Generations in mission

Mission Mindset Changes

In February we introduced the concept of living every day as a mission trip to our "neighborhoods" (understood as various networks of relationships to which we have access). Pastor Finke, author of *Joining Jesus on His Mission*, termed this *missional living*. Our goal for February was to start *neighboring*, which Pastor Finke described as our planned or spontaneous efforts to get to know the people in our neighborhoods so that we could become attuned to what Jesus was doing in their lives and be ready to respond with a touch of grace, a word of hope, or a message of good news.

For March we are introducing three mission mindset changes. Pastor Finke has termed them "blinding flashes of the obvious" because upon hearing them, we recognize that they have been standing in front of us the whole time.

Mission Mindset Change #1:
Don't go* for *Jesus; go* with *Jesus.

We've encountered this previously, but it's vital that we ingest this changed way of thinking. Jesus hasn't sent us out to save the world. That's Jesus' work. Jesus does all the heavy lifting. Our call is to seek, recognize, and respond to what Jesus is already doing in the lives of the people around us.

Mission Mindset Change #2:
The river has moved.

In his book and video curriculum, Pastor Finke speaks about the Choluteca Bridge in Honduras. In October of 1998, hurricane Mitch slammed into this mountainous nation and dropped up to six feet of rain in a matter of days. The flooding was severe and widespread. When the water resided, the Choluteca River had moved! The bridge, which had previously spanned the river, now stood next to the river.

Pastor Finke employs that image to capture the dramatic cultural change that has happened in America. Our expectations and approach to mission work was largely matched to the American culture before it moved: a generally churched culture. But the culture has moved. We no longer live in a largely churched culture, and people aren't typically looking for a church.

To be clear, what makes the Church the Church hasn't changed. The marks of the Church remain the purely preached Gospel and the rightly administered Sacraments, but the culture has changed. The river has moved. Our mindset and approach to mission efforts must change, too.

Mission Mindset Change #3:
Be with and enjoy people.

What will be our changed approach to missions? Being with and enjoying people. It seems simple, doesn't it? But think about Jesus' earthly ministry. Jesus spent a lot of time with people. He valued people over efficiency – quite the opposite of our preference for efficiency over people in America. Surely if anyone had a good reason to emphasize efficiency over people, it was Jesus. Think about the monumental mission He had been sent to accomplish- the salvation of the world! But Jesus enjoyed people. He talked with them, ate with them, listened to them, and invested in them. Can we learn from His approach? Absolutely! Pastor Finke puts it this way, "It is the inefficient investment in friendship that leads to effective missional results in people's lives." It's really that simple: enjoy people and then seek, recognize, and respond to what Jesus is already doing in their lives. That's our mission mindset for March.

Interested in having a risk-free opportunity to "kick-the-tires" on what it might look like to join Jesus on His mission in your everyday life? It's simpler than you think and a lot more fun! On Saturday, March 12, join Rev. Greg Finke, author of the popular book *Joining Jesus on His Mission* as he introduces us to what it could look like for us to join Jesus on His mission here in Manning and our surrounding communities. This conference is not about how to become a more effective "Jesus salesperson" but about how to support each other as we become more intentional about joining Jesus every day. Greg is the Executive Director of Dwelling 1:14, a ministry that comes alongside congregations throughout North America which are ready to rediscover biblical, missional discipleship.

If you're interested in attending, contact the church office (655-2352) so we can reserve your spot!

Greg Finke

Friday, March 11
6:30-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 12
9:00-10:15 "The Mission Mindset for Joining Jesus"
10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-11:45 "The Mission Practices for Joining Jesus"
11:45-12:15 Lunch
12:15-1:00 "How to Support Such a Lifestyle"
1:00-1:15 Break
1:15-2:00 "How to Get Started"
2:00-close "Q & A"

Schedule

March Ministry Apps—Zion Lutheran Church

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes

Walking Together In the LIGHT

Sin darkens our hearts and our homes. The darkness reveals itself in dysfunction, depression, guilt, grief and a variety of other challenges. Those realities were shared in the recent "LIGHT in Darkness" dialogues. Thanks to each of the 40 participants who participated in one or more dialogs. I look forward to future Bible studies which take the truths and promises of God's Word to the realities of our lives. Please share potential future topics with me. We celebrate that the ultimate darkness of Good Friday was forever brightened by the Light of Easter.

Walking Together as Families

How's the Light in your home. In the Bible study booklet "Overcoming Dysfunction" (Family Life Issues, CPH, 1994) the following characteristics of a healthy family were noted: 1) evidence of a high level of commitment to the family unit; 2) spend time together; 3) live out their faith and trust in God; 4) communicate well with one another; 5) appreciate one another; 6) possess the ability to handle crisis constructively.

Zion is your partner and support in building healthy Christian families. It was recently noted that the once "sacred" church and family Wednesday "church night" time has been eroding. Can you be our partner in setting boundaries for the sake of your family and His family? "But that's God's time; that's our time."

Walking Together into Our Community

The "Joining Jesus on His Mission" initiative affirms our mission presence in the community. Thanks to Zion volunteers who participate in and support the C-3 ministries. Recent Zion "Generations" tithes and Mission Committee designations for C-3 will be special blessings. Thank you for your continuing donations to the food bank. Be watching for information on the upcoming "Wolf Pack for Hunger" food packaging events. Volunteers will be needed for the Wednesday, April 6th event. Monetary donations will be sought to package 50,000 meals ($12,500). The summer concert (Sunday June 5) will be a special blessing with the appearance of Jen Williamson and the return of Steve Reichel. Put it on your calendar!

Walking Together in the Barnyard—VBS 2016 (June 6-10)

"Barnyard Roundup" (where Jesus gathers us together) is the theme of the June 6-10 VBS program. Put the VBS dates on the family calendar. Many volunteers will again be needed to gather the anticipated 100 children around Jesus and to involve them in music, crafts, and recreation. If you are willing to be part of the barnyard roundup, please share you willingness to serve with Pastor Bob or Diane Riggert.

Walking Together for "Generations"

Progress continues on the facility updates with restrooms now completed and glass installation in the new entrance. Warmer weather will enable parking lot, east entrance, preschool entrance, and other projects to continue. Praise God for the dedicated volunteers and the generous donations which continue to be a blessing for "Generations."

Walking with Jesus and you!
Pastor Riggert

Getting Christ out of Caesar's Shadow: *A Call to the Confessing Church*

"The church is: holy believers and 'the little sheep who hear the voice of their shepherd.'"[1]

This statement, drawn from the Lutheran Confessions, seems innocuous; the sort of thing one might find placarded under effeminate pictures of Jesus on churches' nursery walls. Perfectly safe, non-threatening, and tame. If we took it seriously we would find it revolutionary; the sort of thing that could profoundly transform the Church and severely rattle world powers. It has the potential to expose the American dream as an anemic and idolatrous substitute for the Kingdom of God, while simultaneously calling the Church to repent for being content to let Christ be concealed beneath Caesar's shadow. Those are radical words!

The Church is holy believers in Jesus.

Consider what is being said. The confession first states who the Church is: the Church is *holy believers* in Jesus. Scripture defines holy believers as those washed by the Word (Eph. 5:26), those sanctified by the Holy Spirit's working through the Word (1 Cor. 1:2), and those baptized into Christ the enfleshed Word (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13). This is the revolutionary work of God, the work that recreates us. He gives us a new identity, one that transcends cultures, countries, and political parties. We are not first German or American or Republican or fill-in-the-blank; we are first the holy people of God, the people God has called out of the world and claimed as His own. God says to us, "you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3) and "you are not your own" (1 Cor. 6:19), and "you were ransomed… with the precious blood of Christ" (1 Peter 1:18-19). Through God's working in Word and Water (Baptism), we are re-identified, given a new, defining identity.

Further, our allegiances are realigned. We are not first indebted to Caesar or his state or his army (although we may rightly honor and participate in these things); we are first indebted to Christ and aligned with His Church. Christ is our master; He owns us. Because of this our faith is not in Caesar's might, mandates, or missiles; our faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ who made the earth and heavens, rules the nations, and claims us as His own. Caesar will not and cannot save world; that work can only be done by Christ and the Gospel He has placed in His Church. This means that the great gift the Church has to offer the world is not more legislation, enhanced social programs, or lobbyists in Washington (although Christians may rightly support such efforts). The great gift the Church has for the world is Christ and His Gospel. That's the message that needs to echo from the Church's pulpit.

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Further, we have no promise that America or the American way of life will endure. Countries collapse. Cultures die. Political parties rise and fall. The Church endures, and nothing, not even the gates of hell, will prevail against it. The Church is our home

[1] *The Book of Concord: Smalcald Articles:* 12:2, pg. 324-325, Kolb/Wengert

and our eternal community. And because of this we should consider treason to country, serious though it be, a lesser evil than blasphemy against Christ and neglect of Christ's Church. Anything less keeps Christ in Caesar's shadow.

The Church hears the voice of Jesus.

In addition to confessing who the Church *is*, our confessional statement declares what the Church *does*: the Church hears the voice of Jesus. The Church is believers made holy by God's working in Christ through the Spirit, and the Church gathers around the Word of Jesus. That Word shapes and forms disciples of Jesus. And this is how the Church serves the world; it makes disciples of Jesus.

Further, that Word exposes the American dream as inadequate and insufficient because that Word announces the in-breaking of the Kingdom of God. Our Savior preached, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). Christ's Kingdom shows the American dream to be too small. It is a weak substitute for the eternal joys of the Kingdom of God. The Church's great hope isn't living wages, affordable education, renewable energy, and national security (although these may be fine cultural objectives). The Church's great goal is not electing a certain politician or president (although these may be worthy aims). The Church's great hope is Jesus Christ and His present and coming Kingdom and we would stake our life on this great hope a thousand times before we would settle for something less.

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This is especially important to remember in a super-charged voting year. Yes, Christians should vote. Yes, Christians should study candidates and their positions on the issues. Yes, Christians should exercise their faith in the public square. But we must guard against Caesar's ceaseless attempts to subdue Christ's Church to do his will, to preach his message, and to elevate his Kingdom above Christ's. We must not let politicians, in an attempt to woo the Church, co-opt Scripture and the Church into Caesar's service.

As a case in point, at least one presidential candidate has claimed 2 Chronicles 7:14 as the platform for his candidacy.[2] In so doing he has inserted America into the text and dismissed God's Old Testament Church from the promises God made to them. Further, he has equated a vote for him with the promise of healing and forgiveness. Even more, he has equated Caesar's kingdom with Christ's. This forces Christ to stand in Caesar's shadow and the Church into Caesar's service.

Other candidates have suggested that a vote for them would help restore a "Christian nation," as if the Church's goal was simply to have people live by Christian principles without becoming disciples of Jesus through the transforming Gospel of Jesus. Still others have kidnapped Biblical texts addressed to the Church and claimed them for Caesar, claiming that Caesar will bring the peace Scripture promises and that Caesar will bring the justice Scripture promises. But these words mean nothing to the Church apart from the death and resurrection of Jesus. Caesar is trying to use Christ's words without Christ.

If we allow Caesar to replace Christ's kingdom with His, we will watch Caesar gut Jesus' cross and resurrection out of the Gospel and fill it with an "improved society." Improved societies are noble

[2] This verse reads, "if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

things, but Jesus didn't call the Church simply to improve society (to make it a little less dangerous, a little less dirty, a little less uncomfortable). These are certainly things responsible citizens should strive for, but the Church has been called to hear Christ's voice, His voice which announces the present and coming Kingdom of God, and to make disciples of Jesus through the proclamation of the Gospel. It's the Gospel that makes the Church the Church, and that Gospel cannot be substituted for any initiative of Caesar, no matter how culturally beneficial.

The Church must remember that Caesar knows nothing of the ways of the Kingdom of God. God's Kingdom, His reign, moves the Church to love her enemies, serve the poor, keep her promises, willingly suffer for righteousness' sake, rejoice with the truth, and to be a living testimony to the remarkable community-making power of God. God in Christ is forming a community out of strangers, and this community transcends all boundaries and loyalties. Caesar may speak of such things, but he must forcibly tax his subjects to accomplish them. The Church joyfully and freely gives out of love for Christ and neighbor.

The Church must remember that Caesar is not God; Jesus is. Caesar doesn't save; Jesus does. Caesar doesn't grant our daily bread; Jesus does. Caesar cannot save the world; Jesus can. And Caesar didn't die so that we might live; Jesus did. Caesar has his place, but it is not before Christ. Christ does not belong in Caesar's shadow and it's time the confessing Church said as much.

Celebrating Generosity!

At Zion we celebrate and share the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. One of the ways we do that is through our special offerings to support missionaries. Over the past 10 years, Zion has given $65,661 to support missionaries here in Iowa and around the world! Praise God for the generous, mission-minded givers of Zion!

"But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead" (1 Cor. 15:20).

On March 27, the Church will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will boldly proclaim: "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" That bold proclamation is founded on fact. As Paul says, "But *in fact* Christ has been raised from the dead." Our faith is not built on a fairy tale; it is built on fact, on historical reality.

And if you read the Biblical accounts of Christ's resurrection, you will see how the authors go out of their way to emphasize the realness of Christ's bodily resurrection. John details Jesus' bodily appearance to Thomas (John 20:27). Luke records Jesus saying, "See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39). And Paul writes repeatedly in his letters of the resurrection of Jesus, even going to great lengths in 1 Corinthians 15 to defend the bodily, historical resurrection of Jesus.

Why does it all matter? Because our future is built on this history! Our coming resurrection is founded on Christ's historical resurrection. As we sing in *Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!*: "Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!" Death will not have the last word. Jesus will. And His Word is life and resurrection!

Ladies Guild

Highlights
Ladies Guild of Zion
February 10, 2016

President Buhr opened the meeting with the recitation of the League Pledge. Christian Life Chairman, Margaret Backhaus, read to us about "saint" Valentine from the Lutheran Witness. The mite box was passed as the mite box prayer was led.

The business meeting was called to order. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. They were approved as read. A number of thank you notes were again received for our year end disbursement of mission funds. Included were notes from Pastor Conner, Pat Monroe, Carolyn Kerkhoff, Susan Lamb, and Pastor Vogel. Acknowledgements also came from Camp Okoboji, Pastor Oliver and Pastor Ferry, Concordia Seminary, and Lutherans for Life. A thank you from the family of Ruth Hansen for serving her funeral was also received. Fifteen members answered roll call with a household cleaning tip. Treasurer Mary Grimm gave her report. Kitchen treasurer Darlene Vollstedt said the balance in that account remained the same as last month. Human Care Chair, Audrey Roe, reported that 22 quilts had been tied in the month of January. She talked again about the school and health kits being assembled and showed the box placed in the Sunday school superintendent's room that had been labeled with the items needed to be donated. Sunshine Chair, Becki Ehlers, sent 14 cards this past month. Circle #2 served 85 for the Myrtle Otto funeral. Circle #3 will serve Larry Genzen's funeral.

Old business: Guild collection items, postage stamps, Campbell's soup labels, box tops for education, soap, and computer ink cartridges will be given to Zone President Brockelsby in April at the Zone rally.

New business: President Buhr asked Audrey Roe to gather information from the guild members about the procedures to serve special events and funerals and the various options the families may choose. A small booklet will be put together and be readily available in the kitchen. Plaza Bingo is scheduled for February 26th, with Audrey Roe as chair and Connie Ahrendsen, Wilma Bogatzke, and Bev Grundmeier helping. World Day of Prayer will be held at Zion, Arcadia on March 4th beginning with registration at 9AM. The next guild meeting will be on March 9th.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the table prayer and the Lord's Prayer. Lunch was served by Carol Kahl and Susan Schilling.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

February was a busy month in preschool! We started the month off talking about Groundhog Day and shadows. The children were excited to watch a video explaining what Groundhog Day is, and even had a groundhog puppet sing to them!

The week of Valentine's Day we decorated boxes to hold our cards for our valentine exchange. Stickers were a big hit! The kids had a great time making their boxes their own. The children also painted wooden hearts and made Valentine's Day cards for the plaza residents. I was told the residents really enjoyed the gifts from the kids!

The last couple of weeks we have been talking about bears! We read the book *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen several times in class. The kids took turns using musical instruments for the different noise effects in the story. We even went on a bear hunt throughout the church, and guess what...we found a bear!! It was a lot of fun and the expressions on the kids' faces were great! I still chuckle thinking about their reactions!

We enjoyed singing in church on the 21st! We thought the children did a great job! They are always so proud after practicing so hard! With the weather warming up we are getting outside more these days. It is so nice to get some fresh air! We want to thank those who have donated various craft supplies to the preschool recently and want to thank everyone for their continuous support!

Blessings to all, Mrs. Riesberg and Mrs. Nemitz

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

Registration for the 2016-2017 preschool year is set for April 6th.

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

Baik dan Buruk di Rumah yang Baru! (Indonesian for "Ups & Downs in the New House!")

January was a month of hard work, filled with as many frustrations as victories. The Ferry family spent these weeks settling in to our new home in Medan, North Sumatra. Unfortunately, it seemed like life itself was conspiring against us at so many turns.

Thankfully the owners of the house we're renting have proven to be good people who truly want to help us be settled and safe in our new home. For that we are very thankful indeed! Any time you move to a new city there is always a period of settling in and getting adjusted; but when you're doing this in a place with a different culture and language, it's all the more challenging and exhausting. Finding our way around a new traditional marketplace, locating a decent grocery store, and getting connected to the internet at home have all taken time, and have given a great satisfaction when they've actually been accomplished.

Most of this work has fallen on Cheryl's shoulders, especially when her husband gets sick just a few days after our move! Evidently I was bitten by the wrong mosquito soon after arriving in Medan, as I became very ill and had to be admitted to the hospital for a week. I had contracted Dengue Fever, a painful illness for which there is currently no treatment nor cure. The medical care in Medan was about what we expected, so the best recovery for me happened after I left the hospital and returned home to my family. Thanks be to God that it wasn't Cheryl or the kids.

SELAMAT

Cheryl also had to do without me for a time as I accompanied an Indonesian GKLI pastor to the annual theological symposia in Fort Wayne during the last half of January. This was an incredible opportunity to build a stronger bond between our church bodies, and help increase the number of relationships between Lutherans in Asia. The Indonesian pastor had never felt the kind of cold weather that greeted us there, but he was very grateful for the chance to learn and grow and make new friendships.

While I was gone, Cheryl and the kids had the help of our security officers, who have truly been pitching in like members of the family. With them and our GKLI bishop, Cheryl was able to unpack our household goods, connect utilities, find stores, and purchase things like beds and even a generator for the frequent power outages. And most of this was all done in the Indonesian language!

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue learning about our new area, and get settled in our new home. Our Lord has granted us a strong family, and given me an incredibly smart and capable wife. We are so grateful to have your support and love, knowing that we are not alone out here, and never will be.

Prayers, Praises, and Thanksgiving

- Thanksgiving for healing from Dengue Fever for Charles
- For Cheryl and the new Baby C, that the Lord would protect and keep both of them in health and safety
- Thanksgiving for the incredible team members we have in the US who allow us to live and work here
- 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 other parts of Southeast Asia

To support our work financially, 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*.

Introducing Zion's newest missionary!

SERVING THE LORD IN

PANAMA

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

February 2016
Vol. 1 Issue 1

Dear brothers and sisters at Zion Lutheran,

My name is Rev. Brian Gauthier, my wife is named Amanda and we also have a nine month old son named Ezra. After serving the Lord at Redeemer Lutheran in South Florida, we are following the Spirit's leading to be missionaries in Central America. We want to take a few moments to thank you for your prayers, support, and partnership in the Gospel as my family prepares to serve God's people in Panama. We so excited to have you praying for us and remembering us as we serve. Please know that we will be remembering and praying for you daily as it is because of your kindness and generosity that we can serve on the field.

I grew up in New Hampshire and am a first generation Lutheran, entering the LCMS through a small preschool. I studied at Concordia Wisconsin, Concordia Seminary St Louis, and am working on a PhD at Concordia St. Louis as well. I enjoy coffee, birding, running, and traveling. Amanda comes from a long line of Lutheran educators and pastors. She grew up in Nebraska and Wisconsin studying at Concordia University Wisconsin and then receiving a teaching credential and a MA in education from Vanguard University in California. Before the mission field, she was a middle school science teacher at a Lutheran school. She also enjoys running, birding, traveling and crafting. Ezra is only (already!) 9 months old and is still learning to crawl, talk, and walk. He love smiling, being read to, and being pushed in the stroller while dad runs.

If you wouldn't mind praying for us during this network support building time, that'd be great. We have been away from home for 35 straight days! Please pray that we remain healthy and encouraged as we visit churches and schools seeking partners in ministry. The Lord's continued blessings upon your congregation!

In Christ's love,
Brian, Amanda, and Ezra

Back in the middle of October I was sitting at the table having some lunch when I received a phone call about a divine call to serve as a missionary in Panama. At first thought, I found some similarities between south Florida and Panama. 1) It's hot and humid, all the time. 2) Both are located near an ocean. 3) When it rains, it rains!

But as quickly as I found similarities, I was reminded of the differences. Stuart, Florida has about twenty-thousand year-round residents while Panama City has near two million. Residents of Stuart speak English while residents of Panama speak Spanish, primarily. I know where everything is in Stuart while I know where nothing is in Panama.

As terrifying as some of those differences seem, I'm also comforted by St. Paul's words in Ephesians about the unity that exists in the body of Christ: *One Lord, one faith, one baptism.* The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ covers our sin regardless of language or location. The one, true faith confessed by the historic Christian Church has transcended cultural and political boundaries for centuries. And our baptism unites us with Christ's death and resurrection. In the days, weeks, months, and years to come we will undoubtedly get lost, be perplexed, and feel utterly homesick. However, we take joy in knowing that when we gather around the Word of God and his precious sacraments, we will know peace and feel at home with the saints in Panama as we confess together: *one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.*

Meet the Gauthier Family

Before accepting the call to serve as a missionary in Panama, Brian and Amanda lived in Stuart, Florida where Brian served as associate pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Brian (32) grew up in New Hampshire before attending Concordia University Wisconsin to study theology in order to continue at seminary studies at Concordia in St. Louis where he is currently working on a PhD in systematic theology. Amanda (29) grew up in Wisconsin and also attended Concordia University majoring in biology before relocating to California to get her teaching credential at Vanguard University where she later received a MA in education.

Brian and Amanda met at Camp Luther in northern Wisconsin while working on a summer staff together. They were engaged after running the Wisconsin Marathon in 2009 and were married in 2010. In April of 2015 they welcomed their first child, “Ezra Joel,” into the world. Brian, Amanda, and Ezra enjoy traveling, hiking, and looking at birds. They have seen the Lord abundantly care and provide for them so far and continue trust him to do so as they transition to serve the people in Panama

LUTHERANS IN PANAMA

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod began work in Panama among the English-speaking community in 1941 and among the Spanish-speaking populace in 1980.

The LCMS began supporting mercy ministry in Panama in 1988 with a grant for emergency food assistance. Since then a dozen grants have supported health services, education, well and sanitation systems, deaconess training, children's ministries, and disaster relief.

The LCMS provides support to ministry in Panama carried out by the Lutheran Church of Panama. Together they develop pastoral and lay leadership through the theological education by extension program and focus on diaconal ministry.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Panama has grown to a baptized membership of more than 200 people in six congregations and preaching stations. The church operates three preschools and three kindergartens.

You can also send your gifts to our friends at:
Mission Central
40718 Highway E-16
Mapleton, IA 51034

!Amigos En Cristo!
News from ***La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo:*** *Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church:* **Pastor Daniel Vogel**, Denison, Iowa

Iowa District West, LCMS
Year 12, Issue 3, March 2016

Epiphany Celebration: Our annual tradition in January is to celebrate the visit of the Wisemen with a special service and fellowship celebrations. The purpose of such cultural and spiritual traditions is to teach God's Word that offers salvation to all people groups through JESUS, the Prince of Peace. We especially want to teach the children the stories of the Bible as many come from homes without Bible knowledge.

First Voters' Meeting of the Year: Our Hispanic members met on January 17 for their first Voters Assembly as a congregation in the new year. We are beginning our first full year as an official District congregation. What a challenge for an immigrant group to learn to organize and manage a church, with a budget and financial challenges, leadership development, with community outreach, Christian education and so much more. The exciting part is when the voters begin to "get it," to be able to see that this is their church and they make the decisions. Our meetings are showing a growing maturity of our members. God bless us in 2016.

Meet Our New Family: We have been blessed to have Elias and Carolina and their children visiting our congregation. They have three children: Edwin (in 8th grade), Heber (5th grade) and Jessica (3rd grade). Carolina is the sister of our member Marcia Mendoza and is originally from Mexico. She works at the Farmland pork plant in Denison. Elias works for a local soy processor. He is from El Salvador. They have lived in Denison for five years. Edwin is participating in our youth group and the kids are in Sunday school. The family is awaiting another child in a few months. Please pray for Elias and Carolina and their growing family. Pray that they will continue to be faithful and become a regular part of our church family.

Our Basketball Heroes: Elbert (left) and Kevin play for the Zion Lutheran School team in Denison and I caught them after their big win. Elbert is in 6th grade and Kevin is in 5th grade. They and their families are regulars in our congregation. We are so proud of these young men who are getting a great education that will bless them for their lives.

Please Pray: + For our special worship and ministry during the Lenten season. + For our congregational goals for 2016, for growth, leadership and stewardship in Denison and Storm Lake. + For Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they consider options for calling a pastor. + For our new visiting families that they will become a regular part of our ministry. + For the District Missions Committee as they develop plans for sharing the love of Jesus among our churches and ethnic ministries. ***In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who monthly support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants in Denison and in our other three 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 1st Avenue South, Denison, Iowa, 51442

CONTACT ME:
Rev. Daniel Vogel
32678 Aspen Ave. Manning, Iowa, 51455
1-712-653-2354 or Cell: 712-309-1292
E-mail: daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org

2016 Lenten

CHORAL EVENING PRAYER

Music of the Lenten season presented by the Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Director: Kantor Kevin J. Hildebrand

Organist: Kantor Matthew A. Machemer

Liturgist and Preacher: Dr. Paul J. Grime

Friday, March 4

Service Time: **6:30 p.m.**

Zion Lutheran Church
1204 Center Street
Manning, IA 51455
712-655-2352
www.zionmanning.com

Generations Update

As the weather warmed toward the end of February, Croghan Construction and Remedy Glass went back to work on our new east entrance. In the pictures below, you can see these crews at work as the Conner children inspect their work. They gave their hearty approval! Soll's Service worked in February to install two heating and cooling units for the new entrance and for Pastor Riggert's office. Throughout the month Dave Gore and Bruce Grimm worked on various trim pieces and smaller items inside the church. In March we anticipate work to commence on the parking lot and finish work to begin inside of the new entrance. Zion's leadership teams will begin planning a celebration and dedication service as a finish date is targeted. Thank you to the many generous Zion members who have given of their time and resources to move our project forward.

INTELLIGENT FAITH CONFERENCE

APRIL 8-9, 2016
FRIDAY: 6:30-9:40 p.m.
SATURDAY: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

It's worth the drive!

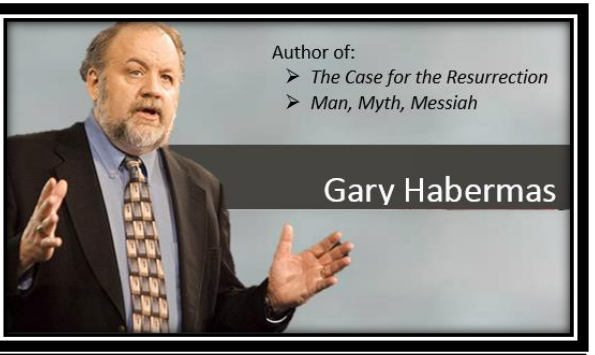
Friday, April 8th 6:30 – 9:40 p.m.
(doors open at 4:30)

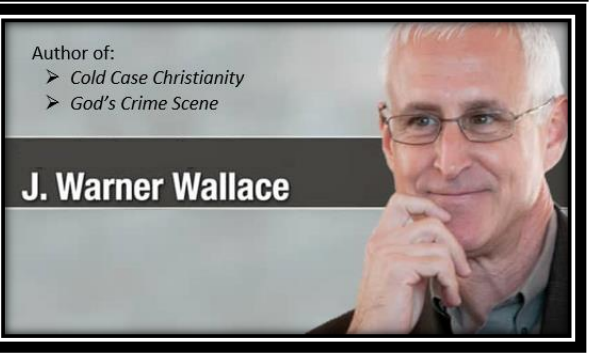
Alycia Wood:
Does God Play Hide and Seek?
J. Warner Wallace:
God's Crime Scene Part One
Gary Habermas:
The Resurrection

Saturday, April 9th 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
(doors open at 7:30 a.m.)

Gary Habermas:
Near Death Experiences
Alycia Wood:
God, Justice, and Love
J. Warner Wallace:
God's Crime Scene Part Two

Additional workshops during the day!





$25 before April 3rd / $35 after April 3rd
$7 box lunch available
Scholarships available! Ask Pastor Conner for details and a registration form.

New Covenant Bible Church
3090 North Center Pt Rd,
Cedar Rapids, IA 52411

Register online:
ratiochristi.org/intelligentfaithCR

March Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

1. LaVern Bald
2. Jennifer Behrens
3. Lori Genzen
4. Katelyn Crawford
   Marion Ream
6. Camden Alexander
   Josiah Conner
   Mathew Gore
   Paige Hinners
7. Larry Lesle
   Errol Wegner
8. John Anderson
   Lenus Borkowski
   Beverly Bruhn
9. Lynna Miller
   Craig Musfeldt
10. Stan Baack
    Randahl Peters
11. Cynthia Grau
    Curtis Grimm
    Jeff Hargens
12. Floyd Forman
13. Shannon Walters
14. Justice Cornelius
15. Dean Grau
    Tyler Saunders
16. Julie Lamp
    Chad Morrow
    Kelly Nissen
17. Nancy Grimm
    Dave Grundmeier
    Katherine Vogel
18. Lyle Bald
    Betty Stoelk
19. Anna Belle Wegner

20. Barbara Grove
    Cynthia Karsten
    Virgene Kroeger
    Abby Lapel
    Chloe Otto
    Ella Stammer
21. Dustin Petersen
    Russell Ranniger
23. Robert Nissen
    Linda Vinke
24. Jonathon Asmus
    Travis Borkowski
    Nathanael Conner
    Claire Gore
    Alix Puck
25. Carla Backhaus
    Danielle Hargens
26. Lucas Kluver
27. Noah Gore
    Dwight Gruhn
    Ashley Lage
    Aaron Rutz
    David Tibben
28. Michael Alexander
    Rebecca Conner
    Rachel Stoberl
29. Beth Booth
    Judy Borkowski
    Brenda Ehlers
30. Lacey Hinners
31. Joelle Puck

4. Thomas & Susie Ulrickson
8. William & Shona Weitl
29. Chad & Kelli Morrow
    Kenneth & Joelle Puck
30. Scott & Terri Rosener
31. Lorrell & Judy Borkowski

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

Official Acts

- Myrtle Louise (nee: Hagedorn) Otto; Died February 4, 2016; Buried February 8, 2016; Pastor Robert Riggert
- Larry Virgil Genzen, Died February 9, 2016; Buried February 13, 2016; Pastor Jonathan Conner
- Fern Ann (nee: Struve) Jensen; Died February 18, 2016; Buried February 22, 2016; Pastor Jonathan Conner and Pastor Robert Riggert

In Our Prayers

Athena Bess, Franklin Mohr, Walt Noelck, Mandi Sandage, Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Steve Rutz (Karl Rutz's Brother), Susan Lamb, Arlene Mohr, Ora Weston (David & Joene Bohlmann's son), Bev Rix, Georgia Lohrmann, Jim Deevers, Jenni Erb