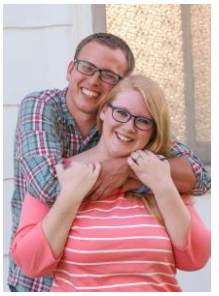
Introducing

Hello!



My name is Andrew Johnson, and I was just called to serve as Trinity's pastor. It was just a couple of months ago that my wife, Tiffany, and I were called in for an interview to a little place called Manilla. We didn't know what to feel going into the interview. By the end of it though, we knew what we were feeling...pure excitement! And that's still very much the case. As I'm writing I'm still surprised that our Father has not only blessed us with this call to Manilla, but I am truly humbled to be able to serve alongside God's people -- a group of people who have a tremendously rich history and love for Jesus!

We are just as excited to work alongside Zion in order to strengthen the firm bond that has been growing between both churches. We get to *wait for* and *live under* Jesus together. I'm not sure it gets any better than that.

Here's a quick snapshot of my life. I was born in Carroll (the one in Iowa), and I was immediately adopted. I lived in Cedar Rapids until my family moved to Kirksville, Missouri when I was about twelve. My father worked for the University of Iowa, but he took a new position in Kirksville at Truman State University as their chief of campus safety (he and my mother have since moved to Springfield, MO).

I attended Kirksville High School and transitioned into Truman State. I really enjoy history, so that was the focus of my undergrad degree. It was during the college years that I met Tiffany. She graduated from Truman a couple of years prior to me. She was a lifelong resident of the area. Tiffany focused on journalism and radio broadcast. Guided by a mutual friend, we began to date, and, well, the rest is history I suppose.

During my third year of college, dear members of my home congregation approached me about becoming a pastor. The idea was always on the backburner ever since high school, but it wasn't until a shift in my degree studies that the pastor plan solidified. It was some of those same people who had come alongside of me who also came alongside Tiffany. They encouraged her to become a deaconess. Last year she did just that, and I will be completing my pastoral studies in May.

Other quick facts about ourselves…

- Vicarage/Deaconess Internship -- last year Tiffany and I served at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo, FL (just outside of Orlando). I learned about the pastoral office while Tiffany focused her attention on senior high youth group at the church.
- We've been married for 4 years (going on 5 years in August).
- Did I mentioned we're excited about Manilla and Manning? Because that's a fact!
- Tiffany enjoys sewing. We both enjoy watching movies and reading. We also love playing board games!
- I have no siblings, but Tiffany has two younger twin brothers.

We're looking forward to joining the Manilla and Manning family. But I'm especially looking forward to walking with you under our Lord Jesus. He is risen and that means something!

Request of you…
Please track me down on Facebook. Send a friend request, and feel free to give me a little information about yourself. I greatly look forward to getting to know you, and I would love to start that process now. Your prayers are also coveted as I finish up my studies at Concordia Seminary.

In Christ,
Andrew Johnson

It's no secret: Americans aren't readers. We know how to read, but we are choosing not to.

We are not illiterate; we are aliterate. We may browse magazines, skim newspapers, follow a blog or Twitter feed, or scroll through Facebook, but we aren't reading books, especially not books of substance, books that require prolonged attention or thought. This should be deeply concerning to all of us.

A school orientation event from a few years ago powerfully illustrated our aliteracy. The administrator asked the gathered students: "How many of you went on vacation this summer?" Nearly every child stood. "How many of you watched a movie this summer?" Almost every seat remained empty. "How many of you played a sport this summer?" Again, almost every student stood up." "How many of you read a book this summer?" Over half sat down. "How many of you read more than one book?" Only a scattering of students remained standing.

We aren't readers. We are an aliterate people. And this is a bad thing.

Why is this the case and why is this a concern? Social scientists and researchers point to our media-saturated culture as one cause. According to a 2015 study from Common Sense Media, "American teenagers (13- to 18-year-olds) average about nine hours (8:56) of entertainment media use, excluding time spent at school or for homework. Tweens (8- to 12-year-olds) use an average of about six hours' (5:55) worth of entertainment media daily."[1]

Unsurprisingly, the smartphone accounts for a significant portion of media consumption. Teens who have a smartphone average over 4.5 hours of media consumption per day through their phones. One of the obvious concerns here is content. Rod Dreher, cultural commentator and author of the new book *The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post Christian Nation*, calls the content what it is: "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."

This is not a time for parental softness. Teens are not discerning (much less tweens!); the discernment centers in their brains won't be mature until their mid to upper 20s. Parents who provide unrestricted access to the internet (even to texting) are hanging a welcome sign for the world on their children's souls. And remember, once you see something, you can never un-see it.

This point was made afresh to me recently as confirmation students ogled and gawped over a highly suggestive picture on their phones of a scantily clad student from school who was displaying her "bikini body" for the social media world's scrutiny.

Is this something Christian parents should support, much less fund? Is the world our friend? Is the world our our ally in raising our children in the faith? Will the world help Christian parents enculturate their children in the good, the right, the beautiful, and the true? Hardly. Will opening our child's souls to the judgment of other teenagers help us raise virtuous children?

Smartphones may make communication easier, but the cost of efficient communication may prove to be more than we anticipated, for in addition to welcoming the world into our children's souls, our smart devices are distracting us from prolonged thought, the sort of prolonged thought facilitated by

[1] For a full breakdown of these numbers, check out this summary: https://www.commonsensemedia.org/sites/default/files/uploads/pdfs/census_factsheet_mediauseprofiles.pdf

books of substance, books that actually call us beyond ourselves and open our eyes to new worlds and perspectives.

Here's how: our smart devices offer us a steady stream of new content. Besides the dings and vibrations indicating that a new text has been received, connected apps offer continual updates: an NFL team is signing a new player, breaking news is buzzing, a new podcast is available, a store is offering a flash sale. And social media offers us never-ending new content (most of it on the level of the "bikini body").

As it turns out, this is highly appealing to the human brain. Here's why: in your brain is a neurotransmitter called dopamine. Its job is to increase your desire for something, to move you to want, to seek out, or to discover something in anticipation of reward (the reward comes from a transmitter called the opioid). Smart devices open a world of potential discovery, a world that promises a never-ending stimulation of dopamine – and that feels good. Anyone who owns a media device knows the pleasure of hunting down the perfect thing, reading reviews, finding a coupon code, getting free shipping, and so forth. That pleasure of the hunt is caused by dopamine.

Why is this a concern? It trains us to want instant gratification, gratification that can be found in the next screen, in the next pic, in the next post. If something doesn't give us pleasure quickly, we move on. And books, unsurprisingly, require a significant investment of attention before they will release their reward. So this poster, hanging in the school entrance, is false. If you can't read it, it says, "Books are like really long text messages. What have you read lately?" Books, however, are not like really long text messages, as if this would ever inspire a child to read a book. Books are entire worlds inviting you inside. Books have the power, unlike most of the media we as a culture are consuming, to pull us beyond ourselves.

And this is precisely what we need because we are bent people. The Church's historic confession has been summarized in the Latin phrase: *in curvatus in se*. We are curved inward on ourselves. This is why our media culture is such a concern; it is a study in self-worship. Everything revolves around the user. Everything. We are the point. And the drumbeat of this message is steadily bending our concave hearts further in upon ourselves.

So powerful is the media device vortex that it has started to pull American literature into it. At the school's recent book fair I was dismayed to see row after row of media-device themed books, books that centered not on worlds beyond children, but only on the self-obsessed world of children, books that would essentially lock children in themselves. One book even promised help in gaining the perfect bikini body, a book that the aforementioned student must have read. This is all very disturbing.

Shouldn't education be aimed at bending the inwardly-focused heart outward toward the good, the right, the true, and the beautiful? The ancients, from pagan Aristotle to Christian Augustine, understood education as the process of rightly ordering our desires or loves, of bending our hearts outward in awareness and appreciation of the world beyond. Reality merited certain responses from us, calling us beyond ourselves to other-centeredness. So education was centered in virtue training. It wasn't about "being good;" it was about rightly regarding the good, the right, the true, and the beautiful and aligning our lives with it, rightly aligning our lives with something extrinsic to us, not seeking to bend the world in line with our hearts.

This is why an aliterate culture is such a concern. So much of the great literature of the past has been shaped by the Christian worldview. It's not that they have all presented the Christian gospel (let alone been Christian authors), but many of these great works have wrestled with the concepts of depravity in man and the hope of redemption, with the reality of beauty and the question of God, concepts clearly presented in Scripture. But our aliterate culture has

not only left us unable to appreciate these concepts, it has left us unable to align our lives with the good, right, true, and beautiful. We don't even understand that these are objective realities beyond ourselves. We actually think that these concepts are defined by the individual because everything revolves around the user. Everything.

This is even affecting our approach to Scripture. Christians not only don't read their Bibles, a concern in and of itself, but they don't know *how* to read their Bibles. They can read the words, but they don't understand *how* to read any narrative or argument that requires prolonged attention and thought.

Aliterate Christians approach the Bible like it's a bowl of fortune cookies with individually inspired and packaged motivational verses for the day, as if each verse is its own standalone text message. Read carefully now: the Bible is not a compilation of inspired verses; the Bible is a compilation of inspired books, whole books. And each book tells a story, a story that links each book's story into one grand story.

And this story isn't about us.

This story is about Jesus, about what Jesus has done and will do *for us*. And this is why reading it as individually wrapped verses is such a problem: you lose Jesus. You lose the Christian worldview. And you're left with individualized texts that can be bent into our service, for our desires, to the point that we actually use the Bible to deepen the concave curvature of our hearts, all the while believing we are spiritual people. It's even affecting our worship as Christian songs increasingly center in me and my personal story, with God as the supporting actor.

This is bad news for the Christian Church. Our minds are being plundered. And, in large part, we are embracing, even funding it. What should we do? A full answer to that question would require a book (which I would be happy to suggest). For now, though, we'll share two vital steps:

1. Put your family on a media fast.

This doesn't mean no media; this means being intentional about limiting media's reach into your family. Remember, this isn't simply about the content being piped into our soul and our children's souls; this is about our ability to think, about our ability to follow a prolonged argument, about our ability to comprehend the message of God's grand story.

Further, start reading, really reading. Read thoughtful books, books that wrestle with big questions. Read Scripture; not just verses, read the story of Scripture. Yes, it will take work. Yes, it will be hard. But hard things are often the most meaningful and truly rewarding things.

2. Make the Church the hub of your life.

The Church exists to tell God's story and to invite us to find our place in it. Remember, the story isn't about us; it's about Jesus and what He has done *for us*. We are baptized into *His* story. We "have died," Scripture teaches and our lives are "hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3). This means we're living a different story than the world – and it's going to look different (from the way we spend our time to the way we spend our money). If we are steadily imbibing the world's story, how will we ever learn to live God's story? How will we ever learn to be who Christ has made us?

Church is not simply about making people good; Church is about aligning our lives with the good, the right, the true, and the beautiful. But if we continue to embrace our culture's aliteracy, we will never learn how to do this. We need to embrace the alternative to aliteracy: the Church. When this happens, and only when this happens, will we see a true and beautiful alternative to the aliterate, me-centered culture of today. Only then will goodness, truth, and beauty flourish.

Want to continue the conversation? Call/email/visit! – Pastor Conner

Summer Concert!
Sunday, June 4
Gates open at 4:00 p.m.

Family Friendly! T-shirts Food! Fun!

FREE!

Jennie Williamson

Manning, Hausbarn
Heritage Park

Child's name _____ Gender: M F

Grade completed _____ Birthday _____ Age (as of 6/1/2017) _____

Parents' names _____

Home address _____

Home phone _____ Alternate phone _____

Emergency contact person _____ Relationship to student _____

Emergency contact phone _____ Alternate phone _____

Food allergies Y N (List:) _____

Medical concerns Y N (Explain:) _____

Family doctor _____ Doctor's phone _____

Home Church _____

People who may pick up the child _____

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

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

Parent's signature _____

Ministry Apps

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes (May 2017): Zion and Trinity Lutheran

The Church Family

Three recent funerals emphasized the significance of the church as family at both Zion and Trinity.

1. Delores Kuhn: Delores loved her Zion family, worshipping regularly, attending Bible studies, teaching children for decades in Sunday school, serving in LWML and other contexts. During her months in hospice care, her church family prayed for her, sent cards, called, and visited her.
2. Glenn Ehlers: Glenn was an only child who never married. He faithfully cared for his parents in their senior years. Glenn was content to tend to his small farm well into his 80s. Glenn's family were his friends at Trinity. Glenn served as a church officer. He loved to usher and greet his family members.
3. Dorothy Pahde Struve: For the past decades Dorothy lived in Fort Dodge and was an active member of St. Paul's Lutheran. Dorothy's family chose to have her funeral service at the church where she was baptized, confirmed and married. Four generations of her family (from across the U.S.) returned to Zion remembering visits with the Pahde ancestors. Zion was a family home.

Our family situations are all unique. Family needs are different, but every family member needs Jesus. The church family as it lives and serves on earth is not perfect. Sometime churches (like families) disappoint other family members and have family misunderstandings. Sometimes churches (like families) have dysfunctional patterns and behavior.

Following the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the greeting of the church is shared, "We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother/sister in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His Marvelous light."

Delores, Glenn, and Dorothy were part of the church family who loved their church family. May each of us discover and share the same family Easter joys. God bless our families in Jesus' name!

Pastor Riggert

Mighty Fortress—VBS at Zion: June 5-9

Zion's nave, fellowship hall, classrooms, playground, and kitchen will be a Mighty Fortress for children of Zion, Trinity, and the community as we gather for VBS. Children (ages 4 through grade 6) won't be hiding behind fortress walls. They will be sharing their victory in Jesus.

Families may already register children by picking up registration forms at the church or completing the online registration www.vbsmate.com/zionmanning.

Many (50+) volunteers are needed to assist with crafts, recreation, snacks, lessons and other activities. There is a "Mighty Fortress" information center in the fellowship hall for volunteer sign-up. Contact Pastor and Diane Riggert for additional information

The Memorial Day brunch (May 29) not only provides a place for post-observance Memorial Day connections, it also provides supplemental funding for the VBS program supplies. Again volunteers are needed to donate food items and assist with serving. Contact Margaret Backhaus to volunteer for the brunch.

ON THAT NOTE

Treasuring our Musical Treasure

Our feature hymn for May is "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!" One of our contemporary hymns, it was written by Lutheran pastor, poet, and hymn writer Herbert Brokering (1926-2009). It is an exuberant celebration not only of Christ's resurrection, but of our own coming resurrection, as the refrain of every verse proclaims: "Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!" Each stanza feels like a grand church potluck where you pile more and better selections on an already full plate until you reach the end with a plate filled with a mountain of marvels that have whet your appetite and will surely wow your senses with every bite. Let's dig in!

Alleluia!
Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb,
Heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Jesus is risen and we shall arise:
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

The hymn begins with appropriate Easter joy: "Alleluia! Jesus is risen!" It moves quickly to the courts of Heaven where celebration is marked by resounding trumpets, glorious light, and the exultation of Jesus, the Slain-now-Risen Lamb of God. Then it confesses "Heaven forever!" This isn't a confession that Jesus is headed off to Heaven forever or that such is our highest hope for our souls. This is a confession that Christ's resurrection is the inauguration of God's Heaven coming to earth! Heaven will be wed to earth forever. This is the miracle God has in sight!

And it is on this earth that we, like Jesus, will rise. Our response is clear and joyful: "Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Walking the way,
Christ in the center
Telling the story to open our eyes;
Breaking our bread,
Giving us glory:
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.
Refrain

Verse two places us in the sandals of the Easter Evening, Emmaus Road disciples. Christ walks in our midst, and as He speaks He opens Scripture to us. It's all about Him! From first verse to last, it's all about Jesus. And then, when He breaks the bread in remembrance of the institution of the Lord's Supper, we see that it's Jesus and we understand that we will now see Him present in the Lord's Supper. There He will bring His glory into our midst. There He will be our blessing and our constant surprise.

So we echo our refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

On That Note

Jesus the vine,
We are the branches;
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree;
Heaven to earth,
Christ to the people,
Gift of the future now flowing to me.
Refrain

Verse three turns to the teaching of Jesus: "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Through our connection to Him, Jesus grants us life in God's Spirit, a life that produces the good fruit of which Paul writes in Galatians 5: "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control…"

This life and this fruit are the result of Heaven's reign coming among us in Christ. In fact, this is Heaven's future, full reign coming among us already, in an initial way. So the hymn sings: "Heaven to earth, Christ to the people, Gift of the future now flowing to me." Christ's ministry was about bringing Heaven's future blessings to us early, to give us the down payment on God's future resurrection promise. And so we respond with the refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise: Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Weeping, be gone;
Sorrow, be silent:
Death put asunder, and Easter is bright.
Cherubim sing:
"O grave, be open!"
Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light.
Refrain

Verse four reflects on the significance of Christ's resurrection for us as it directs weeping to be gone and commands sorrow to be silent. Death has been put asunder, that is, it has been broken to pieces and swept aside. Easter has risen out of its rubble and brightly shines. The great angelic Cherubim sing: "O grave, be open!" And we, God's resurrection people, call out, "Clothe us in wonder, adorn us in light!"

What a splendid and hope-filled image! It's a confident confession of the resurrection glory God has in store for us, when our bodies will be clothed in the effect of God's presence to the point that we will shine in the glory of God. Jesus has indeed risen and we will share in a resurrection like His! We have great cause to give God the glory! Alleluia!

On That Note

City of God,
Easter forever,
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb,
River of life,
Saints and archangels,
Sing with creation to God the I AM!
Refrain

The final verse continues to heap delight onto our mountain of marvels as it celebrates the coming City of God, the New Jerusalem that Scripture says will descend from Heaven to earth when Christ returns. The entire earth will be swept into Christ's Easter as it is released from its death sentence and made new. So the hymn highlights Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb, and the River of Life as it escorts us through the City of God's eternal Easter. Then it invites the saints and angels of God to join with the newly liberated creation to join in the song of praise to God as it concludes with the great refrain: Jesus is risen and we shall arise! Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Zion members have been active in works of mercy. From September 2016 through April 2017, Zion ladies tied 137 quilts! 12 quilts were given to Adopt a Family for Christmas in Manning, 2 were given to benefits, 121 have been packed for Lutheran World Relief, and 4 wall hangings will be donated to the Camp Okoboji quilt auction. These wall hangings were given to us to tie from Ellie Menz of IOWAY (Individual Outreach with Adults and Youth) projects.

Ladies have also been assembling personal care kits (bath towel, 2 bars of soap, 1 toothbrush, a comb and a nail clipper). At the time of this printing they had assembled 71! Thank you Sandra Vahl for providing the kits and ladies for helping assemble them.

Thank you to Cynthia Genzen, Bob Genzen, and Jim Soll for contributing to (Cynthia), planning (Bob), and building (Jim) the new mobile storage cabinets outside the nave. The pieces are both practical and beautiful!

Ladies Guild of Zion
April 12, 2017

God is looking for ordinary women empowered by Him to do extraordinary things.

Pastor Conner led the ladies through the Lenten hymn "O Darkest Woe" noting the solemn notes and words that remind us that Christ Jesus died for our sins that we might live eternally. After a prayer President Buhr led us in the LWML Pledge. Christian Life Chairman Margaret Backhaus then read "Tears of Joy." The tears of sorrow in our lives can be turned to tears of joy as we put our faith in our Savior. The mite box was passed as the mite box prayer was offered.

President Buhr called the business meeting to order in the name of our Triune God. Roll call was answered by 14 members with a favorite book of the Bible. The secretary's minutes were read and approved. A thank you note was read from the family of Delores Kuhn. The treasurer's report showed donations had been made to Zion's library in memory of Marge Kusel and Delores Kuhn. Kitchen treasurer Darlene Vollstedt followed with her report.

President Buhr reported on the Zone board meeting. The Day of Prayer offering was $181.00 and it will be decided at the Spring Rally in Arcadia which mission it will support. The Spring Rally speaker will be the new pastor from Mapleton who previously had served as a missionary in Uganda. Iowa District West President Ann Carrick will also be in attendance. May 1st will be the date to have our local mission projects picked up in Sac City. June 22-25 will be the National Convention in Albuquerque. School kits, health kits, twin sheet sets and Walmart gift cards are wanted donations.

Committee reports: Human Care Chairman, Audrey Roe said the quilters had finished 130 quilts. They are finished quilting for the year, but will be boxing the quilts for Sac City on Thursday. Circle Reports: Circle # 3 served the Delores Kuhn funeral. Circle # 1 served the Dorothy Struve funeral. Circle #2 is next in rotation. It was noted that it was getting more difficult for our members as they age to work from morning until mid-afternoon for funerals. After some discussion, Cynthia Genzen moved that we ask congregational members to help with the fellowship hall clean up, that is picking up the trash and wiping off the tables. Joene Bohlmann seconded the motion and it passed. Congregational members present at the funeral are encouraged to volunteer their assistance.

New business: Manilla Priscilla Guild's invitation for April 18th will be attended by 10 from Zion's Guild. We will meet at Zion at 1:30 P.M. to pool rides. Guild collection items: We are no longer collecting pill bottles or Campbell soup labels. Postage stamps, box tops for education, soap, computer ink cartridges (not refillable cartridges) and cell phones are still wanted. Plaza bingo will be on April 28th with Margaret Kuchel as chairman, Margaret Backhaus, Connie Ahrendsen and Nancy Opperman as helpers. The next meeting will be on May 10th with Darlene Vollstedt and Wilma Bogatzke as hostesses. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Refreshments were served by Margaret Backhaus and Cheral Buhr.

Sue Puck, secretary

Priscilla Guild Guest Day

Thirty guild members and guests gathered at Trinity Lutheran on Tuesday afternoon, April 18.

A special guest invitation had been shared with members of the Zion Ladies Guild and ten Zion members joined their friends and mission partners for an enjoyable afternoon of devotions, LWML business, and fellowship. Guests were blessed with the gift of a specially made chicken pin cushion. Thank you Trinity ladies.

Preschool Praises for April 2017

April was a great month and again gave us the opportunity to share a very important holiday and its meaning to us as Christians with the children.

The first week in April we focused on transportation and the letter "U". The children were super excited when they were able to bring a picture of a form of transportation from home and help us classify them on a graph as either being on land, in the air or in the water. We also made a cute umbrella craft where they used straws to blow watered-down paint across a paper plate that was cut in half to give the look of rain going down an umbrella. They all gave me a funny look when I told them we were going to paint with straws!

The second week we focused on Easter and the letter "E". We spoke about why Jesus died for us on the cross and how difficult it must have been. The children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in the youth room and a little Easter basket with little goodies that the Preschool gifted to them.

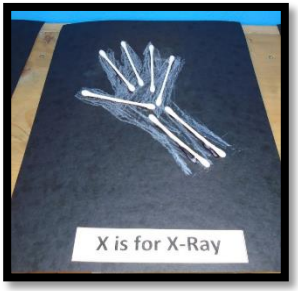
During the third week we focused on weather and the letter "R". We did an experiment where I brought a fan in and we tested different objects to see if the wind would blow them. They loved making predictions and then seeing if they were right or not! Using coffee filters and food coloring the children made a "sunrise" to add to a page that said "He is Risen!". These were displayed in the entrance to the church one Sunday. We were feeling extra crafty and also decorated the letter "R" with tissue paper to show that "R is for Rainbow". The resurrection was our topic at Jesus Time and we explained how Jesus' body would never die again and that He promises that someday we will have bodies that will never die again as well.

The last week in April we focused on animals and the letter "X". We did an experiment to show why sharks are able to float (their livers are very oily, FYI). By having a balloon filled with water and another with oil they got to see how the oil floated and the water sank when put in a pitcher of water. We then tested other objects and let them make predictions as to whether the object would float or sink. "X is for X-ray" and they did a craft where they drew their hands on a black piece of paper and glued Q-tips on to be the "bones". These turned out so cute! Jesus visited the disciples after his resurrection and proved that he was truly and was speaking to us when he said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed!"

I'm looking forward to next month because we have many fun activities planned and it is so great to see their little eyes light up with excitement! What a loving bunch we have (just ask Pastor Conner as he is hugged by every child after Chapel time on Wednesdays!)

Blessed by His Grace,
Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz
(more pictures on page 12!)

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


X is for X-Ray

Here I Stand
Summer Worship at Historic Trinity
Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
May 25
June 22
July 27
August 24
WORD ALONE
FAITH ALONE
GRACE ALONE

!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 13, Issue 5, May 2017

Baptism in Storm Lake: Last month I performed the baptism of Julian Ramirez at Grace. Parents Freddy and Annahi Ramirez are new to our church. They came a few years ago to baptize their first son, Junior, who was premature and quite ill. They are a young bilingual couple who live and work in Storm Lake. I first met them through Annahi's parents who I met when I worked at Tyson in Storm Lake. The family was having a difficult time with their sick baby, Junior. God bless this family.

Our Faithful Leaders: Last month we installed, blessed, and celebrated the leaders of our congregation in Denison. All were present except one. They are the following: President—Domingo Mendoza; Secretary— Mayda Perez; Treasurer—Marcia Mendoza; Financial Secretary—Mike Segebart and helper Marta Perez; Sunday School—Paula Vogel; Lectors—Domingo Mendoza, Dario Zuniga, Elias Gonzalez (also Youth Leader), and Moises Mendoza; Social Leaders—Marta Perez & Maru Rizo.

A Historic Wedding at a Historic Church: Last month I performed a special wedding of a bilingual couple in the historic Trinity Lutheran Church at Manning's Heritage Park. Jose and Maria live in Manning. He works at the AGP Soybean plant in Manning and says, "I love it." Maria works in Denison. Trinity Lutheran was built in 1913, eight miles south of Manning. In 1997 it was ceremonially moved into Manning to the Heritage Park, a German tourist site. You can see a video of the special move on their website. I'm almost sure that this was the first bilingual English/Spanish wedding at Trinity, probably since a bilingual German/English wedding many years ago. Our little town of Manning is changing, as is Iowa. We have another young bilingual couple attending our church in Denison with the husband, Antonio, also working in Manning. We give thanks to the Lord for these young talented families.

A Marriage Made in Denison: Dan and Mirian are an example of our multi-cultural community in Denison joining the local culture. Dan and Mirian met as they worked together at Midwest Industries in Ida Grove. I was honored to give a prayer of blessing at their reception with family and friends. Mirian, originally from Honduras, has been a church member for many years but now has moved with Dan and her two teenagers (Elvin & Maria) to Dow City, southwest of Denison. Elvin and Maria attended Zion Lutheran School for many years. We wish Dan and Mirian God's many blessings.

Please Pray: + For Amigos en Cristo and our Call for a Seminary candidate. + For the Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they review new options to call a bilingual pastor after many setbacks. + For families in both Denison and Storm Lake with plans to baptize their babies. + For Rosa in Storm Lake and Dario in Denison as they study for adult membership. + For Unity in our nation. + In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants in Denison and in our other two missions in Sioux City and Des Moines.

***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

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

The team was assembled by the bishop of the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI).

They had come from three different places in Indonesia, and had spent most of the previous day driving to get here. We knew each other by sight, and each of them had been to my house before. This was a meeting we had anticipated for and prepared for several months. I was joined by Deaconess Sandra Rhein, who had flown into the region about a week before for another such meeting like this.

We had gathered primarily to discuss a request the GKLI had made for the LCMS to help them assemble something badly needed in Indonesia: a truly Lutheran hymnal. They had seen our Lutheran Service Book, and had always been amazed at the collection of resources between its covers. We had introduced them to Matins and Vespers, and sung good Lutheran hymns which proclaimed the Word of God, rightly divided in Law & Gospel. They knew they had to move away from their pan-Christian song book, which was all they had ever used.

We met and talked for several hours, passing around copies of *LSB* and talking about what it contained. Dcs. Rhein and I did some teaching about what a resource a good hymnal could be, and that it should include much more than simply songs. This would be a resource for congregations, families, groups, and individuals alike.

SELAMAT

They wanted to make sure it would serve them as they reached out to other ethnic groups in the country, and were confident that other Protestant churches in Indonesia would be interested in learning it and using it.

The meeting concluded with the GKLI leadership resolving to gather their Church Council and appoint a hymnal committee, which would include Dcs. Rhein and me, as well as our good friend (and translator) Pastor Eben Ezer Aruan, and the former Bishop, Rev. Aladin Sitio. They were given a list of 20 hymns, and agreed that these would be the first of the hymns to be translated into Bahasa Indonesia for inclusion in the hymnal. We would start assembling all of the resources that had already been translated so they could be typeset and proofread.

The work here has begun! This is an exciting time in this country as the GKLI refines and solidifies its identity as a truly faithful Lutheran church, and prepares itself to reach out to others in faithful proclamation. It may take several years to complete, but we're confident that the Lord will bless and guide our work together for the sake of His Gospel. Thank you for your support of this project, and allowing us to be here to work on it.

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

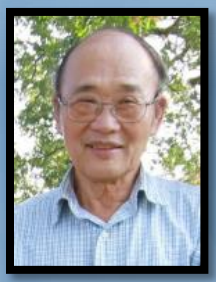
Or: Mission Central, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034

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*.

China Lutheran Seminary
Our Missionary in Taiwan
Dr. Stephen Oliver

中華信義神學院
China Lutheran Seminary

The Olivers: Isaac (9), Ginny (5), Maggie, Gary (7), Stephen.



My Father-in-Law went peacefully to be with the Lord on February 23, 2017 after being baptized on May 14, 2016 and a two and a half year battle with lung cancer. His family name, "Hsieh", means "Thankful". Although he didn't believe in Jesus for most of his 75 year life, he finally believed and was baptized, and during his last months learned to be thankful for Jesus' forgiveness. He always said "Thank You" to me after praying with him. As the head of the extended Hsieh Family, I'm so very thankful for the witness he left behind. We pray for the 50 member extended family he left behind, that all would be saved by the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

300 people came to Dad Hsieh's funeral, which was filled with the Gospel of Jesus Christ everywhere. We originally estimated that there would be about 100 people, counting church members, family and close friends. The additional 200 people were associates, neighbors, friends and family members of Mom Hsieh (in fact, many of them being unfamiliar with Dad Hsieh). This was an ironic and amazing work of God since Mom Hsieh had been the most vocal one to reject the Gospel and even stopped Dad Hsieh's progress toward baptism once because of her objection. Yet she drew 200 people into church (most for their first time) to hear Dad Hsieh's witness and the proclamation of the Gospel at every turn!
They were in wonder at the peace, faith, light and God's love in the Christian funeral. Thanks for your many prayers. We pray for many conversions!

We had this memory table at the Hsieh home during the days prior to the funeral as a place to host the many visitors that came to pay their respects. In the traditional Chinese beliefs, such a table and its surrounding room is called a "Spirit Room" because of the belief that the person's spirit resides there, and it becomes a place of worship (ancestor worship), but for Christians this table is taken down before the funeral. Pray for Mom Hsieh, other family members, and friends who are still bound by these beliefs (see the apples and tea cup that Mom Hsieh set out as a part of ancestor worship)!

CONFIRMATION 2017

Zion Confirmands:

- Drew Doyel
- Kamaya Jacobsen
- Chloe Otto
- Haven Reese

Trinity Confirmands:

- Sierra Ferry
- Caitlin Lahr
- Brody Blum

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

Camp Okoboji

campokoboji.org

REGISTER ONLINE

Zion and Trinity youth may apply for a 50% scholarship through Zion! Additional support is available through Iowa District West!

2017 Program Offerings

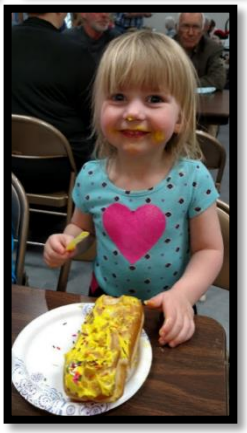
May 5-6	Spring Volunteer Weekend
May 12-13	Youth Volunteer Weekend
May 21-24	Continuing Education Workshop
May 26 –29	Memorial Day Weekend & Veterans' Retreat
May 28	*DISCOVER Center* Dedication
June 2-4	Kid's Kamp
June 8-11	JOY Camp I (Special Needs)
June 11-14	Adventure Camp
June 11-17	Girls' Sport Camp
June 17	Minnesota Twins Game Trip
June 18-23	Technology Camp New!
June 24	Quilt Auction
June 24	Paul's Bike-a-thon Challenge Ride
June 25-July 1	Minneboji Youth Camp
July 2-7	July 4th Family Retreat
July 9-15	Jr High Youth Week
July 13-16	JOY Camp II (Special Needs)
July 16-22	Concordia Cubs Week
July 23-29	Sr. High Youth Week
July 30 –August 4	Family Retreat I
August 6-11	Family Retreat II
August 11-13	Hispanic Family Retreat
August 20	Golf Outing
August 25-27	Adult Retreat
September 1-4	Labor Day Weekend
September 2	BBQ Cook-Off
September 20-22	Lutheran Schools Outdoor Ed.
September 28-30	Fall Volunteer Weekend
September 30	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
October 6-8	Fall Women's Retreat

Camp Okoboji is your camp as it is officially "owned" by the members of Iowa District West. Come dedicate your DISCOVER Center on Sunday afternoon, May 28, at 4 p.m. Let your children and youth experience the beauty of your camp on the shores of Lake Okoboji. More importantly, let them joins peers Bible study, crafts, songs, camp fire devotions, and recreational activities all in the name of Jesus.

Hosanna!

What a joy to celebrate the beginning of Holy Week with joyful, palm-waving children and to finish it with lily-carrying youths and flag-waving children! Thanks to the 5th and 6th grade students for hosting the doughnut decorating after Palm Sunday and the youth and youth families for hosting the breakfast on Easter morning!

Alleluia
Christ is risen!



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

Over 90 Hear the Call to Engage the Culture

On Thursday, April 27, Zion was privileged to host Mr. Tim Goeglein, a life-long LCMS Lutheran, former communication liaison in the Bush administration, former assistant to representatives in the House and Senate, and now one of the vice-presidents of Focus on the Family. Mr. Goeglein spoke passionately about religious liberty in America and warned of its incremental erosion even as he exhorted listeners to engage the public square with the Truth. Most importantly, he reminded us that Christians can be eternally hopeful and confident because we're not marching toward a victory, but from a victory – Jesus' resurrection from the dead!

High School Graduates to be Honored in Worship
Sunday, May 21st

Congratulations to the following Zion seniors:

Jasmine Bauer	Jade Dawson	Austin Frank	Kourtney Grimm
Kelli Grimm	Alexis Karsten	Coltan Lesle	Keaton Otto
Tyler Saunders	Grace Sextro	Rylie-Shea Muhlbauer	

We will mark your achievement with a breakfast in your honor on Sunday, May 21st at 8:00 a.m. and then in worship which follows.

Celebrate Memorial Day with Zion! Following the services at the cemeteries on **May 29th**, join the community in celebrating Memorial Day by having lunch at Zion. Maid-rites, Potato Salad, Hot Dogs, chips and bars will be served from **10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Free will donations will help support Zion's VBS program (June 5-9).

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

May Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

4. David & Lori Genzen
6. Michael & Bridget Gore
10. Steve & Barb Page
13. Dan & Jennifer Behrens
20. Janet & Rich Plumb
21. Nicholas & Dena Diersen
25. Russell & Cynthia Ranniger
27. Scott & Cheryl Lahr
    Jeff & Pam Sebring
28. Ben & Mckensie Bess
    Isaac & Courtney Grabill
    Mark & Jessica Kucik

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

Official Acts

Baptisms:

Zion:

Kennedy Rose Adams; Daughter of Eric and Heather (nee: Genzen) Adams; April 9, 2017; Pastor Robert Riggert

Trinity:

Eric Herbert Christensen; son of Ron and LeeAnn (nee Mahnke) Christensen; April 8, 2017; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Funerals:

Zion:

Dorothy Marie (nee: Pahde) Struve, Died April 6, 2017; Buried April 11, 2017, Pastor Jonathan Conner and Pastor Robert Riggert

Luella Marie (nee: Anton) Mahnke, Died April 23, 2017; Buried April 28, 2017, Pastor Jonathan Conner

Trinity:

Glenn Ehlers, Died April 5, 2017; Funeral April 10, 2017; Pastor Robert Riggert

In Our Prayers

Walt Noelck, Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Gabriel Albers (Pastor and Rebecca's nephew), Eric Lage, Justeen Schwieso, Athena Bess