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

Better Together

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANILLA, IOWA
PROCLAIMING PEACE IN CHRIST'S CROSS

Zion and Trinity in Partnership: What Does This Mean?

Over the past year, Zion Manning and Trinity Manilla have been working together to form and strengthen a new model for ministry in our District and Synod. As opposed to older models, typically called "dual parishes," which simply share a pastor but don't meaningfully cooperate in ministry efforts, this partnership model operates under the question: "What can we do better *together*?" Understandably, many of you have asked, "But what does this mean? How will this partnership look in real life?" I'm glad you asked! Below are several areas in which this partnership will help both partner congregations do ministry better *together*.

1. **Pastoral ministry**: On Saturday, July 8, Trinity and Zion will celebrate the ordination and installation of Pastor Andrew Johnson at Trinity. Pastor Johnson will be the main teacher/preacher/shepherd at Trinity in Manilla, but will serve in partnership with Pastor Conner and Pastor Riggert at Zion. Pastor Conner will remain Senior Pastor of Zion, while functioning as overseer of the partnership. Pastor Riggert will remain the Assistant to the Pastor at Zion, while providing ministry support as needed for Trinity. Pastor Conner, Pastor Riggert, and Pastor Johnson will work closely together in ministry planning and support.

2. **Confirmation**: Pastor Conner and Pastor Johnson will teach confirmation classes at Zion on Wednesday afternoons. We praise God for Pastor Riggert's service over the last few years, and at his suggestion and encouragement, we will welcome Pastor Johnson as the teacher for the 5th-6th grade classes.

3. **Newsletter**: Zion and Trinity will continue to share this newsletter to facilitate communication and theological education among members of both congregations.

4. **Youth**: Pastor Johnson (and wife Tiffany, a trained LCMS deaconess) will help coordinate youth ministry between youth and youth families of Trinity and Zion.

5. **Worship options**: Zion and Trinity will maintain complementary (non-overlapping) worship times (Trinity on Saturdays and Zion on Sundays) to allow members to worship in either location as their schedules allow.

6. **Financial support**: Zion will continue to offer financial support to this partnership as approved at each year's annual voters' meeting.

Together we are better for the work of the Kingdom!

"Jesus loves us."
"I love bible school. We leren a lot about Jesus. We sing lots of songs about Jesus. We make lots of crafts and very good kookys and juice." – a VBS child

Why We Do VBS

On the final day of VBS a little girl in my 1st and 2nd grade class handed me this picture. I share it here to again emphasize the importance of our VBS program. It gives the opportunity to "leren a lot about Jesus" and "sing lots of songs about Jesus." And, as this picture clearly illustrates, the children heard of Jesus' love. This is why we do VBS.

Further, I share this picture because, although the little girl handed the picture to me, it really belongs to every single VBS volunteer, from our coordinators, to our craft, music, and recreation leaders, to every single person who brought or helped serve the "very good kookys," to those who donated funds and those who donated time, and to our prayer team which faithfully prayed for these children and their families. This picture belongs to all of you.

Do You Hear Them?

One of the great privileges of teaching during VBS week is the opportunity to hear children's questions and to answer them. Consider a few that I was asked this year:

- Why is the lamb (on the altar) carrying a flag?
- Did Jesus want to die for us?
- If all our sin is gone, how come God hasn't come back yet?
- If God wants us to believe, why doesn't He send miracles?
- Where is heaven?
- If we're in heaven, and we're free from sin, and we see somebody we didn't like on earth, how will that work?
- In heaven, if someone we know isn't there, will we still remember?
- What age will our bodies be when we're raised?
- What about suicide and heaven?
- Does the stuff in the casket go to heaven with you?
- If you don't believe in God, will you still go to heaven?
- Do people still worship idols today?
- Can the false gods hurt us even if we don't believe in them?
- How do we know the Bible is true?
- How did God create the world?

These are but a few of their questions! And they're great questions! Children aren't all games and goofiness; they have serious questions. Do you hear them? I praise God for the VBS volunteers who have intentionally structured our program to balance activity with attention, creativity with space for questions.

In fact, wise parents know that this is precisely the structure needed in the home to facilitate meaningful discussion with children. Parents need to spend time with children in play and activity, which builds trust and shows children that you value them and their world. This trust creates the safe environment for meaningful questions and conversation.

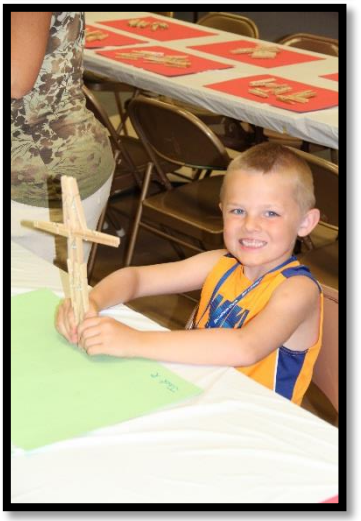
Now, when the questions come, are you going to be ready to answer? Want help getting equipped? Call/email/visit any time! That's why I'm here. – Pastor Conner

VBS 2017

Mighty Fortress
In Jesus, the Victory Is Mine!

Mighty Fortress
In Jesus, the Victory Is Mine!
AMERICAN
Baseball

Mighty Fortress
In Jesus, the Victory Is Mine!



God is Great

GOD

Ministry Apps

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

"With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One, whom God Himself elected,
Ask ye Who is this? Jesus Christ it is, of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God; He holds the field forever." LSB# 656, vs. 2

Martin Luther's "Mighty Fortress" hymn describes the June 5-9 "Mighty Fortress" Vacation Bible school adventure at Zion. The theme hints at the 500th anniversary of the Reformation that will be celebrated in October. With our own might the welcoming and teaching of 167 children would have been impossible. However with God's might the week was a special and blessed experience for all who participated.

Mighty Message
Children heard of the Old Testament victories of Joshua, Hezekiah, and Josiah. Those victories prophesied the victory of Jesus over sin and death. Children heard of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and His ultimate Easter victory. The message was affirmed with crafts and shared with notes and actions in the music time.

Mighty Witness
The VBS week is a clear and strong witness to the children and families of the community Registration statistics indicated approximately 45% of the children were from Zion; 30% were Catholic; 10% were other denominations; and 15% did not indicate a church home. We pray the seed of the Word planted inside the Fortress will continue to grow. Over 1000 children and adults entered and existed the "Mighty Fortress" facility of Zion during the week

The children's VBS offerings will finance the Christian education of poor children in Kenya. $90 supports the feeding, housing, and teaching of a Kenyan child for a month. Summer children's worship offerings will continue to support the project.

Mighty Workers
60 different yolunteers assisted during the week. We appreciated the assistance of 4 Trinity members and numerous parents, grandparents, and teenagers from the community. We needed each of them.

Additional volunteers assisted with the Memorial Day brunch which generated donations of $1300 and funded the VBS program.

A favorite VBS song of the children declared, "What a mighty God we serve; angels fall before Him; heaven and earth adore Him; What a mighty God we serve."

We have a Mighty Fortress God, and we have the privilege of serving Him and sharing Him with the children of the community. What a mighty privilege!

Free School Supplies for Kids

Beginning on Sunday, July 30th, Zion will have a table full of school supplies available for families of the IKM-Manning Community. Fill a bag for your children and one for a neighbor or friend!

Faithfulness

The devil is in the details. Well, maybe a better way of saying it is God's faithfulness to His promises is in the big and *small* events of His unfolding story. This has again become abundantly clear to me as I have been preparing for confirmation. Specifically, I have had the opportunity to walk through the Old Testament again. This walk has been supremely refreshing because God's faithfulness is all over the place. But even more than that, God's faithfulness and presence actually creates faithfulness in His people.

A striking example is that of Joseph and Judah in Genesis (see chapters 37-50). The point of view of the story primarily focuses on Joseph. Joseph received the pretty coat from his father, Jacob. Joseph fell into slavery. Joseph escaped Potiphar's wife. Joseph saved Egypt from a devastating famine. But as I have been preparing for confirmation, it has come to my attention that the story of Jacob's boys is much deeper. It's really the story of two unfaithful brothers who are moved to faithfulness by the presence and promises of the LORD. It's the story of Joseph *and* Judah.

So the story begins with unfaithfulness. Joseph was an arrogant, spoiled brat who flaunted his father's favoritism in front of his brothers. Judah's unfaithfulness is pretty obvious. He not only betrayed his brother by throwing him into a well, but it was *his* idea to sell Joseph into slavery (Gen. 37:26-27). Both boys failed to live faithfully toward one another as well as to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

As the story progressed, more of Judah's unfaithfulness came to light. He broke a promise and failed to take care of his daughter-in-law after she became a widow. The story gets even more scandalous (Gen. 38). But while Judah is off failing, Joseph learned what it meant to live faithfully. His master's wife wanted some smooching, but Joseph didn't give in to her request. Not only to be faithful to his master but to avoid violating his relationship to God (Gen. 39:9).

Skipping ahead, Joseph was eventually elevated to be second-in-command over Egypt. He prepared the Egyptians for a famine that struck the whole area -- even Jacob's family. Jacob's boys including Judah arrived with money and a tremendous need for relief. Joseph recognized them, and he required them to bring the youngest boy -- Benjamin -- of whom Jacob was highly protective. For fear of dying from starvation, Benjamin arrived once Jacob relented, and Joseph set a trap in order to test his brothers. Benjamin was required to stay, that is until one brother stood up in Benjamin's defense...Judah.

The same brother who had discarded Joseph defended his younger, more-liked-by-his-father brother. On top of it all, Judah in large part defended Benjamin for the sake of his father. Judah was faithful to his brother and father.

The incredible move the story makes is that two divided brothers reunite together under God's presence. Joseph's slavery was an experience redeemed by God so that the people of Egypt as well as Jacob's family could live and prosper. The God who seems distant was there all along, and He moved in such a way that not only validated His own faithfulness to His people but He moved Joseph and Judah from seeing only themselves to seeing and caring for the people around themselves. That's what God does. His faithfulness tends to spill over into His people so that they become faithful to Him and other people.

So the story of Joseph is far richer than just Joseph's experience. It's really the tale of two sons who live under a faithful God. And it's that same God who is faithful to His promises found in His Son, Jesus. And it's the same God that is moving you to tremendous faithfulness and care for others around you now. – Pastor Johnson

ON THAT NOTE

Treasuring our Musical Treasure

Martin Luther once wrote, "When man's natural musical ability is whetted and polished to the extent that it becomes an art, then do we note with great surprise the great and perfect wisdom of God in music, which is, after all, His product and His gift…" Our hymn for July showcases this art as it manifests the wisdom of God. Written by an ardent defender and promoter of the Lutheran confession, Erdmann Neumeister (1671-1756), our hymn, "God's Own Child I Gladly Say It," is among the best baptismal hymns ever written, and perhaps one of the must succinct hymnic summaries of the Christian confession ever put to paper.

Rev. Neumeister served in various posts throughout his career, including pastor, tutor, and court preacher under his duke. He is well known as a prolific hymn writer (over 650 in his career!), many of which are still utilized in the German language. Three are preserved in our hymnal: "I Know My Faith is Founded," "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive," and our feature for July, "God's Own Child I Gladly Say It." His hymns demonstrate a deep knowledge of Scripture set in profound and memorable poetry.

God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!

Our hymn opens with the bold and confident confession that, by virtue of our Baptism into Christ, we have become God's child. Our confidence isn't rooted in our decision to follow Jesus, but in the objective gift of Baptism. God has done something for us – given our full redemption price! Our redemption accomplished on the cross and brought personally to us in Baptism where we are united with Christ, what earthly treasure can compare? Can earth out give what God has given? God has given us salvation, a salvation that endures into eternity. What earthly gift has that kind of staying power? God's gift in Baptism is greater than anything earth can offer. That's why we gladly say that we are God's own child.

On That Note

Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

Now the hymn dedicates three verses to our great enemies: sin, Satan, and death. In fact, these three verses speak directly to these enemies, boldly declaring that our Baptism into Christ has rendered them powerless.

So we instruct death: "disturb my soul no longer" because "I am baptized into Christ!" The comfort of the promises Christ makes to us in Baptism – forgiveness, life, and salvation – are stronger than the guilt sin tries to attach to us. In fact, in Baptism Jesus has cleansed us, washed sin and its guilt away; it no longer sticks to us. So we don't need to be wracked by a guilty conscience. We have been released from guilt in the forgiving flood of Baptism.

Satan, hear this proclamation:
I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation,
I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny,
God, my Lord, unites with me!

Next, the hymn summons Satan to hear the bold proclamation that we are baptized into Christ. Process the significance of what this verse does: it informs Satan that he has been defeated. He can drop his accusation against us, his constant soundtrack of our moral failures and guilt; we won't be drawn into that narrative because we have traveled to the baptismal font. There in that font God, the Lord, has united with us! And if God has taken our side, then Satan's might has been neutralized. His tyrannical reign is done. We are baptized into Christ!

Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.

From Satan, the hymn turns to death. It addresses death as if it was person: "Death, listen up, because we have something to say to you: We are baptized into Christ! And because we're baptized into Christ, you cannot end our gladness. You can blanket it for a time. You can cause us great grief for a while. You can steal the breath from our bodies and from the bodies of the people we love and slowly turn our bodies back to dust, but you cannot end our gladness because we have the assurance of Christ that immortal life is ours! Our bodies will not lie lifeless forever, but they will rise with new breath that will never leave us. Death, your days are numbered."

There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!

After informing sin, Satan, and death that they have been rendered powerless by our Baptism into Christ, the hymn culminates is a final verse of Baptismal celebration. What can compare to the gift God gives in Baptism? Sin is forgiven; Satan is silenced; and death is doomed. There's nothing worth comparing to this. Even an open grave awaiting our arrival doesn't rattle us because even there our bodies will sleep securely in anticipation of their resurrection. While our bodies sleep in death, our souls participate in heaven's continuous praise of God and of our connection to Him through Baptism. We are baptized into Christ! We are children of paradise!

On a personal note:
These are joyful, confident words, so much so that I have found great comfort from memorizing them. Even more, they provide a daily reminder of my redeemed identity in Christ. Aside from the memorization of Scripture, I have found no greater strength for the Christian walk than the memorization of hymns such as this.

MARRIAGE matters

The Lie of Equality

Studies show that women initiate roughly 70% of all divorces in America. This is a startling statistic. Why the disparity? Feminist proponents lay the blame squarely at the feet of men, claiming marriages end because men fail to accept gender equality. They maintain men place the burden of housework and childcare unevenly on women, a burden which disadvantages women in career advancement and leads to resentment and then divorce. Men are the problem. Case closed.

This cultural narrative is so pervasive that it's almost dangerous to question it. But what if this cultural narrative isn't *explaining* the female-initiated divorce statistic; what if it's *contributing* to it? What if the "equality narrative" is a lie? Make sure you understand the question. I'm not suggesting men and women aren't equal; Scripture asserts gender equality in terms of creation and redemption. I'm asking if the belief that everything has to be "equal" in marriage is a lie. I'm asking if the equality narrative sets women up for dissatisfaction, resentment, and ultimately, divorce.

Recovering feminist and founder of The Ruth Institute[1], Jennifer Roback Morse, illustrates how the equality narrative taught her to think in her marriage.

> I thought it was important to "assert myself," to not be a doormat, to demand respect from my husband. I thought it was important to keep separate bank accounts and divide our expenses equally. I thought we should avoid gender stereotypical divisions of labor. Even if he was manifestly better at something, I should try to "do my share" of whatever mechanical project he might have in mind.
>
> Most importantly, of course, he should do his share of household chores, even if a particular chore didn't even register on his radar screen. He should do his half of everything I thought was important. And, he should do it to my satisfaction. In the interest of fairness and equality.

She continues: "Just to be sure I'm making myself clear here, let me repeat for emphasis: *I* had a right to achieve *my* goals, and other people were there to help *me*."

Do you understand what she's saying? The equality narrative forces women to be the equality police, constantly on patrol for equality infractions, always on guard for any perceived unfairness. Further, they have to be the legislator writing the laws of equality and the judge and jury rendering verdicts and sentencings for equality violations. Mrs. Morse lived it, and as a recovering feminist, is able to look back with honesty: "It was all quite exhausting."

The equality narrative is not only exhausting; it's selfish. Remember Mrs. Morse's words: "*I* had a right to achieve *my* goals, and other people were there to help *me*." The focus is all on *me* and *my* definition of equality. And if husbands don't meet the wife's definition of equality, wives are free to scold, reprimand, and correct them. Is it any wonder men pull away emotionally?[2]

Women reading this article, ask yourself how well you'd respond to your husband if he tried to modify your behavior through scolding, reprimanding, and

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[1] The Ruth Institute is a global non-profit organization dedicated to creating a lasting and Christ-like mass social movement to end the agony and injustice of family breakdown.http://www.ruthinstitute.org/BlogRetrieve.aspx?PostID=1499316&A=SearchResult&SearchID=30391646&ObjectID=1499316&ObjectType=55

[2] Men who feel castigated and disrespected, not only pull away emotionally, they are susceptible to extra-marital affairs. As hard as this is for women to believe, most affairs are not about sex; they are about respect. Men feel disrespected in their marriage and fall prey to the admiration of another woman. The affair is sinful and the husband bears full responsibility for his sin, but often hidden in the whole story is the wife's disrespect. Disrespect is also sin for which the wife bears responsibility.

correcting. And what if he did it under the banner of equality? Would it motivate you to move closer to your husband?

But don't men need to do better in marriage? Don't men need to consider the needs of their wives? Yes. Men have A LOT to learn about being godly men and about loving women. I have addressed these in numerous newsletter articles, even dedicating 10 issues of this newsletter to teaching men how to be godly men.[3]

The question we're asking now, however, is whether women are being set up for dissatisfaction, resentment, and divorce through the equality narrative. Are women being deceived by a lie? Is the equality narrative driving women to resent husbands for prioritizing household chores differently, for seeing the world differently than women? Is the equality narrative blinding women to the contributions husbands make to marriage and family and the tasks husband prioritize?

Is the equality narrative turning women inward on themselves and thereby sabotaging marriage? Is it allowing, even encouraging, women to be disrespectful to their husbands in the name of equality, thereby pushing their husbands away? Is it encouraging wives to see husbands as hindrances to their goals and their happiness?

YES.

Is there a better narrative, a biblical narrative? **YES.**

Paul writes about it in Ephesians 5. We'll call it the Love and Respect Narrative. Here's how it goes: Husband love your wife; wife respect your husband. More specifically: husband love your wife like Christ loves His bride, the Church, by dying to your wants and living for hers (whether she deserves it or not). And wife respect your husband just as the bride of Christ, the Church, respects her groom, by honoring his headship (whether he deserves it or not).

This narrative isn't driven by equality; this narrative is driven by Jesus (who did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, Phil. 2:6), and by personal sacrifice for the wellbeing of another. Liberated from the lie of equality, men and women are free to see their spouse not as a roadblock to their personal aspirations, but as the one God has given them to serve and build up. Dumping the equality narrative in favor of the love and respect narrative bends the focus away from *me* to the wellbeing of my spouse.

Wives don't have to be the equality police, legislator, judge, and jury. They are liberated to honor their husband and admire his contributions to the marriage and family. They don't have to be on constant surveillance for equality infractions; they are free to delight in their husband. Women, ask yourself what a good dose of honor and admiration might do for your husband. If reality holds true (and that's what reality does), it will motivate him to respond lovingly. Now imagine if you gave him that honor and admiration consistently and unconditionally.

Might this mean certain household chore inequalities remain? Possibly. Might it hinder career ambitions? Possibly. What it surely means, though, is learning to see your spouse as more important than the household task or the career. Further, it means learning to see the good your spouse *does* contribute to the marriage and family instead of focusing on the way he or she inconveniences you or hinders you.

We've been living by the equality narrative for decades now, and if statistics matter to anyone, it clearly isn't working, especially for women. Maybe it's time to ditch it and embrace God's love and respect narrative. Maybe God knows what He's talking about. Want to continue the conversation? Give me a call, stop in, or email me. – Pastor Conner

[3] Entitled "Defeating Fear and Becoming Manly Men." Available upon request.

Abortion and the Suppressed Truth

In his letter to the church in Rome, the Apostle Paul writes about hardened unbelievers who "suppress the truth" of God's Lordship over all creation and of His divine ordering of creation (specifically related to morality). Paul makes it clear that this suppression isn't a matter of ignorance; it is a willful suppression of the truth, a willful attempt to evict God from conscience. This suppression of truth, Paul argues, has left them "futile in their thinking" and has "darkened" their "foolish hearts." So Paul writes, "since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done" (1:28).

And the same thing happens today. It is perhaps most painfully visible within the walls of abortion clinics such as Planned Parenthood, where the systematic execution of unborn children for profit is disturbingly extolled as "health care." Thanks to the work of The Center for Medical Progress (CMP), much of this debased thinking has been exposed. CMP made national news in 2015 with the steady release of undercover video footage documenting Planned Parenthood's illegal profiting from the sale of baby body parts. These videos featured high ranking officials within Planned Parenthood casually discussing how they procure baby body parts for buyers, how they alter abortions to ensure an "intact" sample (i.e. a whole liver, heart, or even head!), and the price they charge for it.

In May CMP released another revealing video recorded at National Abortion Federation conventions. This video, like the previous, demonstrates precisely what St. Paul was talking about. Be warned, though, the next quotes are jarring not only in their content, but in their callousness toward the sacredness of life. The video opens with the medical director of Planned Parenthood of Michigan glibly referencing the struggles of removing an aborted baby from a mother's womb. As she coolly describes the macabre practice, the audience chuckles.

Later, though, she shockingly, and seemingly unshaken by her words, admits the grim nature of her work: "Given that we actually see the fetus the same way, and given that we might actually both agree that there's violence in here, let's just give them all the violence. It's a person, it's killing, let's just give them all that." Process this statement. If the unborn is a person – and Scripture and reason insist that the unborn is (for how could two persons conceive a non-person?) – then what possible reason could anyone offer to justify abortion?

The video also features a representative from Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast describing how she skirts partial-birth abortions: "I might ask for a second set of forceps to hold the body at the cervix and pull off a leg or two." This is what we are forced to subsidize with our tax dollars. This is what our politicians and media pundits extol as "health care." What about this, though, promotes health and what about this is truly caring?

Shortly after the video was released, the National Abortion Federation and Planned Parenthood filed suit to have it removed from the internet. A U.S. District judge ruled in their favor, placing a temporary injunction on the footage. But why file suit? Why keep people from seeing what was presented at their conferences? Is this not further evidence of the truth of Scripture's teaching from Romans 1? Abortion isn't a matter of ignorance (at least not for abortion providers); it's a matter of truth suppression. The demand to keep the truth from the public eye is about suppression.

Our only hope is the renewal of the mind through the consistent hearing of God's truth. We must to learn to think in line with the truth and to confess in line with the truth. This truth needs to inform the way we build culture, from the media we consume and celebrate to the representatives we vote for. Human life, from the moment of conception onwards, bears the divine image and, as such, demands our protection. And this truth must never be suppressed.

Ladies Guild of Zion
June 14, 2017

Pastor Bob Riggert read Matthew 9: 35-37, focusing on the verse, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Pastor mused on how being harassed and helpless crosses to all—gender, age, circumstances. "Like the single mother of four bringing her children to VBS—she has feelings of harassed and helplessness. We look and have compassion for those in need.

Pastor then introduced our guest speaker, Carol Segebart. Carol introduced the group to a new program Manning Hospital is offering, called **Senior Life Solutions.** The program is dedicated to addressing the emotional and behavioral health of adults over the age of 65. Carol continued to give us a few facts and figures about our upbringing, which taught us to keep our feelings bottled up, the losses suffered (loosing license to drive, losing home and independence, loss of health and family). **Farmers** are the highest group of suicide in the United States. 85 year old white males are the highest rate of suicides—and the time of carrying out his death from the thought and deed is **5 minutes.**

Carol does the initial assessment when following a referral and meeting with the client. The program provides a licensed therapist and a physiologist who value and individualize plans for care. The program meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Transportation is provided. Medicare with supplement pays for the service. Carol said that it is common that when asking how one is feeling, we automatically think only of three feelings—good, bad, and anger. What about feeling sad, lonely, depressed, hurt feelings, frustrated, anger, loss---group meetings in the program help to identify those feelings and find others who relate. Pastor Bob asked, "What as a church can we do?" Carol said—to notice a change. Are they isolating themselves? Has behavior changed? Are there health issues, losses. Be alert and call the Manning Regional Health Care 712-655-8262 and ask for Senior Life Solutions, Carol Segebart.

Christian Life: Margaret Backhaus gave a reading "His Pavilion of Grace" with a reading from Psalm 27:5. The Mite Box prayer was offered as our mites were given. President Cheral Buhr opened the meeting in the name of the Triune God. Roll call was to answer one way that I try to stay healthy. In light of the topic of the speaker, many gave mental health answers as well as physical.

The minutes of the May Guild meeting was read and approved. A thank you from New Hope, Carroll quilt auction was read. The financial report from Mary Grimm and Darlene Vollstedt was given and placed on file. The kitchen purchased supplies and also paid bill for new ceiling lights. Members birthdays and anniversary dates were noted. Sunshine reported sending 6 cards since last reported. Reports given: Memorial Day Lunch served 220 with free will offering used to support VBS; 3 C concert had between 150-170 in attendance; VBS had 167 registered with 50 volunteers making it successful.

New Business:
Pantry shower for Pastor and Mrs. Andrew Johnson with Zion gifts of paper products, soap, beverages and gift cards to be brought to Zion 3rd and 4th Sundays in June. Pastor Johnson's Ordination Dinner will be **July 8th following 4 PM service.** There is a sign-up sheet for kitchen and serving help and salads. Kindergarten Cookie walk needs cookies. Plates and plastic bags are provided and are on kitchen counter. President Buhr brought before the group a suggestion to have guest day in August instead of September and to invite Priscilla Circle, Manilla, as well as guests from Zion and community. It would be a 12 noon salad luncheon with a brief business meeting before serving. Joene made the motion with second from Susie Schilling. Motion carried.
June 22-25 LWML national convention. Live stream @https://livestream.com/The LWML
July 12 Guild will be served by Sandra Vahl and Gloria Ewoldt. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer Servers were Mary Grimm and JoAnn Thomas. Respectfully submitted, Audrey Roe, Secretary Pro Tem

Preschool Praises for June 2017

Although preschool is out of session, many are still hard at work getting ready for the 2017-2018 school year! The preschool room will be getting a fresh coat of paint in a color other than white (I'm thinking light yellow) and I plan to do some re-arranging once August hits. Right now the room is a disaster since we had to remove everything from the walls and move everything else away from the walls so that they wouldn't be in the painter's way. A new door will be installed at the entrance to the preschool and a new window decal will be placed on it so that everyone can tell that it is the preschool entrance. A new door opener will be installed on the door going into the preschool room so that we can keep all of the children as safe as possible. Most notable is the outdoor classroom that has been re-graded and seeded as well as a new box built for the dirt play area. The kids are really going to love it and we appreciate all the hard work going into getting the preschool ready!

I have also been busy taking classes this summer. In order for me to become the official director of the preschool this next year, I had to earn continuing education credits. As of the end of the preschool year, I still had 36 hours to go, but I have completed a 10 hour course and am 67% done with my second 10 hour course and have a 20 hour course lined up to start next. I'm looking forward to putting my newfound knowledge to work when I start planning out the next school year.

We had 31 registration packets go out in February and have had 10 come back so far. I'm not concerned at all as I understand how time seems to change during the summer and many of us lose track of it easily. If you do have a registration packet still at home, please fill it out and return it as soon as possible. Again, thank you to everyone that is working to get the preschool facility ready for this fall!
Blessings, Mrs. Gore

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

July 8

Ordination/Installation of Pastor-Elect Andrew Johnson
Join our brothers and sisters in Christ at Trinity in Manilla for this special celebration service.
Service begins at 4:00 p.m. / celebration meal to follow

August 14

Philippians Workshop: Pastors and People: Partners in the Gospel (at Zion)
Join Pastor Heath Curtis (LCMS Stewardship Director) for a fellowship meal and evening of conversation and equipping in Christian Stewardship
Meal begins at 5:30 p.m.

November 4

Iowa District West Treasurers' Workshop (at Zion)
Pastors, treasurers, financial secretaries, and church leadership, take advantage of this opportunity to learn, listen, network and grow from the expertise of our District partners.
Sessions begin at 9:00 a.m., break for lunch, and finish by 3:00 p.m.

PHILIPPIANS WORKSHOP

Pastors and People:
Partners in the Gospel

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you… because of your partnership in the gospel. (Philippians 1:3-4)

Upcoming Workshops in Iowa District West

☞ Monday, August 14
Zion Lutheran Church, Manning
1204 Center St., 51455

☞ Tuesday, August 15
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny
1100 SE Sharon Dr., 50021

Led by LCMS Stewardship Director
Rev. Heath Curtis

No cost to attend! Supper included!

Schedule

3:00 p.m.	Pastors arrive, opening devotion
3:15	Intro to Stewardship theology and practice
5:30	Lay leaders arrive for supper
7:00	Presentation for lay leaders on theology and practice of stewardship in the parish
9:00	Wrap up

Register:

Online: www.idwlcms.org or call Jill Davis at the District office (515-576-7666).
Register by Thursday, August 10.

IOWA DISTRICT WEST
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

in partnership with Lutheran Church Extension Fund
› where investments build ministry

!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 7, July 2017

New Pastor for Amigos in Denison: Pastor Willie Grills will soon be in Denison and will be ordained and installed on July 16 at 4:00 p.m. All are invited to this special bilingual worship service at Zion, Denison. Angelica had her baby on June 10, a boy Roland Alejandro. We are so excited to meet our new pastor and his family. Join us for this historic day!

Baptism in Storm Lake: Last month I performed the baptism of Li Andro Vargas, son of Carlos and Cristina Vargas. Li Andro is the fourth child of the Vargas family and I also baptized Carlos, their last son. Cristina first came to Grace looking for the English Sunday School for her children. But she came to our Spanish service and began to worship with us. The family moved to Florida for over a year and now they are back in Storm Lake. We celebrated this special event with their family and friends (below). Carlos is holding Li Andro with the white tux in the center of the photo.

Annual Hispanic Mission Festival: On June 4, two of our Hispanic churches met at Mission Central to celebrate our annual Mission Festival. Our special worship speaker was Evangelist Sergio Puentes and family of Columbus, Nebraska where they are organizing a Lutheran Church. As usual, Director Gary Thies warmly welcomed us and shared with us his Creation project and missionaries in need of support. We enjoyed a fellowship meal together.

Update of the Pastoral Situation in Storm Lake: I continue to serve the vacancy in Storm Lake with Pastor Henry Witte (our Hispanic pastor in Sioux City). Last month I attended a special meeting with District President Steve Turner, Missions Executive Mark Gerken, and Storm Lake pastors, Bruce Lesemann and Bradley Ketcham to discuss the future of the pastoral leadership to the Storm Lake Hispanic ministry at Grace. We discussed many possible options. But we all agreed that this ministry needs to continue to serve the Hispanic community in the Storm Lake area. We are committed to providing weekly worship services and we are considering how to provide local regular pastoral care to the Hispanic members.

Confirmation Day: for Dario Zuniga at Amigos en Cristo was special for him, his family and our church. Dario, originally from Guatemala, works in Denison with his own construction company. He is married to Marcia, our treasurer. Dario has become an active leader in our church. We are blessed to have him in our church family.

Please Pray: + In thanksgiving for our new Pastor Willie Grills to Amigos en Cristo and prayers for his new son, his travels this month to Denison, and for his Ordination/Installation on July 16. + For the Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they consider future pastoral leadership. + For Dario, our newest member, in Denison. + For our summer plans in Denison and Storm Lake. + For my retirement and family plans this summer. + 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 Lutheran Confessions are a gift which the Church has passed down to us over nearly 500 years. They are not the Scriptures, but they are a clear exposition of Scriptural truths. They keep us accountable, focused, and in line with the faithful teachings of the Apostles. Those of us who work in the LCMS have subscribed to the Lutheran Confessions unconditionally.

In other parts of the world, many Lutheran pastors, teachers, and church members haven't had the opportunity even to read the Confessions, much less study them or possess their own copy. Through our partnership, you are changing this in the lives of people all over Asia. You should already know about the large delivery of the Book of Concord we've received in Indonesian. This month, we started handing them out and helping people understand the treasury they have in this book's writings.

We had the privilege of hosting Rev. Mark Taylor this month, who was taking time away from his service at Faith Lutheran Church in Plano, Texas. Pastor Taylor spent the entire month with us, visiting multiple countries to present workshops on the Lutheran Confessions in different contexts.

One of the most-anticipated workshops was the one he did here in Indonesia. The GKLI Bishop and leadership had arranged to bring the pastors, vicars, evangelists, and fourth-year students from all over North Sumatra. We gathered in Medan, and had three days to study the book we were handing them.

SELAMAT

Read more online at:
http://ferrys.asia

All of the groups were fascinated, but the Indonesians were continually taking in everything we were giving them, and asking intelligent questions about meaning and application. The time we had went altogether too quickly, and Pastor Taylor was exhausted and exhilarated at the end of each day. The one question we kept getting was: "When are you coming back to give us more of this?!?"

The workshop was a raving success, and the Indonesian Lutherans are hungry to learn more, to study more, and to see this book distributed to other Christian groups in North Sumatra. With your continued support and prayers, we can identify other gifted teachers who can help provide this training to our friends, and host other gatherings like this one!

Pastors Aladin, Taylor, and Eben Ezer study the Lutheran Confessions together in Medan, preparing for the workshop in Medan, Indonesia

Pastors Taylor and Ferry, surrounded by our grateful Batak Lutheran pastors after the workshop.

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*.

SERVING THE LORD IN
PANAMA
NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

June 2017
Vol. 2 Issue V

Last month I mentioned spending the three main priorities of the Panamá FORO. They are: 1. Growth for the church (Christian Education), 2. Church planting, and 3. Theological education. This month's focus will be growth for the church (Christian Education).

While Sunday morning and Bible study during the week are common occurrences in churches in the U.S., they are not common in Panamá. Of the five congregations, none have a Sunday morning Bible study for adults and very few have a study during the week. From your own experiences in your local congregation, you know how valuable weekly Bible studies and Sunday school are. Most basically, it provides an opportunity for brothers and sisters in Christ to gather together around God's Word. Bible studies are a way to dive deeper into the Word of God, learning what God has done for you in Christ and what your life, as his baptized children, looks like. This more intimate setting gives participants the chance to ask questions about specific texts and explore how God's Word applies to their lives.

So what does Christian education look like in Panamá and why is it deemed a key priority project for the FORO? On a basic level, Christian education looks like regular Bible studies and catechesis in the various congregations. Beginning this week I will be starting a Bible study at El Redentor in Balboa. While this may appear a small step, I assure you that it is not. Outside of the Divine Service on Sunday, nothing happens at the property all week. What a tremendous opportunity for God's people to grow in their faith and identity as Lutherans!

With respect to Christian education as a FORO priority: in the coming weeks I will also begin offering pre-seminary courses at Emmanuel in Sora. Young men and women will gather together to study Lutheran doctrine, the Old and New Testaments, and the Gospel of Matthew. This forty week program is new, but the idea behind it is to strengthen the church biblically and theologically as well as train Sunday school teachers and look for candidates to study in the deaconess and pastoral formation programs in coordination with the seminary in the Dominican Republic. It is my hope that in the near future additional courses can be offered in the Panama City for the congregations clustered around the capital. Please continue to pray for me as I try to begin this program and pray for the men and women of Panamá's Lutheran churches, that the Holy Spirit would identify candidates to serve Christ's Church in Panamá.

We rejoice this month as we have completed the initial steps towards residency in Panamá. We now have our temporary ID cards (carnets) and our driver's licenses. Hopefully, this fall we will obtain our official missionary visas for temporary residence in Panamá! Since Panamá changed its immigration laws, visitors to the country can only stay for six months after which they must leave for 30 days before returning. Since we are closing in on our fifth month on the ground here we are very relieved that we can stay in Panamá and continue to share the Good News of Jesus in the church and community.

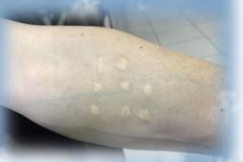
The month of May was filled with highs and lows. Lows include our bathroom ceiling falling in as well as a tree branch falling on our car, which smashed our roof and windshield. No one was hurt in either incident. The rainy season causes lots of tree branches to fall so we are staying clear of them as much as possible. Our high was a visit from my brother Isaiah and his friend Erica. There is a small pre-school across the street that would give Ezra the opportunity to play with some other kids and learn Spanish. Our goal in the next few weeks is to take him there a day or two each week. Thank you for all of your prayers and support. We pray that you all have a lovely summer full of God's grace and peace.

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.

Wu Wenyun, Grassroots Evangelism Program Student, graduated with 29 other CLS students on June 10. Previously, he was so deeply involved in Buddhism that he received the marks burnt into his arm (below). This made me think of the 1970s TV series Kung Fu, where David Carradine gets his arms branded with the dragon. Wu Wenyun became a Christian through the witness of his little sister, who is the wife of another one of our alumni. Praise God for working through the Gospel to make disciples of all nations, and now through their graduation they are also going out to continue the Great Commission!!



Pastor Oliver poses with our oldest graduate, Dick Chen (L), Pastor Liyan Pan (Th.M) and Indonesian Pastor Jiaxiang Wu (R). In the second photo, President Liu briefs the Board of Directors prior to the graduation ceremony. CLS is the only cooperative effort between the six supporting Taiwan Lutheran bodies. Pray for our furlough, CLS student recruiting (next exam/interview date is July 29), and all of our work.

Pastor Oliver and family will be speaking at Mission Central on Saturday, July 15 at 1:00 p.m.!

July Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. Heather Adams
   Nathan Jensen
   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
    Jason Ferry (T)
14. Stephanie Ahrenholtz
    Gregory Conner
    Bary Kienast
    Duane Monson
15. Bill Bruhn
    Jesse Weitl
16. Dean Genzen
    Gabrielle Riessen (T)
18. Joni Kienast
19. Bob Genzen
    Rebecca Genzen
    Brad Otto
20. Katie Gaskill (T)
21. Louise Bruhn
    Kaylee Martin
22. Alle Jacobsen
    Christopher Smith
23. Denise Christensen
    Jill Saunders
24. Sophie Alexander
25. Nancy Goodwin
26. Sharon Mohr
    Susan Schilling
    Grant Lahr (T)
    Brian Riessen (T)
27. Kevin Brus
    Ron Soll
28. Rita Saunders
    Adam Vollstedt
    Bricy Lorenzen (T)
30. Dewayne Buhr
    Kathy Lage
    Howard Roe
    Natasha Schultes
31. Markus Neumann
    Lyle Ranniger

Anniversaries

1. Randy & Crystal Dreher
3. Warren & Sue Puck
5. Dennis & Michaela Chapman
8. Brian & Kathy Lage
9. Dan & Cheryl Kerkoff
11. Joe & Cindy Scheuring (T)
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

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

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, JoAnn Wittrock, Arlo Damman, Inez Mahnke, Isaac Grabill, Rodney Backhaus