An Ordination Celebration

July 8, 2017

Welcome Pastor Johnson!

TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANILLA, IOWA

PROCLAIMING PEACE IN CHRIST'S CROSS

Pastor Mark Femmel and Pastor David Hansen place Pastor Johnson's stole

Brother pastors gather for a celebration picture

Gathered pastors pray over Pastor Johnson

Russ and Rhonda Mohr with Pastor Vogel

Head elders from Trinity (Jason) and Zion (Tim) celebrate

Pastor Conner and Pastor Johnson

Ministry Apps

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

"You observe days and months and years! I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain." - Galatians 4:10-11

Have you turned the calendar page to "August"? Have you penciled in the date to go to the State Fair, zoo, or special family day before the school year begins? Have you looked at the school calendar—first day of school, first game, etc.? Have you updated the "calendar" app on your phone noting fall commitments? It's the time of the year where time becomes even more treasured. Having reminded the Galatian Christians that Jesus came in time (Galatians 4:4-5), the Apostle Paul encourages the church to consider time differently than the world. Our time is God's time to be about His callings.

Time to Worship

In addition to the regular weekend worship opportunities, a special service at Historic Trinity will be held on Thursday, August 24 at 7 p.m. This summer's series has taken worshippers back to the time of Reformation and Luther's "Here I Stand" declaration. The August service will emphasize, "Here I Stand BOLDLY." Invite friends and neighbors. Thanks to Sam Musfeldt and other Heritage Park volunteers for assisting with service settings and arrangements.

Time to Serve

C-3 (Community + Christ + Celebration) seeks to share the Gospel with the community through special events and services. Thank you to the Zion family for your generous support of the food pantry and concert. C-3 is coordinated by volunteers from the community churches. A leadership team will gather in early September to plan the calendar for the year. Contact Pastor Riggert if you'd like to be more involved in this community ministry.

Time to Discover Camp Okoboji

Several congregation children enjoyed Camp Okoboji events this summer. Pastor Riggert is Camp chaplain from August 14 through 20, leading the Sunday camp service on August 20 (9:45 a.m.) If you'd like to visit YOUR camp, visit the Riggerts during the week and we'll give you a personal tour. Zion Sunday school children gathered more than $500 during the past Sunday school year as a donation toward the new camp Discover Center. Thanks generous children of Zion.

Time to Learn

A weekday Bible study group will gather again in the fall (Monday, September 18). God suggests, "Have you considered my servant Job, there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" (Job 1:8) "Consider Job" will be the emphasis of a six-week study. There will be more information next month. Put it on your calendar. A parenting class will also be offered this year. Share additional suggestions for adult/family study with Pastor Riggert.

One of my favorite prayers "Lord, I Have Time" (Prayers, Michael Quoist, 1963) concludes:

> Lord, I have time; I have plenty of time; all the time that you give me: the years of my life, the days of my years, the hours of my days; they are all mine to fill quietly, calmly, completely. I am not asking you, Lord, for time to do this and then that, but Your grace to do conscientiously, in the time that you give me, what you want me to do. Amen.

common sense media's muddled message

Common Sense Media, one of the nation's most influential non-profit organizations focused on safe media content for children, has released new guidelines specifically aimed at gender.[1] If your children consume media, you should not only be aware of the effect of the screen on thinking and truth processing, but also of the voices behind the screens influencing the content your children consume. Entertainment isn't simply entertainment; it brings with it portrayals of what its producers believe is good, right, true, and beautiful.

Common Sense Media understands this and exists to gain influence over the message communicated through media. You may be familiar with their rating system categories: positive messages, positive role models, violence, sex, language, consumerism, and drinking, drugs, and smoking. They are now incorporating "gender equity" into this list.

Is that good or bad? It's muddled. On the one hand, the new guidelines exhort media producers to stop objectifying girls and women as sexual objects. Christian parents should heartily support this. In a previous Zion newsletter, this subject was covered in detail in the article "For the Sake of Our Girls." There it emphasized the following:

> Our girls are not "sexual beings." They are created, redeemed, and sanctified beings. They bear the image of God. They have been washed by the blood of Christ. And they have been made holy through the Spirit's working in Baptism. *This* is their identity. And this makes our girls beautiful.

We can support initiatives to de-objectify girls in media, but Common Sense Media also includes guidelines for celebrating "fully realized transgender characters." It's one thing to exhort media producers to portray transgender characters as being regarded with the fully dignity their humanity deserves; it's another to exhort media producers to portray transgenderism as a healthy life choice and to offer them positive reviews for doing it.

To be clear, people who identify as transgender should be treated with kindness and regarded with the full dignity their humanity demands. Celebrating transgenderism, however, doesn't do that any more than celebrating anorexia or body integrity identity disorder truly helps the person battling the disorder.

For those unclear on transgenderism, it's important to understand the language. Transgenderism used to be understood as a kind of dysmorphia. Dysmorphia is defined as "a mental disorder characterized by an obsessive preoccupation that some aspect of one's own appearance is severely flawed and warrants exceptional measures to hide or fix it."[2] Transgenderism is the obsessive preoccupation that one's physical gender is wrong and that the physical gender either needs to be hidden or changed to align with one's self-perception. As you might imagine, this is greatly distressing for sufferers and a heavy burden to bear. Despite the politically correct pressure to affirm transgenderism, affirming mental confusion isn't truly helpful.

To use a parallel example to make the point clearer, consider the condition mentioned above: body integrity identity disorder (BIID). BIID is a condition where a person's mental perception of his body doesn't align with his body. Many people with BIID believe they need to amputate limbs to get their perception of their body to align with their body. Doctors understand that amputating a healthy limb

[1] For a print-out of these guidelines, stop by the church office.

[2] It has recently been redefined as dysphoria, which isn't considered a psychological disorder, but as an uneasiness or discomfort with some aspect of life, in this case with their body.

isn't truly helpful because the problem isn't with the body; the problem is in the mind.[3]

But some who battle BIID are now asking to be called "transabled" and they're arguing that their condition should be given the same affirmation and treatment options as those being given to transgender people. Consider the case of Chloe Jennings-White, a successful and accomplished research scientist with degrees from Cambridge and Stanford. Despite having healthy legs, from childhood she has believed that she was a paraplegic, and she wants doctors to sever her spinal cord to align her body with her mind. She insists that her case is no different from a transgender man or woman wanting to have his or her genitalia surgically altered.

See the parallels? Transgender people long to alter the genitalia of their body, while transabled people long to alter the limbs on their body. The only real difference is the way people with power treat them. One is celebrated by the politically correct police; one is ridiculed. One has been pushed as public policy by presidents and politicians, from schools to the military; one has been ignored. One is offered, in the form of hormones and puberty blockers that inhibit the body's natural development and result in sterility, to children as young as five. The other won't be granted even to adults. One assumes that children in single digits, who can't be trusted to cross the street safely, can process the enormity of what it means to transition from a boy to a girl or vice versa and the implications of not being able to have a child of their own; the other would never be granted to a child.

We must acknowledge that both are severe psychological conditions that deserve compassionate and consistent help centered in truth. Neither should be affirmed and neither should be pushed on children.

So, back to Common Sense Media's push to celebrate "fully realized transgender characters." Programs and movies that portray transgenderism as a healthy life option (despite all the research that documents the deep psychological struggles transgender people face with or without surgical alteration) will receive Common Sense's positive rating. Those that dare to depict characters afflicted by the disorder who desire freedom from it will be downgraded. Those that speak truth will be rated poorly. Those that celebrate mental confusion will be celebrated.

It's this lack of common sense that calls the rest of Common Sense Media's gender equity guidelines into question. Besides affirming transgenderism as a healthy expression of gender, the guidelines encourage media producers to use a "more gender-neutral color palette" and to "diversify camera filters, editing techniques, sound effects, and music to avoid segregating the worlds of girls and boys." In other words, Common Sense thinks gender differences should be minimized as much as possible to portray that "there is more than one way to do gender." And while we may agree that rigid stereotypes could use changing, the underlying assumption that no inherent differences exist between boy and girl is wrongheaded.

Sadly, "common sense" is increasingly losing its mooring on truth. Not only has it been detached from Scripture, but from creation itself. Both modes of revelation speak to our identities as male and female. Both speak to God's design for gender. If we want to re-anchor sense to truth, we will need to return to where truth is found. Parents would do well to turn off the media and turn to the Church. Only then will true sense become common sense again.

Want to talk more about this? Come visit with me. Call/email/stop in. I welcome the conversation. – Pastor Conner

[3] For a fuller treatment of this subject go here: http://thefederalist.com/2017/04/04/woman-demands-doctors-sever-spinal-cord-fit-body-mind-transsexual-man/

Exiles (not by choice)

At the end of the month, Trinity will be digging into the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Their story takes place sometime during the mid to late 400s B.C. But before you can get to these stories of restoration in the city of Jerusalem, decades of pain for the people of Israel had to take place first.

You probably know some of the stories that precede the days of Nehemiah and Ezra. They're the stories that come from the book of Daniel. There's the fiery furnace and the big tall statue that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refuse to bow before. Of course, there's also the lion's den and King Nebuchadnezzar.

Underneath all of these highlights, however, is a greater narrative. The basic premise is GOD's people had lived unfaithfully. Isaiah the prophet said:

> Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged. (Isaiah 1:4)

GOD accused the people of being unfaithful. The ancestors of these people had promised to follow all that GOD commanded (Exodus 19:8), but their follow through was way off the mark – that is the ancestors as well as the people of Israel who were taken into Babylon. The people identified other gods as their saviors, and the people failed at living with one another. These were supposed to be a united people, but they stole from one another.

So enough was enough – GOD exiled the people into the land of Babylon (commonly known as the Babylonian Captivity). That's where Daniel's story kicks into action. He was a young man taken from his home to Babylon. And it's during this period of time that GOD reshaped His people into the faithful kind of people He desired.

Perhaps one of the most well-known ways in which He reshaped the people comes out of Jeremiah 29:

> Thus says the LORD.... Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.... But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. (Jeremiah 29:4a, 5, 7).

GOD actually encouraged the people to get comfortable; to settle in and make the city better. Now taking a step back this is a pretty bold command. I mean GOD is literally telling the people to take care of the people who had taken them from their homes into captivity. Pray for your captors! Beautify the captors' city! This was no doubt a tall order.

But what's worth noting is that while the people *learned* faithfulness, GOD perpetually lived out faithfulness toward His people. Sure, the people were sent off to captivity, but GOD's presence and attention was always with His people. He spoke through the prophets; I mean the people were hearing from GOD often. Was He upset with His people? Well, when you read Isaiah or Jeremiah there appears to be a little frustration (I'm underplaying this a bit), but that's what good parents do – they're moved to action when their children are at risk. And that's what the Father does before, during, and after the Babylonian experience. Moves to action for the sake of His people. – Pastor Johnson

We are a culture of pleasure seekers. One need only drive through our towns and walk through our homes to verify it. Our homes have entire rooms dedicated to obscenely large screens equipped with equally impressive speakers flanked by burgeoning shelves of DVDs and game cartridges. Our furniture has been arranged before it as if the almighty screen was our family shrine. Our cities are arranged around ginormous entertainment multiplexes equipped with even bigger screens and more shrine-like seating. Sporting coliseums accent our cities, attracting hundreds of thousands of people yearly and claiming hundreds of millions of our dollars. Gambling galleries sparkle and shine with promises of unending entertainment. Amusement parks exist solely for entertainment purposes. And on and on the list could go.

We are indeed a culture of pleasure seekers. And we are willing to pay an extraordinary price for our pleasures, even to go into debt to have our preferred pleasures. And while on one level we can put a price tag on our pleasures, calculating the precise dollar amount of each, on another level the cost is hard to calculate.

As a culture, and even as Christians who are called to be discerning in all things, we often struggle to see the price attached to our pleasures. Beyond the dollars and cents cost of our favorite sugary foods, we pay the price with our health in type two diabetes, clogged arteries, expanded waistlines, inhibited learning ability, and more. Beyond the obscene expense of cigarettes, we pay the price in damaged lungs, rapidly aged skin, increased risk of cancer and stroke, and more. Beyond the budget-busting cost of cable and gaming, we pay the price in the mind's diminished ability to experience deeper joy and real pleasures, along with the lost ability to process reality through the framework of true and false.

Putting a price tag on pleasure isn't always easy. Further, not all pleasures are good pleasures. That's a hard statement for our culture to accept. We tend to see pleasure, so long as it doesn't hurt anyone else, as inherently good. The truth, however, is that some pleasures are inherently harmful and all pleasures have a price attached to them.

Consider carefully these words from Christian author and apologist Ravi Zacharias:

> All pleasure must be bought at a price. The difference between illegitimate and legitimate pleasure is this: For legitimate pleasure, the price is paid before it is enjoyed. For illegitimate pleasure, the price is paid after it is enjoyed. Turning aside from instant gratification is one of the most difficult things to do. But this is where the battle is often won or lost. The strength of our will – and this is crucial – surrendered either to God or ourselves – reveals the character we possess, and the strength of our will determines when the price is paid. It is the submission of our will to God that protects us from illicit pleasure, so that we may fully enjoy those which are legitimate. When that distinction is made and honored, life becomes a delight.

There's a lot to consider in his words. In fact, if you read his words carefully, you ought to be doing a pleasure audit in your mind right now. Beyond the dollars and cents expense of your pleasures, do you understand their price? If you're indulging in illegitimate pleasures or simply lesser pleasures (those that merely stimulate the flesh without enhancing your mind or bolstering joy), the price is far steeper than you realize.

The good news is that God offers greater pleasures, but the price to enjoy those pleasures needs to be paid on the front end in faith and self-control. Space prevents more detail. For now, start your pleasure audit and come visit with me to continue the conversation! – Pastor Conner

ON THAT NOTE

Treasuring our Musical Treasure

Our feature hymn for August, "We Praise You and Acknowledge You" (*LSB* 941), is a modern versification of an ancient hymn. Written in the 4th century either by Ambrose of Milan (the pastor who baptized Augustine) or Nicetas, bishop of Remesiana (in modern day Serbia), it has traditionally been referred to by its Latin name, *Te Deum* (often sung in the Order of Matins). The *Te Deum* invites worshippers to see angels, apostles, prophets, and martyrs in Heaven singing with them in worship in tribute to the Triune God. Together the saints (in Heaven and on earth) and angels are drawn into a soaring chorus of praise that gives all glory to Christ for His saving work on the cross, His resurrection for our life, and His promise of return for our deliverance.

Rev. Stephen Starke, a contemporary Lutheran pastor and hymn writer, paired Gustav Holst's famous melody from *The Planets,* specifically, *Jupiter*, with these ancient words to assemble theologically rich words with a magnificent melody. Starke, who served as the chairman of our Synod's Hymnody Committee for the Lutheran Hymnal Project (which resulted in our current hymnal), has authored over 175 hymns (32 of which are in our hymnal), explains that a good hymn is "Christ-centered, biblically grounded, doctrinally precise and rightly distinguishes Law and Gospel." Further, Starke says, "Musically, a good hymn is one in which the music serves the text and does not overwhelm the text." And finally, "A good hymn tune is one in which the music is churchly in character and singable by a group of people, both melodically and rhythmically, music that is congregational in nature and not soloistic." "We Praise You and Acknowledge You" accomplishes all of these and more.

We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,
The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.
To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:
"O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!"

"We praise You.. O God…," the hymn begins. The "we" matters because it acknowledges the communal nature of the Church on earth. It is not a loose association of individuals; the Church is a "we." "We praise and acknowledge" the true God, the God the earth adores, the God who receives praise from mighty angelic beings, from indomitable cherubim and soaring seraphim. "Holy, holy, holy" is the Lord God of Sabaoth, the Commander of the Heavenly Armies. The majesty and glory of this God fill the heavens and the earth and we are acknowledging it in our song.

On That Note

The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;
The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,
Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:
"O all-majestic Father, Your true and only Son,
And Holy Spirit, Comforter—forever Three in One!"

From the mighty angelic beings, we are directed to the apostles, prophets, and martyrs of Heaven whose worship of the true God is joined to the Church's worship. Together we sing of the excellencies of Father, Son, and Spirit. This reality is powerfully confessed and especially realized in the Church's reception of the Lord's Supper. There, with angels and archangels, with all the company of Heaven, including the loved ones who have gone before us in the faith, we worship together as Heaven's *holy, holy, holy* join's earth's *hosanna, hosanna, hosanna* in worship of the Triune God.

You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son,
Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev'ryone:
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin's womb,
Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve—
You opened heaven's kingdom to all who would believe.

Moving deeper into our praise, we zero in on the objective work of Christ *for us*. Christ, the King of glory, the everlasting Son, moved by His unbounded love for us, set out to rescue everyone, pursuing that mission from Mary's virgin womb to Calvary's cross and Good Friday's tomb. Because His love was unbounded, however, the tomb could not contain it. So by His resurrection He won reprieve for us, relief from sin's guilt and death's hold. For all who confess Him, He opens heaven's Kingdom.

You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God's right hand,
Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.
We know that You will come as our Judge that final day,
So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray;
May we with saints be numbered where praises never end,
In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

On That Note

Overwhelmed by gratitude, we praise the Christ who sits in glory, enthroned at God's right, upholding all things. In confident hope we celebrate that this Christ will return as our Judge at the end of this age. He will return as our Judge, not to condemn us (for there is no condemnation for those who are baptized into Christ), but to set everything to rights, to vindicate us before a hostile world, and to banish all would be rivals to His throne.

Until that day arrives, we pray for His aid, that through His grace He might preserve us in the faith so that we will finally be numbered with His saints, eternally exulting Him in the resplendence of His glory. Amen, O Lord, let it be so, Amen!

Junior High Gathering October 21-22, 2017
Cost $150
The Sheraton, West Des Moines
Financial Assistance Available
Go to www.idwyg.org for more!

High School Gathering—November 17-19
Embassy Suites, La Vista, Nebraska
Cost $135 per person, plus lodging
Go to www.ndlcms.org/youth-gathering/ for more!

EZRA

NEHEMIAH

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

Come Join Us

as we witness the homecoming and rebuilding of Jerusalem after being held captive by Babylon for several decades

August 24th, 2017
10am in the Fellowship Hall
Cost: 10$ for books.

Questions: Contact Pastor Johnson at trinitylutheran@fmctc.com or 660-216-8680

Calling all ladies

(mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, friends, and neighbors)

Ladies' Salad Luncheon

Wednesday, August 9 @ noon

Sponsored by
Zion Manning Ladies Guild (LWML)

Fellowship
Food (salad & beverages)
Fun!

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

Wednesday, August 23rd
7:00 p.m.
Zion Lutheran (Manning)

For all 5th -8th grade students
Parent and confirmand required to attend

Confirmation Help

Confirmation is almost upon us and I (Pastor Johnson) need your help for the 5th and 6th grade classes! I'm looking for the following items:

- Poster board (any size/any color; 15+ sheets)
- 1 bag of plastic Solo Cups
- 1 bag of Potting Soil
- 5 Bandanas
- 5 Frisbees
- 24 3 oz containers of Play-Doh (Amazon has a variety pack for $18.99)
- Old Magazines

If someone is also looking for a small building project, I'm looking for a creative, crafty person! If you have any questions about these items please contact Pastor Johnson (712-652-3031). Items can be dropped off at Zion or Trinity. Thank you in advance!

Rally Day is set for Sunday, September 10th. Bring your kids, invite your neighbors, and get excited about the 2017-2018 Zion Sunday School program.

Have a new child to register? Stop by the church office and we'll help.

Congregational Picnic!

Mark your calendar and spread the word because we're having a church picnic on **Sunday, August 27**. Worship will be at **10:00** with lunch and games to follow. Congregation members are invited to bring a salad, side, or desert. And if you have an outdoor game, let Shelly Gruhn or Marget Backhaus know.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

August 9

Ladies Guild Guest Day and Salad Luncheon
For all ladies of Zion and Trinity, and their friends
Lunch at noon; program to follow

August 14

Philippians Workshop: Pastors and People: Partners in the Gospel (at Zion)
Join Pastor Heath Curtis (LCMS Stewardship Director) for a meat and potatoes meal followed by a meat and potatoes stewardship workshop. Meal begins at 5:30 p.m.

August 24

Ezra & Nehemiah Bible Study (at Trinity)
10:00 a.m. at Trinity in Manilla

August 27

Church Picnic
Worship at 10:00 a.m. Lunch, fellowship, and games to follow

September 6

Confirmation begins
Classes begin after school
Orientation is set for August 23 at 7:00 p.m.

September 10

Rally Day

October (TBA)

Luther Movie at Zion
Celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation at Zion with this gripping movie. Watch for the date!

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.

Ladies Guild of Zion
July 12, 2017

Pastor Conner greeted Guild with the question, "How would you define a spiritual person?" As the discussion took place it became obvious that it depends on the source one is using. If your source is God, then you look to scripture to define Spiritual. If your source is not based on scripture, but is left up to the individual to define, you might remark that you are spiritual, but don't attend any organized worship service. If then you don't know God through the scriptures, you become your own god believing in yourself to determine what is good.

The Holy Spirit uses scripture to tell us who God is and all He has done for us. We come to realize that we are not "good," only God is good, and we need God's gift of salvation purchased for us by the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. We live our lives in thanksgiving for that gift and regular worship is part of that thanksgiving.

Margaret Backhaus followed the discussion with a reading entitled "The Perfect Age." As she quoted passages from Jeremiah and Psalms it became obvious that every day we breathe in the care of our heavenly Father is the perfect age. The mite box was passed and the mite box prayer recited. President Buhr called the meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. Roll call was answered by 12 members with their favorite summer activity. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Correspondence included a thank you note from Tyler Saunders, a thank note to Carol Kahl from Ellie Menz for sewing hygiene kits, and a note reminding us that missionary Pastor Oliver will be speaking at Mission Central in Mapleton on the 15th of July. Treasurer Mary Grimm and kitchen Treasurer Darlene Vollstedt gave their reports. Janet Gruhn reported that 48 quilt tops are ready for sewing. Camp Okoboji's quilt auction netted $265.00 for the 4 piece wall hangings donated and $520.00 for the 3 quilts donated. President Buhr thanked members that brought salads and helped serve Pastor Johnson's ordination dinner. It was an uplifting evening.

There was no old business except reminders to save postage stamps, box tops for education, soap, computer ink cartridges and cell phones. Pill bottles are no longer being collected. New business included a report of the kinderfest cookie walk. Cynthia Genzen moved that we donate $30.00 of the profit back to the kinderfest committee. Charlene Hickman seconded the motion and the motion carried. Guest day planning for August followed. Lunch will be at 12:00 P.M. with the meeting to follow at 1:00. Susie Schilling will purchase table centerpieces, Cheryl Buhr will provide the favors, Sue Puck will get an ice breaker game and Nancy Opperman and Laurene Meeves will set up the tables and provide beverages. Mary Grimm will send invitations.

Plaza Bingo on July 28th will find Bev Grundmeier as chairman with Sandra Vahl, Sue Puck and Charlene Hickman as helpers. The next guild meeting will be a noon guest day salad luncheon on August 9th. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Refreshments were by Connie Ahrendsen.
Sue Puck, secretary

Zion Ladies Guild Mission Sewing has need of help sewing blocks together for quilt tops. The blocks are grouped into bundles, each bundle makes a quilt top. The blocks are located in the storeroom (the old entry) The sewing can be done at your own speed and convenience. Placed by the boxes of bundles is thread— take what you need--use any color may be used. No matching necessary. The need of quilts is overwhelming and any help is greatly appreciated. This is all straight sewing and a wonderful project for teaching children to sew. Any questions, call Audrey Roe 712 210 2718.

Preschool Praises for July 2017

School is just around the corner and we have already begun planning. We came in on the 1st and planned the next year for the preschool. I plan to type up a letter to all of the parents and let them know exact dates. Classes will officially start on the 29th this year and I am so excited to meet some new children and enjoy some that I already know!

The preschool room has been painted and we will soon get the room back in order instead of in the hallway! The play ground looks great and the new door will be installed soon. Dan Behrens, his son Grant and Margie Gruhn got the floors all spiffed up and looking wonderful. Thank you to all who are putting their time and God's talents to use in getting our room ready!

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

I officially finished my 40 hours of online classes on Saturday, July 29th, just in time to become the Preschool Director. Yay! We will be attending the Iowa District West Preschool and Early Childhood Conference on the 4th and that is always a great time to get new ideas and to connect with other teachers.

Kari Ranniger is going to set up another Donation Tree for the preschool in the fellowship hall with little tags on it with things that the preschool will need. Some of the items are 5 oz cups, $10 for play smock replacements, paper plates for crafts, scotch tape (if you've ever seen a child use scotch tape, you'll understand why we go through so much of it!), and $5 for the scholastic magazines that each child receives through the year. If you are able, please donate what you can to help out our classroom. Thank you in advance for your help!

Looking forward to another great year,
Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz

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 8, August 2017

Farewell and Thanksgiving: On Sunday, July 25 our church, Amigos en Cristo, held a retirement farewell gathering for me. It was a great day with family and friends. We were blessed to have our Hispanic friends present from Storm Lake and Sioux City and later in the day, from Des Moines. Following a wonderful Hispanic meal, I received special messages of thanks from our District, from family as well as from our Hispanic churches with plaques of appreciation from the Denison and Storm Lake churches. May God continue to bless these important Hispanic ministries.

Our New Pastor for Amigos in Denison is Here: Pastor Willie Grills and family arrived on July 1. What a blessing to finally have him and his wife Angelica and son Augustin and baby Roland with us! Pastor Grills was ordained and installed on July 16. The next Newsletter will be prepared by Pastor Grills for an update on his ordination and installation. Please look forward to that and continue to support this important ministry that has been blessed for many years in its outreach to the Spanish speaking communities in Denison and beyond. At right is the Grills family: Pastor Willie, Angelica, Augustin (Gus) and baby Roland. Please pray for Pastor Grills, his family and ministry.

New U.S. Citizens in Denison: During the last months at Amigos en Cristo our church has helped 3 people become U.S. citizens. In the picture at left our English and Citizenship teacher Mike is with Berta Martinez who became a citizen in May. Mike is so faithful in working with those who want to help themselves and help our community and country. For his English class he also has help from veteran teacher, Georgia Hollrah. We thank Mike for his leadership to our Hispanic congregation!

Please Pray: + In thanksgiving for our Pastor Willie Grills who was ordained and installed at Amigos en Cristo on July 16. Pray for his new ministry at Amigos and in the District. + For the Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they consider future pastoral leadership. + For our summer plans in Denison and Storm Lake. + In thanksgiving to the District churches for my support over many years of service in Hispanic ministry. + 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:
Pastor Willie Grills
1004 1st Ave. South Denison, Iowa 51442
Church: 712-263-2235 Pastor's Cell: 606-225-2122
pastorgrills@gmail.com

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

We are guests in this country, and we are very content living here. Being able to say that still strikes me with wonder and awe. We have gotten so used to residing in Indonesia that sometimes we forget we are guests here. But that fact is driven home every June, when our residence permits expire and we're forced to go through procedures to renew our visas.

Thankfully, we have good friends in the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) who sponsor us to live here, and they do so much of the work for us by interfacing with the government on our behalf. In return, they know we're able to keep working in partnership with them to supply the resources and training for which they're asking.

We have heard stories from others in our line of work about the unpredictability of visa renewal, which has sometimes left our colleagues stranded for extended periods. Ever-changing policies and regulations often make the process unpredictable, so there's always a bit of trepidation as the renewal times come around each year. There's no guarantee we'll receive extensions, as living here is a privilege.

The month of June was one of these times of prayer and waiting as our passports were taken from us in order to have the Immigration Office process our visa request for this next 12 months. Pastor Sitepu of the GKLI was very good about making sure we had all the right forms and information. We rejoice in reporting that after about a week's processing our visas were renewed for a full 12 months! This means that we are free to remain living in Indonesia, and are able to come and go as we need.

SELAMAT

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

Thank you for your prayers on our behalf, for surely our Lord's grace was evident in granting us peace during this time. We are so happy to be able to stay longer, to continue the work our Lord has set before us through you, the Church. God grant us another year of great opportunities to serve together, with us as your hands, feet, and voice to the people of Indonesia and all over Asia.

This was truly a month of celebrations for the Ferry Family. Not only did we celebrate the renewal of our residence permits, but we had two birthdays to enjoy. The big one was Carissa turning FIVE years old. This was actually the first time in her life she was able to celebrate her birthday in the same location as the previous year.

One of the local bakeries was able to provide a cake for her, and she loved the candles that would keep re-lighting. She's determined to learn how to read during this coming school year now that she's a "big girl."

But Carissa wasn't the only one getting a year older… Daddy Ferry also celebrated a birthday this month, and the family took him out to a local Indonesian restaurant with our good friends Aladin and Dame Sinaga. And in the midst of all the other things going on, Charles and Cheryl remembered being united in marriage 14 years ago this month. Thank you for your love and support! We look forward to continuing on with this adventure, praying you will continue to go with us according to our Lord's own will.

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

July 2017
Vol. 2 Issue VI

Greetings in Jesus! This month's feature article focuses on the second FORO priority, church planting. You may be thinking, "That should be easy. Isn't evangelism just telling people about Jesus?" "Can't the pastors and parishioners simply tell their neighbors?" "Surely, some strategic social programs would gather people." "Why can't you just start there?"

The short answer is, "yes, we could." And certainly all Christians ought to be ready to give a reason for the hope that they have in Jesus (1 Peter 3:15). Faith surely comes by hearing the Word of God, but faith is also created and sealed in the waters of baptism. Sinful people, like myself, not only need to hear about Jesus, we need to be forgiven of our sins, like we hear in the absolution during worship. Sinful people need to gather together with brothers and sisters each week to hear the Word of God read aloud and preached publicly. They need to be taught how to recognize their sins by learning the 10 Commandments. They need to confess the Good News of what the Lord has done for them in the Apostles' Creed. They need to call upon the Lord as Jesus taught in the Lord's Prayer. They need to see, hear, taste, smell, and touch our Savior's real presence, for them(!), in the waters of baptism, in bread and wine (Christ's true body and blood) of Holy Communion, and in the words forgiveness of Holy Absolution. And these all happen in the Lord's Church. Yes, people need to be told about Jesus, no doubt. More than that though, they need a church were they meet with Jesus.

In Panamá, that means recruiting and training pastors, finding places to have a church, and then going out to invite. Fortunately, the national church in Panamá has a fantastic facility to use for a church and education center. We are renovating it as we speak. It is located at the entrance of a large community, something people will see when they come in or go out. Praise the Lord, a plan is in the works to call another pastor to serve in this northern part of Panamá!

In Sorá, the new pastor is walking through town daily meeting with folks. He has been visiting the local school which has asked him to do devotions on Mondays for the school and staff. With the help of his congregation they are looking to start a tutoring program that will bring families into contact with a loving and faithful Christian family all while he faithfully preaches, teaches, and administers Christ's gifts. Church planting and evangelism is a long and challenging process, but they are both done with the promise that wherever the Word is preached and Sacraments given, Christ is present and the Holy Spirit is at work creating faith. Please continue to pray for the Lutheran church of Panamá as they faithfully seek to plant new churches and bring the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to all of Panamá. To God be the glory!

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support. This past month I had the pleasure of joining the Lutheran ladies known in the US as LWML but here they call themselves Grupo de Damas de las Iglesias Luteranas de Panamá. It was nice to meet some more ladies from a few of the churches that are farther away from the capital. There was also a special guest that day, former missionary Nick Wirtz and his wife. They served in Panama for 2 years during his vicarage. It was wonderful to hear what life was like here some 25 years ago. I am thankful to have running water and electricity more days than not.

I was also able to attend women's Bible study in Loma Cova this month. Loma Cova is a church about 35 minutes outside the city. It was great visiting with these ladies, studying the bible and praying together. Many of the women are very talented at stitching and can sew a traditional Panamanian tapestries known as a Mola in a day or two. I hope to learn how to make one someday. I have so much to learn from these wonderful ladies. – Pastor Brian, Amanda, and Ezra

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.

What a special day for July 15th! Even though the temperature was in the 90's the NOT NORMAL people came to Mission Central in LARGE NUMBERS! Why did they come? Because they wanted to see and hear two of our finest missionaries in the mission field: the Honorable Rev. Carl Hanson and his family and Dr. Steve Oliver and his family. These two Iowa District West missionaries are doing such wonderful work for Jesus in Asia as they equipping the saints. It was so touching to hear their miracle stories. – Missionary Gary

Brent Smith (Mission Development Counselor and partner of Missionary Gary) was able to be with us, and we had seven pastors who came to pray for and send the Hansons and the Olivers on their way back to Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Five of the Conner children and two of the Olivers, along with their respective fathers enjoy the opportunity to visit.

Professor Oliver recalled Zion with fondness and asked me (Pastor Conner) to share his word of greeting and sincere thanks for Zion's continued prayer and support.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. David Kusel
2. Justin Musfeldt
   Judy Lingle (T)
3. Sophia Beck
4. Jade Dawson
   Madilyn Trost
5. Janet Brus
6. Matthew Alexander
   Zachary Grove
   Morgyn Irlbeck
   Alison Peters
   Beverly Rix
   Donna Rutz
   Grace Sextro
   Betty Pedersen (T)
7. Mitch Robinson
   Kevin Struve
   Katie Weitl
   Jessica Sebring (T)
8. Haylie Irlbeck
   Arlene Mohr
   Makenzie Trost
   Logan Vonnahme
   Jeff Sebring (T)
9. Mckenna Benton
   John Ferneding
   Mackenzie Jorgensen (T)
10. Rhonda Grimm
    Kent Vollstedt
11. Scott Dreier
    Ashley Ehlers
12. Kelly Ferneding
    Stan Musfeldt
    Audrey Roe
    Luke Jorgensen (T)
14. Elizabeth Alexander
    John Blom (T)
    Cole Lingle (T)
    Mark Segebart (T)
15. Addalynn Alexander
    Emma Reese
    Rick Spack
16. Cathie Segebart (T)
17. Jill Arp
18. Kason Jacobsen
    Carol Schroeder
    Paula Wulf
19. Jean Borkowski
    Miranda Hansen
    Shelby Heaton
    Randy Mahnke
20. LeeAnn Christensen
21. Jacob Rosener
    Mitchell Walters
    Tina Miller (T)
22. Loretta Arnold (T)
    Ladelle Hanson (T)
    Will Jorgensen (T)
23. Karl Rutz
25. Skielar Riessen (T)
24. Jasmine Bauer
26. Kadynce Ketcham
    Barb Hargens (T)
27. Mary Grimm
    Dorothy Kusel
    Coltan Lesle
    Linnet Nissen
    Leggy Thomson
    Gale Vinke
28. Brian Vetter
29. Justin Weller
30. Abby Bruch
    Cash England
31. Margaret Kuchel
    Jeremy Jepsen (T)
    Jeremiah Segebart (T)

Anniversaries

1. Scott & Lisa Dreier
2. Dewayne & Cheral Buhr
4. Robert and Mary Lueth (T)
5. Don & Susan Lamb
6. Scott & Mitch Robinson
   Pastor Daniel & Paula Vogel
8. Walter & Joan Noelck
9. Duane and Melodie Boell (T)
10. Daniel & Taya Vonnahme
12. Bob & Irene Genzen
13. Alan & Jennifer Morris
15. John and Debra Blom (T)
18. LaVern & Judy Bald
    Robert & Brenda Ehlers
20. Mark and Cathie Segebart (T)
22. Bob & Diane Henkelman

23. Gary & Bonnie Witt
24. Curtis & Rachel Hofbauer
    Jerry and Mildred Brus (T)
25. Dwight & Jeanne Gruhn
    Tim & Joni Kienast
30. JoAnn and Earl Thomas

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

Official Acts

Baptism:
Paislee Rae Stoberl, daughter of Brian and Rachel Stoberl, baptized July 16, 2017, Pastor Jonathan Conner

Transferred in (Zion):
Kim Wegener from Peace Lutheran in Harlan

Funeral:
Internment: Dwight Brus, August 15, Pastor Andrew Johnson

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, Stephanie Winter, Diane Henkleman