The angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream.

For He Will Save His People from Their Sins

"An angel of the Lord appeared to [Joseph] in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-22).

For He will save his people from their sins…

He – Jesus – the Son of God, given the name that announces His mission: Jesus – the Lord saves / the Lord is salvation. More emphatically from its Hebrew roots: *Yeshua,* Yahweh saves. This is how Yahweh saves. This is Yahweh saving *in Jesus*!

Who is He saving? *His* people. A pronoun of ownership. He's saving what belongs to Him, Jews and Gentiles – the whole world. *His* people.

From what is He saving His people? *Their* sins. Again a pronoun of ownership. The sins, tragically and shamefully, are ours. And we are bound in them, hopelessly entangled in them – cattle ensnared in barbed wire – beyond our ability to free ourselves.

All we've done is make it worse – thrashing and pulling – the wire cuts deeper. Anger, lust, envy – the wire tightens. Addiction, lies, blame – it constricts. Cursing, complaining, lashing out – it cuts. We are bound in sin. The earth is, too. The ground itself is cursed. Creation groans in pain. Nature bleeds in agony. Our own bodies are wounded by sin's curse as the effects of sin affect us. Cancer, diabetes, heart failure beset us. Depression, dissociation, delusion derail us. We flail, thrash, and roll, but can't free ourselves.

We need a Savior. It is this Savior that Advent anticipates and it this Savior that Christmas announces: "unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). He has come to save his people from their sins, from the condemnation incurred through our personal sin and from the effect of sin on creation and our bodies.

The 17th century Lutheran pastor and hymn writer, Paul Gerhardt, masterfully captured the depth of our Christmas joy when he penned the words to the hymn "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" (*LSB* 375):

1 Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.

4 From the bondage that oppressed us,
From sin's fetters that possessed us,
From the grief that sore distressed us,
We, the captives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing,
And to You we come confessing
That Your love has set us free.

Christ has come to save us from our sins. What can we do but thank and praise Him? – Pastor Conner

New Member Class
Six Sunday sessions beginning Sunday,
January 27 from 3:45 – 5:00 p.m.
Register via:
Email: zionmanninglcms@gmail.com
Text: 571-651-4556
Call: 712-655-2352
In person!
ZION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANNING, IOWA
Celebrating and Sharing Christ's Redeeming Love

Ministry Apps

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

"O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord" LSB#379

There is no app for adoration. Advent and Christmas adoration focuses on Jesus and is always Spirit inspired. The chorus of "O Come, All Ye Faithful" serves as an invitation for adoration in the hearts and homes of our church family.

Advent Adoration in the Nave

Advent adorations will take place on Wednesday, December 5, 12, and 19. Two worship opportunities will be offered: Wednesday morning at 10:30 with an informal fellowship time at 10 a.m.; and Wednesday evening at 5:45 with the youth again serving an Advent meal at 6:30 p.m. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Thanks to dedicated youth leaders and youth families for hosting this special fellowship time.

December 5—O Come Let us HUMBLY Adore Him (the adoration of Mary)
December 12—O Come Let us QUIETLY Adore Him (the adoration of Zechariah)
December 19—O Come Let us FAITHFULLY Adore Him (the adoration of Joseph)

The evening worship service will be blessed with the leadership of the Zion Praise Team and with children singing some of the selections from the children's service (December 16). Morning services will provide a devotional time with familiar Advent songs. The morning service will provide an additional worship opportunity for elderly and others who prefer not to be out on dark, cold December evenings. Those who work or have other evening commitments are invited to the morning service.

"Give me an A-D-O-R-E." Blessed with the assistance of the Thursday afternoon quilters, children will assemble their personal/family Advent banners. Join us children!

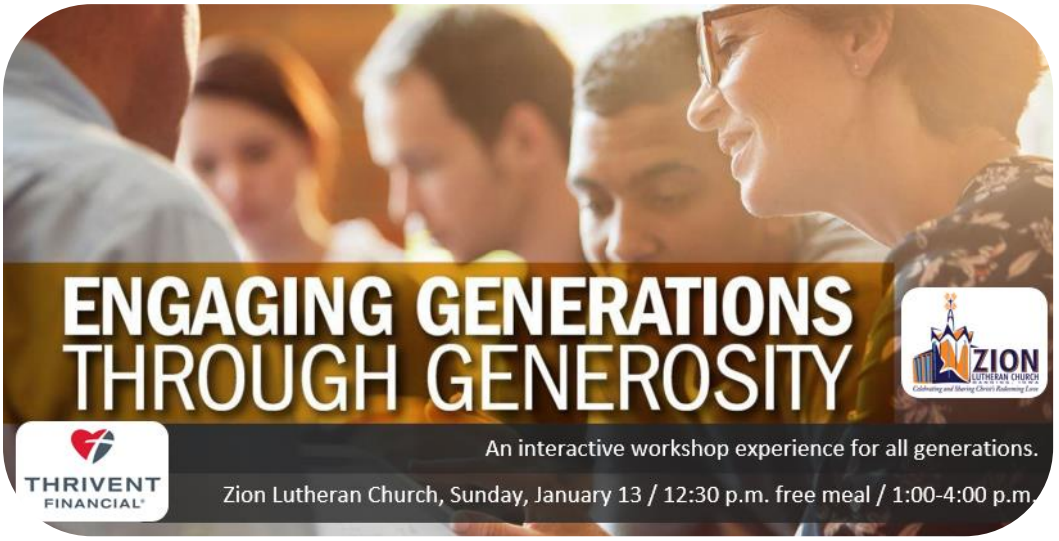
Advent Adoration in the Home

Midweek worshippers will also receive some resources for personal and family devotional use through the season. Families will have the opportunity to cope with some of the busyness and distractions of the season to gather together for Advent reflection and prayer.

Adoration as Stewards

Many of us receive numerous charitable requests this season. As you consider these requests, give priority to the regular and generous support of your local congregation. Sharing the Gospel with the church family (of all ages and situations) and community depends on the faithful response of all members. If you have not yet contributed to the ministry of Zion, prayerfully consider an end-of-year gift. Zion is also blessed to partner with and support other ministries. If you are considering additional gifts, please consider a gift to support a missionary through MISSION CENTRAL; support the family, counseling, and adoption ministries of LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICE; the unique faith enriching ministry for children, youth and families of CAMP OKOBOJI; the emergency and care response of ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN. Your pastors can share additional information and contacts for these and other mission outreaches of our District and synod.

Come, let us adore Him together
Pastor Riggert



Remembering Hope

Workshop @ Zion

Thousands of people in Iowa battle Alzheimer's disease. Each year 134,000 people in Iowa provide 152 million hours of unpaid care for a loved one suffering from the disease. Caregivers often underestimate the time and energy required, as well as the impact on their work, social and family commitments. Zion, in partnership with Lutheran Family Service and Perry Lutheran Homes, is here to help!

Caregivers, family, friends, and learners are invited to a special seminar led by experts in Alzheimer's care, including a meaningful simulation experience to build empathy and understanding. Topics addressed include:

- Demystifying dementia & Alzheimer's
- Diagnosis
- Caregiver challenges
- Communicating with your loved one
- Finding hope in Jesus

Attendance is free. RSVP to Zion (655-2352) or sign up at the resource center in the fellowship hall.

Sunday, January 20th from 3:00-4:00

Powerful Tools for Caregivers Equipping Classes @ Zion

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a six-week class designed to provide you, the family caregiver, with the skills you need to take care of yourself as you take care of your loved one. Class leaders will equip you to:

- Identify and reduce stress
- Improve self-confidence
- Find balance
- Better communicate your feelings to others
- Improve your ability to make tough decisions
- Understand local resources

In partnership with Lutheran Family Service and Perry Lutheran Homes

Sessions begin Monday, January 28th
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Perry Lutheran homes

Lutheran Family Service
For Nothing is Impossible with God

Friedrich Nietzsche: The Wake-Up Call to the World

Friedrich Nietzsche was a German philosopher who lived during the latter part of the nineteenth century. I'm definitely not a Nietzsche scholar by any stretch of the imagination, but his name pops up a lot if you're taking a basic philosophy class. What he's most renowned for, however, is his combination of three simple words: "God is dead." He's that guy. But I'd like to run with his phrase, because I actually agree with Nietzsche; *God is dead*.

Now keep on reading otherwise we'll fall into the same mistake that has propelled so much hatred towards this philosopher. The reality is Nietzsche wrote those words for a purpose in a short story called "The Parable of the Madman."

In this story, the Madman runs with a lantern throughout the city looking for anyone to listen to his message. He cries, "Where is God?" Most onlookers just laugh. The Madman then tells the crowds where God is: "We have killed him – you and I." He then goes onto ask a long series of questions, asking why the crowds have not figured it out yet as to how God died? The Madman declares, "Gods, too, decompose. God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him." The Madman smashes the lantern on the ground. The story ends as the Madman enters churches and announces that their services are pointless since their buildings are now tombs for God.

Not a happy ending, but Nietzsche is right!

Now just like the parables we get from Jesus, there's more going on underneath the surface of the story. First off, the lantern plays a significant part in Nietzsche's story. What do lanterns do? They give off light; they illuminate. Nietzsche is critiquing a fellow philosopher who was philosophizing 50+ years prior to himself – Immanuel Kant.

Kant was one of the leading philosophers of a movement called the Enlightenment. The Enlightenment was the same time period in which many of our founding fathers lived like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. The Enlightenment's main focus was the reason or the rationality of man. Man could achieve peace, pursue science, establish democracy, and the list goes on. The Enlightenment elevated reason and thinking to new heights. This is the age of the scientific method. It's in the name – Enlightenment; this was the time of new knowledge or illumination (remember the lantern?).

Really quick, were there good things that came out of the Enlightenment? Absolutely! The methods for modern science and exploration were born out of this era. The challenge of this era, however, is that human reason was no longer grounded in anything other than itself. The only things that mattered in life were the things that you could taste, touch, smell, etc. If you could observe it, then human reason could master it.

So if the observable world was all that mattered, what about the things you can't see? What do you do about God? Inevitably, you have to throw out the things you can't see, taste, or smell. The Enlightenment threw off the divine shackles from mankind. Reason was no longer bound to things

like God or the Bible since reason could not perceive or trust these things.

Returning to the parable, Nietzsche blames mankind for killing God. But here's the thing, Nietzsche agreed that God was dead. Reason could not naturally perceive God. Men like Kant were right, but Nietzsche's Madman breaks the lantern – the symbol for the Enlightenment – because those philosophers, in Nietzsche's mind, did not go far enough.

Men like Kant paved the way for the destruction of religion and the belief in the supernatural, *and yet* they held onto the idea of virtues. You should be a good person. Pursue beauty. Love justice. Fight for the oppressed.

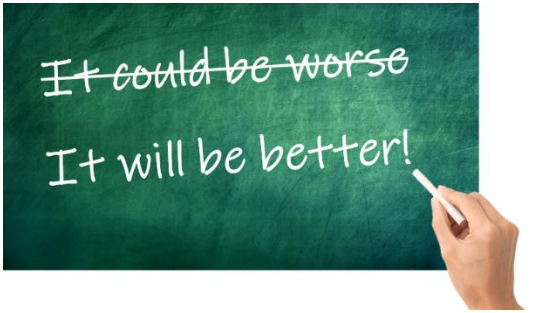
What's the point? Nietzsche is saying how can you on the one hand deconstruct religion and God – stuff you cannot see or perceive – and on the other hand believe that some things in life matter? I mean who has really seen justice before? Nietzsche argues that you can't say that there is nothing outside of ourselves that has created us or given us purpose like God, but then go on and say that the meaning in life is to do X, Y, and Z. Either there is purpose built into the world or there isn't. You can't have it both ways. The Madman smashes the lantern as a wake-up call to anyone who says or lives in such a way that there is no God outside of themselves, but at the same time says you should be polite and nice. Why? Why should you be polite or nice? Why can't you just rob, burn, and pillage? Who is to say that that is wrong or immoral? In other words, Nietzsche is right; God is dead, which means there is no meaning or purpose in life other than what you make up for yourself – but don't tell others how to live their lives, because how do you know that they should live the way you think they should live?[1]
So I agree with Nietzsche. If there is no God or anything outside of ourselves, then God is dead and there is no basis for how a person should live.

HOWEVER, I believe that God is living, but more important than what I, Andrew Johnson, personally believe is the fact that a man named Jesus from Nazareth lived, died, came back to life, and as a result proved the claim that He was God. This is why Christmas is so important! Christmas says God was not abstract, an idea, something that we can't see. Christmas says Jesus arrived as a human; as a baby Mary delivered; as a living future king who threatened King Herod; as a real life fulfillment of something meaningful, worthy of the praise of shepherds and wise men. Christmas says human reason could see and touch the Divine. The Christian claim is that there is deep meaning and purpose for life, and the place to start seeing that meaning and purpose is to see and hear the words of Jesus of Nazareth.

So is Nietzsche's Christianity's hero? Again, not by any stretch of the imagination! But he does force us to come to grips with reality. Either there is meaning and purpose in life, or there isn't. There's no sort-of's or kinda's on this matter.

This Christmas I invite you to wake-up along with myself to re-engage yourself in God's purposes and meaning. -Pastor Johnson

[1]A quick side note, Nietzsche paved the way for modern nihilism. This is the belief that there is nothing; that is, no meaning or purpose for life. The world is an accident. The only thing that matters in life is what you make up or what you're able to dominate; to the victors the spoils. It's a pretty scary way of seeing the world, but in some ways we're living it already.



We've all said it. A friend has a bad cold and feels miserable. A neighbor just found out he has diabetes and is overwhelmed by what it will mean for his life. A spouse just hit a deer, totaling the car. A child breaks his wrist and is out for the rest of the sport's season. We want to be helpful. We want to say something encouraging, but the best we can come up with is, "It could be worse."

We know it's true, but even as we say it we know it's not that great. Sure, other people may have things worse. Yes, other people might have a harder life or a more severe condition or a more life-threatening diagnosis, but does telling someone who's suffering that it could be worse really help? Does it bring you comfort when you're suffering to know that other people are suffering more?

And typically, we don't even stop with *It could be worse*. Often we add boneheaded things like, *You could have cancer* or *she could have died* or *you could have been paralyzed.* Again, those statements may be true. These things could have happened to people. And these things may indeed be worse than the things that did happen to them, but again, does this really help the sufferer?

Further, what is left to say to the person who does receive the cancer diagnosis? What can we offer to the family whose loved one did die in the car accident? What comfort can we bring to individual who was paralyzed in the freak accident? Are we to imagine worse scenarios? *You could all have cancer.* Or *You could have all died.* Or *You could all be paralyzed.* Are we to imagine a worse scenario for every sufferer so we can continue pointing out that it could be worse?

What if there was something better to say, something that both acknowledged the profound brokenness of the situation and something that turned our hearts heavenward toward the source of our comfort and hope? What if instead of saying *It could be worse* we offered this: *It will be better*?

First, *It will be better* acknowledges that it's not good right now. It acknowledges that the person's particular suffering isn't good. In fact, built into this profound statement is the acknowledgement that since the fall of Adam it hasn't been good. His sin brought death, but not only death; his sin brought the process of dying. Sin is the cancer of the earth, warping not only the thoughts of man, but infecting his very body. We are beset by sin-sickened cells. And nobody, repeat *nobody*, gets out unscathed. Existence on a sin-cursed earth is going to hurt. Period.

It will be better acknowledges our current condition. We are the walking wounded. Our particular suffering may or may not have had anything to do with our individual choices. The reality is, in a sin-haunted world people are going to get hurt. People are going suffer. It's going to hurt.

BUT!

It will be better! We're not going to walk wounded forever. We're not going to suffer through mean colds. We're not going to fear medical diagnosis. We're not going to bury our loved ones. We're not going to limp broken forever. Because *it will be better*. *It will be better* when Jesus returns and raises the dead, sets everything to rights, and renews the cosmos.

Very briefly consider the Biblical promise. First, the dead in Christ will be bodily raised. Here's the way Scripture speaks (in 1 Corinthians 15): the dead in Christ will be raised physically and given imperishable, glorified, powerful, and Spirit-empowered bodies. That's outstanding!

Can you imagine imperishable bodies? These are bodies that don't die. Even more, they don't undergo the process of dying. They aren't threatened by death. They're immune to it. So, all the things in this life that we fear, things like cancer and diabetes and COPD and pneumonia and on and on, will have their teeth knocked out in the resurrection. They won't be able to bite us because we'll be impervious to them and immune to death. *It will be better*.

Can you imagine glorified bodies? Glory is the overwhelming effect of God's presence. It's the hurricane-force power of God's being. It's the sunrise on the precipice of the Grand Canyon, the eruption-on-the-rim-of-Mt.-St.-Helen, the jet-fuel-explosion-at- the-base-of-the-Falcon-Heavy-rocket effect of God's presence. Our bodies are going to be raised in that! We've never experienced anything like this before and we're going to stand in that glory and live in it forever when Jesus raises us. *It will be better.*

Can you imagine powerful bodies? Think Superman (minus the silly cape and embarrassing spandex, and the flying) and you'll get the idea. We will stand in the power of God and the kryptonite of sin will be gone. Our bodies won't experience sin sapping our strength ever again. *It will be better*.

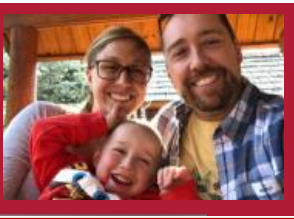
Can you imagine Spirit-empowered bodies? Right now we are beset by the same sins over and over again. Like a dog attracted to cat scat, sin smells good to us. And our whole life long we return to roll in it until we start to think the stink is permanent. It's not. When Jesus calls our bodies out of the tombs He's going to give us the fullness of the Spirit who will empower our bodies and liberate us from sin's lure. It won't smell good to us anymore and we will never again be tempted to roll in it. Imagine how much better life will smell! *It will be better.*

Second, Scripture announces that Jesus is going to set things to rights. That's what it means when it talks about God judging the earth. It's a gospel word. It means that God is going to banish evil. Evil is not native to this earth; it's an intruder and God, when He judges the earth, is going to evict evil. God's creation and people will finally be free from everything that corrupts it and attacks it. *It will be better*.

Third, Scripture consistently and repeatedly directs our attention to the age to come (beyond the "dying and going to heaven" age that so many Christians can't seem to think beyond). Scripture anchors our eyes in the renewal of the cosmos. Paul (in Romans 8) writes of the creation waiting on the edge of its seat for the revealing of the redeemed of God. Why would creation care? Because it's going to be released from the curse inflicted on it in Adam's sin! It's going to be released from its bondage to decay and corruption. Nature will no longer be "red in tooth and claw." Predator and prey, as Isaiah so often prophesied, will live in peace. The wastelands will bloom with new life. The polluted soil will be cleansed. Creation will shine with newness and freshness. *It will be better.*

And God will live among us. Heaven will wed earth. And God has guaranteed this marriage will not end in divorce. Yes, things may be bad right now. You may be broken – profoundly broken. We walk wounded with you. But we do not walk in despair, because *it will be better*! – Pastor Conner

SERVING THE LORD IN
PANAMÁ
NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY



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Life in the tropics can be wonderful. There is abundant sunshine, warmth, and no snow! However, the tropics brings its own challenges. Upon our arrival, after eight weeks away, our car and apartment were full of mold. As I cleaned the mold trying to salvage what could be salvaged, I thought of Isaiah 40:8 often: *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.* It did not take long for decay to set in in our apartment and sin continues to decay and destroy relationships, lives, and faith. Yet our privilege here as missionaries is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus which stands for ever. The news of Jesus crucified and resurrected for our forgiveness and justification will not mold or breakdown. Thanks be to God that as mold decays, as politicians come and go, and as nations rise and fall, the word of our Lord stands forever.

In this newsletter we recap our home service and look forward to the next 22 months of service in Panamá. Check out the details in the newsletter links below. As always, please read, enjoy, and share!

Missionary home service is scheduled for every twenty-two months. During our recent time in the US, I spent a significant amount of time reflecting on our first twenty-two months in the field (the successes, the failures, the goals and projects). Upon arrival in Panamá we moved from our apartment to a small duplex and as I sit between boxes and piles of books, I have been reflecting on what the next twenty-two months will look like.

As I shared during home service, we will continue to work in three main areas: theological education, church planting, and strengthening congregations. They will be further developed in cooperation with our local FORO as congregations in Panamá, in the United States, OIM, and other Lutheran organizations look to partner together to help the Lutheran Church of Panamá develop and proclaim Jesus.

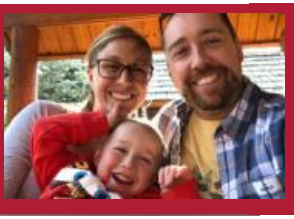
In the area of theological education: rather than focusing on the recruitment the future generation of pastors, the emphasis will shift more to parish education, specifically confirmation classes. Our regional seminary accepts students who have been confirmed in the Lutheran Church for at least three years, yet many of the long-time participants in the various churches here are not yet confirmed. I will work with the local pastors to develop confirmation programs and a more regular pattern to education in the congregations.

In the area of church planting: as I shared during my presentations, the church plant in Sabanitas went through a particularly tumultuous time resulting in the resignation of the church planting pastor. This was the one of the first church planting initiatives of the Lutheran Church of Panamá that was thought of, put into motion, supported and developed under their leadership with the distinct focus of planting a church where the Word of God would regularly be proclaimed, people would be baptized into the family of Christ, and sustained by Christ's holy supper. We are praying for this mission church, putting together plans to call a new church planter, and reflecting on how the entire church can better support the planting of churches in Panamá.

Please Pray:

- The upcoming FORO meeting in Panamá.
- Brian as he travels to the seminary in Dominican Republic to teach an intensive in November.
- Peace in the Lutheran Church of Panamá.

SERVING THE LORD IN
PANAMÁ
NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY



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Continued...

In the area of strengthening congregations the focus will be on pastoral care. Through workshops, conferences, classes and mentoring we will work on strengthening the preaching of God's Word, emphasizing regular pastoral visitation of the sick, the lonely, the shut in with Christ's word of forgiveness and Holy Communion, and equipping God's people to understand and live faithfully in their various vocations (be it mother, father, neighbor, teacher, daughter, farmer) - that in these God-given vocations his good and holy work is done for his creation.

While there is much work to do, we do it realizing that the church is Christ's church and that it endures not because of our efforts, charisma or ingenuity but because the word of the Lord endures forever (Is. 40:8). Please continue to pray for the Lutheran Church of Panamá in the months to come. To God be the glory!

Home Service Recap We finally made it back to Panamá on October 14th. Our eight weeks of home service had us in 25 church visits which consisted of preaching, teaching, presenting, FORO planning, and sharing and promoting the mission work in Panamá. While we enjoyed our time in the US reconnecting with partners and congregations who are supporting us, we are glad to be home. It is difficult to live out of a suitcase for 8 weeks, especially with a little guy.

One particular evening we sat down for dinner and could not figure out why Ezra would not sit down. I then did some calculating - that was the 9th different place in 9 days that we had sat down for supper! Needless to say, Ezra has settled back into life in Panamá nicely and is thrilled to be at home.

Again, thank you for your time, attention, love, and hospitality. It was wonderful to see you again and meet many of you for the first time. Please know that we give thanks for you and lift you up in our personal prayers. We would not be serving in Panamá if not for the Lord's work and your generosity. While not everyone serves as a missionary in another country, the whole church participates in mission work as congregations and individuals support, pray for, encourage missionaries and the missions around the world. We invite you to continue praying for and supporting the mission work of the Lutheran Church in Panamá.

TRIZION YOUTH GROUP

We had a great time at the District's Youth Gathering in Des Moines. 8 kids enjoyed the theme: WHATEVER. Our speaker did a great job of having us "lean in" to re-visit the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection for our lives. It was also neat that the speaker was the best man at my cousin's wedding, and I interned at the speaker's home congregation in Florida…it's a small Lutheran world!

Above: Eryn Ramsey, Haleigh Alexander, Olivia Beck, Josiah Conner, and Adalyn Stribe pack meals.

Below: Tiffany Johnson, Olivia Beck, Eryn Ramsey, Haleigh Alexander, Lauren Greving, Josiah Conner, Logan Vonnohme, Pastor Johnson, Adalyn Stribe, and Claire Behrens smile before heading to Des Moines.

Above: Tiffany Johnson, Lucky Borkowski, Luke and Nolan Ramsey, Will Jorgensen, Pastor Johnson, Rachel Anderson, Miranda Benton, Renee Grimm, and Kamryn Lesle smile at the Sr. High Youth Gathering.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MANILLA, IOWA

PROCLAIMING PEACE IN CHRIST'S CROSS

On December 9 @ 5pm in Manilla we will have our second annual Christmas party. Kids are invited to bring a $10 gift for a White Elephant game.

Special Night @ Trinity – 4pm December 15th

December 15th will be a special night for Trinity. We will have 3 adult confirmations. We will also be looking at what God has been doing over the last year and where we're going for 2019. We will go over communal & individual goals, themes for preaching, Bible study opportunities, and finances. All attendees will receive a special Yearbook with *pictures* & *church information*. You'll also be invited to offer your 2 cents for future projects at Trinity. Following worship there will be an open house at the Parsonage. You're invited to bring an appetizer to share, but above all else we'd love your company!

Preschool Praises for November 2018

Compared to busy October, November is a breeze! We keep busy, but we don't have a field trip every week! The first week of November we talked about turkeys and made cute turkeys for the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. We also worked on the letter T and the number 4 as well as patterns and ordering leaves by size. Library Linda read some books about Thanksgiving. The afternoon class had a special visitor for Veterans' Day as I had my husband, Mike Gore, come in and talk about being a veteran. They were full of questions! Jesus Time was about Noah's Arc and how God saved Noah and his family and made a promise to never flood the world again. I emphasized how this was a true event and not just a made up story. Pastor spoke to the children about the Tower of Babel and how God confused the languages which caused people to move to different parts of the world and create different cultures. Because of their different locations, people developed different characteristics. Although we make look different, we are all part of the same race - the human race - and we are all family!

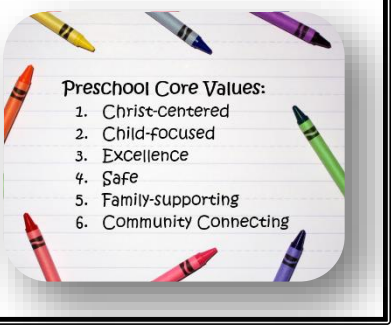
The second week we focused on Thanksgiving and what we are all thankful for. We also remembered who we are thankful to for all that we have - God! We focused on the letter G, discerning what is different in a group and number recognition. Fine motor skills were worked on as the children learned to thread a lace through holes in a card. The Crawford County Naturalist spoke to the afternoon class about turkeys and brought some interesting objects to help show the children. Jesus Time was about Daniel and the Lion's Den and how God protected faithful Daniel even when he was in such great danger. God hears our prayers and answers them in the way we most need. Pastor spoke to the children about Abraham and Sarah and how God made a promise that they would have children even though they were 100 years old! When God makes a promise he always keeps it!

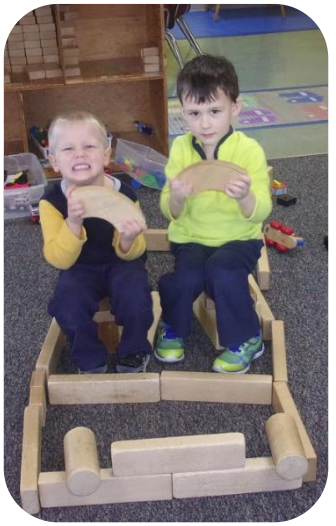
The third week was very short as we only had school on Tuesday and that was celebrating Grandparents' Day! The children brought their grandparents to the fellowship hall and enjoyed a story, songs and made butter from heavy whipping cream. We colored Thanksgiving place mats and played Thanksgiving bingo! After games they all enjoyed muffins with their homemade butter and juice. The morning class was presented with a wonderful Bible on behalf of Zion for them to enjoy at home. The afternoon class received one last year and they enjoy being able to go back and read the stories that I had read with them in class at home.

The last week we began our two week study of the 5 senses. The children enjoyed using their sense of hearing to guess what was in a covered cup. They used their sense of sight to find different colors in the classroom and their sense of smell to guess what I had in different cups. The guessing games are always a big hit! We focused on the letter O, the number 5 and the rectangle. Jesus Time was about Daniel and his dream of Heaven. Daniel saw God the Father on a thrown with the Son of Man standing beside him. Daniel was speaking of Jesus long before he was even born! Pastor spoke to the children about Jacob and Esau. Jacob stole Esau's blessing from their father and had to run for his life from his angry brother. While away, Jacob had a dream of God who told him that all the world would be blessed through his offspring. We know that Jesus is descended from Jacob!

Please make sure to come join us on December 19th at 6 pm as the children will be singing before worship and we have been practicing our songs! The fun thing about having a smaller group is that we can do more fun things, like dress up for our Christmas program! We look forward to seeing you there and enjoying a meal afterwards with you! Thank you to everyone that supports us not only monetarily, but also prayerfully!
Yours in Christ, Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz

Pictures on page 13!





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

GREETINGS FROM ZION'S MISSION BOARD

Matthew 28:19. *Go therefore and make disciplines of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

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

Thank you Zion members for your support of our four missionaries—Pastor Oliver in Taiwan, Rev. Ferry in Indonesia, Rev. Gauthier in Panama, and Pastors Grills and Vogel at Amigos en Cristo in Denison. Your generous support of the quarterly door offerings has totaled more than $3800 this year.

We would like to share some additional mission opportunities for individuals and families. The Mission Central missionaries—Gary Thies and Rev. Brent Smith—prepared a "Thanksgiving Mission Projects" list, which features missionaries and projects in great need of support. A favorite quote from Gary Thies is "If we can't go to people who have never heard, then we should send someone in our place to tell them."

The Thanksgiving Mission Projects this year include support of LCMS missionaries in Russia, Papua New Guinea, Uruguay, Germany, Taiwan, Kenya, Uganda, Indonesia and Panama.

Special projects include:

- The Lutheran Center for Theological Studies, a regional seminary in Togo, Africa serving students from eight African countries
- The Sri Lanka New Church and Seminary buildings
- Seminary scholarships in Mexico, Bolivia, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Chile
- Support of the Lutheran Churches in Krygystan
- Outreach program among the Kazahk in Mongolia
- Christ's Care for Children in Kenya, Africa, which provides education, safe housing, meals and spiritual care to vulnerable children in Kenya.

The Mission Board encourages you to check the Thanksgiving Missions Project display in the Fellowship Hall. Project adoption forms are available on Zion's Resource Counter in the Fellowship Hall. – The Mission Board

SERVING THE LORD
ALL OVER ASIA
NEWS FROM THE FERRY FAMILY
November 2018

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

We did not leave Indonesia by choice, but because of duty. So any time a return to Indonesia is possible, it's a great joy. I had the opportunity to be in Indonesia again just this last month as the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) was gathering for their regular church convention. They invited the LCMS as special guests, and to do some teaching for their entire body of delegates. What a privilege.

The GKLI has great needs in its midst, and it's been a joy to help address some of them. But they're also addressing some needs on their own, and reaching out with the Gospel when they see the opportunities.

Pastor Anton Ben Gurion serves a parish in Jambi. While serving his people, he came across some folks who had incredible needs, who were living in his vicinity. He discovered an entire tribe of people who are still nomadic to this day, living in the "forests" of rubber- or palm-oil plantations. They are illiterate, have no access to medical care, and often need to forage for what they need. They're called "Suku Anak Dalam" or SANAK in Indonesian, which roughly translates to Children of the Forest. Pastor Anton Ben Gurion and his wife, an Evangelist of the GKLI, began to help these people with a combination of mercy care closely connected to the proclamation of the Word of God. They provided some basic medical care, brought food to the hungry, and started to tell them the Good News of Jesus. Pastor and his wife even invited them to church for events and for Sunday Service, and have been visiting them regularly.

And in some ways, the most incredible part was that they did all this on their own, with just the resources the congregation could bring to bear, and the humble means they had in themselves. Finally one of my friends from GKLI told me about what this pastor was doing, and asked if LCMS could be of any service in this outreach project.

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

It was a joy to be able to come alongside Pastor Gurion to assist in his work with these people as he seeks to show mercy and preach the Word. Because of your generosity, our LCMS was able to provide some financial support so the GKLI and the SANAK people could build a worship shelter from reclaimed timber.

These are the friends and co-workers the Lord has placed into our path, and it's a great privilege to work together to serve our Lord and those He would call to Himself by the preaching of His Word. Thank you for giving us the ability to assist our friends in GKLI and our new SANAK friends with Mercy and Witness. Read more about the SANAK on LCMS.org: https://engage.lcms.org/indonesia-fall-2018/

The Ferry Family is safely settled back in Taiwan. The Ferry kids have had a busy few months with full-time Chinese class, to say nothing of their regular school work. So the only one busier than them was their Momma Cheryl as she also continues taking Chinese lessons and doing all the teaching. And there are three official students this year: Caleb in eighth grade, Caitlin in fourth grade, and now Carissa in first grade.

Shortly after returning to Taiwan in early September, we had quite the milestone as Caleb turned 13 years old. It's true: my firstborn is now a teenager. He continues to be a good help around the house, and is now even left responsible for some of his younger sisters when the needs arise. This birthday was quite special, as it's the first time he's been surrounded by 18 other kids (all living in our building!) to help celebrate and eat his cake.

We are so incredibly grateful to you for allowing us to live out these vocations and serve as your hands and feet to the people of Asia. As your hands and feet, we are able to serve as the living voice of our Lord Jesus, sending out His Word into the darkest places which desperately need His light for life.

On December 10th, nearly a dozen Zion members joined Missionary Gary Thies and almost 130 other guests to celebrate the work God is doing through missionaries around the world. In addition to seeing The Creation Theater and The Barn Museum (left), we were privileged to hear missionaries from Canada, Kenya, and Belize speak. Below, pastors and selected guests in attendance prayed for our missionaries as we sent them into the mission field. In the second picture down on the left, Nathanael and Josiah Conner take a moment to smile in the cold, before taking the mission story back to Manning.

Celebrating Missions

IOWA DISTRICT WEST

On Sunday evening, November 11th, Zion was privileged to host over 80 guests, along with President Turner, Rev. Mark Gerken, and Ms. Rhonda Mohr, for Iowa District West's annual Missions Banquet. The mission grant recipients (right) received over $44,000 in support for their mission efforts in Iowa District West! Special thanks to Zion's Mission Team for coordinating the event and providing hospitality for it, and to Deb Knueven for catering the side dishes.

Depression and Systemic Inflammation

When we consider individuals with disabilities, we usually picture physical limitations and challenges. However, ***depression*** is the leading cause of disability world-wide according to the World Health Organization. So, if you're struggling through depression, you're not alone!

Zion Cares

Mental health plays an enormous role in our physical health as many studies now show changes in the endocrine and immune systems in people with depression. Inflammation is beginning to emerge as a major contributing factor to depression and other psychiatric disorders. The severity and duration of depression increases our risk for heart disease, type-2 diabetes, various auto immune diseases, arthritis and cancer. On our way to maintaining better physical and mental health, consider lifestyle changes that encourage a decrease in systemic inflammation.

Leonard, B. E., 2010 *The concept of depression as a dysfunction of the immune system.* Curr immunol Rev. 2010 Aug; 6(3): 205-212.

Submitted by Manning Regional Healthcare's Senior Life Solutions program in partnership with Zion Lutheran Church

Senior Life Solutions, an intensive outpatient group therapy program, is designed to meet the unique needs of older adults over the age of 65 struggling with depression and anxiety often related to aging. For more information, contact Carol Segebart MSN, RN-BC, Program Director, at 712-655-8262 or speak with Amy Hull.

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) continues to respond to the devastation left by Hurricane Michael on the Florida Panhandle. OGT transported a portable chapel from Norfolk, Nebraska to Redemption Lutheran Church, Panama City, Florida. The portable chapel had previously been used by St. John Lutheran Church, Pilger, Nebraska when their church was destroyed by a tornado. Donations to hurricane victims can be directed to OGT Disaster Relief. Thrivent Financial continues to match hurricane response donations.

Over 110,000 hours (almost 300 per day) are donated annually by OGT volunteers. The 27 regional centers (including our Ida Grove center) are staffed almost exclusively by volunteers.

The Zion Fellowship Club is again coordinating a clothing collection for OGT. Donations will be gathered after December 25 and early into 2019 when the Fellowship Club will again transport the items to Ida Grove and assist in sorting. Gently used, clean clothing items of all seasons and sizes (children, men, women) are welcome. Shoes are welcome (heels no higher than thumb width).

Consider Christmas shopping for someone in need in a disaster or disadvantaged region of the world. NEW SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR are needed. A special receptacle is in the fellowship hall.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN

Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Ladies Guild of Zion
November 14, 2018

Pastor Conner opened the meeting with prayer then asked us to turn to Acts 16:11 where we began to read how the Word of God was active in the lives of Lydia who heard the Word by a river in Philippi and was baptized, how a fortune-telling slave girl was delivered from the evil spirit within her, and how Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned were able to speak the Word of God to their jailer and his family and baptize them. President Buhr had us read the 1st verse of the LWML hymn.

Christian Life Chairman, Margaret Backhaus, read "Reaping a Bountiful Harvest." Just as all seeds need to be planted, watered and have sunshine to reap a harvest, so the Word of God is planted in our hearts when we are baptized and we in turn sow the seed of the Word to others, that they too may be part of God's great harvest of souls. The mite box prayer followed as the mite box was passed.

President Buhr opened the business meeting in the name of the Triune God. Roll call was answered by 17 members expressing their favorite holiday and why. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved as read. A thank you was received from Urban Bicycle Food Ministry for hats that had been donated to them. Reports were given by Treasurer Mary Grimm and kitchen treasurer, Darlene Vollstedt. President Buhr reported on the sales of more feed sacks. To date $1,048.10 has been gained for the quilters. Human Care Chairman Audrey Roe asked for blankets to be donated for the inside of the quilts being made.

Old Business: An advent by candlelight report was given by Bev Grundmeier. All tickets are sold. The skit "Christmas Wrappings" will be practiced after the meeting.

New Business: The nominations committee put into nomination for president the name of Audrey Roe. There being no further nominations, it was moved and seconded that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Audrey. The motion passed. The names of Cynthia Genzen and JoAnn Thomas were put into nomination for vice-president. Nominations ceased and a ballot was taken. JoAnn Thomas will be the next vice-president. In lieu of the amount in the kitchen fund, Becki Ehlers moved that we purchase new kitchen sinks on the south wall. Joene Bohlmann seconded the motion and it carried. Darlene will speak to the church trustees.

Dates to remember: Plaza Bingo, November 23rd with Chairman Audrey Roe, and helpers Sandra Vahl, Susan Schilling and JoAnn Thomas. Tuesday November 27th is giving Tuesday. Mites have fallen behind and thanks to two generous donors will be doubled for all mites given at lwml.org/givingtuesday on the 27th. The next guild meeting is a noon potluck on December 12th. Hostesses will be Becki Ehlers and Audrey Roe. We may invite guests to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Hostesses for the day were Monica Christensen and Cynthia Genzen.,
Sue Puck, secretary

Praise for Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

From September through November, Zion offer Financial Peace University to our members and the community. Approximately 20 attended (half coming from the community). Below are their reflections on the experience. *Special thanks to Jeff and Jean Hargens for facilitating the class!*

How has Financial Peace University changed the way you think about personal finance?

We work together and really do direct every dollar. Also, it's fun to work together and plan.

I feel my money now!

Everything is God's to begin with and we should be better stewards of what He has entrusted to us.

It taught me that sacrifice now will be worth it later.

How has Financial Peace University changed your life?

It made our marriage stronger. It made it a lot easier to sit down and talk finances and to do a solid budget.

It has changed our marriage.

I feel more confident in my personal finances.

Would you recommend Financial Peace University to a friend?

I would and I will. I also plan on putting my kids through it in their teens.

Yes. It's an excellent learning tool. I feel it should be taught in schools.

Yes. I believe every adult (married or single) should go through this class and teach their children how to live – and hopefully debt free.

Yes, especially the younger ones.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

December 2
Advent by Candlelight (at Zion)
Experience the Christmas story through narration and song in the enchanting candlelight setting of Advent by Candlelight.
6:30 p.m.

December 5, 12, 19
Midweek Advent Services
Zion: 10:30 a.m. service
5:45 service; 6:30 supper
Trinity: 5:30 p.m. supper; 6:30 service

December 9
Zion's Annual Voters' Meeting
10:30 a.m. – immediately following worship

December 13
Thursday morning worship at Trinity, Manilla
11:00 a.m.

December 16
Children's Christmas Programs
6:00 p.m. student musicians; 6:30 programs begin

December 24
Christmas Eve
Zion: 6:00 p.m.
Trinity: 4:00 p.m.

December 25
Christmas Morning
Zion: 10:00 a.m. Hymn Sing and Brunch
Trinity: 10:00 a.m. Worship

December 31
Joint New Year's Eve Service
4:00 p.m.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. Robert Ewoldt
Debra Janssen
2. Renee Grimm
Kamryn Ketcham
Stephen Muhlbauer
Emma Schwieso
Mel Boell (T)
4. Darlene Asmus
Janet Gruhn
Tracie Kurth
Rozora Schroeder
5. Tiffani Beck
Jase Hull
Ross Kusel
Brian Lage
6. Melissa Lesle
JoAnn Petersen
Eryn Ramsey
7. Mike Heaton
8. Annette Hilsabeck
Brian Stoberl
9. Piper Doyel
Wade Ranniger
Deb Birks (T)
10. Athena Bess
Breyton Johnson
Heather Kusel
Keaton Otto
Elizabeth Trost
11. Jaxen Vollstedt
Michell Lile (T)
12. Mike Bruch
Zoey Heaton
Pam Sebring (T)
13. Tricia Beck
Courtney Grabill
Arlene Jahn (T)
14. Rachel Hofbauer
Neeka Jacobsen
15. Cheral Buhr
Sam Hansen
Sheryl Zinke
Miranda Lingle (T)
16. Mabel Langel
17. Derrick Janssen
Taylor Roe
Octavia Hodne (T)
Lonnie Jahn (T)
18. Zane Diersen
Jay Miller
Amanda Rosener
19. Gracelyn Pinney
20. Casie Eischeid
Courtney Eischeid
Kourtney Grimm
21. Leslee Gore
22. Kathy Vollstedt
23. Joyce Schroeder
Gary Witt
Shane Boeck (T)
24. Robert Christensen
Brittany Page
Heather Riessen (T)
25. Ben Booth
Chris Greving
Carol Joens (T)
26. Brody Chapman
Larry Mahnke
Laurene Meeves
27. Eric Ramsey
28. Blake Diersen
Elissa Riesberg
Billy Weitl
29. Caden Muhlbauer
Jade Sellner
30. Cody Eischeid
Erica Lohrmann
Ginger Wardrip
31. Larry Ahrendsen
Amber Ehlers
Austin Frank
Ellie Ranniger

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

Anniversaries

3. Gene & Colene Lohrmann
4. Karl & Angela Albertsen
Dennis & Margaret Backhaus
Rodney & Charlene Hickman
5. Steve & Nancy Muhlbauer
10. Wyatt & Sylvia Bandow (T)
12. Robert & Linnet Nissen
13. Greg & Amber Neumann
14. Bruce & Mary Grimm
23. Carl & Carol French
29. Glen & Shirley Ahrendsen
Kent & Karen Vollstedt

In Our Prayers

Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Susan Lamb, JoAnn Karsten (Georgia Lohrmann's sister), Natalie Mason (Bruce and Mary Grimm's daughter), Bob Henkelman, Judy Reinke, Gage Carlson (great grandson of Russ and Virginia Mohr), Carol Kahl, Darlene Asmus