You give to your church. You help a neighbor in need. You volunteer at the food pantry. Or you give a gift to a friend. And your heart experiences joy. Why? Why does giving bring us such joy? The answer can be found in the heart of our God. Consider what we learn about God from Scripture: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (Jn. 3:16). God is a giver! Our God is generous by nature.

And you have been created in His image! When you give, you are emulating your God. Even more, you are reflecting His image to the world! That's exciting!

I'm happy to share with you that beginning on Sunday, November 12th, we (Zion) will begin a three-week joy emphasis entitled *Experiencing the Joy of Generosity*. These three weeks will be an enriching time for our congregation as God, working through His Spirit in the Word and Sacraments, blesses us with His love, grace, and mercy, and then invites us to respond in gratitude for His generosity to us.

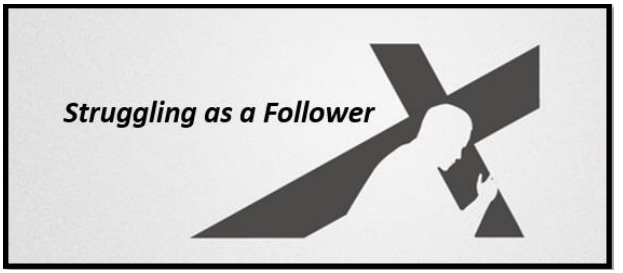
Our weekly themes are as follows:

- **Nov. 12: "The Joy in Receiving God's Blessings"**
- **Nov. 19: "The Joy in Managing God's Blessings"**
- **Nov. 26: "The Joy in Sharing God's Blessings"**

Our three-week journey will teach us that the human pursuit for fulfillment and joy culminates in the discovery that we receive them both when we, by God's grace in Christ, respond with eagerness to God's invitation and directive to give. Giving to others and to our church is simultaneously fulfilling and joy-inducing – and God-like!

I invite you to make worship attendance over these three weeks a priority for you and your family. Our time together in the Word and Sacraments will produce fruit both for you personally and for God's Kingdom.

It's my prayer that you would treasure the gifts of God to you in Christ and experience the genuine joy of being the generous people of God. – Pastor Conner



What does it mean to struggle, or a deeper word might be *suffer*, as a follower of Jesus? It's a big question with little room for pat answers! While it's true that God has a plan, God's "plan" in the midst of serious pain can feel pointless, aimless, vindictive, and downright mean. The plan doesn't seem to be addressing the problem at hand.

With all of this in mind, I'd like to share some of my thoughts from the last month or so over the next few newsletters. As most of you know, I've been undergoing chemo treatments in order to prevent the development of cancer. The physical side effects that go with the treatments have been difficult in and of themselves, not to mention the spiritual ones. There have been moments where the Great Physician doesn't seem too great. The God who we profess to be all-powerful seems lacking in power, or maybe even uncaring. I mean, if He's all-knowing and all-powerful why isn't He changing my circumstances? Healing me? Quite frankly there have been times where it feels as if God has been hiding from me.

Now the thing is I'm not alone in feeling this way, and maybe you've felt this way. Many argue that real life pain is the thing that prevents them from believing in God. It's a serious matter, and it's an issue that has perplexed Christians for, well, I'd imagine since the Fall. And thankfully it's an issue taken up in the Scriptures.

So we're back to our original question: What does it mean to struggle or suffer as a follower of Jesus? And maybe I can refine the question a little more and say: How do I struggle and suffer as a follower of Jesus? Because at the end of the day I know you want to remain faithful to Jesus, but at the same time it's hard to shake the monkey (with devil horns) off your back who's going, "Curse God and give up." "He's not really there." "He says He loves you but is this how you express love in your family – by making them suffer?"

So here's how we're going to proceed. In the next few issues we're going to see what Job, John (the apostle), and King David have to say with respect to suffering. Until then I'd challenge you to remember and pray about a difficult life moment. – Pastor Johnson

In 5th-6th confirmation class we learned about Abraham's family and how when God makes a promise He keeps His promises! So meet Abraham, Sarah, and baby Isaac.

Ministry Apps

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

'Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name" Psalm 100:4

Wouldn't it be great to have an "app" for thankfulness? Parents could simply engage an app to remind their children to say "thank you" for the gift or kind word. To avoid forgetting to send a note of thanks for a generous word or deed, we could again simply use the app. To my knowledge thanksgiving is still a personal endeavor rather than a technological response. It is appropriate to give thanks, especially to the Giver of all gifts, our God. May we respond with the Psalmist this month, "Give thanks to them."

Thanksgiving—A Worship Response

"Come, You Thankful People, Come," is the theme of the Thanksgiving Eve worship service at Historic Trinity Church at Heritage Park. The special setting offers a unique traditional worship setting. Bring the family and your friends from the community to the 7 p.m. service.

Thanksgiving—A Christian Education Response

We are thankful for the great Sunday school attendance this fall. Over 40 children are blessed to learn God's plan of salvation through the Old Testament. Sunday school (and Midweek) openings are already including songs for the special Children's Christmas Service (Sunday evening, December 17). While regular attendance is important each Sunday, it is helpful for Christmas service preparations to have the children present this season. Thanks to our faithful teaching staff who engage the children in the Word each week.

Thanksgiving—A Sharing Response

We recently received an acknowledgement from LCMS World Missions for our VBS offering to "Christ's Care for Children in Kenya." Information about the Kenyan mission is posted on the bulletin board by the southwest entrance.

Children's offerings this Sunday school year support the ministry of OUR camp—Camp Okoboji. Thanks generous children!

Zion continues to generously support the Manning Food Pantry. Three Zion teams assisted with the recent "Pack the Pantry" event. Many community families are blessed by the food pantry. If you know of any individuals or families with this need, have them come to the pantry (behind the State Farm Insurance Office—entrance from the alley) on Saturday mornings between 8 and 10 a.m.

Thanksgiving—A Vocational Response

Blessed by God we serve in the contexts of our family, community, work places, church, etc. One of the gifts of the Reformation was a re-emphasis that everything we do as God's redeemed and gifted children is done in praise and thanksgiving to Him. The Zion Fellowship Club continues its vocation focus this year. The next meeting is Monday, November 13 at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. New members and visitors welcome.

"Come, ye thankful people come; raise the song of harvest home. All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin; God our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied. Come to God's own temple come; raise the song of harvest home" Thankfully! Pastor Bob Riggert

ON THAT NOTE

Treasuring our Musical Treasure

"Our churches teach that the remembrance of the saints is to be commended in order that we may imitate their faith and good works according to our calling." These words, found in The Augsburg Confession, the foundational document of the Lutheran Church, draw a strong line between the Lutheran Church and the Roman Catholic Church, in which members are encouraged to invoke the saints and to gain merit from their superabundant works.

In the Apology/Defense of The Augsburg Confession, the Lutheran reformers expanded on their position by writing, "Our confession approves giving honor to the saints. This honor is threefold. The first is thanksgiving: we ought to give thanks to God because he has given examples of his mercy, because he has shown that he wants to save humankind, and because he has given teachers and other gifts to the church… The second kind of veneration is the strengthening of our faith… The third honor is imitation: first of their faith, then of their other virtues, which people should imitate according to their callings." Pages xi-xii in our hymnal detail the various godly men and women of Scripture and history for whom we thank God throughout the year, whose great faith encourages us, and whose godly lives serve as models for us to imitate.

On November 1st, the church pauses to give thanks for the redeemed of God who have been called into Christ's presence over the previous year. A part of this All Saints' Day celebration includes this month's hymn, "For All the Saints." Written by clergyman William How in the mid-1800s, it has found its way into the Church's song. As we journey through it, it will become apparent why it has been incorporated into the Church's song and why we should continue to treasure it.

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The hymn opens with a call to remember those redeemed by Christ who now rest from their labors in His presence. The Church answers this call by reciting the names of those congregational members who died in the faith over the previous year. These individuals, and numerous others the world round, confessed Christ in life and are now enjoying heavenly rest. So together we bless the name of Jesus who secured their salvation (and ours).

ON THAT NOTE

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Continuing our remembrance of those saints who have confessed Christ before us, verse two reminds us that Jesus was their rock; Jesus was their fortress; Jesus was their might. Even more, Jesus was their captain in their daily struggle of faith and Jesus was their light in the midst of life's darkest moments. So we are moved again to praise God for the gift of Jesus.

Oh, may Thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse three turns our heart to prayer as we ask God to help us, God's present day soldiers, to be faithful, true, and bold, and to fight the fight of faith nobly as the saints who have gone before us. Further, we implore God to keep us be faithful to the end so that we, as with the saints who have gone before us, may be honored with the crown of life in store for Christ's faithful redeemed.

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse four celebrates the great reality of our fellowship not only with the saints on earth, but in fact, with the saints in heaven! We experience this profound fellowship in our celebration of the Lord's Supper in which we, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, worship Jesus our Savior. So we confess in this hymn that we, both saints in heaven and the redeemed on earth, are one. We are all Christ's.

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse five turns our attention forward to the trials and difficulties before us. Our warfare against sin, Satan, and fleshly temptations will wear on us. But when this happens, we are exhorted to hear the distant triumph song of Christ's coming return and restoration of all things. Christ has already defeated death and Satan and He is coming to liberate us and the entire creation from sin and death. He is coming to spread His victory across the entire cosmos and this cosmic victory shoots strength into our faith and makes us undaunted in the face of the fierce fighting ahead.

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse six turns our eyes to the golden evening of our lives, to the present promise that we will, when our eyelids close in death, rest from our labors with Christ. We may be called to battle for 70, 80, or 90 years, but our rest is coming, and it will be a sweet rest marked by the calm of paradise the blest.

But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day:
The saints triumphant rise in bright array;
The King of Glory passes on His way.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

But, verse seven reminds us, this bodiless rest with souls in heaven and bodies in the ground, is not the end of the story. The story continues into the resurrection of the body! So this verse exhorts us, "But, lo…" In other words, "Look!" The sun that set in the west in the previous verse (marking the end of our sin-cursed lives) is followed by the break of a new day, the day of resurrection! And look what happens on this day: the saints rise triumphantly from the ground in the bright array of God's glory! And then look: the King of Glory passes before them in a grand show of victory and triumph. So we with all the saints of God joyfully call out together: Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Verse eight draws the whole story together as a countless host of the redeemed, coming from earth's wide bounds and ocean's farthest coast, stream through heaven's pearl gates singing their alleluias exuberantly and joyfully to The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

In eight succinct verses, our attention has been repeatedly drawn to Christ and His work for the saints who have gone before us, His victory assurance for us, and to the grand and glorious promise of coming resurrection for all Christ's redeemed. This is truly a song for all the saints!

PINK

No Friend to Females

Pink used to be a color, a softer hue often favored by females. In recent years, however, it has been hijacked by one of the nation's biggest objectifiers of women and purveyors of soft porn: Victoria's Secret. Pink has been gutted of its inherent beauty and has been turned into a product line that Victoria's Secret has cast like a lure to draw teens and young women into their hypersexualized adult product line. Launched in 2002, Victoria's Secret PINK brand passed 1 billion dollars in sales in 2010. They have quickly and effectively captured the attention, imagination, and money of teens and young women who pay significant sums to display the PINK brand.

And, sadly, our girls are enthusiastically taking the PINK bait. Just count the number of shirts and leggings emblazoned with PINK walking around town. Our girls are being objectified. Our girls are being lured into the hypersexualized world of Victoria's Secret. Some may disagree with this assessment of Victoria's Secret, but ask yourself if anybody knows or even cares to know the names of their models? They are simply props, living mannequins to sell products and to propagate the idea that women are objects that exist for men's pleasure.

The PINK brand might not look as provocative and suggestive as Victoria's Secret, but PINK funds Victoria's Secret. They are one and the same. Giving money to PINK is giving money to Victoria's Secret. Promoting PINK is promoting Victoria's Secret. Victoria's Secret and PINK depersonalize women, endorse their objectification, and give men the right to expect them to dress and act in certain ways. Further, they teach women that their worth comes from their appearance. This is a lie, a lie by which too many women and girls have been deceived.

Why would we support this? Why would we clothe our girls in this? Our girls have names. They have value as persons. They are not objects that merely exist for another's pleasure. They are beautiful creations of God. Even more, they have been redeemed by Christ! Their identity and worth is found there – in their creation and redemption.

Consider Paul's words from 2 Corinthians 5:16, "We regard no one according to the flesh…" In other words, we don't determine value or worth by the world's labels. We don't see people as the world does. We don't let Satan's lies parading in the provocative attire of Victoria's Secret or the seemingly innocent PINK brand assign worth to women.

How do we see them? Paul writes, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:17). Those baptized into Christ have a new identity. In fact, Paul says, "For our sake [God] made [Jesus] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in [Jesus] we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21). Our baptism so closely connects us to Christ, the righteousness of God, that we are incorporated into that righteousness!

And this changes the way we live. Listen to what Paul writes: "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body" (1 Cor. 6:19). Victoria's Secret and PINK are charging women to devalue their own bodies. Paul's words are blunt: Flee! Get away from anything that would devalue the body that Christ redeemed. "Or do you not know," Paul asks, "that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:10-20).

Our bodies have been redeemed by Christ; they belong to Him. As such, we are called to adorn them in such a way that He receives the glory. And PINK in no way helps us to do this.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

Ongoing

A Man Named Martin (at Zion)
Appreciate how Martin Luther changed history and freed the Gospel from its bondage to false teaching in this incisive DVD and discussion series. Sessions are ongoing

FINANCIAL Peace UNIVERSITY

Ongoing

Financial Peace University (at Zion)

November 4

Chicken and Biscuit Supper (at Trinity)
Join Trinity in Manilla for their annual Chicken and Biscuit Supper following the 4:00 p.m. worship service.
Free will offering.

TREASURES' WORKSHOP
IOWA DISTRICT WEST

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.

November 5

Hayride (at Zion)
Join the Zion and Trinity family for an afternoon of hayrides, hotdogs, and marshmallows.
3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the Zion field

November 22

Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service at Historic Trinity
Come Ye Thankful People Come! – to Historic Trinity for our Zion and Trinity joint Thanksgiving Eve service
Service begins at 7:00 p.m.

Cookie Walk

December 2

Cookie Walk (at Trinity)
9:00-11:00 a.m.

Advent By Candlelight

December 3

Advent by Candlelight (at Zion)
Experience the Christmas story through narration and song in the enchanting candlelight setting of Advent by Candlelight.
Tickets: $5, or sign up to host a table.

The ladies of Trinity's Priscilla Guild were very excited to serve over 160 people at their annual salad luncheon.

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

PACK the PANTRY

Zion's two teams stand at the starting line.

And they're off!

Sandra Vahl leads the checkout process while Jen Morris expresses the intensity of the experience.

Ladies Guild of Zion
October 12, 2017

Pastor Conner centered the opening devotion on the 500th anniversary of the reformation. He spoke about the culture of the time and Martin Luther's insistence that Jesus blood bought gift of salvation be taught rather than man being able to merit God's favor. He also said Luther penned many hymns and the large and small catechisms as teaching tools, as well as translating the Bible into German so the people could understand what they were hearing.
Following prayer, the LWML pledge was recited. Christian Life Chairman Margaret Backhaus read a piece based on Isaiah 40:3 entitled "Forever Word." Jesus is the forever Word and the Holy Spirit uses the Word to enlighten and sanctify his children. The mite box was passed as the mite box prayer was said.

President Buhr called the business meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. Sixteen members answered the roll call by sharing a helpful hint with the group. The secretary's report was read and approved. An invitation from LFS to visit the office in Fort Dodge in December was read. Members may indicate their intention to attend by indicating the date they have chosen to the office in Fort Dodge. The treasurer and kitchen treasurer each gave their reports. Human Care Chairman Audrey Roe said the quilters have tied 26 quilts in the four weeks they have been meeting. There were no other reports. Circle #3 will serve at the next funeral.

Members were thanked for working and donating food for the meal served at the Hausbarn. President Buhr has made a list of suggestions that should make another such endeavor easier to plan and to serve. LWML Zone President Sandra Vahl said there were 26 members in attendance at the Fall Rally in Coon Rapids. Marilyn Mumm of Westside will remain as treasurer ad Deb Schmidt of Carroll will be the new secretary.

Old Business: Guild collection items are postage stamps, box tops for education, soap, cell phones, and computer ink cartridges that are non-refillable. New Business: Advent by candlelight will be on Sunday evening December 3rd. Bev Grundmeier will be in charge of ticket sales. Sandra Vahl will act as hostess. Darlene Vollstedt will organize the kitchen crew. Pastor Conner and the Praise Band will be the program. Timothy Conner will do background music. Ticket sales will begin the 1st Sunday of November.

Coming Events: Tuesday the 17th of October the zone Pastors' circuit meeting will be at Zion. Sandra Vahl volunteered to serve coffee, juice and a baked item. Saturday November 4th the district treasurer's workshop will be held at Zion. A welcome coffee and bars will be served. December 1st and 2nd the fellowship hall will be decorated. Sue Puck, Cheryl Buhr and Mary Grimm are on the committee.

Pastor Johnson of Trinity in Manilla invited Manning members to Luther Fest on October 28th from 4-7pm @ Schram Athletic Park. Free fun, food and games provided. On November 4th @ 5 pm a chicken and biscuit supper is being served at Trinity. The supper is provided with a free will offering being taken. On December 2nd from 9-11am a cookie walk will be held at Trinity. All are welcome to attend. Plaza Bingo will be on October 27th. Audrey Roe is chairman with Bev Grundmeier, Monica Christensen and Charlene Hickman as helpers. The next guild meeting is on November 8th at 1:00 pm. Election of secretary and treasurer will be held. Margaret Backhaus and Janet Gruhn are on the nominating committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer. Lunch was served by Susan Schilling and Carol Kahl. The November 8th meeting will be hosted by Monica Christensen and Charlene Hickman.

Preschool Praises for October 2017

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Preschool during Fellowship at the end of September! We appreciate your help in providing materials for the children and spreading the love of Jesus to them. We wrapped up September with Mom's Night, which was really wonderful with moms having a fun evening with their children. We read Llama Llama Red Pajama and made scrapbook pages about each child to put into a scrapbook that will be passed around to each child to share with their family.

What a month October has been! The first week we learned about apples - where they come from, their parts, what we can make with them, etc. We took a field trip to Jean Kusel's apple orchard that is just a block away from the preschool and the kids loved being able to pick their own apples. Mrs. Nemitz demonstrated how to use the apple picker to get the really high up apples. We also did an experiment to see if an apple floats or sinks and if that changes when we start to cut the apple apart. The children love to be scientists and you can see our many charts hanging in the preschool hallway. Thank you to Library Linda for stopping by and reading to the children about friendship!

The second week was Fire Prevention Week. We spoke about what to do when you clothing is on fire, how to crawl under the smoke, what phone number to call when there is an emergency, and not to hide where there is a fire, but to go outside. We practiced crawling under the smoke by using a sheet as smoke and had children on each side holding it up while the others crawled under. The highlight was when the Manning Firefighters visited and showed us their gear and gave us a ride on the fire truck. A big thank you to the firefighters that took the time to come to our school and teach the children! We are very blessed to have volunteers that are willing to take time off from work to come see us.

We also wrapped up the 7 days of creation and finished our song so that we could share it at the Pancake Breakfast. The third week was great because we talked about fall, the letter L and all the colors that God gives us during this season. I asked families to take a nature walk with their child and bring in a few leaves or other colors they find outside. I had a lot of fun taking my child out and taking the time to actually LOOK at the beauty. With all the samples the children brought in, we charted them by color and these can also be seen in the preschool hallway. This week we also discussed Adam and Eve and how God created them differently than everything else and how they were the first Man and Woman and the first marriage. Thank you to the Denison Naturalist for stopping by and teaching the afternoon class about spiders!

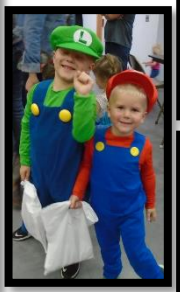
The Pancake Breakfast was a huge success and the children sang wonderfully on Sunday! I was so proud of them and I am really thankful for their families and the hard work they did during the breakfast to help out. As usual, the preschool board was also integral to the success of the breakfast in all their planning and advertising and scheduling. A lot goes into making our one fundraiser possible and we are very fortunate to have so many people helping.

The fourth week was all about the letter P for pumpkins and our class was decorated with funny, bumpy gourds and magnifying glasses to look at them with. We spoke about the different parts of a pumpkin and the life cycle of the pumpkin plant. We worked on shapes and finished up the evaluations for parent teacher conferences next week. We did a pumpkin investigation and made guesses as to how heavy and how tall our pumpkin was and if it will sink or float when put in a big tub of water. These papers are also in the preschool hallway.
After our super fun investigation, we carved our pumpkin and the children got to help remove the slimy pulp. We talked about how God washes us clean in baptism, He cleans out the dirty sin from inside us, His love puts a smile on our face and He then puts a light inside of us so that we can share His love with others. Thank you to Betty Schroeder for donating cute gourds for each of the children to take home! The children were enthralled when we spoke about how Adam and Eve let sin into the world and asked many good questions.

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

Fall Festival was a great time for the children to come in with their families to enjoy a meal with us, have a costume parade and play fun games. Thank you to all those who volunteered their time to help us! We love seeing all the cute costumes.

We will only have one day of preschool next week because we will be doing parent-teacher conferences on Wednesday and Thursday. We will spend that one day talking about creepy creatures (bats and bugs) and how they are creatures of God and were made by Him for a purpose.
We have been incredibly blessed this month and have had many people to be thankful for. God provides us what we need, and this month we were provided for richly!
Praising Him, Mrs. Gore and Mrs. Nemitz



SERVING THE LORD IN

PANAMA

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

October 2017
Vol. 2 Issue X

Greetings in Jesus! The photo above shows the bell tower from Panamá Viejo, a 500+ year old part of the former capital with new construction of modern high-rises in the background. The juxtaposition is striking. How, in the midst of so much change and development, could something so old still be standing?

I am reminded of the prophet Isaiah's words in 40:8: The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever. Through all the transience of this world, the Word of our Lord still endures. Nations rise and fall, fads come and go, technology constantly advances, but the Word of God continues to endure and continues to give forgiveness, love, and new life through Jesus Christ.

As we commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this month, we thank God for the preservation of the good news of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ through the lives and actions of faithful servants like Martin Luther and the other reformers. The reformers risked their careers and lives to ensure that the message of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone was freely preached from pulpits and taught in homes. We give thanks that the Spirit has continued this good work even unto today. Just think about all the changes that have occurred in the last 500 years. Think of the changes that have happened in the last five years! Yet, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

On October 29th, members from the five Lutheran congregations in Panamá will gather for a Reformation service in Balboa. While their history is relatively short (less than 30 years), they are part of a long and rich history where sinners have gathered around Christ's Word and Sacraments for the forgiveness of their sins. Jesus boldly preached salvation is in Christ alone, the apostles faithfully preached that salvation is found in Christ alone, and the Lutheran church in Panamá continues to preach that salvation is in Christ alone. To Christ alone does all glory and honor belong. A blessed Reformation celebration from the Panamanian church to yours.

We recently took a day trip to visit the Caribbean coast of Panamá. After hearing about a small island that you could take a $3 boat ride to for the day we had to check it out. Isla Mamey did not disappoint. Normally, this small island is packed on the weekends, but weekdays are relatively empty. While sitting on the beach you could hear the eerie shouts of the Howler Monkeys in the jungle. Just off the beach, the coral reefs are full of brightly colored fish and sea creatures. Ezra loved splashing in the shallow, warm waters of Isla Mamey declaring, "I really like my beach, daddy." The Caribbean coast of Panamá stands in stark contrast to the Pacific. In the place of shiny skyscrapers are towering palm trees. Instead of large malls, there are 500 year old Spanish forts. While we wait (and wait and wait) in the capital's streets because of cars, buses, and trucks, we waited outside the town of Portobello for a herd of cows to change pastures. The landscape and culture are diverse and rich. Panamá is truly a beautiful country that undoubtedly has it all (except snow!). Including its need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Panamá is full of people that need to hear the Law and Gospel preached so that they repent and believe in Christ's salvific work for them. Our excursion again showed us that the harvest is indeed plentiful. Thank you for your continued prayers and support to put workers for the Gospel into the harvest field!

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

September went by in a blur, and not much of it saw the Ferry family together. Cheryl and the kids stayed in Indonesia, while Pastor Ferry was called away to visit multiple places in Asia. The LCMS has been active in Sri Lanka for many decades, and that work has seen ups and downs during that time. One focus of that work is the preparation of men to serve as pastors in the local church body, something desperately needed in many Asian locations.

That work was rewarded this month with the ordination of a man to serve at the congregations of the rubber plantations in the highlands or "up-country" of central Sri Lanka.

I had been asked to be there representing LCMS mission work. Due to the late cancellation of the pastor who was to preside, I ended up having a more humbling role to serve: I had the privilege of actually ordaining this man into his office.

What a joy to hear this man's bold confession about the Lord Jesus, His Word, and the service he was promising to give to the flock in his care. It was truly the highlight in a full weekend of activities brought together by our LCMS personnel on the ground in Sri Lanka: Rev. Roger James, Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann, and Rev. Steven Mahlburg.

Meanwhile in Indonesia, Cheryl's time in visiting and conversation has paid rich dividends. She's become good friends with a local Indonesian lady who lives near our home. The kids play together, and Cheryl talks with her about life, family, and religion… all in Indonesian.

SELAMAT

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

Caleb had his own celebration this month as we remembered his 12th birthday! He got a ride to the bakery with one of our security guys, and he managed to pick out his cake all on his own.

Carissa and Cassie had their own milestone this month as they started a new school. While Cheryl's been homeschooling the older two (Caleb and Caitlin), we realized that Carissa (5) and Cassie (3) are young enough that they can absorb much more language and culture without even realizing it.

So early this month, they got their uniforms and have been attending a local Indonesian school. They have class every weekday morning, and make the short walk to the school with Mom or one of the security guys. They are taught in Indonesian, and are welcomed warmly by teachers and classmates.

Not to be outdone, Chloe has been taking it upon herself to do "homework" as well during the day. She can often be found with pencil/crayon/pen in hand, scribbling and doodling like her older siblings do. Now if she would only learn the difference between paper and a wall…

Cheryl and kids attend an Indonesian friend's wedding reception, making friends, and learning local customs.

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

Or: Mission Central, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034
Make checks payable to **The LCMS**, and mark them "Support of Charles Ferry." Gifts can also be given securely online through our online giving page at *www.lcms.org/ferry*.

China Lutheran Seminary
Our Missionary in Taiwan
Dr. Stephen Oliver

中華信義神學院
China Lutheran Seminary

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

We visited seven states on our furlough this summer, which turned out very well. We were so glad to have so many opportunities to share and thank everyone who supports us! One of my highlights was to share the Gospel message in St Louis with 40 new students from China in a campus fellowship.

(Left) I was blessed with the invitation to deliver a lecture at Concordia Theological Seminary in Hong Kong, September 22, on "Luther and the Bible". Photos above show me with Hong Kong synod president Allan Yung, Concordia Seminary president Stephen Ip, and synod literature department director Sam Yeung. On the right, I'm presenting China Lutheran Seminary publications, Luther's ROMANS and Luther's GALATIANS.

(Below) Classes at China Lutheran Seminary started very well at the beginning of this new school year. There is excitement in the year as our enrollment is slowly increasing. For this whole year, it looks like we will have a total of close to 30 new students! The photo below shows some of the teachers in our teachers' retreat before classes started.

(Right) The children love being with Gary Thies at Mission Central in Mapleton!

November Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1 Joy Umland
Nikki Segebart (T)
2 Derek Hodne
Dillon Mohr
Dawn Lorenzen (T)
Donna Holdsworth (T)
Daniel Hodne (T)
3 Taylor Beckendorf
Wade Janssen
Doug Grage (T)
Duane Boell (T)
4 Caleb Alexander
Kori Beckendorf
Mason Benton
Charles Hickman
Carol Kahl
5 Joe Riesberg
6 Albert Vahl
Virginia Mundt (T)
7 Barbara Anderson
Samantha Doyel
Fred Gruhn
Levi Lapel
8 Ken Grimm
Travis Mohr
Alexander Thelen
9 Rick Lohrmann
Kenneth Stripling
10 Jean Kusel
Jeanette Lerssen
11 Debbie Musfeldt
Tammy Winter
12. Kyle Vetter
James Miller (T)
Marie Bus (T)
Kyle Vetter
13. Jacob Dreier
Jordan Edgington
Rodney Frank
14. Bridget Gore
Steve Renze
15. Jesse Johnson
16. Sam Musfeldt
Rachel Nulle
Paula Vogel
17. Macie Doyel
Shelly Gruhn
Sandra Vahl
Tyler Thorsen (T)
18. Beverly Grundmeier
Scott Robinson
19. Ryan Doyel
Mark Kucik
Garrett Renze
Vera Vollstedt (T)
20. Becky Eischeid
Barbara Gore
Daniel Segebart (T)
21. Margaret Backhaus
Dustin Bruch
Daniel Mohr
22. Tyler Heaton
Matthew Rosener
Thomas Walters
Christina Lingle (T)
24. Allen Ehlers
Kelly Page
Pastor Andrew Johnson (T)
25. Luann Langel
Amber Neumann
26. Nancy Baack
Amy Borkowski
Nicholas Diersen
Mark Schroeder (T)
27. Ryan Willison
Sheila Simonsen (T)
Sandy Grage (T)
28. Diane Genzen
Gene Meggers (T)
29. Daniel Behrens
Larry Farley (T)
30. Alberta Dreier

Anniversaries

11. Ken & Rhonda Grimm
14. Elissa & Joe Riesberg
16. Allen & Becky Ehlers
19. Brett & Diana Eddy
20. Timothy & Amanda Rosener
24. John & Nancy Opperman
Trent & Lisa Hodne (T)
Harold & Marjorie Jurgensen (T)
26. Ken & Becky Eischeid
Stacie & Nels Nelson
29. David & Kelli Page

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

Official Acts

In Our Prayers

Walt Noelck, Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Gabriel Albers (Pastor and Rebecca's nephew), Athena Bess, JoAnn Wittrock, Inez Mahnke, Diane Henkleman, Pastor Johnson, Ron Claussen (Laurene Meeves' brother), Rick Spack, Arlene Mohr, Kathy Vollstedt