Generations in mission

## Mission Mindset Changes

Last month Pastor Finke introduced us to five mission practices and their subsequent questions. They are:

1. **Seeking the Kingdom:**
   How did you see God's Kingdom coming?
2. **Hearing from Jesus:**
   What has Jesus been teaching you in His Word?
3. **Talking with People:**
   What kind of conversations are you having, especially with those who are not yet Christians?
4. **Doing Good:**
   What good can we do around here?
5. **Ministering through Prayer:**
   How can we help you in prayer?

This month he's helping us zero in on #2: Hearing from Jesus. This is a critical step in joining Jesus on His mission. If we want to prepare ourselves to recognize and respond to what Jesus is doing in people's lives, we need to hear from Him in His Word, especially the Gospels. This is important; when we talk about hearing from Jesus, we're not talking about a mystical hearing from Jesus or any sort of extra-biblical revelation. We *are* talking about training our ears to hear what Jesus is teaching us in the Gospels.

As Pastor Finke points out,

> What Jesus was saying in the Gospels, He's still saying today. What Jesus was doing in the Gospels, He's still doing today. So, if we want to recognize and respond to what Jesus is saying and doing in our everyday lives, all we have to do is become familiar with what He's already said and already done in the Gospels.

One of the first things we hear in the Gospels is the good news of the Kingdom of God. Jesus has broken into our reality. He is making all things new and He is reconciling the world to His Father. His Kingdom has come among us! As Jesus says, "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

As the recipients of the Kingdom of God, we are inheritors of all the riches of God – His abundant love, grace, and goodness! And because we have received these gifts in abundance, we are equipped to share what we have in abundance with those who need it. Pastor Finke reminds us, "[God] wants us not just to be beneficiaries of that love, but to be agents of it to a world that needs it so badly."

If we were to dig into the Gospels, we would discover Jesus teaching His disciples in three broad categories. Pastor Finke describes them as:

1. Seeking the Kingdom
2. Humbling ourselves
3. Loving our neighbors

As we seek the Kingdom that Jesus brings among us, we are encouraged to ask, "What's the Father already showing us? Where's the Kingdom pressing near? How can we respond to that?"

As we hear Jesus' invitation to humble ourselves, and as we see His example of humility and receive His love and grace, we realize that we need to get over ourselves, because on our own we won't want to give of ourselves for the good of others.

And as we appreciate the abundance of what the Father has already given us in Christ, we will be moved to share from that abundance as we love our neighbors. As Pastor Finke says, "From God through us to others."

So, open the Gospels and start hearing from Jesus!

**April Ministry Apps—Zion Lutheran Church**

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes
June 2016

Our children and grandchildren enjoyed the "Where's Waldo?" explorations. Waldo would be hidden among similar-looking characters in the illustrations. Some play a "Where's Jesus?" game. They seek the real Jesus among similar-looking spiritual options. There's only one Jesus and He is found in His Word and in the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. The Good News is that we don't need to find Jesus. He has found us. As He joins Himself to us, we join Him in His mission.

Joining Jesus and His Children: Sunday, June 5
Zion celebrates children every day! Jennie Williamson of AriSon Music will join in the celebration of 30 years of Zion Preschool, a successful school year, and a kick-off to VBS. Jennie and her family live in Nashville. Jennie will also be one of the vocalists at the Sunday evening C-3 Concert at Heritage Park. The annual outdoor concert is a great free family event. Bring your blanket or lawn chairs and celebrate God's greatness through Christian music.

Joining Jesus in the Barnyard: June 6-10
"Barnyard Roundup: Jesus Gathers Us Together" is the theme of the June 6-10 VBS program. We need: children (ages 4 through 6th grade), volunteers, cookies, and prayers. If your children, grandchildren, or neighbors have not yet registered, do so immediately by contacting the church office or by going online www.vbsmate.com/zionmanning. Thanks to those who have already supported the VBS program with their assistance with the Memorial Day Brunch and supply donations.

Joining Jesus at Trinity
Zion's assistance with the vacancy at Trinity, Manilla provides a convenient Saturday evening (6 p.m.) worship opportunity. If you are away from Zion on a Sunday morning, join us at Trinity. You can even bring your Zion offering envelope and it will be brought back to Zion.

There's another "Trinity" worship option. The last Thursday of each month (through September), a service will be held at Historic Trinity Church in Manning's Heritage Park. Pastor Conner and Pastor Riggert will explore the Book of Acts and those who joined Jesus on His mission. The services begin at 7 p.m. Share this special opportunity with your friends in Manning and beyond.

Joining Jesus through every Generation
The Zion Fellowship Club has been exploring how to share the Gospel with the different generations in the Church. This month (Monday, June 6) they'll meet the Boomer Generation (born between 1946 and 1964). The Fellowship Club (mostly Builders) supports Lutheran Hour Ministries, adopts seminary students, and assists with ministries at Zion and beyond. Friends and visitors are welcome.

Joining Jesus at Camp Okoboji: Camp Okoboji summarizes its mission as "Jesus at the Lake." Various Camp programs (Cub Weeks, Junior High Week, Youth Week, Family Weeks) offer Bible study, music, crafts and more on the shores of beautiful Lake Okoboji. See the information on the church bulletin board or visit www.campokoboji.org for more information. Financial assistance is available from Zion, Camp, and District resources for many programs. The Camp website also shares opportunities for family cabin rentals in all seasons of the year.

Blessed to join in Jesus' mission with you!
Pastor Bob Riggert

Homosexuality

## Overcoming the Phobia; Learning to Love

*Homophobia* – it's a cultural buzz word that's tossed around like the proverbial hot potato. Most Christians are insulted when the label is slapped on them. Despite their disapproval of homosexual behavior, they think of themselves as loving. And while it's true that some use *homophobia* as a convenient label for political expediency, it's also true that Christians have not always extended Christ-like love toward those with homosexual desires. We must acknowledge that too much of our conversation has been peppered with inappropriate digs at homosexuals. For this we need to repent. This is not loving.

The purpose of this (and subsequent) articles is to open a conversation to facilitate understanding and Jesus-like love. This doesn't mean affirming homosexual behavior any more than we affirm living together without marriage. It means learning to see people with homosexual desires as not so different from ourselves, as people in need of kindness, compassion, and encouragement.

We begin with an important point: homosexual orientation is *not* chosen. Homosexual *behavior*, like heterosexual behavior, *is* chosen, but homosexual orientation is not chosen. Does this mean homosexual orientation is genetic? No. Dr. Jeffry Satinover, in his landmark book *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*, examines the relevant studies that have tried to link homosexuality definitively with genes and has found the studies flawed and the link non-existent.

What he did find, however, was a genetic inclination that could be intensified by environment and social influences. He writes,

> Whatever genetic contribution to homosexuality exists, it probably contributes not to homosexuality per se, but rather to some other trait that makes the homosexual 'option' more readily available than to those who lack this genetic this genetic trait (as in the correlation between height and basketball).

In other words, people may be born with certain inclinations that increase the likelihood that they will be drawn to certain behaviors. Of course, the Church has always confessed this. All of us are born with the inclination toward sinful behavior – all of us. Our particular inclinations may vary, but we all have them. Genetic studies are beginning to catch up to the theology.

What's more, genetic studies (dealing in neuroplasticity) are also beginning to discover that behavior reinforces inclinations and makes it more likely they will be chosen in the future. This should be instructive for all of us; our behavioral choices, once chosen, impact our future choices. Homosexual behavior is no exception. Because of this, our love for those with homosexual desires needs to be long term and consistent (we'll discuss this more in future articles).

In his book *Loving Homosexuals as Jesus Would*, Chad Thompson, an ex-gay, writes,

> Homosexual attractions are not genetic or chosen; rather, they are developed during childhood, usually in response to a lack of affirmation from and identification with one's own gender.

He then relates his story from childhood. It is very instructive and worth quoting at length:

> When I reached adolescence, my body started telling me that I wanted sex from a man, but in my heart I knew it wasn't about sex. Even before adolescence, when I used to fantasize about certain men I looked up to and respected, I didn't fantasize about sex. My fantasy was that a man

would just wrap his arms around me, look me in the eye, and tell me that I meant something to him.

*That's what I was missing.*

He explains, "The unmet need for love and affirmation from someone of our gender somehow becomes eroticized when we hit puberty." Adolescence twisted his desire for non-sexual affirmation from someone of his own gender into something sexual. As he explains,

> It wasn't a desire for sex; it was a desire for genuine love and affirmation from someone of my own gender, and I've found that as those needs get met, my homosexual desires fade.

Understanding what he's saying here is critical in our journey to understand, appreciate, and empathize with the struggles of people who experience homosexual desires. For many of them, their same-sex desires for their same gender, grow out of a void, out of a desire for affirmation and acceptance by their own gender. This disconnection could be between father and son or mother and daughter. It could be rejection among same-sex peers. It could be some form of sexual molestation. As Thompson explains, "anything that creates a sense of disconnection between a child and his or her gender can cause homosexuality."

*For many [with homosexual desires] their sexual desires for their same gender grows out of a void, out of a desire for affirmation and acceptance by their own gender.*

Somewhere deep in homosexuals' psyche is a profound sense of un-belonging, of unacceptance, even of rejection. When Christians use derogatory language, when they employ harsh rhetoric, or when they throw out insensitive slogans like "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve!" or "Turn or burn!" or "Keep away from our children!" to refer to people with homosexual desires, it only heaps rejection onto them and strengthens the belief that Christians are bigoted, unloving people.

So the first step in loving people with homosexual desires is to empathize with their profound sense of loss. Ask yourself: "How would I want to be treated if I lived every day with the longing for acceptance and love?" Would slogans, slurs, or blunt demands to change help? Would harsh rhetoric encourage you or build you up? Would equating you with pedophiles feel loving?

Second, we need to understand that, as strange as it may at first seem, for many people with homosexual desires, homosexuality is not first about sex; it's first about acceptance from those of their same gender.

Christ-like love, then, compels us to show non-sexual love to those with homosexual desires. As Chad Thompson explains,

> Anything that creates a sense of *reconciliation* between a person and his or her gender can eliminate homosexuality. Two of the most potent ways this can manifest itself is through camaraderie with, and non-sexual touch from, member of one's own gender.

But this requires persistence. As Thompson explains, "Nonsexual affirmation, when properly internalized, will devour homosexual attractions. But homosexual strugglers require a *constant stream*, not a single dose."

And all this requires overcoming our fears and stepping forward in bold, Christ-like love. Want to continue the conversation? Give me a call, an email, or stop in. Let's learn how to overcome our phobia and love like Christ.

# Ladies Guild

**Highlights**
**Ladies Guild of Zion**
**May 11, 2016**

Pastor Conner opened with prayer and then led us in a devotion based on the account in Acts where Matthias was chosen by lot to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the twelve apostles. President Buhr followed by leading us in the recitation of the League Pledge. Christian Life Chairman Margaret Backhaus read a devotion entitled "New Growth Again." As Christians, our past failures are history as our forgiving and renewing God helps our faith grow. The mite box was passed as the mite box prayer was said.

The business meeting was opened in the name of the Triune God. Fourteen members answered roll call by naming a person that had contributed to their Christian growth. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved as read. Correspondence included thank you notes from Courtney and Casie Eischeid, from Elle Menz, and from the Camp Okoboji Auxiliary. In the absence of the treasurer, her report was handed out to the members. There was only $100.00 added to the kitchen fund this month.

Committee reports: Audrey Roe, Human Care Chair, said 116 quilts had been tied this year. Forty-eight school kits, sixty-two personal care kits and 24 pounds of soap were delivered along with 98 of the quilts and several baby quilts to Lutheran World Relief in Sac City. Seventeen of the quilts were given to Orphan Grain Train and one quilt was given to Camp Okoboji. Sunshine Chair Becki Ehlers reported sending 13 cards during the month.

Old business: President Buhr gave a recap on the spring rally hosted by Manning. There were 50 registrants. As the money collected was greater than our expenses, the treasurer will send the excess to the zone treasurer. Bev Grundmeier moved that we pay Timothy Conner $25.00 for playing the organ that day. The motion was seconded and passed. Postage stamps, Campbell's soup labels, box tops for education, soap and computer ink cartridges will continue to be collected.

New business: It was moved by Cynthia Genzen that we again hold Advent by Candlelight the first Sunday in December. The motion was seconded and passed. Bev Grundmeier and Barb Anderson will see to getting hostesses for the tables. The next funeral lunch will be served by circle #2. Plaza bingo is on May 27th with Cheryl Buhr, Sue Schilling, Carol Kahl and Monica Christiansen helping. The next Guild meeting is scheduled for June 8th.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Lunch was served by Judy Musfeldt and Margaret Kuchel.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

The saying is that "time flies when you're having fun," so we must have had a lot of fun in preschool this past year because it doesn't seem possible that the school year can be over already! What a great year with a great group of children and families to work with! May seemed to really pass by quickly with everything we did to get ready for the closing program.

We had fun working with *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* book by Eric Carle. The kids really enjoyed the story and had fun making a large caterpillar we had on display in our classroom. We had fun learning about the life cycle of a butterfly and talking about how that transformation takes place. We even had a little movie day and watched a video, complete with puffcorn and M&M's, of course.

The children did a really nice job making Mother's Day cards for their moms! They turned out so cute! Part of the card included a portrait of Mom that each child drew and a questionnaire that everyone answered about his or her mom. Questions ranged from how old is your mom and what is the best thing she cooks to what makes your mom smile, and what does mom do while you're at school? As you can imagine, the answers were very cute and quite humorous. We hope these made nice keepsakes for all the moms!

Our closing program was held Wednesday, May 18th at 7:00 p.m. It was a great night! We had an awesome turnout and the kids did a great job sharing their songs! It was fun to shake their little hands as they walked across the bridge and got their certificates! They have grown and changed so much over the course of the school year! I am so proud of them all!! We enjoyed lots of outdoor time our last day of preschool. The weather was perfect! We surprised the kids with bubbles and they had a blast!

I would like to thank everyone again for the support I received this past year stepping into the preschool position. I cannot express how much it means to me. Your kind words of encouragement were very much appreciated and kept me going. Thank you for allowing me to serve the Lord and Zion this past year. It was a learning and growing experience for me as well, not just the preschoolers. I hope everyone has a great summer!!! Soak up the "SON."

In Christ,
Mrs. Riesberg and Mrs. Nemitz

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

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

## Missionaries to Indonesia

*Satu tim, banyak tempat* ("One team, many places")

**Here's what's been happening in Indonesia...**

We gratefully continue the work and relationship with the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI). In mid-April we had a very important meeting with the pastors, elders, and evangelists of the GKLI in North Sumatra. This gave us two whole days in which to hold frank and open discussions about our work together and the progress of our fellowship. The GKLI was very glad for this opportunity, and our talks were held in a spirit of thankful cooperation and brotherhood.

I was the sole speaker from the LCMS, and took the opportunity to address some misunderstandings, to encourage them in their faithfulness, and to do some teaching on theological issues they brought up. This task was made much easier by the fact that they all recognized me from other events they'd attended over the last two years we've been living here, and they've come to trust our relationship. What a difference this made!

We rejoiced in early May when we were finally able to contract with a full-time Indonesian translator! This Lutheran pastor is fluent in the correct languages, and will soon begin translating faithful Lutheran materials from English into Bahasa Indonesia. We have a long list of things for him to work on, and the GKLI is very excited to get their hands on these resources as soon as possible.

**And elsewhere in Southeast Asia...**

Back in February I was tasked with expanding my service on this side of the world: I was placed into the position of Area Director for Southeast Asia.

In this role, I'm responsible for the work going on in several countries, and with making sure our teammates in these countries have what they need (information, resources, etc.) to do the work to which they've been called. I'd already been serving partially in this role, but it was now formalized and expanded.

This role allows me to still be working and living in Indonesia as the LCMS representative to the Lutheran church here. But it also has me traveling to visit our friends and partners in other countries as well. These extra duties ensure that I'm kept busy all the time!

This role also took me to Thailand, where I met with our LCMS personnel and learned about the work they're doing, as well as meeting with the leader of the local Lutheran Church. I visited with the Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Malaysia during a quick visit to his office, and got to talk with the faculty of our partner seminary in the Philippines during our trip there for the workgroup meeting.

Being an Area Director was never something I sought, but is certainly a good opportunity to serve in new and expanded ways. It allows my family and me to keep living and working in Indonesia, our adopted home; it also makes sure that your support goes to help in the fullest ways possible. Our current and future workers in this field need assistance in many ways, and now I get to be their connection to the rest of the LCMS team. Since I often transit through Singapore, I even get to bring Word and Sacrament to the small congregation there regularly.

**Back on the home front...**

The family and I are now settled into the house, and awaiting the birth of the new kiddo. We are researching the requirements for documentation needed with the US Embassy here, even while we are pursuing the annual renewal of our resident permits. We're trying to decide on potential names for the baby, and even beginning to plan our home service for this fall. Watch for more on that in the days to come!

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*.

# SELAMAT CONTINUED

Meet the Newest Baby Ferry!

We called the taxi about 8am, and made it to the hospital here in North Sumatra about 8:30 or so. We got settled into the room, and I went down to take care of the registration paperwork, as requested by the hospital staff. When I returned about 9:20, it was all over! Cheryl was holding the new baby in her arms, and my jaw hung open, stupefied. The staff was amazed at how quickly and smoothly the delivery went, and we were so thankful.

Please allow us to introduce you to the littlest Ferry:
*Chloe Elizabeth*
She was born on Thursday, 26 May at 9:15am in Medan. She weighed 7.94 lbs and was 19.69 in.

It looks like she'll be our second blonde kiddo, and is very healthy. Cheryl is doing well, already making great progress in getting her strength back. They're looking to come home on Saturday afternoon/evening if all goes well. We will bring her to the waters of Holy Baptism right away on Sunday morning.

Then we'll start the paperwork dance: getting documentation from Indonesia that needs to go to the US Embassy, and then back to the Indonesians.

*Meeting in Bangkok with the president of the Thailand Lutherans, Rev. Ted NaThalang, also of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation*

LCMS personnel meet students at the seminary of our sister church in the Philippines

## 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 drop by the office to fill out a form.

Zion Lutheran Ladies will be participating in Manning's Kinderfest on Saturday, June 18th, by sponsoring the "Cookie Walk". Your donations of cookies and bars, six to eight on a small plate, or bags of snack mix would be appreciated. There is a supply of plates and baggies you are welcome to use in the kitchen. You can leave them in the church kitchen before 9:00 a.m. on June 18th or bring them to the park after 11:00 a.m.. Workers are also needed - see sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or talk to Joni Kienast. Please consider volunteering an hour of your time to help!

SERVING THE LORD IN

# PANAMA

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

May 2016
Vol. 1 Issue IV

Greetings in Jesus! Earlier this month our family received the "Green Light." Simply put, this means that our family has a healthy enough financial network to begin working in Panama. Praise the Lord for all the faithful congregations, families, and individuals who have partnered with us to make this process so quick.

So we are off to Panama, right? Not quite. International mission is a complex process as there are many details needing to be addressed that are beyond our control. Since there are currently no LCMS missionaries in Panama, regional staff has been working hard to set up housing and prepare the field for us. Additionally, all missionaries working in the Latin America & Caribbean region must first deploy to the region's headquarters in the Dominican Republic. There, new missionaries participate in language school, culture training, work with mentors, and learn how ministry and life happens in Latin America. This has proven to be an extremely helpful transition for missionaries working in the region. Typically, this first deployment lasts about four months. So, when do we go to the Dominican Republic? We do not know yet. We have been in communication with the region, but a departure date has not been set in stone.

What exactly are we doing in the meantime? The green light came sooner than expected and we still have obligations and congregation visits scheduled through July 3. First though, is our move back to Florida. After about three months of living in St. Louis so that I could finish PhD coursework, we will be relocating to our final 'home' before deployment.

In our spare time we are planning visits, finishing course assignments, driving, taking Spanish lessons several times a week, even more driving, preparing for the next move, reading and studying, more driving, writing thank you cards and other correspondences, packing, and more driving. To be honest, this transient lifestyle is exhausting and emotionally draining.

What has kept us grounded? Our family devotion time. It may be in someone else's house in another state, but we still gather as a family, pray the Lord's Prayer and Luther's Evening Prayer and sing hymns before tucking Ezra in for the night. Though everything in life seems in flux, the Word of God and his precious gifts of Baptism and Holy Communion sustain us and remind us that the Lord does not change. He is our rock and restorer (Ps 19:14). To God be the glory!

On May 6th, Zion was privileged to host our missionary family headed to Panama, Pastor Gauthier, Amanda, and Ezra. In the picture on the right Ezra considers the gifts we shared with him in celebration of his first birthday. In the picture above, Zion members smile with the Gauthiers (as they hide evidence of the treats they just enjoyed!).

From Amanda…

I would like to thank all of you, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for all of your prayers and support. We could not do this without you! We have been greatly encouraged by the faith of the body of Christ and know that it is because of you that we are be able to serve in Panama.

EMPOWERED PARENTS

## *Countering the Culture of Disrespect*

Take a look at the T-shirts on the right.

- "You looked better on Facebook"
- "I don't need you I have wi-fi"
- "I'm out of your league"
- "You look like I need another drink"
- "Do I look like I care?"

You've seen young people wearing them, or some variation of them, before. They reflect a culture of disrespect, a culture in which something has gone terribly wrong. Parents see it. Teachers experience it. Pastors do too. The entire concept of the authority figure has been rejected, and many parents, teachers, and pastors are left feeling powerless and disrespected.

What happened? And what should we do?

Over the next several months, we're going to address those questions in order to empower parents to be who God has called them to be and to help them to raise respectful, godly children.

We begin by addressing what happened. How did we move from a culture in which parents were regarded as reliable and trusted guides for children to a culture in which parents (and all authority figures) are disregarded as irrelevant? A lot of it is wrapped up in the cultural revolution of the 60s and 70s in which group after group (blacks, women, employees, etc.) fought for empowerment. Youth were simply the next group in line lobbying for liberation from authority.

Now that these young people have grown and had children, they have taken these beliefs with them so that, as Leonard Sax, author of *The Collapse of Parenting*, writes, "In many families, what kids think and what kids like and what kids want now matters as much, or more, than what their parents think and like and want."

As Sax explains, "'Let the kids decide' has become a mantra of good parenting." And this changed mindset in parenting "has been profoundly harmful to kids" and profoundly frustrating to parents and authority figures. Why? Because, as Sax explains, "the first job of the parent is to teach culture to the child." In other words, the primary responsibility of the parent is to teach the child what is good, right, true, and beautiful. It may come as a surprise to parents, but children must have their desires shaped. They must be taught how to appreciate the good, the true, and the beautiful – and it is the parent's job to teach them.

But this requires authority! When we talk about authority, we're not talking about discipline; that's a separate subject. When we talk about authority, we're talking about understanding the importance of the parental vocation. As Sax explains, "It means ensuring that the parent-child relationship takes priority over the relationships between the child and her or his same-age peers." In other words, the parent-child relationship is more important than the child-peer relationship.

Understanding this is absolutely critical if you want to raise respectful and godly children because, as Sax explains, "When parents lose their authority – when same-age peers matter more than parents – then kids are no longer interested in learning the culture of the parents. They want to learn the kiddie culture, the teen culture." And that culture is one of disrespect.

Let's make sure you're getting this. Your relationship with your child takes priority over your child's relationships with his friends. His friends are important, but come *after* his relationship with you. This needs to be reflected in the amount of time you spend with your child and the frequency and quality of communication you have with your child. This might mean that you need to curtail some of the time and communication between your child and his peers so that you can strengthen the parent-child relationship.

To be even more specific: you might need to remove your kids' phones, video games, and computers from their rooms. You may need to establish a "no texting" policy during family time. And you may need to say no to certain social events for your child so that you can spend time with him.

We'll talk more about this in the coming months. For now, simply consider an example that illustrates what the parent-child relationship looks like when that relationship plays second fiddle to child-peer relationships. Dr. Sax relates the result of a survey conducted more than 50 years ago by a Johns Hopkins sociologist. Teenagers were asked, "Let's say that you had always wanted to belong to a particular club in school, and then finally you were asked to join. But then you found out that your parents didn't approve of the group." Would you still join?

Do you know how the majority of teenagers responded? They said they would not join the group. Why? Because the opinion of their parents mattered more than the opinion of their same-age peers.

Dr. Sax repeated the survey between 2009 and 2015 by asking hundreds of teenagers, "If all your friends joined a particular social media site, and they all wanted you to join, but one of your parents did not approve, would you still join the site?"

Do you know how most teenagers responded? They laughed! The very notion that they would even need to consult their parents before joining was laughable. The parent-child relationship was irrelevant to decision making. This is the death of parenting.

Dr. Neufeld, a Canadian psychologist who spend 40 years working with children and adolescents observed this massive cultural shift and noted,

> For the first time in history, young people are turning for instruction, modeling, and guidance not to mothers, fathers, teachers, and other responsible adults but to people whom nature never intended to place in a parenting role – their own peers…. Children are being brought up by immature persons who cannot possibly guide them to maturity. They are being brought up by each other."

All of this has spill over into the church. We observe youth distancing themselves from the church and we start asking, "What do they like? How can we make them happy?" While it's good to include youth in conversations about church events and so forth, it's not good to turn to children for the definition of the good, the true, and the beautiful. Parents, pastors, and teachers need to teach these to youth (and we need to know them ourselves!). One of our primary responsibilities is to shape their desires so that they appreciate and desire goodness, beauty, and truth.

**ONE OF OUR PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES IS TO SHAPE THEIR DESIRES SO THAT THEY APPRECIATE AND DESIRE GOODNESS, BEAUTY, AND TRUTH.**

Please appreciate this point: young people have immature desires. This isn't an insult to children; it's

a reality of youth. If they are not guided or taught, they will naturally turn to the immediately pleasurable Twinkies and Cheetos of life – the Justin Biebers, Miley Cyruses, and Kelly Ripas of the world. If parents, pastors, and teachers abdicate their authority as those who enculturate children, as those who teach what is good, right, and proper to desire, children will resort to the immature, the base, and the juvenile, and the culture of disrespect will reign.

But won't children rebel?

Will standing against the "let kids decide" mantra of our age cause children to rebel and pull away from you? Dr. Sax answers, "If your relationship with your child is governed by your own desire to be loved by him or her, the odds are good that you will not achieve even that objective."

This used to be commonsense for parents, but God has hardwired something into children that we have forgotten: children expect, even long, to be led by parents.

**CHILDREN EXPECT, EVEN LONG, TO BE LED BY PARENTS.**

Dr. Sax again explains,

> The child expects to look up to the parent, to be instructed by the parent, indeed to be commanded by the parent. If the parent instead serves the child, then that relationship falls out if its natural balance… The parent who puts the child's wishes first may earn only the child's contempt, not their love.

If this all sounds foreign to you, chances are you've been swept into the "let kids decide" river. Parents, pastors, and teachers need to regain their legs and stand against that river; it leads only to The Sea of Contempt.

We must regain our appreciation for the good, the true, and the beautiful and then begin teaching it to our children (something that we achieve through our hearing and studying of God's Word). And surprisingly, if we do that, we may find that we have also gained our children's respect. Dr. Sax explains,

> If you are not primarily concerned about winning your child's love and affection and focus instead on your duties as a parent – teaching your child right from wrong and communicating what it means to be a responsible man or woman, a gentleman or a lady, within the constraints of the culture you are trying to inculcate and to share – then you may find that your child loves and respects you. When you're not looking for it.

Will this be easy? No. And given how deep and strong the river of disrespect runs today, it may prove harder than in ages past. But it can be done! In the coming months, we'll explore the specifics of how we can empower parents to counter the culture of disrespect and to raise respectful and godly children.

Parents, pastors, and teachers are responsible for teaching them to desire what God deems good, right, and proper.

***From one generation to the next!***
Scripture recognizes the importance of the vocation of parent. Consider the following verses and how they reflect what you've read above:

> One generation shall commend your works to another,
> and shall declare your mighty acts.
> On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
> and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
> They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,
> and I will declare your greatness.
> They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness. Psalm 145:4-7

!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 6, June 2016

**Confirmation Sunday**: On Sunday, May 1st we celebrated confirmations for Wendy Ramirez and Briana Marroquin. Olivia is studying to become a member of Amigos en Cristo. Briana is the daughter of Douglas and Emilia Marroquin. She has 2 sisters and a brother. They faithfully attend our church in Storm Lake. Both girls were confirmed first in the English service and then afterwards in our Hispanic service. These young ladies are examples of the future direction of our Hispanic ministries.
We are blessed to meet in English congregations, Grace in Storm Lake and Zion in Denison. The youth of both cultural churches all study together and are confirmed together. Pastor Ketcham is the pastor at Grace and taught the Confirmation class of 4 students. Wendy and her siblings attend Zion Lutheran School in Denison and she was confirmed with 15 other students. Their families are both originally from El Salvador and Spanish is the first and native language for their parents but not for the kids. So our ministry is a bilingual outreach to both generations in both languages.

**LWML Rally**: The photo at left took place at St. Paul in Hartley where Paula and I joined her mother, Mary Lou Schmidt of Ocheyedan. We met for the Northwest Zone of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The group inspired me as they were very enthusiastic about mission work and especially in doing outreach among the Hispanics in their communities. That's the Spirit! Thanks Ladies!

**Crawford County 4th Annual Pro-life Conference**: Again this year our local Crawford Country Right to Life organized their Pro-Life Conference, their 4th annual. It was another inspiring event challenging us to continue the struggle to protect all human life, from the womb to the elderly. We listened to many experienced leaders in the Pro-Life struggle in our area and beyond. Paula and I set up a table with materials in Spanish with the prayer that God would open doors to share the message of the celebration of life with the Hispanic community in Denison.

**Planning a Block Party**: Can four separate multi-cultural ministries work together to meet the community? That's what we are doing at Zion, Denison as we have a committee set up to plan a summer open house/block party. We have representatives from Zion church, our Hispanic church, Zion School, and the Sudanese church to dedicate a Saturday afternoon in July to invite the neighbors from the surrounding blocks to come over to our patio/playground for a relaxing time together. Who knows who the Lord has in mind for us to meet to befriend. We pray that God will open many doors.

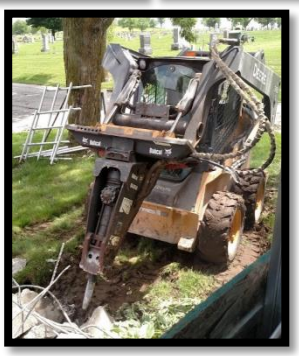
**PLEASE PRAY:** + For Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they continue the process for calling a bilingual pastor. + For our 6 adult Confirmation students in Denison and Storm Lake as they study to grow in faith to become a part of our churches. + For our annual Hispanic Mission Festival with our four District Hispanic churches as we meet at Mission Central in May. + For plans for our summer Block party as we work to better know our neighborhood. + ***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

Work is continuing and drawing ever nearer to completion. Below Doug Weitl installs the floor treads in the new east entrance and a worker installs the granite window sills. The exterior finishing is pictured in process in the top right picture below while David Bohlman, Bruce Grimm, Denny Backhaus, Rodney Backus, Stan Mustfeldt (manfully swinging the sledgehammer), Barry Kienast, and Bob Genzen tear out the sidewalk and stoop to the old east entrance. Thank you to the many generous givers and faithful volunteers who have moved the project forward!



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

At China Lutheran Seminary in April, our *Sola Scriptura* seminar went very well with over 200 participants (if interested in my presentation, ask your pastor for a copy).

In addition, my Father-in-Law (Haiting Hsieh, pictured below with his grandchildren: Isaac, Ethan, Gary, and Ginny) underwent radiation treatments for the cancer cells in his brain and will soon have the cancer cells in his bones tested to see how to proceed with further treatments. Thank you for your prayers for both of these.

Continue to pray for him, for both physical and spiritual well-being, especially that he would trust in Jesus.

## ZION quilters

Pictured below are two amazing women (Audrey Roe and Janet Gruhn) standing beside boxes and boxes of quilts.

Along with several other faithful quilters, they have sent over 100 quilts around the world to keep people warm. In this shipment, they sent 98 quilts (along with 4 baby quilts) to Lutheran World Relief, 1 quilt to Camp Okoboji's quilt auction, and 17 quilts to Orphan Grain Train. In addition to these amazing quilters, these amazing ladies made quilts at home: Betty Schroeder (10 baby quilts for Methodist Hospital, Des Moines, 4 for LWR), Margaret Backhaus, Monica Christensen, Charlene Hickman, and Sandra Vahl made quilts, a table runner, and a crocheted bedspread for Okoboji's quilt auction. Praise God for these amazing women of Zion!

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MANILLA, IOWA

PROCLAIMING PEACE IN CHRIST'S CROSS

On Monday, April 18, Zion Lutheran Church began offering vacancy care for Trinity Lutheran in Manilla. This care has included leading the Divine Service on Saturday evenings at 6:00 p.m., care for homebound members, office hours, nursing home services, along with facilitating congregational leadership meetings, and counseling services.

On Saturday, May 14, Trinity members began meeting after worship with Pastor Conner to discuss *Joining Jesus on His Mission*.

Zion leadership, in partnership with Trinity leadership, are planning conversations about future partnership between the two congregations. Your input is welcome.

# June Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

## *Birthdays*

1. McKensie Bess
   Monica Christensen
   Jonathan Conner
   (Russ Mohr)
2. Janice Ress
   Autumn Winter
4. Kelli Grimm
5. Warren Puck
6. Angela Albertsen
   Brandon Ranniger
7. Jarod Gruhn
8. Jacob Ewoldt
   Jett Sellner
   David Vetter
9. Kristine Bunker
   Jon Saunders
10. Amy Bradley
    Luke Doyel
    Deanna Hagedorn
    Judy Jacobsen
    Steve Page
11. Luke Ramsey
    Nolan Ramsey
12. Janet Plumb
13. Nick Backhaus
    Travis Neumann
14. Jessica Winter
15. Ann Ranniger
    JoAnn Wittrock
16. Michael Gore
    Greg Peters
    Ashley Hinners
17. Lily Doyel
    Lucille Ranniger
    Dale Reinke
18. Dan Kerkhoff
19. Wilma Bogatzke
    Daniel Vogel
20. Aubrey Alexander
    Lorrell Borkowski
21. Rodney Kurth
    Mason Vonnahme
22. Duncan Hilsabeck
23. Brooklynn Booth
    Mary Grimm
    Matthew Vogel
24. Holly Borkowski
    Inez Mahnke
25. Jared Rosener
26. Shirley Ahrendsen
    Russell Bruhn
28. Jordynne Bauer
29. Hannah Willison

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

## *Anniversaries*

1. Gordon & Donna Schmarzo
2. Duane & Janice Monson
6. Ken & Gerry Stripling
7. Floyd & Donna Forman
10. Stan & Nancy Baack
    Ryan & Heidi Crawford
11. Lyle & Arlene Bald
15. Lynn & Sonia Nulle
    Dan & Lois Peters
24. Jeff & Amy Bradley
    Curt & Debra Janssen
25. John & Barb Anderson
    Sam & Judy Musfeldt
27. Jerry & Carla Backhaus
29. Craig & Luann Langel
30. Albert & Sandra Vahl

## *Official Acts*

Baptism:
Isaiah Frederick Conner, son of Pastor Jonathan and Rebecca Conner; May 8, 2016; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Adult Baptism:
Kristine Dawn Bunker, May 8 2016, Pastor Jonathan Conner

Funeral:
Kent Hilsabeck, May 26, 2016; Pastor Conner
Betty Andresen, May 27, 2016; Pastor Riggert and Pastor Conner

Wedding:
Isaac Grabill and Courtney Page, May 28, 2016; Pastor Conner

## *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, Leonard Koch, the Andresen family, the Hilsabeck family