All Saints' Day

On November 1st, the church will celebrate All Saints' Day. This is a high festival of the church in which we thank God for His mercy to all the saints who have gone before us. In this celebration, we will praise God for His mercy to the saints of Zion who have gone before us into His presence over the last 12 months as we read their names in worship and sing the hymn "For All the Saints."

Press "pause" for a minute. We'll come back to our celebration in a moment. We first need to address one of the common questions that people ask when they hear that the Lutheran Church is honoring saints: Isn't that a Roman Catholic thing?

Yes and no. Yes, the Roman Catholic Church has saints' days, but no, they don't mean the same thing by them that Lutherans do. When the Roman Catholic Church talks about saints, they typically are referring to the process of becoming a saint (called canonization), which is a complicated process of upward promotion. In brief, saints in the Roman Catholic Church are people who were noted for their "fame of sanctity" or their "fame of martyrdom" along with their "purity of doctrine."

If this can be established, and their case is accepted by the church's investigative panel, they may begin the upward movement toward sainthood. This upward movement requires being declared "venerable," then they must be "beatified," and finally they attain "sainthood." To progress through each level, though, a miracle must be attributed to them. In other words, the investigative panel must verify that someone on earth prayed to them in heaven and that because of their intercession, God granted a miracle.

In the end (according to the Roman Catholic Church), sainthood is reserved for those who have done more than enough works to merit heaven. As a side note, it is these excess works (called "works of supererogation") that priests may apply to ordinary people on earth and in purgatory through offered masses and purchased indulgences that can reduce the number of good works people on earth or in purgatory have to do to make up for their sins (a distinctly Roman Catholic confession).

Okay, that was a long digression, but in order to appreciate the Lutheran Church's celebration of saints' days, we needed to appreciate what that celebration is not. And it most certainly is not in line with the Roman Catholic teaching.

Now let's hit "play" and see what the Lutheran celebration is. The front of our hymnal (pg. xii) explains:

> The Lutheran reformers understood that there was great benefit in remembering the saints whom God has given to His Church. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession (Article 21) gives three reasons for such honor. **First**, we thank God for giving faithful servants to His Church. **Second**, through such remembrance our faith is strengthened as we see the mercy that God extended to His saints of old. **Third**, these saints are examples by which we may imitate both their faith and their holy living according to our calling in life.

See the difference? For Lutherans, saints aren't people who did more than enough to merit heaven. Rather, they are sinners who received the mercy of God in Jesus Christ, sinners who had their sins washed away in Holy Baptism, and sinners who remained steadfast in the faith until they breathed their last breath. Our celebration is centered on Jesus' work for them and then on their positive example to us.

So on All Saints' Day we thank God for His grace in Christ to the saints who have gone before us, even as we continue to give Him praise for the grace that He lovingly gives in His Church on earth through His Word and Sacraments.

November Ministry Apps—Zion Lutheran Church

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes

"I give thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart. . . I give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word." Psalm 138:1-2

There is no app for thanks. Giving thanks is not some technological touch. Giving thanks is not another routine search for information or expression. Giving thanks is a matter of the heart. God's author of Psalm 138, King David, responded with a thankful heart. David's response was not based on an accumulation of good things but on recognition of the steadfast love and faithfulness of His God. David was thankful for the promise of the Messiah through his family. We are blessed to give thanks for the fulfillment of the promise to David.

Grateful for God's Gifts

What has God placed in your cornucopia? The observance of Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity to acknowledge the Giver of all gifts. The congregation and community are invited to worship on Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 25, at Zion Lutheran. The service will begin at 7 p.m. Bring the family. Bring your friends. A Thanksgiving without recognition of the Giver is just another holiday.

Grateful for "Generations" Gifts

The generous gifts and commitments to the "Generations" campaign have made the many improvements to the Zion facility a reality. "Thank you" to all who have made and continue to make the special donations. As the year concludes, Zion members are invited to continue to make special gifts to the "Generations" campaign. God continues to bless us with the real possibility that we might finish this huge project debt free.

Grateful for Weekly Financial Gifts

Our response to the "Generations" campaign was "over and above" our regular weekly offerings. At the end of September congregational disbursements were approximately $30,000 above receipts. Our weekly worship response not only includes our time nourished by the Word but our treasures dedicated to the Giver of all things. Prayerfully dedicate a percentage (the Biblical model is the tithe—10%) each week given in thanks to God. Our congregation financial leaders can help you set up electronic giving. Thanks to all who support the mission and ministry of Zion so generously.

Grateful for Leadership Gifts

Each month dedicated elders, education leaders, trustees, mission leaders, financial and stewardship leaders meet to address the spiritual needs of the members, manage the business details, look at the mission fields, and seek the faith development of our children. These leaders are generous in the stewardship of their time and talents. Thank them.

Grateful for the Gift of Angels

The Zion Fellowship Club meets monthly for Bible study, fellowship, and service. The Club grew out of the former Lutheran Laymen's League organization. One of their annual projects is to provide financial support for Iowa District West seminary students. This year's Bible study is "Angels and Demons" answering the questions "Who and What are Angels?" "What Do Evil Angels Do?" "What Do Good Angels Do?" The Fellowship Club will meet on Monday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome.

Life Together: A Call to Confessing Christians on Behalf of Those Struggling with Sexual Sin

The threefold emphasis of our synod has been summarized as Witness, Mercy, and Life Together. As our synod's website explains:

> These phrases — Witness, Mercy, Life Together — illustrate how the church lives and works together to proclaim the Gospel and to provide for our brothers and sisters in Christ in our congregations, communities and throughout the world. And in all we do, Christ is at the center, leading us, sustaining us, keeping us focused on our mission. This will never change.

Perhaps one of thorniest questions facing the church today is how we practice life together with people battling same-sex attraction and gender dysphoria. This article will begin to address that question, beginning with some definitions.

The Same-Sex Attracted

When we talk about the "same-sex attracted," it's important to understand that we're not simply talking about same-sex friendships or same-sex roommates. We're talking about sexual attraction, specifically the desire for sexual relations with someone of the same sex.

The causes of same-sex attraction are hotly debated, but let's at least set straight that it's not genetically *caused*. No "gay gene" has ever been found. There may be evidence for genetic inclinations, but remember this: inclination does not equal causation. For example, a person may be genetically tall, but that doesn't *cause* him to play basketball. It may incline him toward the sport, but it doesn't cause him to play.

The truth is that we are all born with certain inclinations, but that does not cause us to act upon them.[1] Would we affirm pedophilia if someone argued that he was born with pedophiliac inclinations? No. Inclinations are real and they may be very intense, but they do not *cause* behavior. We may find that everyone is born with certain inclinations they must battle their entire life. Understanding this will influence how we practice life together.

The truth is that we are all born with certain inclinations, but that does not cause us to act upon them.

Transgender Confusion

Transgenderism is perhaps a bit more complex than same-sex attraction. For one thing, it is entirely foreign to many people in the church, and people in general tend to react apprehensively to new concepts. For another, "transgenderism" is a pretty broad term. It can encompass a variety of conditions including intersex (where people are born with varying phenotypes of the male XY and female XX chromosomal pairings) and gender dysphoria (where people are born with normal male or female pairings, but identify as the opposite biological sex from their body).

The causes for intersex conditions are biological in nature (genetic copying mistakes), but gender dysphoria is more complicated to understand. As with the same-sex attracted, better understanding will influence how we practice life together.

[1] For a more in-depth explanation of this, see Jeffery Satinover's excellent book *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*.

Practicing Life Together

So how should we practice life together? Do we simply kick out the same-sex attracted or gender confused? Do we say, "It's sin. End of story." If that's our answer, what should we do with divorce or living together outside of marriage or any number of other sexual sins? Would there be a church left?

I'm reminded of Jesus' compassion for sinners, particularly prostitutes. He welcomed them. He ate with them. He loved them. And yet, He called them to repentance. He invited them to accept God's gracious invitation to receive the Kingdom and be saved from God's coming wrath against sin.

Surely we can learn from His model. We are called to announce the same good news – the time to be saved is now. Repent. Be baptized. Be saved now. Further, we can better emphasize our baptismal identity in Christ. Paul writes that when we are baptized into Christ we receive a new identity. We are a new creation; the old has gone and the new has come (2 Cor. 5:17).

Understanding our new identity doesn't necessarily make our sinful desires disappear. What it does is help us sort through these issues so that we can practice life together in the church. How does it do this? It does this by showing us that we are not defined by our desires, in this case sexual desires. And when we understand this, we won't describe ourselves or one another as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or any other sexual qualifier. These terms define people's identity based upon sexual preferences. They define people based upon their sexual desires.

When we are baptized into Christ we gain an identity that transcends all our desires. So we define ourselves as follows, "I am baptized into Christ. My identity is found in Christ. Because He has given me this identity, I will not let myself be defined by my fleshly desires. Further, I will battle against all sinful desires." These sinful desires would include gossip, lust, apathy, cold-heartedness, judgmentalism, inappropriate sexual behavior, and so on.

When we are baptized into Christ we gain an identity that transcends all our desires.

When we define ourselves in this way, we will avoid pitting heterosexual against homosexual or transgendered because we will understand that we live in the same boat and there is room in this boat for all baptized sinners who daily battle against sinful desires. We would never shame another sinner for having a different sinful desire than us. Instead, we would invite them to celebrate their new identity in Christ and to join us in the daily battle against sinful desires.

A Brief Word on Transgenderism

Now, let's take just a minute to offer a brief word on transgenderism because it is greatly misunderstood. As mentioned above, this can encompass a variety of situations. We mentioned the intersex above, which specifically refers to people with biological abnormalities. Here, however, we want to address those who battle what's been termed "gender dysphoria." The official definition is rather lengthy, but in essence this refers to someone who is born with a distinct biological sex (male or female), but believes they are the opposite of their biological sex. So, if they are biologically male, they believe they are really female and vice versa.

How do we practice life together? First, we never belittle or make light of their struggle. For most people who battle this condition, this is not something they can simply stop thinking. So we need to begin by appreciating the intensity of their struggle. Second, we need to understand that encouraging them to alter their bodies through

hormone therapies or surgeries is wrong-headed. Let's see if an example will help.

In a recent article in Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne's journal, *Concordia Theological Quarterly,* Professor Scott Stiegemeyer drew a parallel between those who battle gender dysphoria and those who struggle with something called Body Integrity Identity Disorder (BIID). As he explains, in BIID the individual "feels that one or more of his limbs should not be there." In fact, he battles "a persistent desire to amputate healthy limbs in order to match [his] physical bod[y] with [his] idealized image of [himself]."

With this condition it becomes clear that the problem isn't with the body; the problem has originated in the mind. BIID is a mental health issue. The same is true for gender dysphoria. It is a mental health issue and the answer is not found in altering the body because the problem is not with the body; the problem is in the mind.[2] And it's important that the church appreciate the realness and the complexity of mental health issues. The truth is we know and understand very little about it. So we would do well to offer empathy, compassion, and patience to our brothers and sisters in Christ who struggle through mental health issues. What we don't do in the case of gender confusion, however, is encourage them to change their bodies. Remember, the problem has not originated in their body; it has originated in their mind.

Practicing Life Together

So back to our main question: how do we practice life together with our brothers and sisters who battle same-sex attraction or transgender issues? We begin with Jesus. We model His compassion for sexual sinners and His loving call to repent and be saved. There is room in our church for those who battle against these sins. To be more specific: there is room in our church for those who battle same-sex attraction, gender confusion, lust, pornography, and even prostitution.

Further, we embrace and emphasize our new identity in Christ. We are defined by that identity and not by any of our desires. As those baptized into Christ, we battle *together* against sinful desires, whether they be sinful sexual desires or some other sin of the flesh or mind. The important part here is that we battle against these *together*. The same-sex attracted, gender distressed, and opposite-sex attracted share the same new identity in Christ and the same call to renounce ALL sin to follow Jesus.

The same-sex attracted, gender distressed, and opposite-sex attracted share the same new identity in Christ and the same call to renounce ALL sin to follow Jesus.

Is this easy? No! But this is precisely why Jesus established a church – so we could hear the call to repent and be saved *together*, receive the grace of God *together*, and battle against sinful temptations *together*. This is how we practice life *together* in the church. We don't do it by embracing the sinful desires of the flesh or by affirming people's sinful desires. Affirming others in their sin will only ensure that we will not enjoy eternal life together, and nothing could be more unloving that that. Instead, in compassion we invite all sinners to embrace their new identity in Christ, to receive His grace in the church with us, and to battle with us against the sinful desires of the flesh. This is how we practice life together in the church.

[2] Many hospitals and doctors are now refusing to perform sexually altering surgeries because there is no conclusive evidence that these have actually helped people battling sexual dysphoria.

Naming Names

On November 1, the church names names – and it's a good thing. As part of our All Saints' Day celebration, we name the names of the saints God has called to join the church in heaven. This is an important time to remember our brothers and sisters in Christ, specifically God's grace to them in Christ, even as we honor their memory and are encouraged by their confession of Christ.

But we may stand to gain another benefit from our All Saints' Day celebration. By hearing the church name names, we may gain a valuable lesson in grief support: it's okay to name the names of those who have died. Too often we are afraid to mention the name of someone who has died, especially around the deceased's family or dear friends. Our fear is that naming the name of their dead loved one will upset them or bring up painful emotions.

This is an ungrounded fear. People journeying through grief are not made sorrowful by being reminded of their loved one; they are sorrowful because their loved one died. They are sorrowful because they cannot hear them laugh, see them hang their coat on the hook when they get home, kiss them goodnight, or talk about the day with them.

When we avoid saying their loved one's name, we contribute to their sorrow because we force them to pretend that their loved one never existed. Yes, naming their loved one's name may bring tears, but tears are not inherently bad. In fact, allowing someone to cry and grieve may be helpful. Even more, it gives you the opportunity to grieve and even cry with them. It won't take the hurt away, but it will help them in their journey through grief.

So, name names. Don't be afraid to talk about their loved one. Don't be afraid to say, "Bob would have really enjoyed this." Or, "I was thinking about the time when Shirley and I did this." Or, "You know, I really miss Elaine." Or even, "What did you appreciate most about Richard?"

Name their loved one's name. That person was and remains an important part of the grieving individual's life. They loved that name. And they would welcome the opportunity to talk about that name. So learn from the church: name names.

What's the Reformation all about? It's *still* all about Jesus. It's that simple. Not Martin Luther. Not Philip Melanchthon. Not the name "Lutheran," to which we gladly cling as a distinctive and clarifying label. It's all about Jesus — not merely as example but as Savior, the Father's only provision for sin.

Melanchthon crystallizes the pressing issue of the Reformation clearly in the Apology (XXVII), where suddenly, in the middle of his writing, he erupts with a petition to Jesus:

> O Christ, how long will you endure these insults which our enemies heap upon your gospel! In the [Augsburg] Confession we said that the forgiveness of sins is received freely on account of Christ through faith. If this is not the very voice of the gospel, if it is not the statement of the eternal Father, which you, who are "close to the Father's heart" (John 1:18), have revealed to the world, then the charge against us is true. But your death is a witness, your resurrection is a witness, the Holy Spirit is a witness.

The Reformation is about the sweet Gospel in Christ — a free, clear gift, apart from any human effort. Plan now to join the celebration of the Reformation's 500th anniversary.

Please visit the newly launched *LutheranReformation.org* website. There, you'll find free downloadable resources, a hymn competition and more. Additional resources are on the way.

In the name of Jesus,
Rev. Randall L. Golter
Special Assistant to the President

Ladies Guild

September Highlights
Ladies Guild of Zion 14, 2015

A potluck was held at 5:30 P.M. for the ladies of Zion. Hostesses were Mary Grimm and Susan Schilling with the Conner family, 16 members and 6 guests in attendance.

The meeting was opened with the LWML pledge and was followed by a Christian Life devotional by Margaret Backhaus. The mite box prayer was offered.

President Buhr welcomed the guests and several "get to know your neighbor" games were played.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting and they were approved as read. In the absence of the treasurer, her report was handed out to everyone. It was noted that the "noisy" offering on LWML Sunday was $370.58 for mites.

Sunshine Chairman, Bev Grundmeier, sent 10 cards this month. Circle # 3 served the Arlene Kusel funeral. Circle # 1 will have the Pearl Kurth funeral. President Buhr gave a fall rally report. There were 5 ladies from Guild that attended and 37 attendees in all. Zion will host the spring rally and an invitation was delivered. The nominating committee is to have candidates for the secretary's and treasurer's positions ready for the next meeting.

New business brought to our attention that we might like to replace the Christmas boxes sent to the now closed Clarinda home with gifts to someone in our community. It was moved, seconded and passed that we do boxes for the 8 residents of New Hope. A list of desired items will be dispersed to the members. Cynthia Genzen brought an invitation from the Hausbarn to serve lunch to a bus load of 56 people at noon on October 27th. Judy Musfelt moved that we provide the lunch and servers. It was seconded and passed. Carol Kahl agreed to chair the project.

Plaza Bingo will be held on October 23rd. Carol Kahl is chairman with Sue Puck, Cheral Buhr, and Mary Grimm as helpers.

Candles decorating the tables were given to guests for the evening and were donated by Sandra Vahl. Hostesses for the next meeting will be Audrey Roe and Sue Puck.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

October was a month full of fun and activity! Below are pictures from our pancake breakfast and our fall festival. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and participated! Your preschool is a thriving, joyful place for children and your support makes it possible.

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

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

Bekerja, Bermain, Bertumbuh! (Indonesian for "Working, Playing, Growing")

The month of September has flown by. It started out with a spur-of-the-moment trip to North Sumatra, where our friends in the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) were dedicating a newly renovated church space. Bishop Aladin invited me to come along and bring greetings from the LCMS, which I gladly agreed to do. I flew into Medan and traveled over six hours with Bishop and his wife by car to Tarutung, North Sumatra.

The ceremonies included burying a Bible in the ground under where the altar will stand: a great image for a church which stands upon the Word of God! The members of the congregation (mostly farmers) completed the renovations with their own hands over the course of six months. Because of their work, the Word of God has another place to be preached, and Lutheran Christians will be fed for years to come.

This trip also gave Bishop and me some time to plan out the coming months, as we work together for the good of the GKLI, and for the people of Indonesia. Bishop has some great ideas about how he wants to help his church members, and how they can work to reach out in assistance and love to all Indonesians. He's becoming a good friend, and it's always a privilege to spend time with him and his wife. Back in Jakarta later that month, the Ferrys had the privilege of hosting another LCMS family from the region as they came to visit us and give both our groups some much-needed time in fellowship and mutual support. We played, walked, explored, and all gathered for the Sunday Divine Service in our house with some locals.

SELAMAT

This month also gave me the opportunity to return to Singapore to deliver Word and Sacrament to some wonderful Lutheran folks there. We had a great turnout, and it was a privilege for me to lead a Bible Study, to deliver the Lord's gifts in His Means of Grace, and to spend some time delivering pastoral care. There have been growing pastoral care needs as the people there get to know me better, and strive to live faithfully in a place where we have no formal fellowship with any church in that country yet.

As the month wound down to a quick close, Cheryl and I began a new round of classes in the Indonesian language with a spunky and patient native teacher. She's really started pushing us more this time, doing the teaching in all Indonesian, and giving us opportunities to do listening exercises. Why do the natives always talk so fast?!?

Please enjoy the changing seasons for us, since it's always summer here. We're grateful for your continued interest in the work we're doing, and we're constantly aware that only your faithfulness keeps us here to continue working. Thank you for your prayers and your partnership!

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*.

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

Iowa District West, LCMS
Year 11, Issue 11, November 2015

Vacancy at Storm Lake: After a turbulent year, the Storm Lake Hispanic mission became vacant and was struggling in attendance and participation. In August, Pastor Henry Witte and I began alternating to offer Sunday services. We praise God that this group has committed itself to growing and seeking a new pastor. If your church's mission committee or a church group is looking for a mission project, please consider this mission church. They are putting together a budget with the plan to call a pastor to guide them in ministry and mission. Funds can be sent to the **Hispanic Lutheran Church, 1407 W. 5th Street, Storm Lake, IA 50588.** May God bless the outreach among Spanish-speaking immigrants in Storm Lake.

First Hispanic Pro-life "Celebration of Life" in Denison: We participated in this special event on Sunday, October 11. We have been working for the past years to involve the Hispanic churches in the Pro-Life movement. Over 200 were present for this afternoon in the park. With music, food, and special speakers, the message was clear: all life is a sacred gift of God to be protected. See the pictures on page 11.

Back to School at Zion, Denison: Again this year our school is growing with special students from around the world. This year we have nine Hispanic students and six students from South Sudan in Africa. Not all are in this photo and more are enrolling. We are proud of our teachers and staff for their expertise in teaching new students whose English skills are weak. They patiently work with all students and we are seeing wonderful results as God's Word has become part of these students' lives.

All the Hispanic students at the school are participating in our Hispanic and English congregations. At the same time these students will be more than prepared to go on to high school to prepare for their life's vocation. We pray that God will open doors to other immigrant families to send their children to Zion Lutheran School in one of the most diverse communities in Iowa.

Happy Birthday Yamilett: In typical Hispanic tradition, the family of Yamilett had a big party for their little girl on her 4th birthday. She was the princess of the day! The family and many friends from our church and from the community came to the local park shelter for a meal and party celebration. Yamilett is in our Sunday school and also attends Zion's Preschool. Despite the fact that she speaks more Spanish than English, her teacher says she is very happy in school, she fits right in, and she is always talking (often in both languages). Her mother Adriana is our congregational Financial Secretary and her grandfather is our President. Our prayer is that throughout her life Yamilett will be a spiritual princess to the King of Kings, our Lord Jesus.

PLEASE PRAY: + For God's 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 after our October event. + For students and staff at Zion School in Denison starting another year. + For growth at Amigos en Cristo. + For our partnership with the African ministry at Zion, especially with Pastor Gabriel.

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

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

The summer is over and during the past months many changes have taken place in our ministry among Hispanics in Denison and western Iowa. The enclosed newsletter speaks about those events. The highlights:

1. With the leaving of their pastor in July I have again begun to help out at the Hispanic church in Storm Lake during their vacancy.
2. In August we were blessed to hold our 11th annual Hispanic family retreat.
3. On August 14th the Tyson beef plant in Denison was suddenly closed and I lost my job there as chaplain.

It is so good to share with you these blessings and challenges so that you can continue to pray for our ministry. Zion has been so faithful in supporting our mission journey over many years. And we are so thankful for your recent special door mission offering of $1,181.00 as well as your gift of $900 for special missions. Wow, what a blessing! It will be so important to our new church. May God continue to use us together in ministry as we share the Gospel hope of Jesus as Lord and Savior to our ever changing communities for the glory of His eternal Kingdom.

Please post the enclosed Newsletter at Zion and please share our ministry story through our monthly newsletters at www.idwlcms.org. Finally, if I can personally visit with a ministry group at Zion about our ministry outreach, please feel free to call me at 712-309-1292 or email me at my new email address: daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org.

Enjoy the Fall season;
Pastor Daniel Vogel, Pastor/Missionary

Denison' first Hispanic Pro-Life Gathering

Proposed By-law Change

The council of Zion Lutheran Church is proposing a change to our congregation's by-laws. In order to make amendments to our by-laws (which will take place at our December voters' meeting), the following steps must be taken:

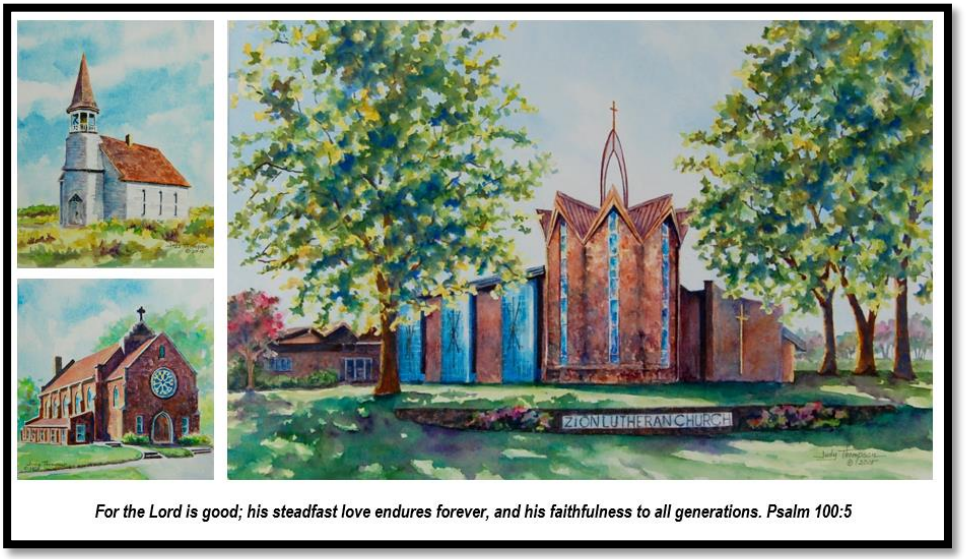
- Every voting member of the congregation must receive notification by mail at least five days prior to the voters' meeting (thus this newsletter).
- The proposed changed must be posted in the bulletin (which has been done).
- The proposed change must be submitted in writing at a previous voters' assembly (which will be done yet this fall).
- The proposed change must be agreed upon by a 2/3 majority vote at the voters' meeting.

Below is the ***existing*** by-law:

- No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms as an officer or board member, except in the cases of the chairperson of the board of elders and the members of the board of elders. Persons serving as the chairperson or members of the board of elders may hold office for more than two consecutive terms. The word 'term' as used herein is hereby deemed to include both whole and partial terms of office.

Here is the proposed changed (deletions are stricken; additions are in bold and italics):

- No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms as an officer or board member, except in the cases of the chairperson of the board of elders~~, and~~ the members of the board of elders***, and the treasurer***. Persons serving as the chairperson or members of the board of elders may hold office for more than two consecutive terms. The word 'term' as used herein is hereby deemed to include both whole and partial terms of office.



Interested in owning a numbered and autographed print? Speak with the church office.

Original art commissioned for Zion Lutheran Church! Zion's council has commission an original painting of our congregation's three buildings to celebrate God's faithfulness through our generations. The original work will hang in our remodeled fellowship hall.

Progress continues! In the pictures below you can see some of the progress in October. Indoors over 20 volunteers made short work of the fellowship hall floor while outdoors Croghan Construction has been erecting the steel on the new entrance. During the month of November look for the new tile to be laid in the fellowship hall while the countertop trim pieces will be installed in the fellowship hall, education wing stairwell, and youth room and the painting continues. Watch also for the lighting to be finished in the fellowship hall and the carpet to be laid in the youth room. Finally, watch for the education wing bathrooms to continue their progress toward completion along with finishing touches throughout the building like coat racks and signage. If weather allows, the parking lot will be releveled and the preschool entrance re-enforced (otherwise, these will be completed in spring).

***Top**: Josiah (left) and Timothy Conner (right) forge their own paths.*
***Middle left**: Greg Peters paints in an empty fellowship hall.*
***Middle right**: Justice and Jaxen assist their mother (Katie Vollstedt).*
***Bottom left**: Croghans erects the new entrance.*
***Bottom right**: Bob Genzen supervises the delivery of the steel.*

Dear Friends in Christ,

The Board of Directors of Iowa District West recently met at Camp Okoboij for our annual Retreat. This is a time of fellowship and planning. One of the goals of this year's meeting, through strategic planning, was to help provide direction for the District leadership in the next triennium. In order for us to know where we are going, we needed to restate our core values. Core values are the fundamental beliefs of an organization and the guiding principles that dictate behavior and action. Core values do not change over time or culture.

Core Values of Iowa District West

1. We worship the Trinity - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit;
2. The Word of God is the only infallible source of doctrine and practice;
3. God works in His Church through the Means of Grace;
4. There is a unity in the Gospel;
5. God has given us our neighbors as a way for us to express our love for Him.

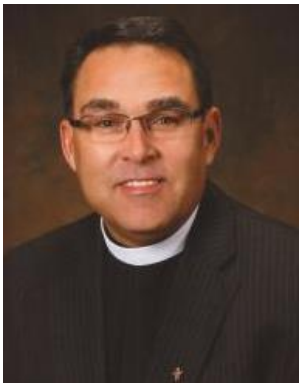
What is the Mission of Iowa District West? We recognize that the District office is not a congregation. We are in a supportive role to all of you. The District itself is made up of 173 independent congregations, 205 pastors, and 104 professional church workers. A Mission Statement specifies an organization's purpose or "reason for being." Based on our Core Values and the supportive relationship we have with all of you, we believe that Iowa District West is:

On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!

These Core Values and this Mission Statement are to guide us over the next three years. Every decision we make will be tested to see if it is in-line with our Core Values and fulfills the Mission of Christ.

So please join us, *On a Mission to Support Christ's Mission!*

Always in Grace,
Pres. Steve Turner



IOWA DISTRICT WEST
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Six $1,000 LCEF upper Midwest district scholarships will be awarded this year. Your college choice can be anywhere, as long as it is accredited. Awards are not based upon the type of degree you are pursuing. Students must be current LCMS members of Iowa District East or West, Minnesota, North/South Dakota, North/South Wisconsin.

Do not wait until the last minute to apply; a one-page essay and letters of recommendation are required. Graduating seniors and current college students should visit lcefuppermidwest.org/scholarships for qualification details and application.

Who wins? Want timely updates on deadlines? Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/lcefuppermidwest or follow our tweets @LCEFMariaH. Questions? Contact Maria.Hendrickson@lcef.org.

Apply by February 28, 2016 at lcefuppermidwest.org/scholarships

Congregational Servants

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

Board of Elders:
Stan Baack, head elder
Don Lamb, Stan Musfeldt
Gary Witt, Floyd Forman
Tim Kienast, Lynn Kruse

Board of Deacons:
David Bohlman, Bruce Grimm,
Ryan Crawford, Eric Ramsey
Paul Christensen, Richard Zinke,

Ladies Guild:
Cheral Buhr, President

Board of Trustees:
Bob Genzen, Dan Behrens,
Kent Vollstedt,
Kevin Grimm,
Rodney Backhaus

Board of Missions:
Arlene Mohr, Chair
Dave & Bev Grundmeier,
Frank Mohr, Lynn Kruse,
Gary Schroeder, Warren Puck,
Jean Hargens

Board of Education:
Shelly Gruhn, Chair
Margaret Backhaus,
Joni Kienast, Dan Dawson,
Kari Ranniger, Kathy Vollstedt

Preschool Board:
Dianne Riggert, Chair
Jean Ferneding,
Heather Kusel, Jen Morris,
Janet Smith

Stewardship Board:
Rick Lohrmann, Chair

Altar Guild:
Monica Christensen, Director

Choir:
Dr. Tom Ulrickson, director

Children's Choir:
Susie Ulrickson, Jill Arp

November Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

1. Joy Umland
2. Derek Hodne
   Dillon Mohr
3. Taylor Beckendorf
   Wade Janssen
4. Caleb Alexander
   Kori Beckendorf
   Mason Benton
   Charles Hickman
   Carol Kahl
5. Joe Riesberg
6. Albert Vahl
7. Barbara Anderson
   Samantha Doyel
   Fred Gruhn
   Levi Lapel
8. Ken Grimm
   Travis Mohr
   Alexander Thelen
9. Rick Lohrmann
   Kenneth Stripling
10. Jean Kusel
    Jeanette Lerssen
11. Larry Genzen
    Debbie Musfeldt
    Tammy Winter
12. Kyle Vetter
13. Jacob Dreier
    Jordan Edgington
    Rodney Frank
14. Steve Renze
15. Jesse Johnson
16. Sam Musfeldt
    Rachel Nulle
    Paula Vogel
17. Macie Doyel
    Shelly Gruhn
    Sandra Vahl
18. Beverly Grundmeier
    Scott Robinson
19. Ryan Doyel
    Mark Kucik
    Garrett Renze
20. Becky Eischeid
    Barbara Gore
21. Margaret Backhaus
    Dustin Bruch
    Daniel Mohr
22. Matthew Rosener
    Thomas Walters
24. Allen Ehlers
    Kelly Page
25. Luann Langel
    Amber Neumann
26. Nancy Baack
    Amy Borkowski
    Nicholas Diersen
27. Ryan Willison
28. Diane Genzen
29. Daniel Behrens
30. Alberta Dreier

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

11. Ken & Rhonda Grimm
14. Elissa & Joe Riesberg
16. Allen & Becky Ehlers
24. John & Nancy Opperman
26. Ken & Becky Eischeid
    Stacie & Nels Nelson
29. David & Kelli Page

Official Acts in October

Funeral:
10/23/15: Glen 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), Greg Neumann, Les Bruggeman (Judy Bald's brother), Pat Custer (Margaret Backhaus' sister)