He Has Done Marvelous Things.

God does marvelous things. On Wednesday, September 9, He (through many human vocations) delivered something marvelous to Zion – a 40-foot, 2,500-lb. steel beam. In the pictures on the right you can see and begin to appreciate how our workers and volunteers piloted it into the fellowship hall.

With Pete Croghan artfully maneuvering the forklift and Denny Backhaus, Duane Monson, Bruce Grimm, Pastor Riggert, our laborers (Dan Werner and Calvin L'heureux), and the rest of Pete's crew patiently guiding the nearly school-bus-length piece of solid metal, they lowered it onto metal rollers and threaded it through the eye of the east entrance and into the fellowship hall.

After celebrating this victory, Pete's crew lifted our beam (from which our movable wall will be hung) with two nearly 7,000 lb. forklifts (which had been delivered to the fellowship hall the night before through another bit of creative choreography). Inch by patient inch they negotiated this metal behemoth around conduits, rafters, hanging lights, and precision-placed it into a space with less than an inch clearance on either side. It was impressive to watch.

Before they hoisted it into place, I had the privilege of writing a verse (pictured right) on the beam:

Engines and steel!
Loud pounding hammers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams!
Loud building workers!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
He has done marvelous things.
I too will praise Him with a new song!
- Earth and All Stars, *LSB* 817 v. 4

God truly has done marvelous things!

September Ministry Apps—Zion Lutheran Church

"For I the Lord do not change." Malachi 3:6

Changing Seasons

We note the changes of the season—changing colors, shorter days, and cooler temperatures. We are constantly reminded of the changing seasons of life. The Good News is that God's love in Christ never changes. Lamentations 3:22-23 states, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning." October worship includes the remembrance of the Reformation. When the church of Luther's time tried to substitute that truth of God's grace for a message of self-righteousness, God used his servant Martin Luther to share that God's grace in Christ never changes. God's grace continues to change us from sinner to saint. Blessed by the Spirit of change we become agents of change in our family, church and community.

"Generations" Brings Facility Changes

The Laborers for Christ team has changed locations—from the Heritage Park campground and the hallways of Zion to family and friends in Illinois, Texas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. We continue to thank God for their skill and Spirit at Zion. Local contractors now continue to work on the changes in the facility. God-willing, the month of October will bring new tile throughout the fellowship hall and education wing, a new movable wall in the fellowship hall, and continuing work on restrooms, youth room, and other areas. The new east entrance and east parking lot alterations will begin when the supporting steel beam arrives. "It will only be two weeks." We pray God for your generous "Generations" gifts which make these necessary improvements possible. Building Committee co-chairman Bob Genzen (with the assistance of Bruce Grimm and others) are coordinating the project. The Building Committee continues to meet regularly to provide support and direction.

Changing Times for Youth

Youth are searching for their identity and for answers to complex issues. The faith of their Baptism and the faith nurtured by family and church provides a solid foundation in changing times. Twelve junior youth (grades 6-8) will be attending the Iowa District West "Searching" Junior Youth Gathering (October 24-25) accompanied by Pastor Conner, Bobby Doyel, and Jodi Ramsey. Thanks to Zion for their financial and prayer support of youth ministry.

Recently youth leader Bary Kienast shared information on the LCMS National Youth Gathering (July 16-20, 2016) which will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana. Parents and youth interested in more information on this special opportunity are encouraged to contact Bary. High school youth will also have the opportunity to celebrate their identity in Christ at the Iowa District West "My Name Is . . ." Gathering on Nov. 20-22.

Got Any Change?

The LCEF Young Investor Club invites children (and parents and grandparents) to put their change (and bills) into an account that earns generous interest (3.5%) and changes hearts in churches and schools built around the world. An information insert is included in the newsletter. As more Zion members invest themselves and for their children and grandchildren, our congregation receives a rebate on our construction loan. Warren Puck gathers the Y.I. club the 3rd Sunday of every month (October 18). A Y.I. Club account makes a great Christmas or birthday gift for a child!

Stop Wimping Out, Men

> I understood the abortion debate was a tug-of-war between competing rights—those of the mother versus those of an unborn baby. I sided with the mother. And I tried not to think about the baby.[1]

So admits journalist Rueben Navarette Jr. in his surprisingly honest piece, "I Don't Know if I'm Pro-Choice After Planned Parenthood Videos."[2]

He continues,

> I arrived there for a simple reason: Because I'm a man. Many will say that this is not a very good reason, but it is my reason. Lacking the ability to get pregnant, and thus spared what has been for women friends of mine the anguishing decision of whether to stay pregnant, I've remained on the sidelines and deferred to the other half of the population.

Mr. Navarette's admission calls for careful consideration. First, he knows abortion means killing a baby, but he's tried not to think about it. And he must at least be aware of the gruesome means employed to kill the baby. But he hasn't wanted to think about that, either.

And the abortion lobby has done its best to keep us from thinking about the baby. They hide the baby behind "women's choice" and "women's health care." They conceal the aborted baby behind "terminating a pregnancy" and "the products of conception." They obfuscate the brutal death of babies behind the "separation of the fetal clavarium" or the "reduction of the clavarium" as if these were equivalent to having a wart removed or a boil lanced when, in fact, this involves severing a baby's head or puncturing and suctioning it until empty. And we have recently learned (through the Center for Medical Progress's revelatory videos) that they have been running an illegal chop shop behind "tissue donation" as they manipulate abortion procedures to ensure the best "specimens."

But Mr. Navarette tried not to think about that, too. I suspect he's not alone, because who could really stomach that choice? Who could actually admit and describe what was chosen? But the recent videos exposing the evil deeds of Planned Parenthood are making him think about it and he's starting to waver.

Why did he ever support Planned Parenthood and the choice they sell? Because he's a man. That's his reason. He can't get pregnant, so he's figured it wasn't his place to speak. Is he right? Must men remain silent simply because they have no wombs while babies are dismembered and repackaged for parts? Hardened feminists have said so, but Mr. Navarette now admits he knows better (thanks to his wife):

> As I've only realized lately, to be a man, and to declare yourself pro-choice, is to proclaim your neutrality. And, as I've only recently been willing to admit, even to myself, that's another name for "wimping out."

Mr. Navarette's wife is right. When men claim "neutrality," they're really declaring themselves to be wimps. They're too afraid to speak up for children. Mr. Navarette's wife drove her point home by chiding her husband,

> These are babies that are being killed. Millions of them. And you need to use your voice to protect them. That's what a man does. He protects children – his own children, and other children. That's what it means to be a man.

She's exactly right. Anything less is unmanly, even wimpy. Men, it's time to speak up. Abortion is not a women's issue; abortion is a human issue. Yes, women who get pregnant unexpectedly face tough choices, but the choice to poison and/or dismember their baby in the womb is not a choice we can support. Neutrality is the wimpy option. Men protect children. That's what men do.

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[1] thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/08/10/i-don-t-know-if-i-m-pro-choice-anymore.html?via=mobile&source=facebook

[2] This article was referenced in Zion's September newsletter in Rev. Scott Murray's article "Speak for Those Who Cannot."

Q: What would you do if your friend was doing something illegal or wrong?

Tough question. Obviously there are a thousand different scenarios that could lie behind that question, so you would do well to talk to me in person, but let's start where we always start: God's Word. St. Paul writes, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God might be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). So, grounding ourselves in God's Word will equip us to discern the proper course of action.

Second, it's important to understand that *illegal* and *wrong* are not synonyms. There are many things that are wrong (morally speaking) that are not illegal. In other words, there are many things that break God's law that don't break man's law. For example, most forms of sexual immorality, such as living together without marriage, pornography, and adultery, are not illegal, but they are immoral; they transgress God's law. Abortion, likewise, falls into this camp. Poisoning and/or dismembering babies in the womb is not illegal, but it is evil in God's eyes.

On the flip side, there are many things that are illegal that are not immoral. That is, some actions break man's law, but not God's. For example, choosing not to wed one's creative craft (cakes, flowers, photographs) to a same-sex wedding ceremony is being treated as illegal in this country, but that doesn't make declining to participate immoral. It may break man's law, but it doesn't break God's. Or consider county clerks and their legal requirement to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Their choice is being treated as illegal, but in honoring God rather than man, they are not acting immorally.

As Christians we live in our vocations out of reverence for Christ. If such living puts us at odds with the law, then we would prefer to be right with Jesus and face the consequences of an immoral law than be right with the law and disobedient to Jesus.

Now, let's consider your friend. What should you do? Love him. What does that mean? Let's turn to God's Word. St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 13,

> Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Take note how radically different this understanding of love is from the world. The world would tell you either to be silent and let your friend do what makes him happy or to give up on him, but true love neither rejoices at wrongdoing nor gives up. True love rejoices with the truth and tries to lead those doing wrong to turn in repentance away from wrongdoing to the truth. So that means that as a friend you are going to need to lovingly confront your friend. Call him to a higher ethic, to a life lived out of reverence for Christ. Remember, the goal here is to call him away from his headlong march toward personal destruction and alienation from God. He cannot pursue sin and God simultaneously.

But what if your friend is doing something immoral *and* illegal? This may be difficult to read (and even harder to do!), but true love may require you to report your friend's illegal activity to the proper authorities. The law is (ideally) designed to protect people's lives and property. Those who break the law negatively impact others' lives and/or property. For the sake of the one being wronged, you need to speak up. That's what love does. Remember, the goal isn't to keep your friend from facing consequences for his actions; the goal is to delight in truth. The way to this delight, however, may lead through suffering. Love doesn't fear suffering; love rejoices with truth even if it requires suffering.

So let your love of Christ and His truth motivate you. And if you still have questions, come talk to me.

Harrison on Planned Parenthood controversy: 'God is not silent'[3]

By Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

"It is the deadly hatred with which Satan attacks Christ. It is the thirst for a vengeance against Christ, which Satan cannot satisfy. It is the anxiety before Christ the judge. It is the rage of the fatally wounded beast." — Rev. Hermann Sasse's sermon on the Fourth Sunday after Trinity, 1942

Tuesday morning, the Center for Medical Progress released another video exposing Planned Parenthood and the evil and immense pain that occur inside its clinics. The video is graphic. Little arms and legs are ripped from tiny bodies. They are callously referred to as "specimens," sold at a price.

Jesus warned us about this. He reminded us that the devil would be hard at work, seeking to devour hearts and minds. He told us the world would try to silence His Word of life, and that His truth would be shunned. Satan will stop at nothing to rage at Christ, even if it means murdering the tiniest of people and selling their bodies for profit.

But God is not silent. He has a word for us, too. He comforts us in the knowledge that the devil's attempts are desperate and futile, for Jesus came to save people, regardless of their size. He reminds us that He has "overcome the world" (John 16:33) and "came that [we] may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). His point? Satan is fighting a losing battle, and he knows it.

So also, we pray, is Planned Parenthood. Its leadership can make excuses and attempt to justify its actions, complain that the videos are edited or that the Center for Medical Progress isn't a legitimate organization. The chatter doesn't matter. In Christ, the tide has already turned. God is not silent. He will not allow Satan to prevail.

Even now, He is causing young people to rise up, no longer content to let this genocide continue. His Church is standing up, too, as congregations and individuals show mercy to those who suffer the emotional pain of an abortion and come alongside moms and babies in financial and spiritual need. LCMS Life Ministry carries on its joyful work as well, supporting crisis pregnancy centers, providing educational life materials, teaching youth about chastity and working closely with our friends at Lutherans For Life and the National Pro-Life Religious Council.

Satan will roar for a time, but his evil, murderous ways won't last. Sasse reminds us, "Before the power of Jesus the unbridled power of Satan has to stop," for Jesus "takes the dominion of the world away from Satan.

"Satan cannot overpower us," Sasse continues. "He cannot stand before this Lord Jesus. That's why he rages." Be comforted. Pray boldly. Speak bravely. Defend life. Act courageously. Let your frustration and disgust be turned to prayer and action on behalf of our littlest neighbors, for Satan cannot win, and God is not silent.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison is president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

[3] Earlier this summer, President Harrison issued this statement regarding Planned Parenthood's slaughter and sale of the innocents.

In his superb book on biblical stewardship, *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*, Randy Alcorn dedicates over 130 pages (out of 450) to handling our money and possessions. Over 20 of those pages are dedicated to debt. If you're in debt (and you want to get out), Alcorn says that there are two questions you need to ask:

1. **How did I get into debt?**
2. **How can I get out?**

Why the first question? Alcorn explains,

> The reason the first question is important is to help you make future decisions. If you've gotten into debt unwisely, you should do more than get out of debt; you should also recognize that you've made wrong choices and commit yourself not to repeat them.

In fact, Alcorn explains, "Debt isn't the main problem; it's a symptom of a more basic problem – greed, impulsiveness, and lack of discipline." This may be hard to read, but the truth must pierce our excuses before we can begin to practice godly stewardship. Our reason for incurring debt might not be a good one, and we need to acknowledge that.

So, how do you get out of debt? Alcorn lists 10 steps.[4]

1. Repent.

> If you have gotten into debt unwisely (and most debt is unwise and unnecessary), you need to acknowledge it and change your mind about money and possessions. Changing the mind is what the Bible calls repentance. Admit that you've conformed to the world and then be transformed by the renewing of your mind through the regular hearing and internalizing of God's Word. Then you'll be ready to hear what God has to say about money and possessions. But be aware, this requires learning new habits and new thought patterns. It won't happen overnight. It will take focused work. But it's worth it!

2. Immediately give God the firstfruits.

> Firstfruit giving means giving God the first part of your income. A good place to start your giving is with the tithe (and it makes the math easy!). So, if money comes in, it's income. Your tithe (10% of your income) acknowledges God's ownership of all things and keeps money and possessions from getting a stranglehold on your soul.
>
> Remember Jesus' words in the parable of the sower: "The deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful" (Mark 4:19). And His words in Matthew 6: "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (v. 21). Your heart always follows your treasure. If you want your heart directed toward God, place your treasure into His hands. Your heart *will* follow, even if your emotions have to run to catch up.

3. Incur no new debts.

> Alcorn suggests this principle: "If I can't afford it now, it isn't God's will now." Don't make God's will into a mystical game of hunt and seek. Gods' will is *revealed* in Scripture. He desires to save you in Christ and He calls you to walk in His way in your vocations. That's His *revealed* will. When it comes to making decisions, we filter them through these *revealed* realities.
>
> If a financial decision won't unnecessarily hinder the fulfillment of your vocational callings or lead you away from Christ and His revealed will, it falls within God's will. Unfortunately, debt usually does the opposite, so it usually falls beyond God's will.

[4] For a more detailed plan on debt elimination, check out Dave Ramsey's *Total Money Makeover*. In it he teaches you how to make a budget, get out of debt, and experience financial freedom.

4. **Systematically eliminate existing debts.**

   Alcorn speaks bluntly, "Draw up a careful budget. Make a specific plan to get out of debt. Seek wise financial counsel. Liquidate unnecessary assets." Dave Ramsey's *Total Money Makeover* is a great resource for making a plan and makes a great partner resource with Alcorn's *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*.

5. **Perform plastic surgery on your credit cards.**

   If your credit card is leading you into temptation, cut it up. Cancel it. Get a debit card. Pay cash. Besides, studies show that people who pay with cash spend significantly less than people who use credit. So, not only will you avoid incurring more debt, but you'll spend less, too.

6. **Stop rationalizing your debt habit.**

   If you have a debt problem, you have a rationalization problem. You've lied to yourself. The truth is that you might not be able to afford your lifestyle. It was the esteemed 17th century philosopher Blaise Pascal who observed that we too often pursue ends we know will not bring us satisfaction, gorge ourselves on food that we know will not nourish us, and fill our lives with pleasures that will not ultimately please us. If this is you, go back to step # 1.

7. **If debt seems the best or a necessary choice, go slowly and prayerfully.**

   Before you incur debt, talk to a wise Christian and someone who knows how to manage money. And read the books we've mentioned: *Money, Possessions, and Eternity* and *Total Money Makeover*. Think about it: if I offered you $500 to read these books, would you? Reading these books and talking to wise stewards could save you much more! And it will significantly lower your stress and free you to give more to God.

8. **Learn the difference between saving and spending.**

   Advertisers are great at misleading us on this. For example, if you bought a pair of jeans that were regularly $54, but were on sale for $28, how much did you save? Zero dollars! You didn't save $26; you spent $28! Saving is when you end up with more money than you started. Spending leaves you less. To right your financial ship, stop "saving" yourself into debt.

9. **List your debts and, if necessary, contact your creditors.**

   If you're going to pay off your debt, you need to know precisely who and how much you owe. Dave Ramsey suggests paying debt off from smallest to largest regardless of the interest rate. He calls this the snowball effect. It's designed to help you get momentum. Alcorn suggests prioritizing debts by interest rates so as to eliminate the highest rate first. If you can do this without getting discouraged, fine. Otherwise, follow Ramsey's plan.

   You may also need to contact your creditors to share your payment plan with them. They will usually accept this because they are too often faced with bankruptcies in which they receive nothing. You should also seek wise counsel. You probably got into financial trouble acting on your own so continuing to fly solo might not be a good idea.

10. **If you've done everything else and it still seems insufficient, consider ways to increase your income in order to eliminate your debts.**

    It may have taken you several years to get into your financial situation, so don't expect it to turn around overnight. Be patient. Alcorn's counsel (drawn from his study of Scripture) is solid and it will work if you stick to it. You might need to take on a temporary second job or to sell your car or TV, but through patience and perseverance, along with wise financial decisions, you can erase your debt and experience financial freedom.

Financial Principles to Live By

(Detailed in *Money, Possessions, and Eternity*)

- *Nothing* is a good deal unless you can afford it.
- Before you take matters into your own hands, God wants an opportunity to provide your needs or to show you that they aren't really needs.
- Just because you can afford something doesn't mean God wants you to get it.
- Increased income doesn't necessarily mean that God is saying spend more. More often, his real message is give more.

Generations Update

Work on our Generations project is moving forward with steady consistency. Below you will find a list of work that has been completed along with items that are nearing completion and still to come. If you have questions, visit with coordinators Bob Genzen and Denny Backhaus or team members Curt Struve and Bruce Grimm.

Completed:

- Church offices (including Pastor Riggert's office in the Fellowship Hall)
  - (blinds and shelving still to come)
- New Family Bathroom (in Fellowship Hall)
- Sunday School classrooms
- Education wing walls (freshly painted) and lights (energy efficient LEDs)

Nearing Completion:

- The ceiling in the Fellowship Hall (waiting on sheet rock)
- Floors in Education Wing and Fellowship Hall (tile should be installed in first part of October)
- The moveable wall in the Fellowship Hall (beam is in place; wall is coming)

Still to Come (in progress):

- Bathrooms in the Education Wing
- East entrance, parking lot elevation, preschool entrance
- Coat racks
- Sitting areas
- Painting in Fellowship Hall
- Signage throughout building

Ladies Guild

September Highlights

Ladies Guild of Zion September 9, 2015

President Buhr led us in the LWML Pledge. Pastor Conner then led a devotion based on the feeding of the 4,000 found in the book of Luke. He reminded us that God's compassion always "acts" on our need and that we don't need a "sign" from God, but that miracles always only undergird the Word that is preached. Christian Life Chairman, Margaret Backhaus, read a devotional that encouraged us to "Focus Our Hearts" on God.

The mite box was passed as the mite box prayer was recited. President Cheral opened the business meeting in the name of the Triune God. She welcomed 3 guests to our meeting: Carolyn Werner, Erma L'heureux, and Monica Christensen.

Twelve members answered the roll call. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved, and followed with the reading of a thank you note from the family of George Doyle. Treasurer Barb Anderson and Kitchen Chairman, Darlene Vollstedst gave their reports.

President Buhr gave a report from the Carroll Zone meeting. The Fall Rally will be held at Immanuel Lidderdale on October 3, at 9:00 A.M. Guest speaker will be Eileen Lindstrom. Anyone wishing to go should contact President Buhr. An apologetics seminar will be held October 10th at Peace Glidden. Registration begins at 9:00 A.M. A freewill lunch will be served.

There was no report from Human Care Chairman Audrey Roe. She will give notice when it is possible to begin quilting again. Sunshine Chairman, Bev Grundmeier , sent 11 cards last month. Circle #1 served the George Doyle funeral luncheon. Circle #2 served the Lyle Borkowksi funeral luncheon, and Circle #3 will serve the next funeral luncheon.

Old Business brought a reminder that our October meeting will be a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. Members are encouraged to ask ladies of the congregation to join us as we continue to increase our membership.

For New Business it was decided to have a "noisy offering" on LWML Sunday the 27th of September. All members of Zion will be asked to put their offering for LWML projects into metal pans, hence a "noisy offering."

Advent by Candlelight volunteers include the following: Sandra Vahl, fellowship hall; Darlene Vollstedt, kitchen; Bev Grundmeier, ticket sales and table decorating sign ups; church secretary Shannon Walters will make the tickets; the new Praise Band will be the entertainment.

Mary Grimm moved that we take some money from the kitchen fund to help buy the window treatments in Pastor Conner's and Shannon's offices. Joene Bohlmann seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed.

All Guild collection items are to be held at home until construction is complete in the fellowship hall. Plaza Bingo Chairman for September 25th is Bev Grundmeier. Helping her will be Susan Schilling, Barb Anderson and Joene Bohlmann. The meeting was adjourned with the table prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Hostesses for the day were Cheral Buhr and Joene Bohlmann.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

Preschool is off and running! We have been busy learning new names, meeting new friends, and finding out what makes each of us unique. There's never a dull moment in the preschool room.

Mom's night was held September 30th; it's always fun to do different activities with the preschool families.

October will start off with fire prevention week. We look forward to the fire department coming to visit and giving fire truck rides.

With the change of season, we will also be talking about apples, leaves, and pumpkins.

Our annual pancake breakfast is set for Sunday, October 18th from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. As this is our only fundraiser for the year, we welcome everyone's participation. Please note that worship will begin at 8:00 a.m. that Sunday. The preschoolers will sing in the service and receive their story Bibles.

Our preschool family fun night is set for October 28th. We welcome your help with games and serving food.

As I have said before, thank you for all your help, support, and kind words of encouragement. It is so wonderful to be a part of such a supportive congregation. It means a lot to me!

In Christ,

Mrs. Reisberg

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

Fire Prevention Week
October 4-10

Pancake Breakfast
October 18th
9:00 a.m. – Noon

Family Fun Night
October 28th
6:00-7:45 p.m.

Christ's Care FOR THE PERSECUTED & DISPLACED

mercy for the body and soul

Dear Brother or Sister in Christ,

It's unprecedented.

For the first time in most of our lifetimes, there are more than 50 million refugees worldwide. That's six times the population of New York City.

Many flee severe religious persecution. Others exit war-torn countries where there is little hope of peace or livelihood. We all have witnessed the gruesome executions of confessing Christians on our TVs and computer screens. The most recent news headlines report hundreds of thousands of people, from Africa and the Middle East, streaming into Europe. Our own country is experiencing a great influx of men, women and children coming from every corner of the planet, risking all to enter in hopes of a better life.

In recent weeks, the German government, taxing its infrastructure to the breaking point, has welcomed hundreds of thousands of these strangers into that country. The flood of refugees is stressing other European nations as well.

And there are more to come. Many, many more.

As Germany readies for some 800,000 more refugees, our partner church there, the Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (SELK), is preparing to respond to the immediate physical needs — food, clothing, shelter — of these refugees and, with that, spiritual care centered on the Gospel.

As they do, the LCMS will be walking alongside them.

And this is just one reason why:

SELK Pastor Gottfried Martens has witnessed the conversion and baptisms of hundreds of former Muslims who are now active members of his Berlin congregation.

"Even though the challenges are enormous, we always experience that these refugees are a great blessing and encouragement for our faith," said Martens.

"We invite our brothers and sisters from the LCMS to our services, so that they can see with how much joy these former Muslims practice their faith and are strengthened by the body and blood of our Lord again and again," he continued. "Thus our guests will experience the truth of the words of our Lord Jesus Christ together with us here: ***'I was a stranger and you welcomed me … as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me' (Matt. 25:35, 40)****."*

You can deliver this "body and soul" care to these strangers, the displaced Christians and other refugees, desperately fleeing violence, persecution and personal hardship.

In response to the ongoing global refugee crisis, we have established a unique fund that will enable us to provide the Gospel of Christ and His mercy when and where it is needed most, to whom it can help most:

It *is* unprecedented — 50 million desperate people on the move worldwide.

May we, who have received the underserved and abundant mercy of Christ, be compelled to bear His mercy in body and soul to the persecuted and displaced as God enables us to will and to do.

Please join me now in coming alongside our German partners, and other partners in the future, as they care for so many strangers in their midst!

Your gift can help. May God grant it.
Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Prefer to give by check and U.S. mail?
Please make checks payable to: **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod** (or, "**LCMS**")
Write **Christ's Care for the Persecuted & Displaced** in the memo line of the check or on an enclosed note.
Mail to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod | P.O. Box 66861 | St. Louis, MO | 63166-6861
Prefer to donate by credit card over the telephone?
Call our toll-free Donor Care Line: **888-930-4438** or e-mail us: mission.advancement@lcms.org.

China Lutheran Seminary
Our Missionary in Taiwan
Dr. Stephen and Maggie Oliver

After a very good furlough in California, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois and Missouri this summer, we are back and settled in for the new school year. Thanks to everyone for your wonderful welcomes, hosting, interest, and prayers! Pray for us as we begin the new school year!

A few photos from furlough, including a birthday dinner for Ginny in the missionary apartment in St Louis with the Carl Hansons and Rev. Fong (from Hong Kong), and one with Rev. Eric Wood and his daughters at Ted Drews in St Louis. The Hansons are current missionaries in Asia and Rev. Wood is a former missionary teacher in Asia (we enjoyed a wonderful Sunday, preaching and presenting, at his small town church in Illinois).

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

Mengajar dan membantu teman-teman kita! (Indonesian for "Teaching and helping our friends")

August wasn't an easy month for the Ferry family, especially since we spent at least half of it separated. But it was wildly fruitful, for which we give thanks to God who sustains us and grants His gracious blessing.

I left right away on the 1st, headed for Singapore to deliver Word and Sacrament ministry. Then it was on to North Sumatra to meet up with Rev. Brent Kuhlman and Drs. Dr. Cynthia Lumley who were coming to teach at a set of theological conferences we had been planning for months. Our friends in the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) had asked for these conferences to train their church leaders in Scriptural Lutheran beliefs regarding the Office of the Ministry and the service of women in the church.

Pastor Kuhlman, Dr. Lumley, and I spent two weeks presenting at workshops in Medan and Tarutung, meeting with church leaders, and building relationships between our churches. The workshops were well---received, and generated some incredibly helpful discussion as people struggled with what it means to be faithful to the way our Lord has ordered His creation and His church. There was great emphasis on the Lutheran understanding of *vocation*, and many people seemed to greatly appreciate what they were taught.

SELAMAT

Bishop Aladin of the GKLI was very happy to have the assistance of the LCMS in presenting on these topics, and was an incredible host during our time together. He even took us to the Nommensen memorial in Tarutung, commemorating the German Lutheran pastor in the 1800's who brought the Gospel to the Batak people (picture bottom left).

In both places, the people of the GKLI kept asking for one thing: **more** of these opportunities to learn and grow. They are truly hungry to study the Scriptures and the Confessions, and were the most attentive group I've seen anywhere. They were fully engaged, and asked lots of clarifying questions.

Our partners in Indonesia need this kind of education, and we in the LCMS are uniquely positioned to provide it. But we're only able to do so because of the support you are giving to the Ferry Family and to the LCMS. Thank you for allowing us this chance to help our brothers and sisters grow in their knowledge and faith.

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:
The LCMS, P.O. Box 790089, St. Louis, MO 63179
Or
Mission Central, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034
Make checks payable to **The LCMS**, and mark them "Support of Charles Ferry." Gifts can also be given securely online through our online giving page at *www.lcms.org/ferry*.

Caitlin and Carissa play with neighbor kids in South Jakarta. Though we look different, kids are kids no matter where you go.

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

Iowa District West, LCMS
Year 11, Issue 10, October 2015

Another Special Retreat: For the 11th year we enjoyed our annual Hispanic family retreat at Camp Okoboji in August. With 76 in attendance we saw God's blessings for our families: Christian education and fellowship in a special camp atmosphere. The retreat is a popular and wonderful opportunity for the Hispanic families of our four Iowa District West Hispanic churches to gather together for rest and spiritual growth. From the children to the adults we spent a very full weekend teaching God's Word and growing together. This year our theme was "Missions". We thank the Lord for our 3 Hispanic pastors: Henry Witte and wife Ruthie in Sioux City; Lincon Guerra and wife Noemi in Des Moines and I am thankful for my wife Paula working with me in Denison and Storm Lake. Together with the help of DCE Jessica Long of Our Savior in Denison we did the teaching of all ages.

Tyson Closes its Doors: After more than 50 years the beef plant in Denison suddenly closed operations in August. I had worked there for 11 years as the plant Chaplain and I will certainly miss the work with the 400 workers there. Please pray for those families now without jobs that God will bless them with another job in the community. Thankfully, as yet, our own church members and visitors who worked for Tyson have not decided to leave the area.

Retreat Blessings: As the pictures on this page show we had a great diversity of events for our annual retreat. We started Friday evening with ice breaker events in order to get to know each other (top right). Saturday we began our Bible studies for all ages. We thank our teachers for their 3 inspiring classes. Also this year we organized sport events. Pastor Lincon Guerra with his helpers organized basketball and volleyball teams from all our churches for healthy competition (bottom right). The winning teams received medals. We also had time for relaxing, visiting and lots of fellowship among our 4 churches in Denison, Storm Lake, Des Moines and Sioux City. The bottom left picture shows our pastors and wives, at left Henry and Ruthie Witte from Sioux City; Paula and myself; and Lincon and Noemi Guerra of Des Moines. This was our 11th annual retreat for our IDW Hispanic Lutheran churches and we pray God will continue to bless us with many more. Please keep our Hispanic missions in your prayer and if you are able with a financial gift.

Please Pray: + For the blessings of our annual family retreat at Camp Okoboji. + For the Tyson workers and their families looking for new work after the plant closing. + For God's future guidance for our Hispanic church in Storm Lake and for Pastor Witte and myself as we serve them during their vacancy. + For the blessings of the growth of our Hispanic Pro-Life group and plans for October special events. + For students and staff at Zion School in Denison starting another year and for the blessing of leading the Chapel service in which students Jack and Lillian were baptized. + ***In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of the Iowa District West who monthly support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants in Denison & in our other 3 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

DISCOVER THE *DIFFERENCE* AT CAMP OKOBOJI

Camp Okoboji has made a difference for individuals, families, and congregations for 75 years. Blessed by the courage, vision, and investments of the Walther League and generous partners, a struggling depression era YMCA camp on the shore of beautiful Lake Okoboji, was purchased and became a place and means for the Gospel to make a difference. Camp Okoboji is owned by Zion Lutheran Church and every congregation in Iowa District West. Congregations are encouraged to send a delegate to the annual meeting where a Board of Directors is elected.

After 75 years the beautiful waters and recreational opportunities of the area are the same. The mission to be and share "Jesus at the Lake" Is the same. However the audience is different, the expectations of camp facilities and programs are different, and the needs of individual campers and families are different today than 75 or even 25 years ago. Responding to those different needs, the Camp Okoboji Board of Directors voted last fall to engage in a capital campaign to erect a DISCOVER Center that will provide more programming options, up-to-date facilities, and additional year-round housing. The Iowa District West Convention delegates voted overwhelmingly to "prayerfully and financially support the campaign with special and/or budgeted gifts to the campaign over the next year years.

I have been blessed to assist the Camp with the campaign process and to share the opportunities with District congregations. As I share that opportunity I share the story of a former Zion member for whom the Camp made an eternal difference.

Terry Dammann loved to go to Camp. Terry truly experienced "Jesus at the Lake." Attending Junior High and Youth Week, Terry made new friends and found acceptance by camp staff and volunteers. Camp Okoboji provided a safe retreat from some of Terry's challenges and pressures. I am convinced that Camp Okoboji was one of the means that God used to nurture the baptismal faith and confirmation vow of Terry. Terry was blessed with a wife, children, and enjoyed his truck driving vocation.

Several years ago I received the startling news from Terry's mother, Carol, that Terry had died suddenly from a heart attack. I was humbled and honored to officiate at Terry's funeral. In the midst of the shock and sadness there was the assurance of Jesus' resurrection and eternal life for Terry.

God used patient Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, and numerous Zion mentors to patiently and persistently keep Terry in God's grace and care. God used Camp Okoboji to make a difference for Terry. I know that same Spirit-directed difference has been experienced by many others at our camp.

The Phase I DISCOVER campaign goal is $1.4 million dollars for the DISCOVER center. Half of that goal has already been realized. The Camp Board of Directors recently directed a $250,000 gift to the campaign invited congregations and individuals to match the special gift in campaign pledges.

Zion Lutheran Church, will have the opportunity to determine how we will make a difference through the DISCOVER campaign. Individuals and families of Zion are also invited to join my family and many others in making a special DISCOVER gift. Contact me for more information!

Blessed to DISCOVER God's grace and goodness
Pastor Bob Riggert

October Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

1 Eric Rosener
2 Judy Musfeldt
3 Marcus Borkowski
Chasity Chedester
Alan Morris
4 Amy Dawson
Robert Ehlers
Charlene Hickman
Camden Morris
5 Katelynn Wittala
6 Haleigh Alexander
Benjamin Ramsey
Richard Zinke
8 Marlene Borkowski
Juanita Kurth
9 Amelia Vetter
Bonnie Witt
11 Houston Alexander
Kimber Arp
Drew Doyel
Duane Karsten
Lynn Kruse
Skyler Sandage
12 Justeen Schwieso
14 Wendy Ahrendsen
Lance Gruhn
15 Merlin Borkowski
Barbara Doyel
Justin Frank
Lori Lenz
Kaylyn Nelson
Jodi Ramsey
Betty Schroeder
Sandra Sextro
David Weller
16 Miranda Benton
17 Pamela Garvis
Phyllis Lamp
Haven Reese
Gordon Schmarzo

18 Kate Greving
Don Lamb
19 Gloria Ewoldt
Sonia Kuchel
Julie Weller
20 Steve Borkowski
Andrea Nulle
Natalie Nulle
21 Rodney Borkowski
Pam Kusel
Nancy Walters
22 Luella Borkowski
Cynthia Genzen
23 Kyle French
24 Diana Bruch
Jill Mohr
25 Trevor Booth
Gunner Chavez-Pike
Nathan Janssen
27 Bobby Doyel
Randy Dreher
Lois Peters
Daniel Tibben
28 Marjorie Kusel
30 Claire Behrens
Geraldine Stripling

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

3 Franklin & Arlene Mohr
9 Ryan & Bobby Doyel
10 Duane & Kay Otto
12 Gerald & Rita Beck
Vernon & Dorothy Larsen
13 Howard & Audrey Roe
14 David & Julie Weller
16 Dale & Karen Reinke

Official Acts in September

Baptism:
9/20/15: Madison Grabil (daughter of Isaac Grabil and Kourtney Page; Pastor Conner

Funeral:
9/26/15: Arlene Kusel; 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, Russ Mohr, Les Bruggeman (Judy Bald's brother), Carlys Stribe, Pat Custer (Margaret Backhaus' sister)