. This may sound odd, but don't make your first prayer a prayer for our nation. Make your first prayer a prayer for the church. Why? Because only the church has the truth of God and the Gospel of God that can change hearts. Yes, pray for wise and discerning politicians who will govern well, but pray more earnestly for the church to wake from its comfortable slumber so that we can begin to confess Christ and His gospel in our world. More than a good politician, our world needs Jesus. Pray that we would hear His Word and share His Gospel. Pray that the Word and Gospel would work in the hearts of our nation. Only that Gospel will change hearts and save lives.

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[2] An excellent book that teaches discernment in the area of life is Randy Alcorn's *Prolife Answers to Prochoice Arguments*.

The Church, Slavery, and Same-sex Marriage

Perhaps you've heard the claim: The Christian church used to claim that the Bible defended slavery, but everyone admits the Bible was wrong. Some churches are still claiming the Bible only endorses marriage between a man and a woman. Maybe the Bible is wrong on this, too.

This is a clever tactic, one that many of us are ill-equipped to answer. So let's unpack it.

First, it's asserted that the Christian church used the Bible to defend slavery. Is that true? Before we can answer that, we need to ask a hugely important question: *What do you mean by that?* You see, the question is laced with certain assumptions. Typically, those who ask this question are thinking of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the Christian church in early America (and perhaps Britain). Further, it's implied that the Christian church uniformly endorsed slavery with the Bible.

Are these things true? Not entirely – there are elements of truth in the claim – and that's why it's such an effective tactic. It must be admitted that pockets of Christianity (including some Lutherans!) did defend the slavery of early America with the Bible. As we'll see below, this was primarily based on a misinterpretation of several Biblical texts as people used their cultural context to interpret the Bible. For some, though, it was not so much an endorsement of slavery, but a misguided attempt to honor the government as Paul instructs in Romans 13.

Either way, we have to admit that some (not all) Christians and churches wrongly employed the Bible to support slavery. And this was primarily because they didn't let the Biblical text speak, but read it through the lens of their culture. The same is happening today in the case of homosexual behavior. Proponents are reinterpreting the Bible through their cultural lens to make the Bible say something it doesn't. But let's take a look at the initial question regarding slavery.

First, we have to acknowledge that the Bible never explicitly says "Slavery is wrong." In fact, the Bible details various rules to regulate slavery. Consider one of the more pro-slavery-sounding texts:

> You may buy male and female slaves from among the nations that are around you. You may also buy from among the strangers who sojourn with you and their clans that are with you, who have been born in your land, and they may be your property. You may bequeath them to your sons after you to inherit as a possession forever (Lev. 25:44-46).

That doesn't sound good, does it? Part of our problem, though, is that we import our images of the race-based trans-Atlantic slave trade into these verses. We shouldn't do that. Remember this phrase: "Same word; different dictionary." Our culture regularly uses a different dictionary for the words of the Bible. You can see this in words like "liberty, equality, and love" today. If we import our Americanized definition of these words into the Bible, we'll get the Bible wrong.

So while slavery was practiced in ancient Israel and in New Testament times, it was far different than what we think of as slavery. This is something proponents of same-sex marriage routinely overlook. First, it was not based on race. Second, except for cases of war, it was entered into voluntarily. Third, while the Israelites were permitted to buy and sell slaves, they were expressly forbidden from kidnapping and selling slaves as was done in early America. Let's take each in turn.

Not race-based

Unlike the race-based trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery in the Bible was not about race (which is often implied in the question we highlighted at the beginning of this article). In the Bible, slavery was about economics. In fact, the Bible explicitly condemns racism by declaring that *all* people are created in the image of God and therefore equal. The New Testament echoes this and adds that our social estates (which have nothing to do with race), while to be honored in daily living, do not apply in terms of salvation: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27). When it comes to salvation, all social estates vanish. We are all one in Christ. So Christians who used the Bible to defend slavery in early America were simply wrong. The Bible wasn't wrong;

they were. They used their culture's dictionary to define the word and, thereby, ended up endorsing an abominable institution.

Voluntary slavery

Slavery in the Bible, as mentioned above, was about economics, and not in the way it was in early America. In early America men and women were kidnapped and forcibly sold as property to ensure the profits of land owners. In the Bible, slavery, except in cases of war, was entered into voluntarily by the slave for his economic benefit. Unlike today, the ancient world didn't have any social safety nets. There were no bankruptcy laws or government subsidies. Instead, slavery provided food, shelter, and even a wage. Further, God established laws to protect the person who sold himself into slavery and laws to provide for him upon the completion of his time of service and even the opportunity for a relative to redeem him from slavery.[3] And, unlike early America, slaves in ancient Israel were released in the year of jubilee.

Space prevents a full treatment of all the Biblical texts on slavery, so we will simply comment on one more. People often attack the Bible for seemingly promoting the selling of one's children into slavery. As before, we should not use our culture and its social safety nets to judge the practices of ancient Israel. In our land of abundance it's hard to appreciate ancient people's struggle for survival. Selling a child into slavery was often a way for a father to provide for his child and ensure the child's safety and well-being.

And when a father sold his daughter into slavery, it was primarily for marriage. Because of this, God prevented the husband from using the jubilee year as an excuse to divorce his wife and send her away. This explains why God instructed that daughters sold into slavery (and married in the agreement) were not to go free. It was to protect the woman. If, however, her husband broke faith with her (was unfaithful in the marriage), a kinsman redeemer could redeem her and release her from the bond.

The New Testament accepts the existence of slavery and goes to great lengths to regulate how slaves and masters interact, instructing slaves to honor God through their ethical service and masters to treat their slaves justly and fairly, knowing that they have a Master in heaven (see Eph. 6:5-9; Titus 2:9-10; 1 Tim. 6:1-2; Col. 4:1).

Some complain that the Bible never condemned the institution of slavery, but we need to remember what we've just covered (social context and different definitions) and that the Bible wasn't written to reform society, but to transform hearts through the announcement of the Gospel of God's Kingdom. And transformed hearts, as history has proven, did reform society and led to the abolishing of slavery in America (and that Gospel needs to continue its spread so that millions more held in slavery today can be set free – from sin *and* physical bondage).

No kidnapping!

Returning to the Leviticus 25 text quoted above, it's important to notice that while the Israelites were permitted to buy slaves, they weren't permitted to kidnap people. In fact, both testaments explicitly condemn kidnapping and selling people (Ex. 21:16; 1 Tim. 1:9-10). So the slaves they were buying were selling themselves voluntarily into slavery for economic reasons.

So, returning to the original claim. It's true that some Christians got slavery wrong, but that's not because the Bible is wrong; it's because they got the Bible wrong. And the same goes for homosexual behavior. The Bible isn't wrong; those who read the affirmation of such behavior into the text get the Bible wrong. The Bible insists that race and sexuality are sacred and should be regarded as such. When we read the Bible correctly, we are equipped with the truth and free to live according to God's good design.

[3] See Lev. 25:39-43 and Deut. 15:12-13.

Speak for Those Who Cannot[4]

In a great article titled, "I Don't Know if I'm Pro-Choice After Planned Parenthood Videos" making the rounds on electronic media, Ruben Navarrette Jr. reported that he is rethinking his long time support of abortion on demand. It is a thoughtful piece, which you would do well to read. It gives us a glimpse of the moral underpinnings of people who were supporters of untrammeled freedom to kill unborn children. I am delighted to see that people with Navarrette's presuppositions are beginning to rethink their support for the abortion industry in this country. In the past, Navarrette always felt constrained to support abortion, because he is a man. In other words, he felt that he had no stake in the abortion discussion. Because he was unlikely to become pregnant "he had no dog in this hunt."

What ethic refuses to take a stand about abortion, because you're a man and not a woman? Are there really no other possible arguments against abortion than the one that says it doesn't touch me because I don't have a womb? Am I really unaffected by that which is being perpetrated around me? This sadly solipsistic ethic works until the killers come for me. Who will then speak for me? Who will then defend me against unrighteous death? Am I not responsible over against my family, my community, and my nation? Of course I am. Who would say otherwise? This is what it means to be human; to define ourselves over against the other; to be responsible to and for the other humans. Navarrette, like others, is awakening to the fact that hiding behind sexual reality, by making the claim I am a man and therefore am not responsible for what happens in the lives of other people, is a total capitulation of human moral responsibility, a complete surrender of what used to be called common human decency. Unfortunately such human decency has become uncommon and needs to be defended again in this generation.

So while, for yourself, you may be ambivalent about abortion, you may not be ambivalent about the crying needs of those who are around you. You must recognize that this slaughter has had corrosive effects on our culture and society, causing the death of some 55 million children and counting since abortion was declared to be legal by the Supreme Court of the United States in 1973. Perhaps 1973 was the high water mark of the solipsistic ethic which ignores the effect abortion has on others, including women and children. Navarrette is no longer convinced that if it doesn't affect him directly abortion has no impact on him. What a wonderfully clarifying realization this is; all caused by the explicit videos of the trade in infant body parts being perpetrated by Planned Parenthood. No, in a truly human ethic we're all in this together. Let's defend those who cannot speak for themselves and pray that when we cannot speak we will be defended.

[4] This article was written LCMS Fourth Vice President Rev. Scott Murray (pastor of Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas). Pastor Murray writes a daily devotional entitled "Memorial Moment."

Ladies Guild

August Highlights

Ladies Guild of Zion August 12, 2015

Zion Guild recited the LWML League pledge to begin their meeting. Pastor Conner's opening devotion was from John 6 "I Am the Bread of Life" Margaret Backhaus gave the Christian Life devotion entitled "Outfitted for service." The Mite Box prayer was recited after the Mite Box was offered.

President Cheral Buhr opened the business meeting in the name of the Triune God. Guests were welcomed and birthday and anniversaries for August were read. Thirteen members and three guests answered the roll. The Secretaries minutes from July were read. A correction to read hostesses for the August meeting was Sandra Vahl and Cynthia Genzen. There were no communications. The report of the general treasury and kitchen reports were given. The balance on hand is $2,068.88 for the general treasury and $8,371.95 for the kitchen.

Committee activity reports were given. Audrey Roe expressed heartfelt thank you to those faithful workers who are sewing blocks this summer. Bev Grundmeier reported sending 14 cards this past month—9 get well, 2 birth, 3 sympathy, and 1 birthday. Bev welcomes calls of information on members to send cards as one could be easily missed by lack of communication.

Circle activities were reported. Circle # 1 will serve lunch for George Doyle funeral on August 13th. Circle # 3 served 73 for the funeral for Delone Joenes. The Altar Guild will serve fellowship coffee on August 16th with donations to go towards purchasing a new Nativity Set. Circle # 3 will serve fellowship on the 22nd and on the 5th Sunday the congregation will bring cookies.

Old Business:

Sign up for morning snacks and Saturday noon lunch for generation workers. There are days yet to be filled.

Ladies Guild membership drive committee has been making contacts. Cheral has composed a flyer which will be posted to inform interested members of the congregation to come to Guild Guest day at 1:00 p.m. on September 9th and also to a Potluck on October 14th at 5:30 p.m.

New business:

A committee of Judy Musfeldt, Sandra Vahl, and Cheral Burr will meet to plan a program for the Advent by Candlelight. If anyone has ideas for a program, please contact the committee.

The LWML Iowa West District Fall Retreat will be September 12 @ Mission Central. A motion by Cynthia Genzen was made to allow the Zion Guild to reimburse the $15.00 fee to members who wish to attend. The motion was seconded by Sandra Vahl and motion carried. A flyer is posted with further information.

Zion Guild has given Christmas gifts each year to Clarinda Nursing Home residents. This facility has been closed. Sandra Vahl proposed that we pursue giving to local needs and suggested New Hope residents. The discussion was tabled until the September meeting for further discussions and ideas.

Guild collections items and food pantry items are still needed and accepted. Please keep box tops, postage stamps, Campbell soup labels, bars of soap and computer ink cartridges at your home until after the remodeling. Food pantry items can be brought to the church and placed in the grocery cart.

Continued on page 11

Ladies Guild

August Highlights
Ladies Guild of Zion August 12, 2015

Important dates to remember:

August 16: Coffee fellowship served by Altar Guild—donations for Nativity Set
Anniversary celebration for Lavern and Judy Bald at Zion

August 27 –Summer Worship at Trinity Church

August 28- Plaza Bingo servers Cheryl Buhr, ch.; Barb Anderson, Darlene Vollstedt, and Cynthia Genzen

September 9 - Zion Guild at 1:00 p.m. Hostesses Cheral Buhr and Joene Bohlmann

September 12 – LWML Iowa West District Fall Retreat @ Mission Central

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Table Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Roe
Secretary pro tem

Zion Newsletter—September 2015
Preschool Praises

Praise God for the cleaners, sorters, movers, painters, and all who have been part of preparing the preschool classroom for the new school year. The preschool room had served as a storage area during the summer remodeling and everything had to be moved and sorted to welcome the children to a fresh and clean learning environment. I want to thank everyone who has helped with the transitions and preparations. Thanks to our preschool associate, Mrs. Nemitz, for her extra efforts. You are all a blessing to the children of Zion and the community.

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

The new preschool year begins on Thursday, September 3rd. The decision to expand the 3 year old program to two sessions was blessed as both classes have reached the capacity of 12 students. The afternoon class has 8 older students enrolled this year. With a few openings in the afternoon session, we invite a few additional families to consider enrolling a child. Have them contact us! How exciting to share the love of Jesus with so many children and families.

I am so blessed to have such a strong support system in the Zion family. Thank you for your many words of support. As the school year begins, please continue to keep the preschool in your prayers. This new adventure seems a bit overwhelming, but I am excited to start this new chapter in my life. I trust in the Lord to guide me along the way as we seek to serve His children.

God is so good!
Mrs Riesberg

It was a great blessing and honor for us to be at Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa for some special mission events this month.

God has blessed Mission Central, Gary Thies, about 70 volunteers and a great cloud of supporters and missionaries to be a tremendous powerhouse of spreading the Gospel to the ends of the earth in response and obedience to Jesus for His Grace beyond human understanding! What an honor to be a speaker, presenter and preacher for these wonderful events, along with my whole family!

What a JOY and blessing to have the Dr. Steve Oliver Family here for 4 days at Mission Central. Dr. Oliver is our veteran missionary from Taiwan, where he has taught at Luther Seminary for the last 15 years! It was such a blessing to hear of his work training pastors, teachers and evangelists.

A large crowd of people came, and he was able to speak to our volunteers at the annual Mission Central Volunteer Gathering on July 18th, 2015. He and his family were prayed for and sent by a number of pastors, and here you see the sending. It was indeed a special day, with approximately 100 people in attendance.

Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, and Cassie Ferry

Missionaries to Indonesia

Kami masih tinggal di Indonesia!
(Indonesian for "We still live in Indonesia")

Thanks be to God, we are *still* official residents of Indonesia. We started this month by waiting in North Sumatra, with our passports in the hands of the Indonesian Immigration Authorities. It was well worth the wait: we received an extension to our resident permits which allow us to live in the country for another whole year.

While we waited those days, we spent some time getting to know North Sumatra better, and learned from Bishop Aladin who grew up near Lake Toba. We also took the opportunity to visit with some local residents and explore the city of Medan. The folks on the streets didn't really know what to think about us: we were white, we had four little children, and we were *walking* everywhere. There were plenty of confused and even suspicious glances until we started talking in *Bahasa Indonesia*. Then people began to smile and laugh with us, and even ask us questions.

When the family was safely back in Jakarta, I had the surreal experience of heading to Yangon, Myanmar for a short few days. The Myanmar Lutheran Church had made contact with our LCMS, requesting formal fellowship and striving to forge a working relationship with us. Their Bishop and pastors are looking to see what they can learn from us, and we're checking ways that we might be of service in reaching out to their 90% Buddhist population. I was warmly welcomed (see picture), and we had fruitful discussions. God grant that a relationship develops according to His will.

SELAMAT

This time of year has been an exciting one to live in Indonesia. With the end of the fasting month Ramadan, the people here began their days-long festival of Idul Fitri. This is easily the biggest celebration we see all year long. Our eyes might see it as Christmas, New Year, and Thanksgiving all rolled into one. There are fireworks, feasts, gifts, and new clothes for everyone. Most people go home to their childhood villages to be reconciled with family and spend time visiting. Many stores and business are closed, services are at a minimum, and the streets and airport in Jakarta are largely deserted.

Now it's like a new year has begun, and our family joins in: the kids have started a new school year. Caleb and Caitlin have moved on to more challenging work, and even Carissa now has an activity book she's using each morning. As our work here continues, we are grateful to you for your continued interest and support. Your thoughts and prayers are an incredible encouragement to us, and we take comfort in knowing wherever we live, our true citizenship is assured in heaven as a gift from our Lord Jesus.

Thanksgiving for a smooth renewal of our resident permits so we can keep living and working in this incredible country!

Prayer Requests

For Cheryl and the Ferry kids that they might grow, learn, and have great joy in their life here in Asia.

That our gracious Lord Jesus would grant His wisdom and grace, so many would be blessed by the work we're doing in Indonesia, Singapore, and all of Southeast Asia.

Zion Lutheran Church in Manning Featured in LCEF Newsletter

We remodeling and people are taking notice. Below is the newsletter page from LCEF featuring our congregation.

IOWA EAST & WEST LCEF

For more information on LCEF loans, investments, and services, please contact:

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For current rates visit **lcef.org**

Lutheran Church Extension Fund
> where investments build ministry

All ages help with demolition at Zion, Manning

Zion, Manning underwent major renovations this summer with the help of Lutheran Church Extension Fund's (LCEF) Laborers for Christ. Facility improvements included work on office space, fellowship hall and Christian education areas to better serve the future generations. Zion used LCEF's Capital Funding Services led by John Sprohl to raise funds for Phase 1 and 2 of the project. LCEF is able to provide the loan funds for the rest of the remodeling project that enables Zion to continue to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with their community.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.

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

Ladies of Zion: Last month we asked you to be thinking about joining Ladies Guild in serving the congregation. We are organized into 3 circles which serve the after church service coffees. Each circle takes a month at a time. We also rotate serving the funeral lunches. We organize Advent by Candlelight and decorate the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall. We enjoy one another's company and have built lasting Christian friendships. We also have offices that need to be filled each year. Please join us on Guest Day on September 9th at 1:00 P.M. or for our potluck on October 14th at 5:30 P.M. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. We'd love to have you "check us out".

September Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

1. Lucille Ress
2. Collin Brus
3. Bruce Grimm
4. Arlo Dammann
   Brock Kusel
7. Kyle Arp
   Timothy Rosener
8 Austin Johnson
   Carlys Stribe
   Darlene Vollstedt
9. Brice Shrimpton
   Diane Vetter
   Katie Vollestedt
10. Alison Karsten
11. Ambria Johnson
    Brandi Wiig
12. Kristie Borkowski
    Robert Hagedorn
13. Betty Andresen
    Dennis Backhaus
    Lyle Rood
    Allen Stribe
14. Dakota Bradley
    Lauren Greving
    Erin Renze
15. Dylon Bauer
16. Brooke Kienast
17. Ben Langel
    Charlie Tibben
19. Kora Kusel
    Sue Soll
21. Daniel Hilsabeck
    Alexis Karsten
    Daniel Vonnahme
22. Haley Kuchel

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

25. Jennifer Grau
26. Tanner Crawford
    Lillian Genzen
    Terri Rosener
27. Don Beck
    Shaun Grau
28. Cassandra Burcham
    Susie Ulrickson
30. Karl Albertsen
    Jason Ehlers

Official Acts in August

Confirmation:
Austin Johnson, 8/9/15

Funerals:
George Doyel, 8/13/15; Pastor Conner
Emma Lacey, 8/13/15; Pastor Conner
Lyle Borkowski, 8/28/15; Pastor Riggert and Pastor Conner

In Our Prayers

Athena Bess, 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), Greg Neumann, Melvin Schemm, Tyler Saunders, Wilma Bogatzke, Erma L'heureux, Beverley Calvert

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

2 Mike & Becky Bruch
3 Bary & Karen Kienast
4 Don & Trisha Beck
  Jon & Jill Saunders
6 Gary & Joyce Schroeder
7 Derek & Brenna Hodne
8 Bradley & Heather Kusel
11 Rodney & Deanna Frank
15 William & Louise Bruhn
  Duane & Cynthia Karsten
19 Kevin & Janet Brus
  Jeff & Jean Hargens
20 Todd & Dawn Ketcham
  Alex & Kari Ranniger
22 Larry & Connie Ahrendsen
24 Ben & Beth Booth
  Karl & Donna Rutz
25 Marlin & Carol Kahl
27 Jesse & Katie Weitl
28 Conrad & Juanita Kurth
30 Allen & Carlys Stribe

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