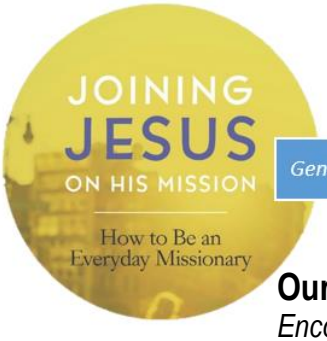

Generations in mission

Our Mission Mindset

Encouragement for the Mission Adventure

Throughout the year we've been on a mission adventure *with* Jesus. We've been reminded that we haven't been sent out on a mission *for* Jesus, but that we have been invited to *join* Jesus, to go *with* Him as He brings His redemption into our community.

In order to help us seek, recognize, and respond to what Jesus is doing in our neighborhoods, we've trained ourselves to ask five mission questions:

1. How did I see God at work this week (How did you see the Kingdom draw near)?
2. What has God been teaching me in His Word?
3. What kind of conversations am I having?
4. What good can I do around here?
5. How can I minister through prayer?

These are vitally important questions to help us stay focused on Jesus' mission. But life in mission can be tough, that's why Pastor Finke has encouraged us to gather in missional communities. A missional community is a gathering of like-minded believers in Christ who provide the encouragement, insight, and accountability we need to join Jesus week in and week out as neighborhood missionaries.

Pastor Finke put it this way:

> A missional community is about using the five questions for the encouragement, insights, and accountability we need to stay inspired and intentional for our long term mission adventure with Jesus.

These communities use our five mission questions as a launch pad for missional living, as a means by which to keep us accountable to what we say we want our lives to be about (the Kingdom of God!). They enable us to share the good and the difficult, the celebrations and the setbacks as we discuss our missional living with Jesus and as we look for ways to improve our neighboring.

Maybe you're already meeting with such a group. Great! Maybe you can transform an existing group into a missional community. Maybe you can start one. Identify a few like-minded believers and start discussing the five mission questions. The important thing is to establish the time and the space for people in your group to share their mission stories. Doing so will provide the encouragement, insight, and accountability you need to live in mission with Jesus.

Still not convinced? Consider the words of the author to the Hebrews:

> Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (10:24-25).

The heart of our meeting together happens every Sunday in the Divine Service where Jesus comes to us with His gifts of forgiveness, grace, and salvation. Missional communities are outgrowths of this central gathering where we can discuss what we've heard in the preached Word and how God is calling us to respond in our daily vocations. Want to talk more? Want help in starting a missional community? Call/email/visit. I look forward to the conversation and our shared mission adventure with Jesus. – Pastor Conner

Generations

A New Creation Celebration at Zion's

Celebration and Dedication Service with Open House

Thank you people of Zion for a fantastic celebration on September 25th!

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes (October 2016): Zion and Trinity Lutheran

A family had just returned from an exciting outing. As the family van pulled into the driveway, a child asked, "What are we going to do next?" There's two perspectives on the child's comment. Certainly the family would want to pause and rejoice in what they had just experienced. It's also the nature of children to anticipate what's next.

The family of Zion has just experienced three years of praying, planning, generating financial gifts, removing old and adding new (pews, classrooms, driveway, etc.) "What's next?" Like the family on an outing, we pause to rejoice and give thanks. We also ask, "What's next?" What is God's plan for His church as we focus on "Generations" present and future?

The church (Acts 2) had just experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. 3,000 souls had been welcomed into God's family. "What's next?" *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the braking of bread and the prayers." (vs. 42)* The church worshipped, learned, and served. May God's Spirit lead us to be His church! Pastor Bob

Joshua: A Devoted Leader—A Bible Study

Many of us know about the fall of Jericho's walls. There were many more adventures for Joshua and the children of Israel as they arrive in the Promised Land. Be part of the expedition in a series of Bible studies on the book of Joshua. Bible studies will be held each MONDAY at 9:30 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. Both sessions will be at Zion. The study will last about an hour. Friends and neighbors are welcome! We too are journeying through the Promised Land!

Devoted to God's Teaching for His Children

Sunday school and Midweek classes are off to a great start. It is important that children and families make Christian education and worship part of the family routine. Sunday school lessons for the first quarter take children into Old Testament truths. God's people waited faithfully for their Savior. We gather faithfully because our Savior has come!

Devoted Stewards

Praise God for the devoted stewards who have given of their TIME to complete the facility updates and to clean the facility for a positive presentation on re-dedication Sunday. Praise God for those who shared their TALENTS in the "New Creation" submissions. Praise God for those who generously shared their TREASURES so that the update could be completed WITHOUT DEBT. May our stewardship response in all areas continue to be generous because of God's abundant grace. Consider a weekly "first-fruits" gift to the mission and ministry of Zion. Information on electronic giving is available through financial leaders Amber Neumann or Jeff Hargens.

Our children continue to share the joy of giving in their Sunday morning and Sunday school offerings. The Christian Education Board has designation the Camp Okoboji "DISCOVER" program as the recipient of this year's gifts. A new DISCOVER ministry center is being built on the camp grounds to share God's Word and the beauty of His creation with children and families.

Devoted Families

Families (and friends) are invited to a congregation hay-ride on Sunday evening, October 2, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Hotdogs and s'mores will be served around a camp fire.

Do Sincerely Held Beliefs Determine Reality?

In June of 2015 the Supreme Court issued its landmark Obergefell decision, deeming the definition of marriage as one man married to one woman to be unconstitutional and discriminatory to same-sex couples. Justice Kennedy, writing for the majority, justified this redefinition of marriage under the banner of liberty:

> The Constitution promises liberty to all within its reach, a liberty that includes certain specific rights that allow persons, within a lawful realm, to define and express their identity.

The now late Justice Scalia responded sharply in his dissent:

> If ever the price to be paid for a fifth vote, I ever joined an opinion for the Court that began: 'The Constitution promises liberty to all within its reach, a liberty that includes certain specific rights that allow persons within a lawful realm, to define and express their identity,' I would hide my head in a bag.

Their disagreement couldn't have been starker. Justice Kennedy, writing for the majority, and an increasing number of Americans, endorses a belief that identity must bend before beliefs. In other words, your beliefs about yourself trump your biology.

Justice Scalia, writing for the minority, and a large number of Americans (including the confessing Church), espoused a worldview that saw certain limits to identity that couldn't be moved, specifically concerning biology, no matter how firm or sincere one's beliefs about oneself.

It should be no surprise, then, that we find ourselves in a debate over transgenderism and bathrooms. It's the same underlying worldview: identity is determined by beliefs; biology is irrelevant. The transgender question and the same-sex marriage question are fruit of the same tree, the "beliefs-determine-identity" tree.

THE TRANSGENDER QUESTION AND THE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE QUESTION ARE FRUIT OF THE SAME TREE, THE "BELIEFS-DETERMINE-IDENTITY" TREE.

And it is becoming increasingly apparent that young people are eating the fruit from this tree. In a recent man-on-the-street survey at the University of Washington, Joseph Backholm, the director of the Family Policy Institute of Washington, spoke with students about identity.[1] He began by asking multiple students, "If I told you that I was a woman, what would your response be?" Student after student responded by affirming Mr. Backholm's pretend decision to be a woman. His beliefs about himself trumped his biology.

Mr. Backholm then pushed the question of identity further by asking, "If I told you I was Chinese, what would your response be?"[2] Students paused to consider the proposition, but again affirmed Mr. Backholm's reality as Chinese. Belief here trumped ancestry.

He followed up by asking, "If I told you that I was seven years old, what would your response be?"[3] Students were clearly skeptical, but because they had eaten from the "beliefs-determine-identity" tree, they again affirmed Mr. Backholm's reality. So he asked, "If I wanted to enroll in a first grade class, should I be able to do that?" Students struggled, but in line with their worldview, affirmed his right to enroll in a first grade class as a seven year old.

Then Mr. Backholm pushed their worldview to the breaking point: "If I told you that I was 6 ft. 5 inches

[1] Available here: youtube.com/watch?v=xfO1veFs6Ho

[2] Mr. Backholm is Caucasian.

[3] Mr. Backholm is in his late 20s or early 30s.

tall, what would you say?"[4] Students began to balk because they could clearly see that Mr. Backholm was not 6'5" tall. Reality was beginning to push back against sincerely held beliefs. So he followed up, "So I can be a Chinese woman, but I can't be a 6'5" Chinese woman?" Students struggled for words. Reality was clearly and powerfully contradicting beliefs about reality and they knew it, but they did their best to remain committed to their worldview that beliefs determine reality.

Then Mr. Backholm looked into the camera and said,

> It shouldn't be hard to tell a 5'9" white guy that he's not a 6'5" Chinese woman, but clearly it is. Why? What does that say about our culture and what does that say about ability to answer the questions that actually are difficult?

THE "BELIEFS-DETERMINE-REALITY" TREE IS PRODUCING POISONOUS FRUIT.

The "beliefs-determine-reality" tree is producing poisonous fruit. If it merely resulted in an amusing video of college youths making fools of themselves over their inability to tell a 5'9" white guy that he's is NOT a 6'5" Chinese woman, that would be one thing, but we would be naïve if we didn't acknowledge that we are just beginning to see the fruit of the "beliefs-determine-reality" tree.[5]

Justice Alito saw the coming fruit and wrote about it in his Obergefell dissent:

> [This decision] will be used to vilify Americans who are unwilling to assent to the new orthodoxy. In the course of its opinion, the majority compares traditional marriage laws to laws that denied equal treatment for African-Americans and women… The implications of this analogy will be exploited by those who are determined to stamp out every vestige of dissent.
>
> I assume that those who cling to old beliefs will be able to whisper their thoughts in the recesses of their homes, but if they repeat those views in public, they will risk being labeled as bigots and treated as such by governments, employers, and schools."

Chilling words.

And Ryan Anderson, author of *Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom*, speaking to our church body's national convention in July, warned that the redefinition of marriage would lead to the reordering of society: "If man-made laws don't mirror natural law/Divine ordering," he said, "then government will have to refashion human nature and reorder the dissenters."

Again, chilling words.

And what Alito and Anderson saw is coming to pass. In May of this year the U.S. Department of Justice (*Civil Rights Division*) and the U.S. Department of Education (*Office for Civil Rights*) issued a "Dear Colleague" letter to all American public schools advising them on how they should comply with the Title IX Law so as to retain federal dollars.[6] This letter fully embraces the worldview that informed the Obergefell decision. It's simply highlighting the next fruit in bloom on the tree.

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[4] Mr. Backholm is 5 ft. 9 inches tall.

[5] Space prevents treating the question of transgenderism, but it should be apparent that it is a mental health issue and not physical problem. In other words, for those battling gender dysphoria (discomfort with their biological sex), the problem isn't with their body; the problem is in their thinking. Affirming their thinking (and altering their body) would be as unhelpful as it would be to affirm the thinking and behavior of an anorexic woman who believed she was 300 lbs. The body isn't the problem; the mind is.

[6] Available here: http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201605-title-ix-transgender.pdf. The implicit threat was: comply or lose funding.
Title IX states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

The language of this letter denies biology in favor of sincerely held beliefs. In other words, a person's thoughts determine his/her gender identity, not his/her biology. In addition to the "gender identity" language, the letter adopts "sex assignment" language. "Sex assignment" language is language that asserts that biology doesn't dictate a child's sex; sex is arbitrarily assigned by doctors or parents. In other words, when a doctor delivers a baby and looks at his sex and declares, "It's a boy!" he's assigning the child's sex rather than announcing it. The true sex of the child will be determined by the child when he/she determines his/her gender identity. Again, biology means nothing; beliefs trump reality.

None of this should surprise or scare Christians, but it should open our eyes to the trajectory of our culture. It should motivate us to become conversant with our Christian worldview so that we can both offer a reasoned response to our culture and teach our children to stand against the tide. And make no mistake, the tide is rising. Confessing Christians will face increasing opposition. If we don't equip ourselves and our children to stand, we will be swept under.

What can you do? In May of last year I cited the counsel of cultural commentator Rod Dreher. I think his advice bears repeating.

1) "The importance of community in forming moral consciences should lead Christians to think of their… congregations as the basic unit of Christian life." I made this point at our 2015 December voters' meeting when I referred to the church as the hub of our life. If we are going to maintain our identity as confessing Christians, we're going to need to re-center our lives around the church.

IF WE ARE GOING TO MAINTAIN OUR IDENTITY AS CONFESSING CHRISTIANS, WE'RE GOING TO NEED TO RE-CENTER OUR LIVES AROUND THE CHURCH.

2) "It is vital to find a strong church where people know what they believe and why, and are willing to help others in the church teach those truths and live them out joyfully." Reading your monthly newsletter is a great place to start. It is specifically designed to equip you to understand and defend your faith.

3) Christians should "read about church history, including the lives of the saints, and to acquaint themselves with the fact that the Christian church has actual roots, and teachings. It's not about what you 'feel' is Christian." We are not the Church of the brand new; we are the church of the historically true. Our teachings aren't rooted in the latest cultural enlightenment, but in the created order of God and in His revealed will.

4) Christians should only marry confessing Christians and should begin embracing larger families. The Faith is transmitted in families and Christians must again see the importance of passing on the Faith. Further, we need to regain an appreciation for marriage and family as the cradle of culture and the bedrock of civilization.

5) "Christians should put their families on a 'media fast.' Throw out the TV. Limit Netflix. You cannot let in contemporary stuff. It's garbage. It's a sewage pipe into your home. So many parents think they're holding the line, but they let their kids have unfettered access to TV, the Internet, and smartphones. You can't do that."

The situation is serious and our response must be too. We've come so far that we aren't even able to affirm biology as reality; we can't even tell a 5'9" white guy that he's not a 6'5" Chinese woman. If we aren't prepared to take what to some might appear to be drastic measures, then we must prepare to watch historic Christianity be swept away by the cultural tide. This is a call to stand. Are you ready?

- Pastor Conner

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

The biggest typhoon in 16 years has just passed by Taiwan's Southern tip and we are all ok here in the North, praying for those hurt by the heavy winds and rains in the South.

I just took my father-in-law to the doctor, who reported that the third generation targeted therapy medicine he has been taking now (for three months) is effective and the tumor has shrunk. My father-in-law has been enjoying steady (though weak) health at home for two months now.

Finally, we were very happy to meet with LHF Director, Matt Heise, to direct our joint project (LHF & CLS) of publishing the Reader's Version of the Book of Concord in Chinese. The whole faculty is involved in proofing and editing and we plan to publish it next year for Reformation 500!

Pastor Oliver's Father-in-Law with Christian friends, reading the promise in his Bible: "Do not fear for I am with you...I will help you..." (Isaiah 41:10).

The Stewardship of "Generations"

Pledges and gifts to the "Generations" campaign: $510,522.48
82 units made pledges to the campaign: $516,040.12 (99.8%)
Gifts from former members, friends, memorials, and estate: $377,451.51
319 additional gifts were directed to the "Generations" projects;
A timely gift of over $250,000 from the Albert and Arlene Musfeldt estate was a special blessing.
Sunday worship and Sunday school gifts from the children totaled over $2,000
Total Financial Gifts: $887,973.99
Expenditures (approximately at end of September): $1,040,000
Additional Zion resources for "Generations" improvements:
Pew Fund, Parking Lot Fund, Non-designated Memorial Fund;
Building Repairs Memorials; Endowment Fund interest, Thrivent Action gifts.
Volunteers: MANY!
Volunteer hours: Thousands!
God's Grace: Priceless
Additional gifts to the "Generations" projects are welcomed as a few projects still need to be completed and a listing of additional improvements that bring additional blessings is also being developed.
Praise God for the response of His people. "Well done good and faithful stewards!"

The *Family* Vacation and *Extra*-curriculars

Last month we again emphasized the importance of the parent-child relationship in raising strong, God-fearing children. As we've iterated time and time again the parent-child relationship must take primacy over peer-peer relationships. If parents don't embrace their vocation as enculturators of truth, beauty, and goodness, children will be enculturated by their peers into the youth culture of disrespect.

Further, as we discussed last month, if children are left to anchor their identity in the peer-peer relationship, they will be left to anchor their identity in the ever-shifting shores of "popular" and "unpopular." Children need the unshifting shore of the family on which to cast their anchor (especially the family anchored in Jesus). Parents must make providing this among their top priorities.

One of best ways to accomplish this, as we emphasized last month, is through the establishment of family rituals such as family meals, family walks, family games, and family devotions. We compared these to the rails that keep the family train on track. This month we underscore the place of the family vacation and extra-curricular activities.

The *Family* Vacation

Family vacations can be great identity builders for families, but in order for this to happen, parents must first identify the most important word in the phrase. It's not *vacation*; it's *family*. If parents understand their God-given vocation as enculturators of truth, beauty, and goodness and the primacy of the parent-child relationship in accomplishing this, then they will see their vacations not simply as getaways, but as family builders.

Further, and this may come as a surprise to many parents today who have focused more on the word *vacation* than *family*, but the family vacation is NOT for their children's friends. In other words, if your child wants to bring his or her friend along, the answer should be *no*. Dr. Sax, author of *The Collapse of Parenting*, writes,

> Schedule vacations just for the family. When your daughter asks whether she can bring her best friend along, the answer must be NO. If the best friend comes along, then a significant portion of time on the vacation will got to your daughter bonding with her best friend. The main purpose of the family vacation should be to strengthen the bonds between parent and child, not to give the kids an expensive playdate.

Again, the most important word in family vacation is *family*.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Here again we need to re-establish the operative word in our phrase: extra-curricular activities need to be viewed as *extra*. They can be good and healthy activities for children, but they should be seen as *extra*, activities that come *after* the family. Remember, the goal is not to provide youths hours and hours of time immersed in an adult-less world; the goal is to keep the parent-child relationship primary and their activities beyond the family secondary, or extra.

Again, Dr. Sax advises:

> In all your arrangements for your child, try to make connecting with adults a higher priority than connecting with your child's same-age peers or academics or after-school activities. Prioritize your extended family and your close adult friends in the life of your child… You want to give your child a different perspective [than the youth culture]. You want to connect her to your culture.

See the goal? Connect children to adult culture. Enculturate them in truth, beauty, and goodness. See why the church is the perfect place for the family to gather week-in and week-out? We specialize in truth, beauty, and goodness. The church is not extra; it is essential to the family. Want to talk about it? Call/email/visit any time! – Pastor Conner

Ladies Guild

Highlights
Ladies Guild of Zion
September 15, 2016

Pastor Conner led the Guild in "Stewardship Conversations." A lively discussion followed. Margaret Backhaus, Christian Life, read "The Cadillac Kid" based on the passage in Luke 6 which speaks of the speck and the log in our eyes. We need to beware of pride, greed and self-righteousness. The mite box prayer was offered as the box was passed.

President Buhr called the meeting to order in the name of the Triune God and led us in the LWML Pledge. Roll call indicated 14 members present. The secretary's report was read and approved as amended with the name of Sandra Vahl replacing that of Connie Ahrendsen as hostess of the August meeting. Mary Grimm, treasurer, and Darlene Vollstedt, kitchen fund treasurer gave their reports.

Presidential announcements included the Fall Rally scheduled for Saturday, September 17th at St. Paul's Carroll. A breakfast will be served at 8:30 A.M. Committee reports: Human Care Chair, Audrey Roe said quilting will begin at 1:00 P.M. on September 15th. Circle # 3 will serve the next funeral.

Old Business included the report on the 2016-2018 mission grants adopted at the LWML convention at Camp Okoboji. It was decided not to send donations for the 2016 convention gatherings, rather to make a note that they need to be considered for the convention to be held in 2018. New business made note of the observation of LWML Sunday on October 9th. Members were reminded to wear something purple and that a "noisy" collection of coins would be taken. Ushers will be Susie Schilling, Joene Bohlman, Bev Grundmeier, and Sue Puck.

Plaza Bingo will be hosted September 23rd by Barb Anderson, Susie Schilling, Bev Grundmeier and Sue Puck. The next guild meeting will be October 12th at 1:00 P.M. Ladies will check in the kitchen to see what cleaning needs the church will have before dedication Sunday on September 25th. As the cleaning is accomplished, the need will be removed from the list. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer. Hostesses were Joene Bohlman and Cheryl Buhr.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Puck, secretary

Generations Update

In the pictures below, the finishing touches are being done on the east entrance. You can see trim work being done on top of the roof and finish work being done on its underside. The handrail for the handicap parking is being positioned and Bob Genzen and Denny Backhaus are finishing the downspouts. And the new sod has been laid outside the old entrance.

Preschool Praises September 2016

Greetings from Zion Preschool! We had a great start and the children are learning the "ropes" of being in preschool. This month we focused on friends, feelings, the 5 senses, family and the first 4 days of creation.

We learned that friends can come in all shapes, sizes, colors and ages, and they help you when you feel sad or sick and make you feel happy and play with you. During this week we also got to play with blue sand and purple play dough which all the children loved and had to learn how to take turns.

Feelings are very important to our everyday life and the children get to post how they feel each day when they put their name on the attendance board. Needless to say, most of them are happy! We also made some cute books that went home that the children help to fill out to say what makes them happy, sad, scared, mad, and what their favorite feeling was.

We did some really fun projects for the 5 senses including "Guess that Smell" where I hid peanut butter, ketchup, onion and orange in different cups with holes in the top for them to smell and make a guess. We also played "Guess that Sound" where I hid bells, paperclips, a block, a pom pom, and black beans in different cups for them to shake and guess what they thought was inside. "Guess that Feeling" was really fun, too! I put salt, water, beans, marbles, and corn syrup into balloons for the children to feel and guess what they thought was inside. We matched colors of toys with color squares to use our sense of sight and colored a page of what we can taste (technically you could probably taste about anything, but we really shouldn't taste a bus!).

For family week we shared pictures of our family and talked about who can be in our family. You don't have to be related to be a family, like a Church family! We also enjoyed having Mom's Night and spending time making special picture frames with pictures of Mom's with their children. The children got to show their special version of the song "If Your Happy and You Know It" with parts added in for sad, mad and sleepy.

We are making a special "Creation Book" where the children color/paint/decorate each day of creation to learn what God made using only his word! It is so wonderful to see them learning new things!

Next month will be exciting as we have Fire Prevention week (fire truck rides on 10/13) as well as the Pancake Breakfast (10/23) and the Fall Festival (10/26). Fall is in the air and new exciting learning activities will follow. What a blessing it is to be teaching these young ones!

Blessings,
Mrs. Gore and Mrs. Nemitz

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

SERVING THE LORD IN
PANAMA
NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

August/September 2016
Vol. 1 Issue VII

Learning to Walk, Again

Greetings from the Dominican Republic! After a very long day of traveling we arrived in Santiago on August 19 with all of our bags. Since then, we have been studying Spanish and adapting to life in Latin America. What is it like? If I had to describe what life is like in another culture, I would liken it to learning to walk again. Recently, our son Ezra learned to walk. What started as very cautious steps with arms up in the air morphed into full-blown running, but not without countless falls, stumbles, bumps and bruises along the way. While we are not literally falling over, the difference in language has tripped us up quite a bit.

For us, everything (shopping, making a phone call, asking for directions, participating in worship) takes twice as much energy and in addition to exhaustion comes a fair amount of humiliation as well. In conversations I have used the wrong words, answered the wrong questions, and even just stared blankly at the person speaking to me. All of this is normal (so I am told) in the process of adapting to life in a new culture and learning a new language. Even though stumbling and falling is a regular part of cross-cultural living that does not make enduring it any easier. Falling down daily wears on you and makes you wish for something different. So how do we deal with the bumps and bruises to our egos? By staying connected to our Lord Jesus in Bible study and worship.

When I am bruised with humiliation, I hear the words spoken at my baptism, “In the name of the Father...” As I stumble daily, I am met with the words, “...I forgive you in the name of the Father...” In the times I fall flat and feel completely alone in this foreign place these words hit my ears, “Take, eat, this is the body of Christ...” The psalmist writes “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” [Ps 119:105]. Thanks be to God that we are not out here alone. The Word of God is a light for our path and our precious Lord Jesus is with us each step we take, even as we stumble and fall learning to walk again. To God be the glory.

Thoughts from Ezra

Hi! It’s me, Ezra. Mom and dad took me on a big trip last month. They packed lots of bags, but I didn’t have to carry them. Lately, we have been staying in an apartment. I like it as there is lots of room for me to run and play with my toys. In the room where we eat, there is a large window that I like to look out with my mom and dad. Out there is a huge field with lots of dogs, cats, roosters, and chickens in it! I love the food here. I eat fresh pineapple and bananas almost every day. Each day I meet new friends. There is a man that takes my mom and dad to class every day; he is nice. He calls me “amigo miyo” – I’m not sure what that means, but I think it is a good thing because he smiles and picks me up a lot.

Church is fun; I’ve met lots of friends there. Some talk like I do, but others speak differently than me. Sometimes my mom and dad sound like them – hopefully I can too someday. My favorite day of the week is Thursday. Mom takes me to something called “pre-school” and I get to play with other missionary kids, eat a snack, and make a craft. The kids are really fun and I like my teacher, Mrs. Warren, a lot. Last week I made a picture with my name on it. Thank you Jesus for this fun time in the Dominican Republic, amen.

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

SELAMAT

All that was left upon returning home to Indonesia was to tie up some loose ends and pack like crazy.

The family and I said goodbye to August in the midst of a stack of suitcases as we prepared to bring the kids back to the US for their first visit in 2 ½ years! By the time you read this, God willing, we will be back on American soil.

Our calendar is as full with planned visits as it can possibly be. If we cannot accommodate your location, please understand and forgive us. And check the calendar online to see where you can find us in your area: chances are there's a visit scheduled not too far from you! Please keep us in your prayers as we leave our adopted home, which has not been easy. And look for us at a church or school near you.

While Daddy's been gone for large chunks of August, the family's been busy getting ready for their journey overseas to visit the US. At this point, Carissa and Cassandra have no memory of their country of birth, and Chloe's never been to the US before. They've been making their list of things they want to do and try while they're "home" on American ground again. Their list includes eating cheese and drinking fresh milk, as well as doing things like bowling and spending lots of time with their cousins, aunts, uncles, grandmas, and grandpa. Lord, grant us protection and wisdom during our journey!

The Ferry family checking in at the Medan airport. See the clerk's face? "You have how many people traveling in this family?!?"

Di mana bulan Agusutus? (Indonesian for "Where did August go?")

Where did the month of August go? I believe it got left behind in one of the countries where I was working recently. I had the opportunity to do some teaching in the Philippines, and to accompany new LCMS International worker Rev. Dr. Charles Cortright. We headed through Manila to the seminary in Baguio which belongs to our partners The Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP). We spent a week there: praying together, singing and talking together, and studying Paul's letter to the church in Rome, chapters1–8.

Immediately upon returning to Indonesia, I was able to host a delegation from the new leadership of the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church, our current partners in our country of residence. The new Bishop, Rev. Dr. Esra Sinaga, brought along a few other church workers with him in his visit to our home in Medan. He was a gracious guest, and expressed a strong desire to continue our work together. He requested further help from the LCMS in the form of teaching. He'd like to see teaching continue in the areas of liturgy, devotional life, preaching, and general Lutheran theology. He expressed his continued commitment to sponsoring our residence visas, and we are more than willing to continue helping him and his church in every way possible.

After spending time with the GKLI, I got to accompany some fellow LCMS personnel to Malaysia for some teaching at their request. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (ELCM) had invited me for two different workshop sessions on Lutheran Liturgy and Worship. It was a joyful time and well-received by all our hosts.

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*.

!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 10, October 2016

Confirmation at Storm Lake and Denison: The last Sundays of August were special for our churches in Storm Lake and Denison. On Sunday, August 21, Francesca Perez was confirmed in Storm Lake. Francesca has been a visitor to our church for many years. We are blessed to have her finally make this decision to join our church.

In Denison we confirmed four adults on August 28. They were Elias Perez, Carolina Mendoza, Edwin Gonzalez, and Eliseo Rizo. Eliseo is originally from Mexico and the others are from El Salvador. This was a series of special events. It began with the wedding of Elias and Carolina at Zion early in the week. On Sunday, Carolina was baptized and then confirmed with her husband, Elias and her son, Edwin and also Eliseo. Carolina has three children and Elias is making plans to adopt them. Eliseo, like Francesca, has been worshipping with our congregation (his wife Maru is one of the founding members of our mission in 2006) for many years. What a blessing to have Eliseo with us now as a member and leader. Please pray for these new members and families of God's Church.

Annual Retreat: Another Big Success: In August we held our 12th annual Hispanic Family Retreat at Camp Okoboji. This year we had 100 in attendance from Denison, Des Moines and Sioux City. It was a beautiful weekend and we had lots of great activities: Bible studies, sports, fun! I was especially pleased with our Denison group of 50, a record of attendance at a retreat for our ministry. We also were blessed to see new families and we pray the retreat will be a new beginning for them. In addition to our three sessions of Bible studies for all ages, we had three sports competitions during our free time.
This year the adults studied the CPH comic book in Spanish of Luther's Catechism led by our three pastors: myself, Pastor Lincon Guerra of Des Moines and Pastor Henry Witte of Sioux City. During our free time, the leaders of Des Moines organized competitions of basketball, volleyball and soccer. All teams (with biblical names) were made up of both men, women and youth from different churches. We had a great spirit of fellowship with the competition. It was a great weekend from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. No one wanted to leave. We were blessed with beautiful weather and great support from the Camp staff. This retreat is the highlight of our Hispanic ministry in Iowa District West and we pray it will continue for many years. We thank Camp Okoboji for all their great help for this unique group!

Please Pray: + For the Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they pray and prepare to renew their Hispanic mission committee to help guide the ministry in the Circuit and District. + For each of our five adults confirmed in Denison and Storm Lake as they become an important part of our churches. + For the ongoing blessings from our annual Family Retreat at Camp Okoboji last month. + For Hispanic students beginning another year in our Lutheran school in Denison. + *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:
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Greg Finke

Saturday, October 15

8:30 a.m.	Registration
9:00-Noon	Joining Jesus on the Mission Adventure
Noon	Fellowship Meal
6:00 p.m.	Pastor Finke preaches at Trinity, Manilla

Sunday, October 16

9:00 a.m.	Pastor Finke preaches at Zion, Manning

In March, Zion in Manning had the privilege of welcoming Pastor Greg Finke of Dwelling 1:14 as he encouraged and equipped us to join Jesus on His mission to bring the Kingdom of God to our neighborhoods. On Saturday, October 15, we get to do it again! If you were here last time, you'll certainly want to come back. If you missed Pastor Finke in March, you won't want to miss him again.

Meet our missionary family!

Pastor Ferry and family will be at Zion on Wednesday, October 19th at 2:30 p.m. He will visit with our confirmation youth and any and all congregation members who can attend.

And then we'll celebrate with his whole family that evening at 5:30 p.m. at Zion with a pizza party. Come meet our missionary family and join the celebration!

The Ferry Family
Missionaries in Indonesia
@ Zion October 19th!

LWML Sunday (and Saturday)!

At Zion: Sunday, October 9
At Trinity: Saturday, October 8

Special Feature: Noisy offering

Bring piles of change and get ready to make noise during the offering!

Iowa District West Jr. Youth Gathering
October 29-30
Des Moines

For more information: www.idwyg.org

Iowa District West Senior Youth Gathering
November 18-20
Des Moines
For more information: www.idwyg.org

Zion preschool board and families invite Zion members and community friends and neighbors to the annual Pancake Brunch on Sunday October 23rd
Menu: Chris cakes, sausages, eggs, juice, milk, coffee
Cost: Free-will donation

The annual brunch provides supplemental funds for learning materials, classroom updates, and staff development for the preschool program. Thank you for your continuing generous support of Zion Preschool.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

Birthdays

1 Eric Rosener
3 Marcus Borkowski
Chasity Chedester
Alan Morris
4 Amy Dawson
Robert Ehlers
Charlene Hickman
Camden Morris
5 Katelynn Wittala
6 Haleigh Alexander
Benjamin Ramsey
Richard Zinke
8 Marlene Borkowski
Juanita Kurth
9 Amelia Vetter
Bonnie Witt
11 Houston Alexander
Kimber Arp
Drew Doyel
Duane Karsten
Lynn Kruse
Skyler Sandage
12 Justeen Schwieso
14 Wendy Ahrendsen
Lance Gruhn
15 Merlin Borkowski
Barbara Doyel
Justin Frank
Lori Lenz
Kaylyn Nelson
Jodi Ramsey
Betty Schroeder
Sandra Sextro
David Weller
16 Miranda Benton
17 Pamela Garvis
Phyllis Lamp
Haven Reese
Gordon Schmarzo
18 Kate Greving
Don Lamb
19 Gloria Ewoldt
Sonia Kuchel
Julie Weller
20 Steve Borkowski
Andrea Nulle
Natalie Nulle
21 Rodney Borkowski
Pam Kusel
Nancy Walters
22 Luella Borkowski
Cynthia Genzen
23 Kyle French
24 Diana Bruch
Jill Mohr
25 Trevor Booth
Gunner Chavez-Pike
Nathan Janssen
27 Bobby Doyel
Randy Dreher
Lois Peters
Daniel Tibben
28 Marjorie Kusel
30 Claire Behrens
Geraldine Stripling

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

Anniversaries

3 Franklin & Arlene Mohr
9 Ryan & Bobby Doyel
10 Duane & Kay Otto
12 Gerald & Rita Beck
Vernon & Dorothy Larsen
13 Howard & Audrey Roe
14 David & Julie Weller
16 Dale & Karen Reinke

Official Acts

Funeral
Mandi June Weitl-Sandage, Died September 18, 2016; Buried September 22, 2016; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Baptism
Kason Harry Jacobsen, son of Jacob Jacobsen and Alison Karsten; September 10, 2016; Pastor Jonathan Conner

In Our Prayers

Walt Noelck, Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Arlene Mohr, Bev Rix, Jim Deevers, Duane Karsten, Joy Umland, Annabelle Wagner, Gabriel Albers (Pastor and Rebecca's nephew), Madelyn Dreher (newborn daughter of Randy and Crystal Dreher), Eric Lage