**Life is full of thrills and spills; we may not know what's around the bend, but God does!**

**At *Splash Canyon*, kids discover that, on life's wild ride, Jesus is by our side.**

**Register Online!**
**www.vbsmate.com/zionmanning**

## Zion Lutheran Church
## Splash Canyon – June 4-8, 2018
## Vacation Bible School Registration

Child's name _____ Gender: M F

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

Parents' names _____

Home address _____

Home phone _____ Alternate phone _____

Emergency contact person _____ Relationship to student _____

Emergency contact phone _____ Alternate phone _____

Food allergies Y N (List:) _____

Medical concerns Y N (Explain:) _____

Family doctor _____ Doctor's phone _____

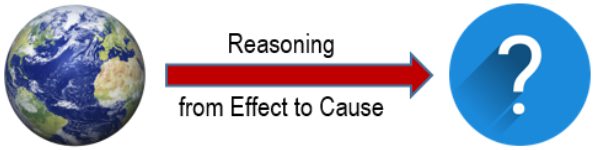
Home Church _____

People who may pick up the child _____

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

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

Parent's signature _____




We live in a cause and effect world. Examples are all around us. Cause: squirrels chew wires in my vehicles; Effect: the "service engine" light comes on and I'm out hundreds of dollars to fix the chewed wires (multiple times!) and I put up scary owls in my yard in a desperate attempt to deter them. Cause: a toddler exists in my house; Effect: my cabinets are regularly pillaged and toy tubs are repeatedly emptied of their contents. Cause: six children live in my house, five of whom are boys; Effect: everything we own is broken.

All these are effects with known causes, but often we have only the effect and must reason to the cause. So, we walk outside and everything is wet. That's the effect. We then reason to the cause: it rained. Or, we walk outside and see water splotches on the sidewalk with bits of rubber balloons lying about. That's the effect. We then reason to the cause: neighborhood children had a water balloon fight.

But let's make the effect bigger. Let's say we walked into a field and discovered a huge spherical object. This would be a real head-scratcher. What cause could produce this effect? There must be a person behind it somehow because nature doesn't produce huge spherical objects in fields. Now, let's hop into a spacecraft and shoot into space. We look back and see an enormous blue sphere suspended in space orbiting around an unimaginably larger blazing sphere. Let's call it Earth. What cause could produce this effect?

## Examining the Effect: Matter

Think with me as we reason through this question. What do we know about the effect? What defining characteristics do we see? The first obvious one is that it is composed of matter. Where did the matter come from? Some used to try to claim that the matter was infinite, but science, for a whole host of complicated reasons having to do with the observed ongoing expansion of the universe, has shown that matter isn't eternal; it had a beginning (and philosophy has long acknowledged the problem of an infinite universe, observing that it's impossible to transverse infinity). So if matter (*all* matter) had a beginning, then whatever brought matter into existence, can't be made of matter. The cause can't be made of matter.

## Examining the Effect: Inconceivable Order

Second, we see an inconceivably ordered world. Scientists stand in awe at the number of physical constants (universal constants, electromagnetic constants, atomic and nuclear constants, physio-chemical constants, etc.) necessary for our universe to exist, not to mention life! To illustrate, imagine an old radio with dials. Now imagine that in order to get a radio station, you didn't just have to turn one dial to the right station, but 40. And imagine that there was only one radio station possible on an unbelievably long frequency range. What are the chances that all 40 dials would be turned to precisely the right setting without an intelligent agent? Effectively nil. Such is the situation in which we find ourselves. This is the effect we see. We live in an inconceivably ordered universe and order to this magnitude doesn't arise spontaneously. It must have an intelligent source. So, the cause must be super-intelligent.

## Examining the Effect: An Immense Universe

Third, we see an inconceivably immense universe. We're not even close to discovering its boundaries, if it has boundaries! To date, the Hubble telescope has spotted an estimated 100 billion galaxies – *galaxies*! A galaxy can house hundreds of billions of stars and be thousands and thousands of light years across! And, to date, we've numbered 100 billion of

them! That's the seemingly limitless effect, so the cause must be inconceivably powerful.

## Examining the Effect: Ordered Information

Fourth, when we turn our telescopes into microscopes we discover not merely order, but information, inconceivably ordered information – like computer code, but mind-bogglingly more complex than any computer code we've ever produced. This code directs operations within the cell like a conductor conducts a symphony, like a conductor conducting dozens of symphonies – simultaneously!

Consider the example of the protein. Proteins are built out of sequence-specific amino acids linked together by peptide bonds. So, these amino acids must be arranged just right to get a functional protein. A brilliant scientist has calculated the probability of getting a functional protein out of all the possible amino acid combinations. It's $1 \times 10^{167}$! That means there is 1 chance in 10 with 167 zeros behind it of getting a functional protein chain. There is one combination out of $10^{167}$ potential polypeptide arrangements of getting a functional protein!

Let's put that in perspective. There are only $10^{80}$ elemental particles in the known universe! And we're only talking about 1 functional protein. Even a "simple" cell needs numerous proteins to function and replicate. And DNA holds the code that tells amino acids how to assemble in the precise sequence necessary to perform the vital functions necessary for the cell's survival and replication. So highly ordered and specified information, like a computer code, is the effect. The cause must be some intelligence on an unimaginable scale.

## Examining the Effect: Intelligent Life

Fifth, when we look about this beautiful, blue sphere suspended in space, we see life; and not only life, but intelligent life (thinking, planning, goal-setting life). What can produce this effect? Surely nothing non-living can produce something living (no matter how much evolutionists wish otherwise). And surely intelligent life doesn't arise out of non-intelligent life. Slugs can breed for a billion years and they will never ascend into the ranks of intelligent life evidenced in humans. So whatever caused intelligent life on earth, must itself be an ultra-intelligent life.

## Examining the Effect: Personal, Conscious Minds

Sixth, when we consider the fact that we are able to consider the cause of our universe at all, we quickly realize that we live in a world of consciousness and mind. Other animals may have some degree of consciousness, but only humans seem to be conscious of their consciousness. So, a dog is aware of what it desires most; it cannot reflect on what is most desirable. Humans can. We have a higher degree of consciousness. Further, we are persons. And, despite the world's attempt to depersonalize the unborn into non-persons with no right to life, we confess that two persons do not conceive a non-person who becomes a person at some magical moment, but that two persons conceive a person. Persons only come from persons.

So, we observe the following effect: conscious persons with minds. What cause can account for this? As stated before: persons only come from persons. And, as should be obvious, conscious minds only come from conscious minds. The cause, then, must be a conscious, personal, super-mind.

## Examining the Effect: A Moral Code

Finally, much like the genetic code that directs operations in the cell, we live in a world haunted by a moral code that lingers in our minds. Despite what some claim, this code is universal. There are simply some things all people in all cultures know are wrong. Torturing babies for fun is wrong. Period. It's

not wrong for some cultures and right for others. It's absolutely, completely, and universally wrong. Everyone knows this. Some muddy the waters by saying, "But people don't live by this moral code. They must not know it. So, it must not be universal." But consider: even a thief knows stealing is wrong – because he doesn't want you to steal from him. Even a liar knows lying is wrong – because he doesn't want you to lie to him. Even a cheater knows cheating is wrong – because he doesn't want you to cheat him. People may, as St. Paul pointed out in Romans 1 suppress this moral law, but suppression of the truth doesn't eliminate the truth.

We live in a moral universe haunted by a moral code. This is the effect. What causes a moral code? Inanimate objects don't; rocks don't formulate ethical systems. And nonphysical things don't; the number seven has never uttered an ethical statement. So, the cause of the moral code has to be a moral agent.

## In Review

So, let's review. We live in a universe of effects. In fact, the universe is an effect. We ourselves are effects! What caused all these effects? Given what we've covered, whatever caused these effects must be:

- **Not made of matter**
- **Super-intelligent**
- **Inconceivably powerful**
- **An intelligent life**
- **A conscious, personal, super-mind**
- **A moral agent**

Do any causal candidates come to mind? What if we were to open our Bible to the very first page? What would we find? "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The Bible begins with the causal explanation for the effect that we inhabit and the effect that we are. The Bible begins with the Cause to explain all effects: the true God! What a joy to know that the Bible begins where our reasoning ends; the Bible begins at the very place our reason has brought us, with the revelation of the great Cause of all the effects we observe.

I'm reminded of something American astronomer, physicist, and cosmologist Robert Jastrow (1925 - 2008) observed:

> Consider the enormousness of the problem: Science has proved that the universe exploded into being at a certain moment. It asks: 'What cause produced this effect? Who or what put the matter or energy into the universe?' And science cannot answer these questions. For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountain of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.

How blessed are we to have the personal revelation of the universe's great Cause! And how blessed are we to know Him and to be known by Him in Christ! It's no wonder Scripture repeatedly breaks out into exultant doxologies of praise such as this:

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Now, if anyone knows of any causes, that would effect the elimination of the squirrels, I would be much obliged! - Pastor Conner

## Ghosts, Angels & Demons, and the BIG Hope

My grandparents used to live north of Cedar Rapids. I remember going to their house all the time. Christmas, Thanksgiving, just because. Their home was a safe and loving place where my cousins and I grew up and played. Everything about the atmosphere was welcoming including the house…all except for the basement.

In order to turn the lights on in the first section of the basement you had to cross the large space over to the far wall (just enough space for an evil leprechaun to nab me or so I imagined). Unfortunately, whenever I was tasked with going to the basement to get something from the deep freezer I had to go through the whole basement – go past Grandpa's dark tool area with the leaky pipes, evade the bathroom with the creaking pipes, and finally make it to the deep freeze. Once I made it I always sprinted back up to the main floor. The basement was just too "haunted-housey" for me, and as a small child I was sure there was something sinister dwelling in my grandparents' basement ready to get me.

Maybe you had a place like that where you always felt a little unsettled, but for most of us I wonder if our fear of things like ghosts transforms into a fascination. I say a fascination because the increased loss of loved ones moves us to desire to have some sort of communication with the ones we dearly miss. Personal stories, books, movies, music, and TV have their fair share of ghosts – ordinarily portrayed as luminous, non-embodied beings seeking to warn or talk to someone significant. The ghost of Marley met Scrooge, Hamlet's father, Mozart and *Don Giovanni*, *The Sixth Sense*, and I can go on. The dead live on in media, and the question for us goes something like this: are ghosts a thing in real life?

Well, as we proceed with our look at ghosts, angels, and demons in the Bible the big question is *Is what I'm reading the exception or the rule*? So the not-so-commendable prophet Balaam in the book of Numbers has a talking donkey. Should I expect all donkeys to be capable of speaking? Of course not, this was clearly an exception in God's ongoing story – not the rule. So the closest thing you're going to get to a talking donkey is Mr. Ed (kids go look up the reference on Google).

So, are there ghosts in the Bible? You might be surprised because the answer is sort of. Maybe. Kinda. Go read 1 Samuel 28. Read the whole chapter. I'll wait…did you do it? All done? Great!

So King Saul – the first king of Israel – is near the end of his reign. He has failed to live faithfully to what God has commanded him to do like defeat the Philistines (a ruddy boy named David had to do it for him), or completely defeat Agag the king of the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15). God is going to handover Saul's kingdom to David upon Saul's death at the hands of the Philistines, or at least that's what Samuel said. There's a big problem with this whole episode; did you catch it? Verse 3 – "Now Samuel had died…" Samuel shouldn't be saying anything because he is D-E-A-D!

Now there is still a great deal of mystery of what this scene looks like. Is Samuel floating around? Does Saul just hear Samuel's voice, but there's no apparition? Who knows, but Samuel's postmortem appearance does fill some of our ghostly criteria checkboxes: 1) Samuel comes back from the dead; 2) he warns Saul concerning his soon-to-be future; 3) and (this is hard to tell) Samuel doesn't seem to have a body. So there is a ghost in the Bible if this is our criteria for what a ghost is.[1]

But the deeper question, at least in my mind, still remains *is this the norm*? Should we expect ghosts

[1] It is worth noting that many intelligent, faithful churchmen have not considered this occurrence as a legitimate ghost sighting, but it was instead a show put on by the devil. Martin Luther held this view.

like Samuel warning people on a regular basis? Well, the quick answer is no – we shouldn't expect ghosts like this; this experience with Samuel is clearly the exception and not the rule, and there are some clues as to why that's the case.

First off, check out the story by itself. Verse 12 – "When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, 'Why have you deceived me? You are Saul.'" The necromancer-witch-lady gives a shout. Now if she were a professional who called up spirits on a regular basis, then why is she so surprised that a spirit or ghost arrived when she called out? Unless of course she's been pretending up to this point with her other clients, and when a spirit like Samuel's actually does arrive it causes a great deal of fear. Point being, a person who supposedly works with the dead and ghosts a lot demonstrates that ghosts are not a regular occurrence by their response to when a "ghost" does appear.

Then you just have to look at the Bible as a whole. Are there any other instances that are remotely like this? The answer is a clear *no*. The only other time ghosts get a shout out is when the disciples confuse Jesus walking on the water for a ghost, and obviously they were wrong (Matthew 14:26).

Finally it's worth mentioning that the content of Samuel's message in chapter 28 is pretty unremarkable. Sure, the circumstances are unique, but the content of the message is exactly what Samuel told Saul back at the end of chapter 15. Saul is done as God's king – end of story. Samuel doesn't add any new, secret details. It's the same message from God as before when Samuel was still alive, which is in some ways similar to Jesus' point in Luke 16:19-31 with the parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. If the warnings God gave to His people through Moses and the prophets like Isaiah or Jeremiah weren't good enough for you then why would you expect a ghost to change your mind?

So are ghosts real? Well, you'll always get into trouble the minute you say God can or can't do something; and, if we're digesting the account in 1 Samuel well it is certainly possible for ghosts to arise. But as we've established it's not the norm. Samuel isn't at all pleased with what Saul is doing ("Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?"). The Bible has next to nothing to say about ghosts. A disembodied spirit warning people is not the rule, and it certainly shouldn't be what we're searching for. Christians, historically speaking, have not searched for ghosts or the spirits of loved ones. But more than that Easter pushes us to hope for greater and more meaningful things for our loved ones like resurrection from death; body and spirit reunited into one whole person.

So don't look for ghosts. Wait and anticipate resurrected bodies.

***What's a Christian response to someone who asks about whether or not ghosts are real?***

Ghosts are not the norm or the rule when it comes to how God created and sustains His creation. God could certainly allow ghosts to go and warn people (God could allow lots of things to happen, I suppose), but that's not how He has consistently worked up to this point in time – so I'm not going to go hope for or look for ghosts now.

***I just want to know that my loved one is alright in death, can I hope that they will give me a sign?***

Just trust God's Word. Paul hoped to be with Jesus: "My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better" (Philippians 1:23). Jesus will and is taking care of your loved ones who have fallen asleep. Rather than looking for a sign or an appearance from your loved one to confirm Jesus' care, allow them to rest in Jesus until He decides to return and wake them up from their temporary nap. Just as Saul was warned to not look for new messages in all the wrong places about his future, trust that what Jesus gives to you in the Bible is enough information to keep you well until He returns. Don't go to all the wrong places for "new" news. – Pastor Johnson

**The whole community is invited to Historic Trinity in Manning throughout the summer for a worship series that harvest Jesus' farm parables. Worship is every 4th Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m.**

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CONFIRMATION 2018

**Zion Confirmands:**

- Macie Doyel
- Emma Reese
- Nolan Ramsey
- Luke Ramsey
- Tanner Crawford
- Timothy Conner

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

## Ministry Apps

**Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes (May 2018): Zion and Trinity Lutheran**

The little child stomps in the puddle in the yard and the water erupts around him. "Splash!" Those along the poolside engage in the game to hit the water the hardest and to cause the biggest displacement. "Splash!" The child of God remembers the sights and sounds at the baptismal font. "Splash" "Splash" is the word for May.

**SPLASH Canyon—VBS**

Baby Moses was found in a river; the children of Israel walked through the Red Sea and the Jordan River; Naaman was cleansed from leprosy as he washed in a river; Paul was shipwrecked at sea; Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan. God's salvation story took people to and through water. Our story in God's grace began with the water of Baptism. Children will splash in the message of God's grace at this year's VBS program (June 4-8). On-line registration information is included in this newsletter. Hard copies of the registration form are available at the church office. Register your children, grandchildren, and neighborhood children soon.

MANY volunteers are again needed. Volunteers can also register on-line or on the VBS poster in the church fellowship hall.

The annual Memorial Day Brunch invites the community into the friendship of Zion AND provides significant financial support for VBS. Join us for the brunch on Monday, May 28. Donations are appreciated and volunteers are needed.

**SPLASH in Your Vocation**

Sometimes life's circumstances cause us to get stuck in the mud rather than splash in the water. Special presenter for the May (May 14) Fellowship Club vocation celebration will be Amy Hull. Amy is clinical supervisor and counselor for Plains Area Mental Health with offices in Denison, Ida Grove, and Cherokee. Amy will not only share the joys and challenges of her vocation but also share resources that will assist us in helping ourselves, family members, friends and neighbors to splash again after depression or other mental and emotional challenges. Guests are always welcome!

The Fellowship Club thanks members and friends for their donations to the Orphan Grain Train clothing drive. Fellowship Club members will box the items and deliver them to the Ida Grove warehouse. The club members will also work a warehouse shift sorting donations.

**SPLASH at Camp Okoboji**

Thanks to Camp Executive Director Kirk Warnke for sharing the Camp ministry with the members of Zion. Every member of an Iowa District West congregation is a camp "owner." Splashing in the blue water of Lake Okoboji is part of a Cub Week, Youth Week, or Family Week experience. Most importantly camp programs take campers to a splash of grace in God's Word. Explore camp programs or take a day trip to the Lakes and see YOUR Camp. Thanks to the children of Zion for their weekly children's offerings that are designated for the Camp this year.

**SPLASH Confirmands and Graduates**

It's a time of transition. The family of Zion celebrates with you at your accomplishments and supports you as you make faith and life transitions. We are excited that you will splash in new contexts. We continue to support you with our prayers. Keep splashing in God's Grace! Pastor Bob

# ON THAT NOTE

***Treasuring our Musical Treasure***

"The third day He rose again according to the Scriptures *and ascended into heaven…"* The Church has confessed this beautiful truth for centuries, but do we appreciate the implications of Christ's bodily ascension? Do we know what it means for *us*? Consider the words of Saint Augustine, pastor in Africa in the 5th century: "Out of compassion for us [Jesus] descended from heaven, and although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace." Christ's ascension involves us! This month's hymn, "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build," masterfully explains how as it explores the implications of Christ's bodily ascension into Heaven.

Authored by Lutheran pastor Josua Wegelin (1604-1640), a man familiar with persecution and suffering (he was twice forced to flee his home in Augsburg, Germany due to government opposition), the hymn beautifully and simply connects us to Christ our risen and ascended Lord. On May 10th (40 days after Easter), the Church will celebrate the bodily ascension of Jesus Christ into Heaven. Zion and Trinity will mark this important day with a joint festival service at Historic Trinity in Manning (May 10th at 7:00 p.m.)

On Christ's ascension I now build
The hope of my ascension;
This hope alone has always stilled
All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there as well
I know His members are to dwell
When Christ will come and call them.

Right from the start our hymn connects us to Christ: Christ's bodily ascension is the foundation for our confession that we, too, will dwell bodily in Christ's presence upon His return. Christ's bodily ascension is good news for our bodies! Our bodies matter to God. We're not marking time waiting to jettison our body for an eternity of non-physical existence; we're eagerly anticipating the redemption and exaltation of our bodies!

How can we be certain? Because our Head, Jesus, is dwelling bodily in God's presence right now! And if the Head is there, His body (us!) will most certainly follow in due time. The Head won't abandon His body – as if such a thing were even possible! So our doubts and apprehensions are quieted, our hearts are hope-filled as we confidently anticipate the day Christ will come and call us (by calling our bodies out of their tombs!) into God's presence.

Since Christ returned to claim His throne,
Great gifts for me obtaining,
My heart will rest in Him alone,
No other rest remaining;
For where my treasure went before,
There all my thoughts will ever soar
To still their deepest yearning.

St. Paul references the ascension of Christ in Ephesians 4:8-10 where he interprets Psalm 68 as pointing to Christ. He writes, "'When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.' (In saying 'He ascended,' what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)" Our hymn draws from Paul's words to confess Christ's "return" to His throne. But, Christ didn't simply return; He returned for *us*! His return has secured our position before God because Christ has taken our human nature to the very right hand of God! This is indeed a great gift! So our faith can rest securely in this reality. Our treasure, Jesus, is in Heaven with the Father and our thoughts continually dwell there because that's where we will dwell when Christ returns to call us.

O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,
Recalling Your ascension,
That I may serve You faithfully
In thanks for my redemption;
And then, when all my days will cease,
Let me depart in joy and peace
In answer to my pleading.

The final verse, like so many final verses in our hymnody, turns from confessing the work of God for us in Christ, to praying to God in Christ's name. Because of what God has done for us in Christ's ascension, we are bold to ask God for the grace to recall Christ's ascension as a source of joy and hope as we serve Him in our vocations. As we serve, we pray for the grace to do so in quiet certitude of our eternal dwelling place with Him. Praise God for the bodily ascension of Jesus Christ! And may we all draw strength from it each day.

# Preschool Praises for April 2018

April was so much fun! The first week we learned about seeds and started our 3 week experiment with a bean seed in a baggie with a wet paper towel. Unfortunately, most of the month was chilly, so I don't think our seeds grew as well as we would have liked, but the kids still got to see them change and draw a picture each week of the changes that they saw! We focused on the letter S for spring and the numbers 3 and 4. You may have seen the cute craft we made of the rising sun made out of a coffee filter on a page that said "He is risen" as we decorated the entry points of the church with them after Easter. Jesus Time and Chapel Time were all about the resurrection.

The second week we surprised the kids, with the help of some strong men from the congregation (Thank you!), by putting up the reading loft in the room. They were so happy and excited! We learned about the parts of plants, the letter G and the numbers 5 & 6.The Crawford County Naturalist came and spoke to the afternoon class about turtles and even brought her turtle named Ginger to visit. We made butterflies by folding a page in half and putting paint dots on one side and re-folding it to squish the paint down. When we opened the page to see their butterfly, their eyes just lit up! These butterflies were displayed in the window at the Manning Library for 1 week to showcase our kids for The Week of the Young Child. Jesus and Chapel Time were about the road to Emmaus when Jesus walked with 2 disciples and they didn't realize it was him but he opened their minds to the gospel and later revealed himself to them when he broke bread at supper, then disappeared!

The third week was the Week of the Young Child and we celebrated by having a different fun activity each day. Tuesday was mixed up/backwards day, Wednesday was PJ day and Thursday was bring your favorite stuffed animal (of reasonable size) to school! The kids had a blast and so did we! Can you believe that we had one (hopefully last!) snow morning this week! We learned nursery rhymes, the letters N for noodles and K for king and the number 7. Library Linda came to read to the morning class and brought special guests - baby goats! The children were so excited and got to snuggle with the sweet baby goats. Jesus and Chapel Time were about when Jesus visited the disciples in the locked room when Thomas was not there. Later Jesus returned to visit when Thomas, who flat out didn't believe the others, was there and showed Thomas he was truly alive! According to Jesus, we are blessed because even though we have not seen, we believe!

The last week of the month we learned about transportation and all the different forms. The children got to bring in pictures of their own for us to chart on if their form of transportation goes on land, water or in the air. We also learned about the letters M and Z and the number 8. We found some cool roller painters that look like tire tracks and let the children paint with them. We also had a special guest, Curt Behrens, who brought his semi-truck for the kids to check out. Many have seen the outside of one, but never the inside, so this was a treat! Jesus Time was about when Jesus appeared to the apostles in Galilee. Next month our last day is May 17th and we are working on planning a trip to the Plaza to sing and the park to play. It should hopefully be warm by the time we go! There so much to work on with the end of year wrap-up, but we look forward to also having more time outside now that it is nice! Thank you to everyone who came in to school and helped make this month special!
Yours in Christ, Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz

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

**Ladies Guild of Zion**
**April 11, 2018**

Pastor Conner opened the meeting with prayer. He chose the Easter hymn "Alleluia, Jesus is Risen" for our study. Because Christ is risen, He now lives in each of us bringing us grace and bathing us in His glory. Alleluia! Christian Life Chairman, Margaret Backhaus, read "He lives. We live." We can say with Job that "I know that my Redeemer lives and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. After my skin has been destroyed yet in my flesh I will see God."

After reciting the LWML Pledge, President Buhr called the meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. Roll call was answered by 14 members with a name of a flower that began with the first initial of their names. The secretary's minutes were read and approved. There was no correspondence. Treasurer, Mary Grimm, gave her report. Kitchen treasurer, Darlene Vollstedt gave reports for February and March.

Human Care Chairman, Audrey Roe, showed a video that showed Lutheran World Relief at work. She said that to date 173 quilts have been tied and there will be one more day to quilt before they will be boxed and sent on their way. She also reported on feed sacks that had been donated to the quilters. Audrey asked Cheral Buhr to try to sell them on eBay. The money they bring in will be used to buy supplies for the quilters. Circle #3 served the Arlo Dammann funeral. Circle #1 served the Ardith Lage funeral.

Old business: Tabled from last month was how to handle meetings held at Zion by groups that are not members of Zion that request refreshments be served. After meeting with Pastor Conner it was decided that Guild would be responsible to take care of that. Joene Bohlman moved that if it is a small meeting of 20 or fewer the bill would be turned into our guild treasurer, or if in the case of an IDW meeting or a larger group the bill would be turned into Shannon Walters, Zion's Treasurer. The motion was seconded and carried.

There was no new business. Plaza Bingo will be on April 27th with Sue Puck as chairman and Laurene Meeves, Margaret Backhaus and Mary Grimm as helpers. The next guild meeting will be on May 9th. Hostesses will be JoAnn Thomas and Cheral Buhr. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Refreshments were served by Charleen Hickman and Janet Gruhn.

Sue Puck, secretary

# MEMORIAL DAY LUNCH

Celebrate Memorial Day with Zion! Following the services at the cemeteries on **May 28th**, join the community in celebrating Memorial Day by having lunch at Zion. Maid-rites, Potato Salad, Hot Dogs, chips and bars will be served from **10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Free will donations will help support Zion's VBS program (June 4-8).

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

## Zion's Seniors

**Zion Seniors will be honored at a Graduates breakfast on Sunday, May 20 at 8:00 a.m., and also in the Divine Service**

### Natalie Jo Bauer

Baptized: 10/10/03 Confirmed: 4/2714
Daughter of Tammy Otto and Barry & Misty Bauer
Sponsors: Pam & Ron Colling and Chad Hocken
*Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5*

### Tiffani Mae Beck

Baptized: 2/26/00 Confirmed: 4/27/14
Daughter of Patricia and Don Beck
Sponsors: William Engler and Pam Engler-Steffen
*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live. John 11:25*

### Abby Laurel Bruch

Baptized: 9/19/99 Confirmed: 4/27/14
Daughter of Mike and Becky Bruch
Sponsors: Jodi Jensen and Nancy Bruch
*Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10*

### Lillie Clara Ceminsky

Baptized: 4/3/00 Confirmed: 4/27/14
Daughter of Kelly Ceminsky and Nancy Roe
Sponsors: Nancy Roe, Audrey Roe, Taylor Roe, and Emily Ceminsky
*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

### Katelyn Marie Crawford

Baptized: 4/16/00 Confirmed: 4/27/14
Daughter of Ryan and Heidi Crawford
Sponsors: Heath Winsor and Gina Gray
*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14–16*

### Alexis Grace Dawson

Baptized: 4/16/00 Confirmation Date: 4/27/14
Daughter of Dan Dawson and Amy Dawson
*Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. Psalm 37:5*

### Blake Nicholas Diersen

Baptized: 2/5/05, Son of Nicholas and Dena Diersen
Sponsors: Veronica and Jeffery Moyle

### Zachary Daniel Grove

Baptized: 9/26/99 Confirmed: 4/27/14
Son of Dan & Chantelle Grove and Barb Grove
Sponsors: Pastor Kent and Alison Shane
*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1*

### Marshall Samuel Hansen

Baptized: 4/20/00 Confirmed: 4/27/14
*Son of Sam & Amy Hansen*
Sponsors*: Chad & Lynette Gaskill*
*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease. Genesis 8:22*

### Autumn Haili Winter

Baptismal Date: 4/19/99,
Daughter of Todd and Tammy Winter
Sponsors: Carla Rodriguez, Lisa Henkelman, and Jeff Henkelman

## Trinity's Seniors

### Jared Johnson

Baptized: 09/24/2005 Confirmed: 04/06/2014
Son of Robert and Wendy Bandow
*Because he inclined his ear to me,*
*therefore I will call on him as long as I live. Psalm 116:2*

### Caleb Lahr

Baptized:11/21/1999 Confirmed:04/06/2014
Sponsors: Ronald & Mary Rasmussen
Son of Scott and Cheryl Lahr
Witnesses: Emmit & Janice Lahr
*Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10b*

Spring is an exciting month for the Trizion youth group. The kids have lots of track meets, end of year banquets, recitals, and so on. Everyone is very busy, and Pastor Johnson and I try to get to as many of the kids' events as we can. It's great to see the kids taking a minute, though, on Sunday nights to come together and study God's word. This month we are studying questions that we have about our faith.

So far, we have looked at the question of whether the Bible is true or not, and how do we know. We talked about the historical accuracy, and how many copies of manuscripts we have compared to other well-known writers of the time (Hint: We have over 24,000 manuscripts...which are hand copied documents. Compare that to Aristotle's works which only have five.) We have also looked at the question of how a loving God could send people to hell. We looked at the characteristics of God, why punishment is important, and what judgement day will look like. The kids have amazing questions and are truly thinking about their faith in a great way. I am continually amazed at how passionate our youth are about creation. Every week, they tell us stories of what their teachers are telling them about evolution at school and how they are standing up for what they believe in. We rejoice in the faith of our youth, and we want to arm them with the Word of God so they can continue to stand up for what they know to be true, and we hope that this series helps do that.

We are hoping for some warmer weather in the coming weeks (as I'm sure you all are!) to get outside and play some games. We recently introduced the kids to Scattegories, which was a blast. We did an Easter Egg hunt the week after Easter, but due to the weather we were forced to do it inside, so if you're finding Easter Eggs around the church, please enjoy. Haha. Last week we set up a square with tape in the fellowship hall and played four square. We have to be creative when it's mid-April and still snowing.

This month, on May 6th the youth group will be in Manilla as we are having our scavenger hunt. It is set up a lot like the game clue, someone has died, and every place you go to find the clue has a clue to the next place to go, but also a weapon or suspect that you can mark off of your list. It should be a really fun time. We also have the last normal scheduled youth group of the year on May 13th. We will be doing summer nights throughout the summer at Pastor Johnson and my home, instead of trying to maintain a weekly series, we will be serving supper at our house and doing a small Bible study Sunday nights before Trinity's community sports nights.

Praise God for the dozens of adults, youth, and children who made our Easter celebration joyful! Thank you parents and youth for again serving Easter breakfast! What a joy to celebrate Easter at Zion!

# ALLELUIA!

*We give Thee but Thine own,*
*Whate'er the gift may be;*
*All that we have is Thine alone,*
*A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*
*- LSB 781*

Zion is blessed with committed and proactive trustees. Over the past several months they have upgraded the perimeter of the church building with new, brighter lights. The interior, as well, has seen updated energy efficient LED lights installed. They have tended to a leaky roof, upgraded our gutters, replaced a garage door, and are currently working to get the reminder of our parking lot concreted.

Zion trusts them to care for our property. We might word it this way: our trustees manage our property on our behalf, in support of the Church's mission, to the glory of God.

Have you ever considered, that you stand in a parallel relationship to God as our trustees do to Zion? You are His trustee. He has entrusted you with His property. Every penny is His. Every 2 x 4 in your house is His. Every acre of land is His. Every breath you enjoy is His. Every tool in your shed, every dish in your cabinets, every shoe in your closet, it's all His. He has given it to you in trust to care for on His behalf, in support of His mission, to His glory.

Our hymnody, as reflected in the printed hymn verse, understands this. Consider its words. Notice the truth it confesses. We aren't the owners; God is. Our gifts were never really *ours* and all that we have actually is had by God and is commended to us from Him as a trust.

Consider how verse two develops this idea:

*May we Thy bounties thus*
*As stewards true receive*
*And gladly, as Thou blessest us,*
*To Thee our firstfruits give!*

Notice again the emphasis on receiving. Our daily bounties are a gift that we receive from God. This includes everything from our intellect to our income. These are not ours and never become ours. What is ours, however, is the responsibility to steward that with which God entrusts us. And, as God blesses us, it is our responsibility to demonstrate our gratitude in our firstfruit giving.

Firstfruit giving, very simply, is the first check that we write in our budget. As God blesses us with income, our first response is to give to support His mission, His mission at work through the Office of the Ministry that Christ established in the Church to proclaim His Word and communicate His saving grace to penitent sinners. Throughout the generations Christians have identified the Biblical pattern of tithing as a great place to begin our thinking on and practice of giving. 10% of our income is returned to Christ's Church to ensure His mission continues and expands.

The 90% is for us to live on (and to be generous with). Does that mean it becomes ours? No. As the first verse expressed, *All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee*. After returning our firstfruits, we continue as trustees for the Lord. May we, like Zion's trustees, be committed to our trust from the Lord. – Pastor Conner

Sewing Love. On Sunday, April 22nd, Zion's Sewing Circle displayed some of their 180 quilts that they completed throughout the 2017-2018 year. These quilts will be shared locally through individual gifts and internationally through Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. Thank you Zion ladies and thank you everyone who donated fabric!

**Safety and Security Seminar draws over 90 participants**!

On Monday, April 23rd, Zion was privileged to host a safety and security seminar (sponsored by Brotherhood Mutual, our insurance company) for over 90 participants from many different church bodies and from as far away as Yankton, SD, Emmetsburg, IA, and Council Bluffs, IA. Special thanks to Sue Puck for coordinating outstanding hospitality and Bob Genzen for overseeing the audio/visual needs. Below is a picture and a note from the Brotherhood Mutual along with a couple additional compliments for you from the day.

- "Zion rocks!" – Brotherhood Mutual coordinator
- "Zion is an icon in this community."- seminar speaker
- "Very impressive!" - seminar speaker referencing Zion's indoor signage

Hi Pastor Conner,

Thank you very much to you and your church for hosting the Church Safety/Security Seminar... You and your church members were so very helpful in preparations leading up to the event and as well as showing such a great servant's spirit during the seminar itself. You have a beautiful church building, but as we all know, the church is really the people and you are blessed there too!

Keep up the good work in Manning! May God continue to richly bless you and your ministry as you are faithful to Him! Again, thanks!

**Terry Townsend**

***This is what's happening at your camp this year!***

**For more info: [www.campokoboji.org](http://www.campokoboji.org)**

**Scholarships available from Zion!**

**2018 Programing**

**May 3-5** Spring Volunteer Weekend
**11-12** Youth Volunteer Weekend
**17-20** Spring Men's Retreat
**25-28** Veterans' Retreat
**June 1-3** Kids' Kamp
**7-10** JOY Camp I (Special Needs)
**10-15** Technology Camp
**10-16** Girls' Sports Camp
**17-23** Minneboji Youth Camp
**23** Paul's Bike-a-thon Challenge Ride
**24-26** IDW District Convention
**28-30** LWML District Convention
**July 1-6** July 4th Family Retreat
**7** Auxiliary Annual Quilt Auction
**8-14** Jr. High Week
**12-15** JOY Camp II (Special Needs)
**15-21** Concordia Cub Week
**22-28** Youth Week
**29-Aug 3** Family Retreat I
**Aug 5-10** Family Retreat II
**10-12** Hispanic Family Retreat
**19** Golf Outing
**25-26** Adult Retreat
**Sept 19-21** IDW Lutheran Schools Outdoor Education
**27-30** Fall Volunteer Weekend
**29** Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
**Oct. 5-7** Fall Women's Retreat

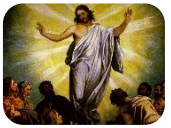
**Summer 2018 Chaplain Schedule**

*Worship at 9:45 am, Coffee & Rolls follow*

**May 27** Rev. Michael Moreno
Norfolk, NE
**June 3** Rev. Benjamin Dose
Zion, Arcadia
**June 10** Rev. David Dahlke
Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines
**June 17** TBA
**June 24** Rev. David Otten
Emmanuel, Gettysburg, SD
**July 1** TBA
**July 8** Rev. Jonathan Riggert
Trinity, Cherokee, IA
**July 15** Rev. David Dahlke
Shepherd of the Valley, West Des Moines
**July 22** Rev. Nicholas Thackery
Good Shepherd, Ft. Dodge, IA
**July 29** Rev. Kyle McBee
Zion, Humboldt, IA
**Aug 5** Rev. Wallace Shulz
Augusta, MO
**Aug 12** Rev. Timothy Fitzner
Christ Lutheran, Normal, IL
**Aug 19** TBA
**Aug 25** Rev. Greg Finke
League City, TX
**Sept 2** Rev. Robert Schaedel, EMR
Palmyra, NE

Omelet Brunches:
First Sundays of the Month: May-Nov.

# UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY



**May 10**

**Ascension Service at Historic Trinity**
**Celebrate the power of Jesus and, more importantly, how an ascended Jesus shapes our lives.**
**Historic Trinity in Manning @ 7:00 p.m.**
**Evereveryone welcome.**

**May 17**

**Preschool Closing Program**
**7:00 p.m.**
**Celebrate the end of the school year with our preschool families and stay for the reception following.**

**May 28**

**Memorial Day Lunch at Zion**
**10:30-1:00**
**Enjoy lunch at Zion and support Zion's VBS at the same time!**

**June 4-8**

**VBS**
**Life is full of thrills and spills; we may not know what's around the bend, but God does! At *Splash Canyon*, kids discover that, on life's wild ride, Jesus is by our side.**
**8:45-11:30 a.m.**
**Register online: www.vbsmate.com/zionmanning**

**June 17**

**Zion Manning worships at Historic Trinity (Manning)**
***Due to concreting of Zion's parking lot***
**9:00 a.m.**

**June 24**

**Zion Manning worships at Historic Trinity (Manning)**
***Due to concreting of Zion's parking lot***
**9:00 a.m.**

**June 28**

**Summer Worship Series at Historic Trinity**
***Sing to the Lord of the Harvest***
**Parable:**
**7:00 p.m.**

# May Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

## *Birthdays* (T = Trinity)

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

## *Anniversaries*

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

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

## *Official Acts*

**Received (Zion):**
Chelsey and Cade Jensen from Rejoice Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE, April 18

**Transferred (from Zion):**
David Vetter to Trinity Lutheran Church, Manilla, April 16

**Released (from Zion):**
Dustin Bruch to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Audubon, April 23

**Funerals:**

- Ardith Darlene (nee: David) Lage; Died March 31, 2018; Funeral April 4; Pastor Jonathan Conner
- Ella Anna (nee: Nobiling) Stammer; Died April 13, 2018; Funeral April 19; Pastor Jonathan Conner and Pastor Robert Riggert
- Diane (nee: Jentzen) Henkelman; Died April 22, 2018; Funeral April 25; Pastor Jonathan Conner

**Baptisms:**

- Norah Corrine Vetter (parents - David Vetter & Maria Muhlbauer), April 14, Pastor Andrew Johnson
- Amos John Olson (parents - Nels & Stephany Olson), April 14, Pastor Andrew Johnson
- Oliver Thomas Saunders (Thomas & Nichole Saunders), April 21, Pastor Andrew Johnson

**Youth Confirmation:**
April 29, 2018, by Pastor Jonathan Conner
Timothy David Conner, Tanner Ryan Crawford, Macie Jean Doyel, Luke Robert Ramsey, Nolan Dennis Ramsey, Emma Rose Reese

## *In Our Prayers*

Walt Noelck, Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Ron Claussen (Laurene Meeves' brother), Rick Spack, Don Lamb, Susan Lamb