Generations in mission

Mission Mindset Changes

Last month Pastor Finke encouraged us in our call to join Jesus on His mission with these words:

> We don't have to worry about how to get Jesus into our offices, classrooms or neighborhoods. He's already on the move there. We don't have to concern ourselves with how Jesus will ripen people for their next-step toward faith. He's already on it. All we really have to do is look for what Jesus is already showing us. In other words, seek the kingdom. Look for what is already happening. And join in.

That's the mission. And Jesus is inviting us to join Him on it.

This month, Pastor Finke encourages us to begin meeting together in missional communities to encourage one another in our efforts to join Jesus. Missional communities are simply everyday missionaries who meet together regularly to ask five mission questions that have been shaped by five mission practices. First we detail the practices and then the questions:

1. Seeking the Kingdom
2. Hearing from Jesus in His Word
3. Talking with People
4. Doing Good
5. Ministering through Prayer

These mission practices shape the questions that everyday missionaries regularly ask one another. These questions are:

1. **Seeking the Kingdom:**
   How did you see God at work this week?
   How did you see God's Kingdom coming?

   In Scripture, Jesus encouraged us to seek His Kingdom, to pray for its coming, and to celebrate its advancement. Because of this, we know God is working in our neighborhood. Jesus is bringing His Kingdom. Are we paying attention?

2. **Hearing from Jesus:**
   What has Jesus been teaching you in His Word?

   It's critical that we ask one another what we are learning *in God's Word*. Remember, God speaks in His Word. The Bible says the Word is "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). Are we listening and processing what we hear?

3. **Talking with People:**
   What kind of conversations are you having, especially with those who are not yet Christians?

   In and through our vocations, God provides opportunities for us to converse with believes and non-believers. Are we bringing Jesus into these conversations?

4. **Doing Good:**
   What good can we do around here?

   As God's redeemed, we are new creations. We have the call to bring truth, goodness, and beauty into the world. Are we looking for opportunities to do this?

5. **Ministering through Prayer:**
   How can we help you in prayer?

   Prayer is powerful. Instead of simply telling someone that we will pray for him, why not stop and pray for him on the spot?

Jesus is on a mission to restore the world to His Father. We are invited to join Him. Incorporating these five mission practices will help.

April Ministry Apps—Zion Lutheran Church

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes
May 2016

The sub-title of this year's VBS program is "Jesus gathers us together." The words of Psalm 23 guide the emphasis, *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. . . . He leads me in paths of righteousness for his names' sake" (vs. 1-3).* Jesus, our Good Shepherd, gathers His Church together.

Gathered Together in a Barnyard

"Barnyard Roundup" is the theme of the June 6-10 VBS emphasis. Children will gather around Jesus their Shepherd as they learn His Word, sing His praises, express their artistic gifts, and enjoy friends. Many volunteers will be needed for crafts, kitchen, and other areas. Sign-up sheets will be available in the fellowship hall. Parents, grandparents, and neighbors are invited to share the invitation with our church and community children. Registration forms will be at church and also online.

A Memorial Day brunch (May 30) will again be hosted by the Zion Christian Education Committee and volunteers. Donations for the lunch will provide funding for the VBS program. Volunteers and food donations are needed for this enjoyable community event which follows the Memorial Day observances.

Gathered Together at Mission Central

Midweek students and guests (parents and any others interested) will journey to Mission Central near Mapleton on Wednesday, May 4. Since it's an early dismissal afternoon, students, drivers and guests will meet at Zion at 2 p.m. for the hour drive to Mission Central. Following the presentation by Missionary Gary Thies, the group will enjoy an end-of-year "banquet" at Pizza Ranch in Denison. Drivers are need for the special excursion. Contact the church office if you can drive or if you'd like to join us as a guest at Mission Central.

Gathered Together to Share

Praise God for the generosity of Zion members. Your generous donations of time and treasure were a blessing to the "Wolf Pack for Hunger" food packaging event on April 6. Donations of over $12,500 provided the financial resources to package over 50,000 meals. Many Zion members of all ages were present on the assembly lines. Joining us was a large group from our sister congregation, Zion, Arcadia. The Arcadia congregation also presented a generous check for the event. Thank you for your ongoing generous support of the food pantry. Grades 5-6 Midweek students went food shopping for the pantry thanks to a Thrivent Choice donation. Food Pantry donations continue to be a blessing.

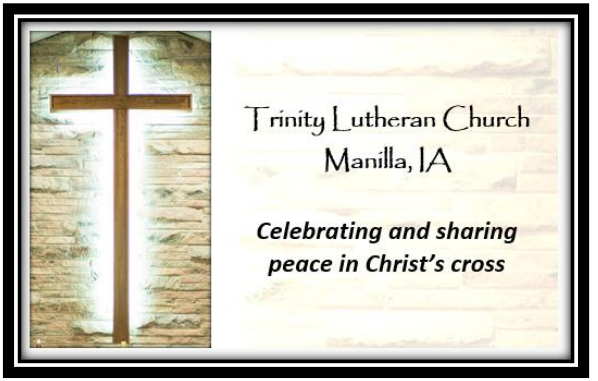
Gathered Together to Celebrate at Heritage Park

Monthly worship celebrations will take place the last Thursday of the months of May, June, July, August, and September at Trinity Church at 7 p.m. The first service will be Thursday, May 26. We will join Jesus on His mission through the early church. Heritage Park will also be the setting for the 5th C-3 Summer Concert on Sunday, June 5. The Christian artists will include Jen Wlliamson of AriSon ministry and Steve Reischl who returns again this year. Steve and his music ministry partners were a special blessing at last year's event. Gifts to "C-3 Summer Concert" will assist in bring this ministry to the community. Zion was blessed with an Iowa District West Mission grant to assist us with the community outreach.

Blessed by our gathering Good Shepherd
Pastor Bob Riggert

Vacancy Care

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANNING, IOWA
Celebrating and Sharing Christ's Redeeming Love



On Monday, April 18th, Zion Lutheran Church in Manning began providing pastoral care for the people of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manilla to assist them during their time of pastoral vacancy. This care includes the following:

- Weekly office hours in Manilla on most Thursdays from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Divine Service on Saturday evenings at 6:00 p.m.
- Monthly Divine Service at Manilla Manor
- Baptisms, confirmation, weddings, funerals
- Council, elders', and voters' meetings

Pastoral responsibilities will be divided between Pastor Conner and Pastor Riggert. In addition, Zion's newsletter will include a Trinity page each month to facilitate communication between congregations. To Trinity members new to the Zion newsletter, welcome!

Trinity members, please take note of the following:

- Holy Communion will be celebrated on the 2nd and 4th weekends (corresponding to the 2nd and 4th Sundays) to coincide with Zion's schedule and to simplify worship planning.
- If you have need of pastoral care, you may contact Trinity's office during office hours (Trinity's secretary will be in the office from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. M-F) or you may call Zion's church office M-F (655-2352) (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). If you need to reach Zion's pastors outside those hours, you may contact Jason Ferry (Home: 653-3521 or Cell: 712-265-0044) and he can contact Zion's pastors for you.

Zion and Trinity members, please note:

- Worship is a priority for the Body of Christ. If your schedule prevents you from worshiping on Sunday, please worship in Manilla on Saturday evenings at 6:00 p.m. If you cannot make worship on Saturday, please worship in Manning on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

"CAMPING OUT WITH JESUS"

On Saturday, April 16, 2016, Zion Manning Lutheran Ladies Guild enthusiastically hosted the Spring Rally for the Carroll Zone Lutheran Women's Mission League (LWML). Representatives from seven zone churches, along with several pastors, thoroughly enjoyed our theme: *Camping Out with Jesus*.

We opened the morning with coffee and an inspirational program that included devotions, a moving skit by Zion guild members entitled *Thy Word is a Lamp Unto My Feet"* (based on Psalm 119:105). Timothy Conner enhanced our rally by leading hymns with the organ. Doug Kading, Executive Director of Camp Okoboji, was our main speaker. He invited us to consider the possibilities of Christian family camping and activities at Camp Okoboji where campers have the opportunity to experience "Jesus at the Lake." Pastor Conner closed out the rally with a devotion focused on the *withness* of Christianity: Christ is *with* us! As everyone recessed to "Prelude and Fugue in Bb Major," by J.S. Bach, we gathered around our "campfire" for camp food and fellowship. Included are some of the pictures of our rally "camp sight." Enjoy!

Ladies Guild

Highlights
Ladies Guild of Zion
April 13, 2016

Pastor Conner opened with prayer and then led us through the verses of the hymn "Awake My Heart with Gladness." The hymn writer dwells on Christ's death and resurrection which bring the Christian victory over death. Christian Life Chairman Margaret Backhaus read a devotion called "Compassion in our Daily Life" which dealt with God's ever compassionate, merciful, and forgiving nature. We also need to show such compassion to one another.

President Buhr opened the meeting in the name of the Triune God and led us in the League Pledge. The mite box prayer was prayed as the collection was taken. Twenty members answered the roll by naming a person they would like to be for one day. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. A thank you note for donating a book to the church library was read from the family of Fern Jensen. Treasurer Mary Grimm and Kitchen Treasurer Darlene Vollstedt gave their reports.

Committee reports: Human Care Chairman Audrey Roe said 32 quilts were tied in March. They will be taken to Sac City on May 2nd. The last day of quilting will be the final Thursday in April. She also passed out a guide for serving funerals and announced that a guide is posted in the kitchen to aid workers. Sunshine Chair, Becki Ehlers sent 4 cards since last reporting. The auditing committee announced that the treasurer's books were in order.

In Old Business, president Buhr announced that the 2017 International Convention has been relocated from Salt Lake City to Albuquerque. Camp Okoboji's quilt auction is to be held June 18th. Quilts must be delivered by May 29th. President Buhr asked for committee reports on the upcoming zone rally.

New business: Delegates to the LWML district convention to be held at Camp Okoboji June 23-25 were elected. They will be Cheral Buhr and Sandra Vahl. Sue Puck will be the alternate. It was moved by Mary Grimm to pay for the delegates' registration and meals. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dates to remember: The next funeral luncheon will be served by Circle #2. The Zone spring rally will be Saturday, April 16th. Plaza Bingo will be on April 22nd. Margaret Backhaus is chairman with Mary Grimm, Charlene Hickman and Judy Musfeldt as helpers. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer. Lunch was served by Wilma Bogatzke and Audrey Roe.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

April showers bring May flowers! In preschool we have talked a lot about rain this past month! We read several cute books in class all based around the rain theme and had a few rainy days inside to dance and sing! I found a fun science experiment that we tried in class that involved a jar of water, shaving cream to represent a cloud, and food coloring representing rain. The children had a great time making a rain cloud in a jar! We also stayed busy decorating umbrellas and making flowers and butterflies. Our classroom is looking very springy these days! We have been lucky enough to get outside many times this month as well! The fresh spring air is much appreciated and is very refreshing after all that cold weather!

Preschool registration was held April 6th. There was a great turn out! The 3 year old class is full at this point, but there is still room in the 4 year old program. If you know of someone with a 4 year old, wanting to enroll in preschool, have them give us a call!

You may have noticed the preschoolers' artwork up town in the library window. April 10th-16th was "Week of the Young Child" and Library Linda was more than happy to let us use the library windows to display some of the children's' masterpieces. It turned out so bright and colorful! If you haven't had the chance to check it out, the artwork will be on display for a couple more weeks before getting sent home with the children.

The preschool is in need of buttons. If anyone has some buttons they would be willing to donate to the preschool, they would be greatly appreciated. We will definitely put them to good use!

As some of you may already know, I am expecting Riesberg baby #3 in October. With that being said, I am sad to say that I will not be returning to the preschool in the fall. After many tears, thoughts, and prayers we have decided that this decision is in our family's best interest. I would like to thank everyone for the amazing support this past year. I am so lucky to have the kind words and encouragement from the congregation. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord these past several months. I know that the right person will come along to fill the position and the preschool program will continue to be strong. Mrs. Nemitz will be back in the fall to serve the next round of preschoolers and their families.

Blessing to you all!
Mrs. Riesberg and Mrs. Nemitz

Registration for the 2016-2017 preschool year… filling up

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

Selamat Paskah!(Indonesian for "Happy Easter")

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! March 2016 gave us some opportunities to reinforce and expand relationships with people already in our lives, and to start building some new ones. Through it all, we had the restrained joy of Lent and its disciplines, looking forward to the overwhelming joy of Easter. As we sometimes get overwhelmed with the enormity of the tasks before us, Easter sets things back in place, and reminds us of the overall truth: Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again. Everything else is put in its proper place by this proclamation.

One of the joys of this past month was the chance to spend some quality time with the Bishop of our friends in Indonesia, the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI). Bishop Aladin and his wife invited us to their home on the outskirts of Medan. What an honor, to spend time with them there. And what a meal! We had great food, wonderful conversation, and there was much laughter and joy to be with such faithful Lutheran Christians. Cheryl even got honored by getting draped with an ulos and thereby welcomed into the Bishop's family. They've been incredible blessings to us, especially as we've gotten settled in our Medan home. Being closer to them was one of the reasons we moved to Medan, and it's turned out even better than we'd hoped.

We've settled into our new neighborhood a little more in the last month, and word is certainly getting around that there are foreigners living nearby. We still draw many strange and curious looks, for this part of Medan is not known for residents like us.

To support our work financially, send a tax-deductible gift to: The LCMS, P.O. Box 790089, St. Louis, MO 63179

SELAMAT

But Cheryl's embraced it wholeheartedly, going to the local market for much of our grocery shopping and talking to the shopkeepers in Bahasa Indonesia.

She and the kids have found a park nearby with play equipment, which gives the kids a good chance to meet their peers. We even have a local school about a block away, and the students come by the house nearly every day to see our kids, practice their English, and generally look curiously at our family.

The highlight for us in March was of course the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. We had a Palm Sunday Procession which started in front of our house, with our own kids' choir waving palm branches freshly plucked from the tree across the street. There were several of our neighbors who looked very curiously at us! I was able to provide Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services for the small group in Singapore, which they wouldn't have had otherwise. Then on Saturday we celebrated the Vigil of Easter, and the Resurrection of Our Lord on Sunday.

We are thankful for your continued interest in the work we're doing together in SE Asia. We are comforted by knowing we're connected to you in our Lord's Church. We are joyful in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over sin, death, and the devil!

Prayers, Praises, and Thanksgiving

* For Cheryl and the new Baby C, that the Lord would protect and keep both of them in health and safety
* For wisdom and courage to give answer to the questions we're asked by our neighbors
* For our friends in the GKLI, that they would stay faithful and strong in the Word

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

April 2016
Vol. 1 Issue 3

Come meet our newest missionary!
Pastor Gauthier, Amanda, and Ezra are coming to Zion on Friday, May 6th at 3:00 p.m.

Zika, #PanamaPapers, and Easter
Christ is Risen! A blessed Easter greetings from the Gauthier family as we prepare to serve in Panama. We pray this edition finds you doing well and enjoying this wonderful season of new life and resurrection in our Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have been tracking with world news, you have undoubtedly noticed Panama's frequent mention. A quick google search of Panama will show countless stories of the Zika virus and the Panama Papers. While these topics have made for lively discussions with congregations during our support raising, they are still troublesome for us as we approach a move to this small country.

The Zika virus is the mosquito borne virus that has been affecting a large portion of South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. While this virus is not deadly to adults, it can have devastating effects for babies in utero. As a young family interested in growing, we have definitely been monitoring these developments carefully.

While we do not have any money invested in offshore accounts and are not laundering money in Panama, we have also been keeping up with this story. Recently, a news article was published by the BBC about how Panamanians felt concerning the Papers. For many citizens, the Panama Papers revelation has been disturbing and unfortunate. As a country, Panamanians have great national pride and their concern is that the world now views the people of Panama as corrupt and dishonest.

So how is the Gauthier family coping with these news developments? Through the empty tomb! On the heels of a sham trial, brutal crucifixion, and unfortunate death there were countless reports that the tomb was empty that first Easter morning. The Lord Jesus had indeed conquered sin and death. He had risen just as he had promised he would! As his baptized children we daily cling to the good news of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is life and in him we have our life and being [Acts 17:28]. He is the author and perfecter of our faith [Heb 12:2]. The good news of the resurrection is something the bad news of Zika cannot harm nor the Panama Papers corrupt. In the explanation to the first article of the Apostles' Creed in the *Small Catechism*, Luther, after explaining how the Lord daily cares for his creatures, says "He defends me against all danger, and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me."

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
- Our family as we travel to network build over the coming weeks in MI, MN, and western Iowa.
- Residents of Japan and Ecuador in the wake of devastating earthquakes.
- Amanda's father who needs to have surgery in the coming weeks.
- Young men and women at both LCMS seminaries awaiting vicarage placements and calls to serve our church as deaconesses and pastors.

What about Physician Assisted Suicide?

Putting Grandma Down: When Physicians Become Veterinarians[1]

"Physician assisted suicide" is surely one of the great politically correct euphemisms of our day, right up there with "women's health care" (read: abortion) and "marriage equality" (read: same-sex marriage, et al.). In her article "May Doctors Help You to Die?," Marcia Angell defends physician assisted suicide (henceforth P.A.S.) by asking, "Why should anyone… presume to tell someone else how much suffering they must endure as their life is ending?" It's a powerful and cleverly worded question, one designed to put opponents of P.A.S. immediately on the defensive. Of course, opponents of P.A.S. don't presume to tell anyone how much suffering they have to endure. Opponents of P.A.S. grieve over great suffering and support palliative care; they oppose P.A.S. because they oppose reducing humans into animals and physicians into veterinarians. They believe putting Grandma down is wrong.

And this reduction of Grandma and physicians is precisely what's hidden in Ms. Angell's question. She speaks of presumptions and it's good that she does because it is the key that opens what she herself has presumed. Ms. Angell has presumed that Grandma can be reduced to a suffering animal and that Grandma's suffering has nothing to teach Grandma or us. Opponents of P.A.S. (and specifically Christian opponents) don't share those presumptions. Christians confess that Grandma is more than an animal and that God may have purposes for human suffering.

First, we observe that our mere ability to reflect on suffering and even to have the conversation over P.A.S. sets humans apart from animals. Monkey troops and whale pods don't participate in such reflective conversations. They may be aware of their suffering or the suffering of another within the group, but they hold no symposiums to discuss how best to respond and they engage in no debates on how best to deal with a suffering member. They lack the ability to think in the subjunctive.[2] Man possesses a level of being animals do not, and for this reason, shouldn't be reduced to an animal.

Second, Christians speak of the soul, the non-material, post-death-enduring essence of man. Ms. Angell seems to presume it nonexistent and that alleviating Grandma's suffering, through the physician's deadly assistance, ends the existence of Grandma (and thereby the problem of her suffering). That is a costly presumption for many reasons. For one, if man is not a body/soul duality, but merely a physical body, then our love for Grandma is reduced to mere biochemical reactions in the brain and man himself is ultimately reduced to a meat robot controlled by environmental stimuli. If we have no non-physical essence, then everything must be reduced to matter, including love and free will (better

[1] I wrote this essay for an online philosophy course I took a couple months ago. It is particularly relevant as the Iowa legislature has been and will be considering the legalization of Physician Assisted Suicide in Iowa.

[2] Lest one argue that an unconscious sufferer also lacks the ability to think in the subjunctive and can therefore be put down as an animal, we should point out that the same could then be argued for anyone unconscious with sleep!

termed meaningful choice).[3] For another, it robs suffering of any potential meaning; it is simply something to be eliminated, not something that may teach us and turn our hearts to eternal realities.

Further, it ignores the cumulative evidence for the existence of the soul found in near death experiences, the mind-body problem, the enduring identity problem (i.e. the ship of Theseus problem),[4] and especially the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Space prevents exploration of all but the last evidential piece: the resurrection of Jesus.

Luke, the investigative reporter par excellence of the first century, wrote that Jesus' bodily resurrection was "irrefutable" (Acts 1:3). Paul, the former skeptic and opponent of the resurrection,[5] recorded perhaps Christianity's oldest creed:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve (1 Cor. 15:3-5).[6]

If Jesus was dead at point A (cross) and alive at point B (resurrection), then His three day rest in the tomb didn't extinguish His existence. Something ontologically remained despite His dead body, something we call the soul. Death didn't eliminate the person. Ms. Angell's presumptions are wrong.

How meaningful is it, then, that Paul calls the resurrected Jesus our "life" (Col. 3:4), that John says that "In Him was life," and that Jesus calls Himself "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) and "the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25). Our life is Jesus. This great reality means many things to confessing Christians, but for our present purposes it is enough to point out that proponents of P.A.S. assume that death is the end of the story and that suffering is not a tool in the hand of the living God. Confessing Christians recognize that God may, in fact, teach through suffering. It may be that through our suffering, or through the suffering of another, God may deepen our desire for life, specifically life that transcends the grave, a life that can only be found in one who has triumphed over the grave. Cutting suffering short through P.A.S. may, in fact, prove to be mankind's attempt to mute C.S. Lewis' aptly named divine megaphone, through which God is trying to rouse a deaf world.

As confessing Christians, we don't cut suffering short through physician assisted suicide simply because it's unpleasant for us or for another. We don't put Grandma down. We keep physicians physicians and veterinarians veterinarians. And in the midst of our suffering (perhaps even because of our suffering), we direct our eyes to Christ our Life.

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[3] In his book *Mind and Cosmos,* atheist Thomas Nagel acknowledges the problem: "If evolutionary biology is a physical theory – as it is generally taken to be – then it cannot account for the appearance of consciousness and of other phenomena that are not physically reducible" (15). Elsewhere he includes meaning and value in his list of non-physically reducible phenomena. Nagel's solution to the problem is weak (hardly amounting to much more than a Rudyard Kipling Just-So story): the universe just produces non-physical realities such as consciousness. But he has rightly pinpointed the problem with physical reductionism.

[4] Craig Keener documents extensive evidence of the soul in his well-documented work *Miracles* in which he details numerous near death experiences (i.e. "out of body" experiences). J.P. Moreland writes in many places of the mind-body problem for physicalism and of its evidence for dualism (the mind is not necessarily identical to the soul, but still evidence for the soul). And the enduring identity problem (a true problem for Theseus' ship), which is handily resolved for man by the enduring existence of the soul.

[5] This is a strong apologetic for the veracity of his writing, for what short of irrefutable evidence would convert a hardened opponent of the Resurrection into an impassioned proponent?

[6] Even agnostic-leaning-toward-atheist Bart Ehrman acknowledges the veracity of this ancient creed, suggesting it finds its origins within a couple years of Jesus crucifixion (*Did Jesus Exist?, 131*).

!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 4, April 2016

Easter Blessings: God brings his people together for the Easter celebration. In Spanish: **!Cristo ha resucitado, !Ha resucitado en verdad! !**Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! In every language the Christian message of hope is the same, Jesus lives and by faith in Him we become his children. What a wonderful blessing to be the messenger of this story of peace, forgiveness and hope to the immigrant communities all around us.

Easter Celebration: Following our special Easter worship service we have an annual tradition of a children's Easter egg hunt and a family fellowship meal. Hispanic families are caught in a difficult cultural dilemma at Easter time. Many who come from Roman Catholic backgrounds remember the strong Holy Week traditions, rituals, and ceremonies in their home countries. But Easter is not as prominent as Holy Week. Others, from the other extreme with a 'Evangelical' background have never celebrated Easter or any other church festival viewed as Catholic which often means 'of the devil.' In both cases our message of the Crucified and Risen Savior focuses on the victory over sin and death and brings new hope to all.

Pastor Gabriel Meets Our District President: My nephew John Redlin (2nd left) and I brought Simon and Gabriel (far right and left) to the Denison/Mapleton Circuits Easter service in Schleswig. President Steve Turner (center) met them and we discussed plans for Pastor Gabriel's educational process to join the LCMS. Pastor Gabriel and Simon lead the Sudanese Dinka Sunday worship service at Zion in Denison. The Easter service was special for our work as the offering was given for Amigos en Cristo ministry. God bless our Circuits!

Easter with Natalie: This was Natalie's first Easter. We are so thankful that she and her family came to God's house to hear the Easter story of Jesus' love for her. Natalie comes from a faithful extended family where she is growing up with not just mom and dad, but with grandparents, aunts and uncles all around her each day. So much love for her! While Hispanic families are known for their strong family ties, immigration and the transition to another country often results in many broken homes and marriages. So we celebrate Natalie's strong family and all of our church families.

Please Pray: +For Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they meet with IDW President Turner to begin the process for calling a bilingual pastor. +For our new adult Confirmation students in Denison and Storm Lake as they study to grow in faith to become a part of our ministry. +For our annual Hispanic Mission Festival with our four District Hispanic churches as we meet at Mission Central in May. ***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 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

The leaders of Zion are gearing up for another Jesus-centered, child-focused VBS and they need your help. Below are several ways you can get involved.

1. **Volunteer!** There's something for you to do. Youth are encouraged to help.
2. **Spread the word!** Create a buzz and get people talking about Zion's VBS.
3. **Donate!** Immediate needs include: Paint shirts (men's or women's button down) and Plastic paint cups/containers (small sour cream, yogurt, etc.)
4. **Watch!** More details will be coming soon, so be alert and watch.
   Talk to Pastor Riggert, Shelly Gruhn, or Margaret Backhaus with questions.

Zion Lutheran Church's VBS

June 6-10 8:45 – 11:30 a.m.

Register online to attend or to volunteer:

vbsmate.com/zionmanning

Or register by filling out the form below.

Zion Lutheran Church
Barnyard Roundup – June 6-10, 2016
Vacation Bible School Registration

Child's name _____ Gender: M F

Grade completed _____ Birthday _____ Age (as of 6/1/2016) _____

Parents' names _____

Home address _____

Home phone _____ Alternate phone _____

Emergency contact person _____ Relationship to student _____

Emergency contact phone _____ Alternate phone _____

Food allergies Y N (List:) _____

Medical concerns Y N (Explain:) _____

Family doctor _____ Doctor's phone _____

Home Church _____

People who may pick up the child _____

I give VBS staff permission to administer basic first aid to my child in the event of an injury.

I give VBS leaders permission to photograph/film the minor(s) designated above in any manner or form for any lawful purpose associated with this VBS program.

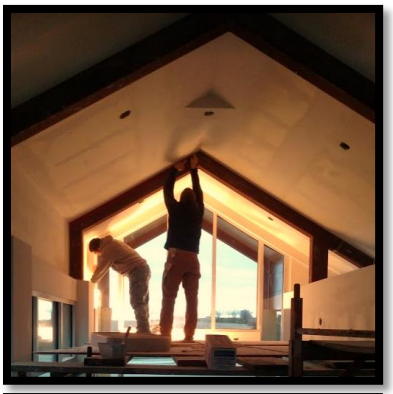
Parent's signature _ _____

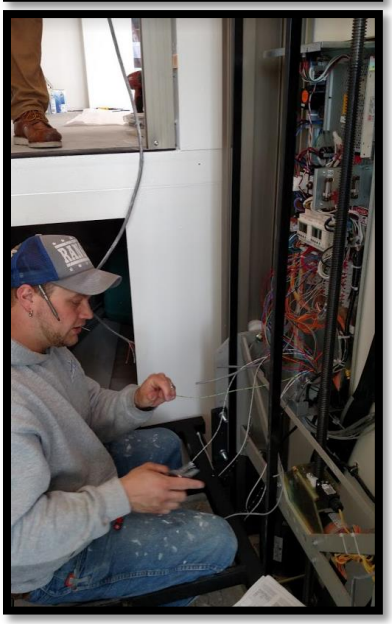
Generations Update

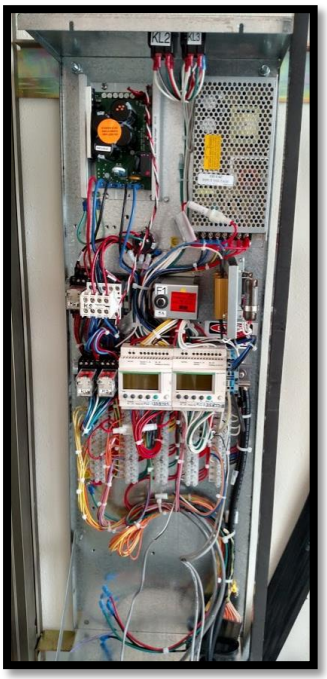
Work continues and draws ever-nearer to completion! Below you can see Denison Drywall putting the finishing touches on the drywall in the east entrance, Rick installing wiring for lights, Bruce cleaning the ever-present dust, Greg painting, the new lift being installed, and Croghan's installing the handrails.

In the next weeks, the floor will be laid in the east entrance, the exterior will be finished, the next section of the parking lot will be completed, the old east entrance closed, and our directional signage will be installed.

Thank you to the generous givers, the committed building team, and eager volunteers of Zion for moving this project forward!







MEMORIAL DAY LUNCH

Celebrate Memorial Day with Zion! Following the services at the cemeteries on **May 30th**, join the community in celebrating Memorial Day by having lunch at Zion. Maid-rites, Potato Salad, Hot Dogs, chips and bars will be served from **10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Free will donations will help support Zion's VBS program (June 6-10).

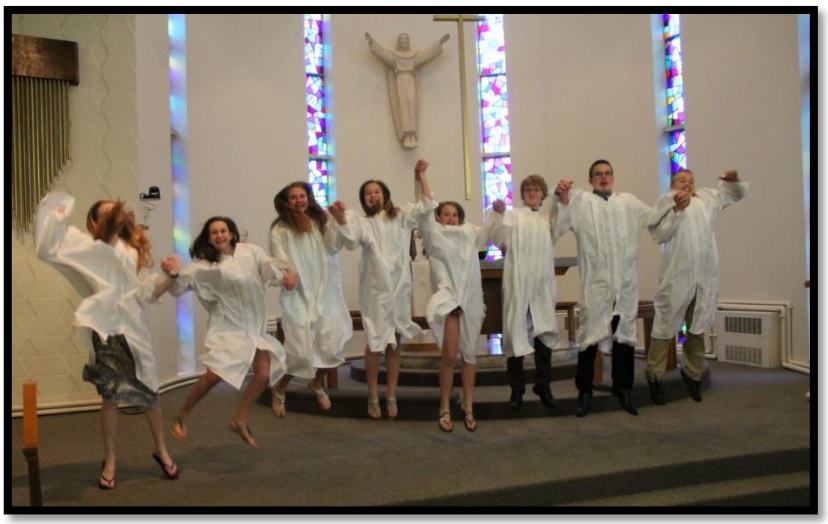
Volunteers and donations are needed. Check out the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall to see how you can get involved. Thanks!

CONFIRMATION 2016

Confirmands:

- Grant Behrens
- Miranda Benton
- Lucy Borkowski
- Lilly Genzen
- Renee Grimm
- Adam Gruhn
- Kamryn Lesle
- Jordon Weller

Welcome to Zion's newest communicant members! We celebrate our unified confession and welcome you to fellowship with Christ and us at His altar.



May Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

1. Becky Bruch
   Lynn Nulle
2. Rita Beck
   Evelyn Gore
3. Kendra Arp
4. Russell Hansen
   Oakley McManigal
6. Emily Albertsen
   Andrew Dreier
   Dustin Karsten
   Greg Sextro
7. Catherine Conner
   Lane Sams
8. Ryan Sandage
9. Daniel Dawson
10. Randy Kurth
    Rachel Ramsey
11. Aubri Kucik
    Robert Merriman
    Riley Willison
12. Nathan Bauer
    Jaime England
13. Lucy Borkowski
    John Ehrichs Jr.
    Kari Ranniger
14. Rodney Backhaus
    Irene Genzen
    Nathan Peters
    Todd Winter
15. Jan Henkelman
    Ella Langel
    JoAnn Thomas
16. Timothy Conner
    Nicholas Grimm
17. Emily Ceminsky
    David Genzen
    Jessica Kucik
    Kay Otto
    Mandi Sandage
18. Brad Kusel
    Gina Vollstedt
19. Brennen Morris
20. Karlee Arp
21. Kamaya Jacobsen
    Harper Morris
    Kelli Morrow
    Garry Puck
    Dereck Trimpe
22. Ty Greving
    Marlin Kahl
    Todd Ketcham
    Alexis Lesle
    Mya Sandage
    Lisa Steffes
23. Taya Vonnahme
24. Bryndon Rosener
26. Alan Grimm
27. Dennis Grimm
    Gene Lohrmann
    Joan Noelck
28. Jessica Sellner
29. Heidi Crawford
31. Stephanie Smith

4. David & Lori Genzen
6. Michael & Bridget Gore
10. Steve & Barb Page
13. Dan & Jennifer Behrens
20. Janet & Rich Plumb
21. Nicholas & Dena Diersen
25. Russell & Cynthia Ranniger
28. Ben & Mckensie Bess
    Mark & Jessica Kucik

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

Official Acts

Youth Confirmation: April 24, 2016
by Pastor Jonathan Conner
Grant Thomas Behrens, Miranda Jo Benton, Lucy Marie Borkowski, Lillian Kae Genzen, Renee Marie Grimm, Adam Karl Gruhn, Kamryn Elizabeth Lesle, Jordan David Weller

Adult Confirmation:
April 3, 2016; by Pastor Jonathan Conner;
Courtney Eischeid and Casie Eischeid

In Our Prayers

Franklin Mohr, Walt Noelck, Mandi Sandage, Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Steve Rutz (Karl Rutz's Brother), Arlene Mohr, Ora Weston (David & Joene Bohlmann's son), Bev Rix, Jim Deevers, Jenni Erb, Marlin Kahl, Dorothy Larsen, Marlys Marshall (Sandra Sextro's mom), Duane Karsten, Tom Walters, Kori Beckendorf