Dear Zion Family,

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.
– Psalm 100:5

We are nearing the end of our three-year Generations campaign. It has been an incredible journey filled with incredible results. Among the greatest blessings has been seeing God work in and through His people at Zion. Throughout the campaign we have witnessed amazing support, enthusiasm, dedication, focus, and wonderful fulfillment. Thank you!

We began our campaign in 2013 with counseling and planning assistance from Capital Funding Services (a service arm of Lutheran Church Extension Fund). We continued with the joyful commitment and sacrificial generosity of the Zion family. And, God willing, we will reach our shared goals in the coming months. Below is a listing of the pledges, gifts, and account withdrawals that have brought us to the final stages of our campaign.

Pledges (collected):	$502,600
Special gifts:	$374,840 (Memorial funds, Thrivent dollars, pew fund, bequeaths, and other miscellaneous gifts)
Account withdrawals:	$75,000 (Zion endowment and legacy fund)
Total monetary gifts:	$952,440

Because of your sacrificial giving, the faithful stewardship of our Building Team, and the careful accounting and planning of our Financial Team, we are on target to complete our campaign with no debt! Praise God! Your special thanksgiving gift can ensure that this target becomes reality. What a privilege to pass on the great Jesus-centered traditions of Zion to the next generations *without debt*! If you would like to ensure that we are able to reach our goals debt free, you still have time to join this amazing journey. Your gift matters.

As our goals near completion, your Leadership Team is enthusiastically planning a Celebration and Dedication Service and Open House on Sunday, September 25th. Please save this date so you can celebrate with your Zion family. Thanks for celebrating the Gospel with the generations of Zion!

In Christ,
Ken Puck, Rick Lohrmann, Pastor Conner, and Pastor Riggert

Generations

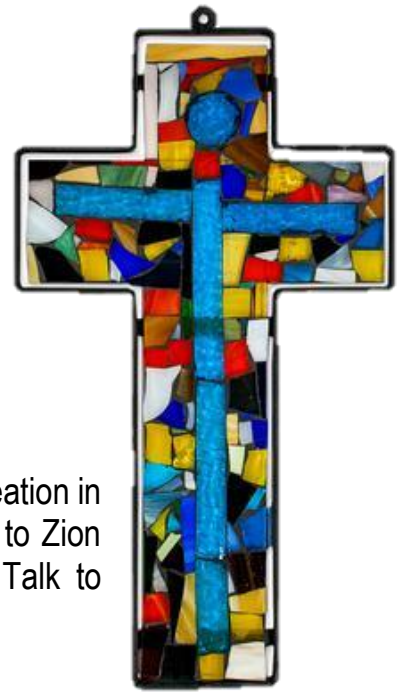
A New Creation Celebration at Zion's

Celebration and Dedication Service with Open

On Sunday, September 25, Zion will celebrate the completion of our Generations campaign with worship, fellowship, and art. You are invited to participate! Unleash your creativity and share it, to the glory of God. We welcome musical creativity through choir, instruments, and hymnody, including vocalists (of all ages), handbells, and praise instruments.

We also welcome other creative expressions of worship:

- Art (watercolor, oil, acrylic, etc.)
- Photography
- Woodworking
- Quilting
- Poetry
- Needlework/sewing
- Pottery
- Sculpture (including chainsaw art)
- Stained glass
- Knitting
- Flower arrangement



We encourage you to imagine the implications of our new creation in Christ through your creations. Submissions can be brought to Zion on Saturday morning, September 24. Questions? Ideas? Talk to Pastor Conner or Joelle Puck.

Generations in mission

Mission Mindset Changes

Talking to People and Doing Good

Over the past few months we've been discussing five mission practices. They include:

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?

Last month we focused on #2 and we encouraged one another to open the Gospels to start hearing from Jesus. Through His Word, especially the Gospels, Jesus speaks to us. In broad categories, He speaks about seeking the Kingdom of God, humbling ourselves, and loving our neighbors. This month we zero in on #3 and #4, *talking with people and doing good*.

Talking with people

For some people, especially extroverts, talking with others comes naturally. For introverts, it may seem frightening. The good news is that talking is really less about talking, even less about sustaining chit-chat about the weather; talking is really about listening. More specifically, effective and meaningful talking is about hearing people's stories, about providing a safe place to share their joys, dreams, and ambitions *and* their fears, worries, and stresses.

And, if we are paying attention, God provides more opportunities than we realize to talk to people. In fact, God often arranges these opportunities for us. Remember St. Paul's experience in Philippi? God sent him to prison to arrange a conversation between Paul and the jailer!

Are you paying attention to the God-ordained conversation opportunities in your life? Who do you pass every week? Who do you see every month? Do you know their names? Have you introduced yourself? Have you asked thoughtful question to move the conversation beyond the weather? Talking with people won't guarantee that anything spiritual will happen, but not talking with them will pretty much guarantee that something spiritual *won't* happen. You may need to swallow hard, get over yourself, and initiate a conversation. Then let Jesus do what He does.

Doing Good

It may surprise you, but God not only arranges conversations for you, but He regularly gives you opportunities to do good, whether that be a word of compassion, a cup of coffee, a note of encouragement, or something more substantial like mowing a lawn, scooping a walk, baking a meal, or driving someone to an appointment. The key question, though, is if we're paying attention. Are you looking for people who are ready for a little good? How can you help the good of God become more real to the people around you?

Talking to people and doing good: two more ways God invites you to join Jesus on His mission!

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes: Zion and Trinity Lutheran

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Most youth ball games are completed; VBS and C3 concert are completed; . . . What else has been checked off the early summer calendar. Church and family move into another phase of summer activity. It's time for . . .

Worship

Beginning with the 8th Sunday after Pentecost (July 10), the weekly Epistle reading takes worshippers to St. Paul's letter to the Colossians. One commentator notes, "With clarity and forcefulness Paul shows the relevancy of Christ for the church and for individual believers for all times" (Kuschel, *People's Bible Commentary*). Join us for a three-week series on Colossians.

July 10—Empowered in Christ (Colossians 1:11)
July 17—Reconciled in Christ (Colossians 1:22)
July 24—Alive in Christ (Colossians 2:13)

The themes will be featured in both the Saturday evening service at Trinity, Manilla and the Sunday morning service at Zion, Manning. Services will also be held at Historic Trinity in Heritage Park on Thursday, July 28 at 7 p.m., where the series on the Book of Acts "Joining Jesus on His Mission" will continue. We will learn how Deacon Phillip joined Jesus on His mission.

Spiritual Dessert—The Cream of Colossians

I memorized the sequence of Paul's epistles (Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians) with the statement, "Go Eat Peaches and Cream" (Note the beginning letters of the statement and the books of the Bible.) A summer weekday Bible study will take us to the "cream" of Colossians. Participants will taste the richness of Christ. A Tuesday morning study will be held at Zion at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday evening at Trinity beginning at 7 p.m. This will be a three-week study beginning, Tuesday, July 5. Friends and neighbors from the community are welcome to join us.

Thanksgiving

It's always a season for Thanksgiving. Thank you for the many children and volunteers who were part of the VBS "Barnyard Roundup." Thank You Lord for the opportunity to share the Good News that "Jesus gathers His children together" with 135 children. Approximately 40% of the children were from Zion with 60% from the community. Thank You Lord for the 50 volunteers who welcomed children in the name of Jesus and kept them actively involved for the week. Almost $400 was contributed by the children toward the Lutheran World Relief purchase of "critters" program. The funds allow us to buy a goat, lamb, and two pigs for farm communities in countries devastated by war or famine.

Family

A very active VBS program included "quiet times": a quiet time for listening to God's Word on the floor in front of the altar (older children) or in the story center (younger children). Recreation for the little children included some "quiet" activities. Children need "quiet time." Perhaps it's the quiet of the family devotional time; the quiet of a designated reading time with the television, computer and phone "off." *"Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)*

Blessed to rejoice in God's times with you!
Pastor Riggert

Homosexuality

Overcoming the Phobia; Learning to Love

Last month we opened a conversation aimed at correcting many of the church's insensitivities toward those with homosexual desires, even as we challenged one another to begin to love them as Jesus would. Among the important things we highlighted was the need to empathize with their profound sense of loss, with the painful void many experience due to the lack of connection or acceptance by their own gender.

Too often, we have adopted soundbite slogans to "correct" homosexual strugglers, but these have only added to their sense of rejection. We must move beyond soundbites toward true Christ-like love. That love will be consistent, non-sexual love. This doesn't mean affirming homosexual behavior; it means seeing homosexual strugglers as real people in need of real acceptance, especially by those of their same gender.

This month we are moving forward into more specific ways in which the church can show love toward homosexual strugglers, but be warned, this subject matter is highly controversial. Putting this in print isn't much different than raising a metal rod in a lightning storm. In fact, the love we're advocating has been banned in four states in America.[1] The American Psychiatric Association has labeled this love "unethical" and potentially harmful. Many in our government have criticized this love, as have numerous political advocacy groups. Even a large percentage of churches today reject this kind of love for homosexual strugglers. So entrenched is the belief in the immutability (unchangeableness) of homosexuality, that any love aimed at helping those who struggle with homosexual desires to overcome those desires, is rejected.

As a brief aside, our culture is deeply confused and conflicted over human sexuality. As we just mentioned, homosexuality is held up as immutable and any attempt to love someone enough to help them overcome homosexual desires is viewed as unethical. But, in the same breath, our culture is increasingly embracing the concept of sexual fluidity, which suggests that sexual preferences are not fixed but fluctuate along a spectrum. And anyone who would help someone align their desires with God's created order is viewed as unloving.

Further, scientists are steadily progressing in their understanding of neuroplasticity (the brain's ability to create new neural pathways). The simple truth with profound implications is that the brain can change. New neural pathways (think of them as highways in the brain) can be built. These neural highways are most easily built in the adolescent brain and they are strengthened and widened through behavioral and thought repetition, so that as the highway grows into a superhighway it becomes the default route for the brain – but it can change.

This has significant implications for homosexual strugglers. At a foundational level it means that the period of adolescence is not one in which the default highway is discovered so much as it is one in which it is built. This doesn't mean homosexual desires are chosen (as we discussed last month).[2] It does mean,

[1] Oregon, California, Illinois, and New Jersey have banned "reparative therapy" for minors. But as Ben Newman, an ex-gay and author of *Anything but Straight*, points out, "Reparative therapy has not been discredited. It has simply fallen out of favor since the 1973 vote by the board of the American Psychiatric Association to remove homosexuality from its official encyclopedia of mental disorders…. The research hasn't been disproved; it has simply been disenfranchised by the political correctness of the times."

[2] Last month we highlighted Chad Thompson's book *Loving Homosexuals as Jesus Would* in which he writes, "Homosexual attractions are not genetic or chosen; rather,

however, that inclinations can be reinforced through behavior. Youths who are encouraged to embrace homosexual behavior are being encouraged to build superhighways in the brain that will increase the difficulty of change later. This point must be appreciated. Behavior and thoughts establish the default route in the brain. Change, which is possible, although made more difficult by the repetition of homosexual behavior and thoughts, can be accomplished through altered behavior and thoughts. But, as Chad Thompson points out in *Loving Homosexuals as Jesus Would*, it requires perseverance."

The church must persevere with its love for homosexual strugglers, too. A one-time prayer or program or intervention won't do. The church must love for life. What does this love look like? Mr. Thompson, an ex-gay, writes about the love that helped and continues to help him overcome his homosexual desires:

> The most powerful healing agent in my life has been the presence of real live men who have offered me the nonsexual and nonromantic love I've needed; they are my brothers… Like a light in an underground tunnel, they provide a path of escape from the prison of disconnection and abandonment.

The key here is acceptance through non-sexual touching by members of one's same gender. The church needs to understand that for many homosexual strugglers, homosexuality wasn't and isn't primarily about sex. It was, as Thompson explains, "a desire for genuine love and affirmation from someone of my own gender." Those desires for love and affirmation typically were eroticized during puberty, but they weren't initially about sex.

Understanding this helps us understand how non-sexual touch and affirmation by members of the same sex (what we might call "homosocial" behavior) helps homosexual strugglers overcome their desires. As Thompson writes, "as those needs get met, my homosexual desires fade." As we referenced last month:

> 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.

Unfortunately, the church has been reluctant to offer this kind of love. As one gay man remarked, "As a gay man, I've found it easier for me to get sex on the streets than to get a hug in church." And Randy Newman of Campus Crusade for Christ noted that "For far too many [homosexual strugglers], a crucial missing ingredient in the healing process is friendship with a heterosexual Christian who will accept them, pray with them, and embrace them."

This is homophobia and it should move the church to tears. We have been reluctant to show the very love homosexual strugglers need and have probably contributed to their feelings of rejection. The question we need to be asking ourselves is how we can show appropriate non-sexual, non-romantic love to homosexual strugglers. How can men offer appropriate homosocial touch to men and women to women?

Mr. Thompson offers three suggestions which we will unpack next month, but I would highly commend his book *Loving Homosexuals as Jesus Would* to you. Loving homosexual strugglers will require us to move beyond soundbites to lifelong love. For this reason it is critical that we overcome our phobia of homosexuality and learn to show love, love like Jesus would.

they are developed during childhood, usually in response to a lack of affirmation from and identification with one's own gender."

Ladies Guild

Highlights
Ladies Guild of Zion
June 8, 2016

President Buhr opened the meeting by leading the recitation of the League Pledge. Pastor Riggert then gave a devotion based on an overview of the gospel of Luke. He was followed by Christian Life Chairman, Margaret Backhaus who read a piece entitled "Today Be Strong in Christ" based on Ephesians 6:10. The mite box was passed as we prayed the mite box prayer.

President Buhr called the business meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. Roll call was answered by 16 members who each named something for which she was thankful. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting. They were approved as read. Treasurer Mary Grimm and kitchen treasurer Darlene Vollstedt each gave their reports.

Presidential announcements included how to receive the LWML IDW e News. You need to send your email address to Christine Schulz at christinefayeschultz@gmail.com and ask to be put on the email distribution list.

Committee reports were given by Human Care Chairman Audrey Roe who said our quilts taken to Sac City were routed to Minnesota, from there to Tanzania and were dispersed from there as requested. Sunshine Chair Becki Ehlers had sent 8 cards in the following month. Circle #2 served the Kent Hilsabeck funeral. Circle #3 served the Betty Andresen funeral. Circle #1 served the Gladys Musfeldt funeral lunch. The next funeral will be served by Circle #2.

Old Business: Margaret Backhaus said about 200 people had lunch at Zion on Memorial Day. $1,100.00 was donated for vacation Bible school. She expressed her thanks to all the volunteers who helped. Guild collection items remain the same.

New Business: June 18th Zion will be donating cookies for the kinderfest cookie walk. There are plates ready to be used in the church kitchen. Six to eight cookies per plate are requested. Please have them at the church by 10:00 A.M. Joni Kienast is also looking for workers to help her that day. June 23-25 Cheryl Buhr and Sandra Vahl will be our delegates to the LWML District Convention at Camp Okoboji. Plaza Bingo will be on June 24th with Janet Gruhn as chairman and Shelly Gruhn, Charlene Hickman and Sandra Vahl's replacement helping.

The next meeting will be on July 13th at 1:00 P.M.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Lunch was served by hostesses Monica Christensen and Connie Ahrendsen.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

Introducing...

Zion Lutheran Preschool is pleased to introduce its new director: Bridget Gore! Members of Zion see Bridget and her husband, Mike, and children (Claire-7, Noah-4, and Evelyn-2), every week in worship. Sunday School children have seen Bridget as a Sunday School teacher for the past three years. Women at Zion and the community have seen her as a faithful women's Bible study leader. And now preschool children and families will see her three days a week in the preschool classroom. Bridget is excited to join the Zion team and to begin sharing Jesus with children as she continues Zion's tradition of excellence in preschool education and care.

Our preschool assistant Janice Nemitz will be returning for her 4th year at Zion Lutheran Preschool. Janice spent 19 years at Zion Lutheran School in Denison and has her para-educator certificate with the early childhood endorsement. She and her husband, Dave, live in Denison and attend Zion Lutheran in Denison. They have three married children with seven (almost eight) grandchildren.

Space is still available in our four year old class. Stop by the church office to pick up a registration form!

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

Kids Have Questions

From Monday, June 6 through Friday, June 10, Zion had the privilege of joining Jesus as He brought the message of His love and grace to over 130 VBS children. I (Pastor Conner) had the privilege joining Jesus with the 1st – 6th graders. What a remarkable opportunity! Below are some of the questions they asked me during the week. Take a moment to read and appreciate them. Kids have questions – important ones! If we're willing to listen, they'll ask. If you have kids in your life, start listening to them. Engage them in conversation. Join Jesus as He brings His good news to children.

- I've been different churches and the pastors talk about the Father and Jesus and the Spirit. So there are three. I'm kind of confused about that.
- When we pray, does God answer right away?
- Jesus came, but why didn't He come back?
- So Jesus was resurrected. Why did He leave?
- My mom doesn't think people go down there (hell). So I don't know whether they do or don't.
- How did the devil become the devil?
- How come Jesus doesn't tell us more?
- How come bad things like car wrecks happen?
- How can people do bad things? Are we bad and do bad or good and do bad?
- Who created God?
- Do some people not believe in God and think we came from evolution?
- My uncle has mental difficulties. In the resurrection will that be fixed?
- Do different religions go to different heavens?
- In the resurrection, will we be the same age?
- Will we still have birthdays after we're raised?
- Will animals be in heaven?
- What happens when you die?
- Do we get temporary bodies in heaven before the resurrection?
- How long does it take the body to turn to dust?
- Are we still alive in heaven?
- Do we see what's happening on earth while we're in heaven?
- Will we have body parts, like eyes in heaven (before the resurrection)?
- Will we need glasses after we're raised?
- Some people say heaven is above the clouds, but that's just space. So where's heaven?

SERVING THE LORD IN

PANAMA

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

June 2016
Vol. 1 Issue V

Greetings in Jesus! We have more good news to share in this edition. August 19 will be our departure day! On that day our family will travel to Santiago, Dominican Republic for the next four months to continue to learn Spanish, observe how ministry in Latin America is done, and adapt to life in another country. Once our four months concludes, we will remain in the DR for Christmas and New Years before deploying to Panama in early January. We are excited to get going, but still have two months to wait.

Waiting has become a regular part of our lives and vocabulary throughout this process. We want to be missionaries, we want to hit the ground running in the DR, we want learn Spanish and deploy to Panama, and we want to begin the work to which God has called us in Panama. We want these things and we want them now, but we are learning, sometimes the hard way, to be patient. The ministry of Christ's Church does not revolve around our schedule and our desires, but does so according to His will and good timing.

As we have buried ourselves in preparing for mission in orientation materials, learning Spanish, network building, packing, missiology courses, etc. perhaps the greatest preparation we have received is not of our own will or seeking, but is of the Lord's. He is preparing us in patience; to learn to trust in His timing rather than our own. The Psalter is chock full of exhortations to wait on the Lord [Ps 5:3; 27:14; 33:20; 37:7; 38:15; 40:1; 106:13; 119:166; 130:5-6]. For what purpose? To wait on the Lord's salvation, His plans, and His answers. Waiting patiently on the Lord is not something new or revolutionary. Jesus taught His disciples to pray this as well in the Lord's Prayer, which in its entirety conforms the one praying to wait on the Lord. The second, third, and fourth petitions are especially noteworthy as they urge the prayer to wait for the Lord's kingdom to come, His will to be done, and daily bread to come from the Lord's hand. As much as these petitions are pleading for Christ's action, they also position the prayer to wait patiently in the hands of a gracious God.

As we wait and learn patience, we pray. We pray for Christ's kingdom to come into our own lives through His precious gifts of Word and Sacrament and in this often ugly and violent world. We pray for His will to be done rather than the will of Satan and of evil people. We pray for daily bread, that even as we are without a home that is 'ours' or a car, that our Father in heaven still richly provides for all of our needs. As we wait on the Lord, please pray for us and with us as Jesus has taught us. To God be the glory!

Thoughts from Amanda

Ezra is walking! He took his first steps this month. Since then he has ventured farther and farther each day! It is so wonderful to watch him take off with a huge smile on his face. As one of our friends said, "Your lives will slow down for a little while he learns to get his balance and then you will be running!"

This process of learning to walk makes me think about becoming a missionary. It has been like learning to walk all over again. Since accepting the Call to serve as missionaries we have been taking baby steps as we prepare to deploy and begin balancing on our feet abroad. The key will be to take these new steps with hearts and minds focused on Christ and his good news! As we serve step-by-step with God by our side we trust in Him to lead us in this new culture and most certainly to carry us when we lose our balance. With God's guidance we will learn to walk in a new culture and serve His people in Panama. This is a huge comfort as our deployment date is fast approaching! I am excited to take these new steps and keep walking in the light of Jesus!

Rename Your Table

EMPOWERED PARENTS *Countering the Culture of Disrespect*

Last month we began this series designed to empower parents to counter the prevailing culture of disrespect, in order to raise honorable, godly, and conscientious children. We emphasized that the primary role of parents isn't to raise "successful" children in line with the American middle-class script (which is itself a lie built around success = happiness), but to enculturate children, to teach them adult culture, to teach them what is good, right, true, and beautiful. In other words, parents' first job is to educate desire.

This is an important truth to internalize: desires must be shaped. We are not born with mature desires. In fact, Scripture indicates that our desires are often turned inward on ourselves, driving us toward self-worship and the indulgence of sinful desires. And what we see in America is the wholesale embracing of these inwardly-turned desires. Parents buy into the lie that children should be allowed to pursue what makes them "happy" ("happiness" being a euphemism for what brings them pleasure). When inwardly-turned desires are set loose with immature desires, the result is a me-centered culture seeking the instantly gratifying cotton candy pleasures of life.

Parents, therefore, must shape youthful desires, directing them toward the good, right, true, and beautiful. And they must do this in everything – food, music, worship, relationships, aesthetics – everything. To do this, it is absolutely critical that parents first appreciate the primacy of the parent-child relationship. This relationship comes before and has primacy over child-peer relationships. Dr. Leonard Sax, whose book *The Collapse of Parenting* we highlighted last month, makes this point:

> Your child's first allegiance must be to you, not to her best friend. The contemporary culture of texting, Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, and online video games has concealed this fundamental reality, promoting and accelerating the premature transfer of allegiance to same-age peers.

Appreciate what Dr. Sax is saying: A child's *first* allegiance needs to be to his or her parents. A child's source for learning what is good and right to desire needs to be his or her parents. But we, largely through social media, have turned this role over to other children.

This will not be culturally popular, but setting children loose on social media facilitates the culture of disrespect and erodes the parent-child relationship even as it exalts the peer-peer relationship. (And, yes, if parents choose to let their children access social media, it is wise to have *full access* to their accounts. This is not spying; it is being a parent and adult who knows better than a child.) Parents need to understand that social media is teaching children to value what other children think more than they value what their parents think. It is turning the definition of the good, the right, the true, and the beautiful over to children. Children, no matter how intelligent, simply aren't mature enough to define these concepts.

The region in their brains responsible for discernment, judgment, and perspective – called the prefrontal cortex – isn't mature until the early to mid-20s. Additionally, the good, right, true, and beautiful are discerned through the thoughtful reflection of adults (specifically adults who reflect deeply upon God and His Word) and should be passed on from adults to children, from generation to generation. And this can only happen if parents establish the parent-child relationship as primary.

We need to point out one other side effect of the erosion of the parent-child relationship and the elevation of the peer-peer relationship: it produces fragile children, specifically in terms of identity. When children turn to other children for approval and status, they are turning to an incredibly unstable and immature source. As every adult knows, peer relationships are conditional by nature. Approval is always contingent upon certain criteria: Are you cool

enough? Are you good enough? Did you make the team? Did you get into the club? Are you funny? Are your clothes the right ones?

Children who look for their identity primarily in their peers are trying to dock their ships on an eternally moving shore. They are forever looking for a place to land and forever uncertain they will be able to remain docked on the same shore. Acceptance is always built on impressing the right people, and the standards are always changing.

Children who find their identity first in the parent-child relationship will find a far more certain shore upon which to anchor their identity. Parents don't base acceptance on eternally changing and fickle conditions; parents accept their children.

Christian parents will immediately see the value of grounding their children's identity in Christ and His Church. Further, they will see the value of the Church for partnering with them to teach their children the good, right, true, and beautiful. Mature parents will also understand that this partnership is bigger than the Sunday school drop off because effective parenting is accomplished more through modeling than through the complete transference of responsibilities to others. Dr. Sax makes this simple but profound observation in his book: "There is one inescapable truth: *you must teach by example.*" To inculcate Christian culture, families must worship together and study the Word together. There are no short-cuts.

So while the Church rightly celebrates children, we do not extol kiddie culture. We are responsible for raising children into the adult world, for instilling truth and beauty into them so that they can serve competently, even beautifully in their God-given vocations.

Scripture speaks of this in Deuteronomy 6, where Moses instructs parents:

> You shall teach [the words of God] diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

First, notice the primacy of the parent-child relationship. The parent, not the child's peers, is the teacher, the one who enculturates the child. Second, the word *diligently* more literally means *to sharpen.* The word carries the connotation of inscribing or teaching incisively. So Moses is instructing parents to inscribe the words of God on their children, to teach their children the ways and will of God day in and day out through intentional teaching and modeling. This responsibility belongs to the parent. Martin Luther took this reality to heart and penned The Small Catechism specifically for parents so that they could teach their children at home, so they could inscribe the words of God onto their children.

This is what it means to be a parent. We are the enculturators. We are the desire-shapers. We are the truth-bearers, the goodness-modelers, and the beauty-extolers. It's not for wimps. If we're going to do this right, we're going to have to become better people ourselves.

So how do we start countering the culture of disrespect and re-establishing the primacy of the parent-child relationship? Dr. Sax writes, "The solution is mindfully to create an alternative culture. To build a subversive household in which the dinner table conversation is actually conversation, with the screen switched off." Rename your kitchen table *The Family Table*. Make it sacred. Banish screens from this area. The Family Table is for family. It's for enculturating. It's for shaping desires. It's for inscribing truth, beauty, and goodness onto children. Becoming a subversive household starts here. In coming months we'll build on this simple but profound beginning point as we expand into family rituals, vacations, extra-curricular activities, and more.

For now, *rename your table*.

!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 7, July 2016

Annual Hispanic Mission Festival: Our four Hispanic churches in Iowa District West gathered at Mission Central on Sunday, May 31 for our 3rd Mission Festival. We developed the mission festival to teach and encourage our Hispanic families to be missionaries to their Hispanic communities in Iowa and around the world.

We celebrated the 19 missionaries that Mission Central is supporting in Spanish speaking countries. Pastor Lincon Guerra of Des Moines preached the message and we had over 70 in attendance from Denison, Des Moines, Storm Lake and Sioux City. As usual, Mission Central Director Gary Thies provided a wonderful atmosphere for spiritual growth for our families. Our offering was given to Rev. Ricardo and Gema Schuller serving in Puerto Rico. We pray that from our congregations God will raise up many missionaries to serve for full-time work in His Kingdom.

Recruiting Hispanic Youth: On Sunday, June 5, Paula and I took twins Moises and Jasmin Mendoza of Denison to the annual "Joy in Ministry" Banquet to support our District effort of recruiting students for church vocations. We are pictured with Dr. Brian Friedrich, President of Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. We are working to recruit Hispanic students from Denison and Storm Lake to attend our Concordia colleges. We have such a big need for bilingual church workers in the church. Pray that God will call workers for the church.

Mother's Day: Our mothers were treated well on Mother's Day as we celebrated our annual gathering with flowers and a special treat. The men made banana split desserts for the ladies. Representing many Hispanic countries, God has brought them together to be a blessing to their families and to our church family.

Garage Sale Season: Summer is here and so we begin the season with our annual Garage Sale. These ladies and kids were part of the team that worked to organize our first sale. We made $625 on this sale which will be used to provide scholarships for Hispanic families to put their kids in Zion School and to subsidize our annual family retreat at Camp Okoboji. We thank Zion, Denison for all their donations and ongoing support.

Please Pray: + For the Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they pray for a bilingual pastor to serve them. + For our 8 adult Confirmation students in Denison and Storm Lake as they study to grow in faith to become a part of our churches. + For the ongoing blessings from our annual Hispanic Mission Festival at Mission Central last month. + For plans for our summer Block Party as we invite the neighborhood to get to know our church/school. + *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

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

Great news: Praise to the Lord, while driving him to the hospital my father-in-law told me he wanted to believe in Jesus and be baptized, so he was baptized in the hospital!!...after many years of witness and prayers, including yours!

After the bone biopsy, the doctor has decided to proceed with chemotherapy (harsh stuff!!), which is due to start this coming week.

Thanks so much for your prayers and please continue!…

Thrivent Action Team Reminder – We are halfway through the year, so if you have not used your Action Teams, please be thinking of ways you volunteer your time to serve others, your passions, organizations you serve/served in, or the needs of others which you would like to help make a difference. Remember that human need is not just about money. We also have spiritual, emotional, and physical needs. This is about working together with others as volunteers, using the seed money ($250) to assist in serving others with Christ as our model & focus. Benefit members (insurances and annuities) have 2 per year. Associate members (Mutual funds or non-Thrivent contracts) have 1 per year for a max of 3. If you need assistance, please call Janet Smith RICP, financial rep in Manning. 655-9411.

Scenes from 2016's C3 community celebration. It truly was an evening of a community celebrating Christ!

July Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

Birthdays

1. Heather Adams
   Nathan Jensen
   Delores Kuhn
   Judith Lee
   Walter Noelck
   Samantha Smith
2. Suri Chavez
   Becki Ehlers
   Brenna Hodne
   Jessica Soll
4. Paige Saunders
   Mallory Weitl
5. Chelsea Page
6. Diane Henkelman
   Janet Smith
7. Leonard Dammann
   Lisa Drier
   Valda Lamp
8. Matthew Weitl
11. Olivia Beck
    Jax Greving
    Jason Kienast
    Jessica Kurth
    Jordan Weller
12. Casey Karsten
    Scott Rosener
    Trisha Rosener
    Clark Tibben
13. Arlene Bald
    Dereck Hilsabeck
14. Stephanie Ahrenholtz
    Gregory Conner
    Bary Kienast
    Duane Monson
15. Bill Bruhn
    Jesse Weitl
16. Dean Genzen
18. Joni Kienast
19. Bob Genzen
    Rebecca Genzen
    Brad Otto
21. Louise Bruhn
    Kaylee Martin
22. Alle Jacobsen
    Christopher Smith
23. Denise Christensen
    Jill Saunders
24. Sophie Alexander
25. Nancy Roe
26. Sharon Mohr
    Susan Schilling
27. Kevin Brus
    Luella Mahnke
    Ron Soll
28. Rita Saunders
    Adam Vollstedt
30. Dewayne Buhr
    Kathy Lage
    Howard Roe
    Natasha Schultes
31. Markus Neumann
    Lyle Ranniger

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

Anniversaries

1. Randy & Crystal Dreher
3. Warren & Sue Puck
5. Dennis & Michaela Chapman
8. Brian & Kathy Lage
9. Dan & Cheryl Kerkoff
12. Craig & Debbie Musfeldt
16. Doug & Kate Greving
    Todd & Shelly Gruhn
24. Gale & Linda Vinke
25. Pastor Robert & Diane Riggert
    Ron & Sue Soll
29. Pastor Jonathan & Rebecca Conner
    Eric & Jodi Ramsey
31. Steve & Holly Borkowski
    Chris & Mary Greving

Official Acts

Baptism:
Amelia Joyce Hinners, daughter of Joe and Ashley (nee: Wulf) Hinners; June 19, 2016; Pastor Conner

Funeral:
Marlin Frederick Kahl; Died June 17, 2016; Buried June 20, 2016; Pastor Conner and Pastor Riggert

Adult Confirmation:
June 12, 2016; by Pastor Conner; Kristine Bunker, Isaac Grabill, & Megan Alexander

June 19, 2016; by Pastor Conner; Keaton Otto and Kyle Arp

In Our Prayers

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