Lift off for an intergalactic adventure with *Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World.* Explore God's miraculous mission and learn about His plan of salvation from creation to the cross!

June 3-7!

Register online: www.vbsmate.com/zionmanning
Register in person: registration form at Zion's resource center

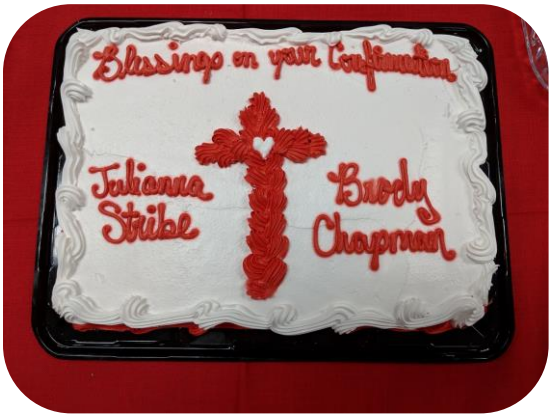
The whole community is invited to Historic Trinity in Manning throughout the summer for a worship series that harvest Jesus' farm parables. Worship is every 4th Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

CONFIRMATION 2019

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

Julianna Louise Stribe
Birthday: March 19, 2005
Baptism: July 17, 2005
Daughter of Daniel and Wendy Stribe
Godparents: Troy and Christina Langel

Brody Dennis Chapman
Birthday: December 26, 2003
Baptism: April 3, 2004
Son of Dennis and Michaela Chapman
Godparents: Sean Chapman and Melissa Vinke



Ministry Apps

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes (May 2019): Zion and Trinity Lutheran

THE Miraculous Mission Accomplished!

The most "Miraculous Mission" in the history of the world was Jesus' mission from the glory of heaven to the sin-filled world. We were blessed to review that mission during our Lenten season worship. Once again God blessed a response of approximately 150 worshippers each Wednesday. Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday announced, "Mission accomplished!" Paul summarizes the results of Jesus' mission: "Death is swallowed up in victory. . . Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55-56). Because of Jesus' mission we are on a mission to share Jesus' victory with our community and into the world.

Miraculous Mission—VBS 2019

"Miraculous Mission" is the theme of this summer's (June 3-7) VBS program for the children of the congregation and community. Jesus' mission from creation to the Last Day will provide daily lesson themes. Worship, music, crafts, recreation, and snacks will creatively engage the children each day. Registration forms are in the church office and fellowship hall. Parents can also register children online at vbsmate.com/zionmanning. MANY volunteers will again be needed!!!!! Sign up to volunteer online, in the fellowship hall, or contact Pastor or Diane Riggert.

Zion supports the VBS program in many ways. The annual Memorial Day Brunch (May 27) provides significant financial support for the VBS program. Donations for the brunch will again be needed along with many workers. Come and enjoy the meal after the Memorial Day services. Bring the family. Invite your neighbors and out of town visitors.

Miraculous Mission of Orphan Grain Train

Thanks for your generous clothing donations! The items were delivered to and will be sorted for international shipment at the Ida Grove warehouse. In addition to reaching out across the world, Orphan Grain Train assists with national disasters. OGT continues to provide supplies and volunteers for flood relief in Iowa and Nebraska communities. The next clothing collection will be taken in late September.

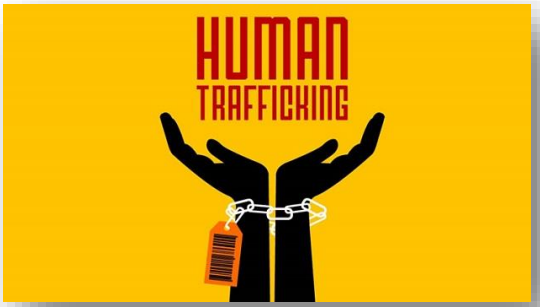
Youth on a Mission

It is a time of transition for our confirmands as they make their public confession and become communicant members of the congregation. High school graduates transition from the familiarity of the classroom and community to college campuses and careers. We continue to keep our youth in our prayers and encourage and support their active worship life and mission partnership.

Assisting a Mission Neighbor

Pastor Brian Licht of St. Paul Carroll has accepted a call to Davenport, Iowa and his ministry will conclude in Carroll on May 12. Pastor Ben Dose of Zion, Arcadia has been appointed the Carroll circuit visitor. St. Paul has requested that I serve as their vacancy Pastor. Pastor John Schauer, a member of St. Paul, will assist in serving the members of St. Paul during the vacancy. The vacancy will begin on May 19. My commitments to Zion VBS and in serving Zion during Pastor Conner's June vacation will be fulfilled. In consultation with Pastor Conner and the Board of Elders, service to Zion will be "adjusted" during the vacancy. Thank you for your prayers for myself and our friends at St. Paul.

Celebrating Jesus' Miraculous Mission for us!
Pastor Riggert



It's real. It's happening. In Iowa. Even in rural Iowa. Young girls and boys, even older individuals, are being bought and sold for profit in Iowa. Some are trapped in labor trafficking; some are bound in sex trafficking. Either way they are enslaved. It's evil and it needs to stop.

On March 27th, Manning's Public Library invited Sister Shirley Fineran, an advocate for the enslaved, to IKM-Manning to speak to high schoolers and community members about the reality of human trafficking. Did you know that recruiters (those who seek to enslave individuals) do most of their recruiting through social media and online gaming? If your children or grandchildren are on social media or play online games, did you know recruiters can message them? They can groom them through flattering messages that lead to personal meetings where they shower them with gifts and affection, then drugs and alcohol, even pornography, and then solicitation for sex acts.

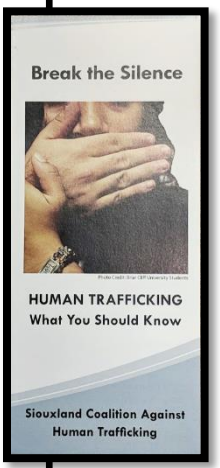
In other words, social media and online gaming provide a portal of access to your children. This doesn't mean these things are inherently evil; it does, however, mean they are inherently dangerous. It's much like leaving your child's first floor bedroom window wide open all night. It grants the world access to your child.

Sister Fineran was direct with attendees and parents, emphasizing the urgent need to monitor children's online activities. It's not an invasion of their privacy. Children (from tweens to teens) need to be protected. No parent would invite trafficking recruiters into their home to visit with their children. Why would we grant them unmonitored access through social media and online gaming?

Sister Fineran then offered, "Parents, 'I don't understand' is not an answer." The stakes are simply too high to do nothing. You wouldn't stand before your child's open bedroom window and say, "I don't understand how to close it, so I'll just leave it open." You'd figure out a way to protect your child.

In order to help you do this, Zion has invited experts in social media safety to offer parallel workshops to tweens and teens and to parents/grandparents on this critical subject. On Monday, May 13th, Zion will welcome representatives of The Set Me Free Project (out of Omaha) for an evening of education and equipping. Adults will meet in the Adult Bible Class room and youth will gather in the youth room. Attendees are encouraged to bring their cell phones because presenters will teach youth and adults how to be safe online. For more information on these parallel workshops, see page 5. – Pastor Conner

New Resource Available!



Ignorance isn't an option. What are the signs of trafficking? Who's at risk? What is the law? What can you do? Answers to these questions, along with hotlines for help, are available in this new resource "Break the Silence," that you can find in Zion's resource center. Pick up your copy and help end human trafficking.

Workshops @ Zion

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made!

A Discussion on Mental Illness and the Christian Response

Sunday, May 5th
3:00 p.m.
Everyone welcome!

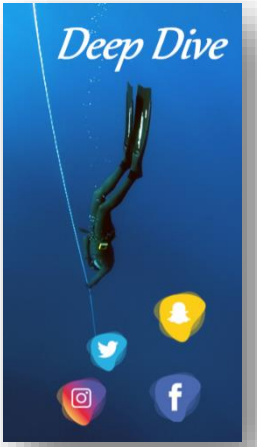
- Addressing the needs of the whole being: physical, mental, spiritual and relational
- Understanding the legitimacy of mental illness
- Recognizing the critical signs and reaching out for help

Presented by mental health nurse;
Carol Segebart MSN, RN-BC

Deep Dive

for Youth and Parents

Monday, May 13th
6:00-7:30 p.m.



Parents, do you know if your kids are safe online? Do you feel overwhelmed by social media? Would you like help? Then this opportunity is for you!
In this interactive workshop (actually two parallel workshops; one for middle/high schoolers and one for parents) parents will learn:

- HOW to help your child safely navigate social media and gaming platforms
- CURRENT apps - the good, the bad, and the ugly
- WHAT the grooming process is and how predators use social media to groom our kids
- WHAT social-media acronyms parents must know
- OUR kids' brains on social media: The science of social media, how does social media affect kids
- SEXUAL images and social media
- HOW some dangerous apps work on actual apps
- PRIVACY laws and our kids' phones
- HOW to communicate with your child/teenager

And youth will learn:

- HOW to stay safe online
- HOW to know who you can trust
- THE importance of good choices
- THE intrinsic value each youth has

RSVP:
Call: 655-2352
Email:
zionmanninglcms@gmail.com
Text: 571-651-4556

Led by The Set Me Free Project

Free. Community Invited.

What Happened?

Zion just celebrated two confirmations at the end of April. I'm already thinking about how I will tweak my own confirmation section for next year. Confirmation is on our brains – it's that time of year.

But our celebration of the rite of confirmation is not necessarily a happy time. I mean, it is if you or your family is experiencing it in the moment, but what about the aftermath? What happened to our kids who were confirmed but aren't actively a part of the church community anymore? What happened to your own family members?

I haven't been in the pastoral office all that long, but I have sensed that confirmation can stir feelings of sadness for people – especially for parents as they're left wondering what happened to their kids. Writing an article like this is always tricky because I'm not talking to people one-on-one. And more importantly, there's always the risk of speaking law when someone needs Jesus' forgiveness; in other words you're aware of the problems – you don't need guilt added – you need it released. So if I do that in this article – if I mismanage Jesus' good news I hope you will tell me and forgive me.

In the meantime, let's think about some questions that people might have about confirmation.

What happened? My child went through confirmation, but now they aren't an active part of the Church.

Jesus told a parable about a farmer scattering seed (Mt. 13). Some seed fell on a path, and the birds snatched it up. Some seed fell among rocks, but there wasn't any growth because there wasn't enough soil. Others fell among thorns, which got choked out. But some fell in good soil and grew. Jesus explains that the birds are like the "evil one" who takes away the truth. The rocks is where someone is initially excited about Jesus, but falls away. The thorns is where someone gets tangled up in something alongside Jesus.

Another way of describing what happens is the seeds-path situation is where someone goes through confirmation, but there's a hard heart; in other words no move to GOD. The good news or gospel of Jesus is not effective, because there's no belief in the need for personal saving; "I haven't done anything all that bad to require saving."

The seeds-rock is where a confirmed Christian can't take the heat of life. "What use is Jesus if I can't keep the things I love?" In other words, suffering steals something – family, income, experiences, friends, whatever – and a confirmed Christian is angry that GOD wouldn't keep that *whatever* in their life. They've struck a bargain with GOD which He did not agree to: "I'll follow you so long as you make me happy." This resides in most of us, and it's usually why we exhibit anger during moments of suffering in our lives (not that there isn't room for anger during suffering).

Finally, the seeds-thorn dynamic is where someone has a divided heart. "I'll follow Jesus *and* my girlfriend." "I'll follow Jesus *and* my success at work." The point is you can't serve two masters. The vow we make during confirmation is that we'll follow Him even if it kills us.

So what happened? Jesus makes it painfully clear that there are so many obstacles that prevent true heart change in an aspiring Christian. It's not nearly as easy as memorizing and going to class for 4 years.

If there's no guarantee that my kids will be an active part of the Church later in their lives, why do we even do confirmation?

That's a fantastic question – I'm glad you asked. At least *one* major reason as to why we do confirmation is because of what the Apostle Paul says: "How then will they call on him [GOD] in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?" Going on Paul writes, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."[1]

What's Paul's point? Hearts are changed when GOD the Holy Spirit works through the Word. What Word? Well, the Word of GOD, but more specifically the places where GOD speaks – preaching, the Bible, and the Word made flesh – Jesus of Nazareth. Those are all the Word of GOD. The Spirit works through that Word to transform hearts. Paul's point in Romans 10 is that it is absolutely vital to be in GOD's Word, because that is how He consistently changes people.

Why do we do confirmation if there are no guarantees of a total heart makeover? That exposure in the Word is how the Holy Spirit works to change hearts. There's no guarantee that there will be heart change because of all the things that can happen based on what Jesus said in the parable, but there's an even greater guarantee that nothing will change in a person's heart so long as there's no exposure to GOD's Word.

Did I do something wrong and that's why my child isn't an active part of the Church after confirmation?

Here's where things get tricky. Was there something you did or didn't do that caused the where-your-kids are now? It gets tricky because articles never cover every circumstance – so all I can do is be general.

You might be thinking, "I should have done this or that and *that* particular change would have altered where my kid is now in relation to the Church."

My response to that is "*Um, maybe.*" In other words, do you actually have a crystal ball that shows you how exactly your life could have changed if you'd done things different? If so, I'm coming over to your house ASAP because I didn't take the crystal ball class at seminary.

Here's my point – it's a little arrogant to assume that you know how to change your life. Arrogant in the sense that you know all things. The problem with that, and you know this too, is that there is only one all-knowing, omniscient Person, and His name is GOD – not, [insert your name here].

It would be like me saying that I *know* the exact reasons why I had cancer. I should have done this, avoided that, and then boom I would have been healthy. Um, maybe, Pastor – but how do you *really* know you could have avoided cancer?

So how do you *really* know that you could have changed your child's outcome when it comes to Church?

Now of course there's a flipside. Could we always do a better job when it comes to demonstrating the faith that's been passed down to us to our kids? Well, yeah; just as much as I could have exercised more, eaten fewer chips and more vegetables during high school. I could and should have treated my body better then. Can we always take that responsibility of getting kids to worship, caring for the poor, repenting, forgiving, and telling others about Jesus more seriously? Of course we can and should.

And when we see that we've failed in that respect that might be one of the most powerful – not bullet proof – things we can do in front of our kids. We can show them no matter how young or old they are that:

[1] See Romans 10:14, 17.

1. There is a GOD who made this world and there is a particular way in which we are to live in this world.
2. You, [insert your name], are not GOD. You don't know how to change the past and you can't see the future. You're a creature, not the Creator. And it's really healthy to realize you can't personally control this world.
3. This particular GOD who made this world has love that is far deeper, wider, and boundless than His anger. He demonstrates His love to the world (John 3:16), but His Son, Jesus, specifically embraces those who realize they have a problem and are the world's greatest problem (See Matthew 9:10-13).

What can I do now since my kid is older and confirmed, but not an active part of the Church?

I can think of *at least* two things you can do now. The first thing is pray for them like crazy. GOD listened to His people the Israelites when they were asking for a rescue operation from slavery in Egypt, and He delivered. GOD listens to His people now. Tell Him your concerns and ask that the Holy Spirit would reengage your kid's heart.

The second thing you can do is apologize to your kid.

During my internship year in Florida, one of the pastors I worked with told me a story where he chaperoned on the annual 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. one year. For whatever reason he lost his cool during the trip in front of the kids and the other chaperones. It was inappropriate and he realized it. When the kids and parents were on the bus traveling to their next museum stop, the pastor got on the loud speaker and said, "I'm sorry for losing my cool back there. It wasn't right. I should have been a better leader. And I'm sorry."

You know what the kids and parents remembered most about that trip to D.C.? It wasn't the Washington Monument or the Capitol. The people involved in the trip told the pastor that it was the fact that he actually apologized. The most memorable thing on that trip was the fact that a human being admitted he didn't have all the answers (he wasn't GOD), and more than that he admitted via his apology that he was a contributing factor to the world's problems.

Maybe the most memorable thing you can communicate to your kids is not that you're *right* all the time, but that you're just as dependent on the grace and intervention of GOD who is far bigger than you are. You are capable of mistakes and sin. And the only one who is *perfect* is the Trinity – Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

So you can always pray and apologize.

We keep on confirming kids and adults: 1) because we're called to carry our crosses and follow Jesus (the pledge we make in our confirmation vows); 2) because the confirmation rite takes us back to the moment and "confirms" what GOD did to us in baptism – rescued us from sin, death, and the power of the devil through the work of Jesus of Nazareth. He rescued us from our own heart disease.

What happened? Lots of stuff – life is complicated and detailed and intricate. Hearts are messy and inconsistent and fickle. But what remains consistent is outside of us – a cross and an empty grave, and a man named Jesus who experienced those events for you and your children. – Pastor Johnson

Celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter at Zion!

Christ is risen!
ALLELUIA

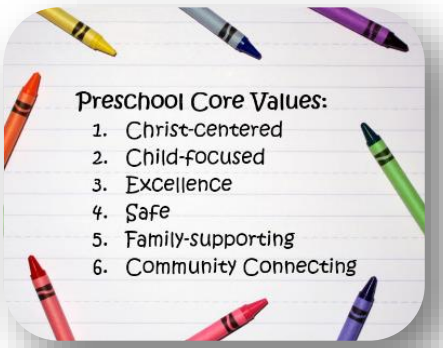
Preschool Praises for April 2019

This month has been super busy with Easter and spring activities. Thank God for the beautiful weather that we have had to wrap up April! We needed it just as much as the children did!

The first week of April we studied seeds and plants and the number 5. The children got to be scientists and grow their own bean plant from a seed and study it once a week for 3 weeks then record it in their "Bean Journal" to note what changes happened. They were so excited each week to see what changed! They got to decorate Easter egg papers to use on the church bulletin board as well as in the window of the Main Street Manning office. Plant part crafts were so much fun to make and were great learning tools. Cutting and matching skills were also a part of the week. Jesus Time was about the Lord's Supper and explaining that that is why parents go up front during church and receive bread and wine, because Jesus said to "do this in memory of me". Pastor spoke to the children about when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and how Jesus showed that he is stronger than death and that someday we will also be raised from the dead and brought to live on the new Earth with Jesus!

The second week we celebrated the Week of the Young Child by having the kids enjoy different fun days - Tuesday was bring your favorite stuffed animal (of reasonable size), Wednesday was Pajama day and Thursday was crazy mixed up day where they got to dress all mismatched and backwards. We all had a lot of fun! We sang nursery rhymes and read Fairy Tales and learned the number 6. The children also enjoyed seeing what happened when you mixed two colors together - you get a different color! We observed what happened to their bean seed after 7 days and recorded it in our Bean Journals. Alphabet matching was fun with a new pizza game that had them match the letter they had in their hand to the one on a paper pizza. Cutting, pasting and matching Easter eggs was another great activity. Jesus Time was about the Passion and how Jesus suffered and died on the cross even though he had done nothing wrong. He loves us so much that he took on our sins and paid the price for us so that we will someday live with Him forever! Pastor explained Holy Week and what each day is about.

The third week was all about Easter and the number 7. The children made a pretty painting where we blocked out a cross on a page with painter's tape and had them water color all around it. Once they were finished, we removed the tape and reveled the beautiful picture! We worked on a page with colors, shapes and graphing and finished up our bean experiment with day number 14 in our Bean Journal. Some of the beans really took off, and some didn't, but that is okay! Jelly beads were a fun addition to our water table along with plastic little fish. The best part of the week was the Easter Egg Hunt that we did in the youth room and the Easter basket and book that was given to each child. Thanks to our Thrivent Action Team, we were able to get supplies not only for Dad's night, but also our children's Easter baskets! Jesus Time was focusing on the resurrection of Jesus and why we celebrate it on Easter. When Jesus rose from the dead He proved once and for all that He is God and can overcome death and that we someday will also be raised from the dead to live with Him forever! Pastor spoke to the children about the Passion of Jesus and how he died for us even though he had done nothing wrong.



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

See pictures on pages 12-13

The last week in April was about transportation and the number 8. The children each brought in a picture of a form of transportation and we put it on a graph according to if it was used on land, water or in the air. We swapped out the fish in the jelly beads and put little plastic boats on top so the children could make the boats sail in the water table. Tracing, cutting and matching were some of the skills we practiced this week along with number recognition. We have some rollers that have different patterns on them that, when rolled in paint, look like bricks or tire treads or rows in a field. The children loved making cool paintings using the rollers. Since it was so beautiful outside, we decided to get out the parachute and play with it outside. This was obviously a big hit! Jesus Time was about Jesus speaking to the two men on the Emmaus road and how He taught them how the scriptures all pointed to Him, but they didn't realize it was Jesus until he broke the bread at supper. Once they realized it was Jesus, he disappeared! They ran 7 miles to excitedly tell the disciples that they had seen Jesus and he truly was alive! Pastor spoke about the resurrection of Jesus and how fearful everyone was at first when they saw that his body was gone, but how joyful they were once they knew he was alive!

Thank you for all of your support
and enjoy the beautiful weather!

Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz

Trinity sponsored an egg-dyeing station at the Manilla Manor's annual Easter egg hunt.

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

Ladies Guild of Zion
April 10, 2018

In the absence of Pastor Conner, Pastor Riggert led us in a Lenten devotion and prayer followed by JoAnn Thomas who read a piece that told us that our faith relies on God's mercy, compassion and grace. President Roe called the business meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. We recited the League Pledge. Roll call was answered by 15 members with a bit of family or neighborhood news. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting and they were approved as read. As the mite box was passed we offered the mite box prayer. Treasurer Mary Grimm announced a balance on hand of $448.77. Kitchen treasurer Darlene Vollstedt said the balance in that account is $4,634.93.

Circle # 2 is serving in April. Circle #3 in May. Human Care Chairman Audrey Roe asked if the quilts the sewing ladies have finished might be given to Orphan Grain Train. Joene Bohlmann moved that we donate them to Orphan Grain Train. The motion was seconded and carried.

There was no old business. New business: President Roe announced that LWML District President Jane Morris will be leading a leadership training at Zion on May 11th from 1 P.M. until 4:30 P.M. We will be serving coffee and bars or cookies. Area churches are invited as well.

Plaza Bingo with be on April 26th with Sue Puck taking JoAnn Thomas' place as chairman, and Sonia Nulle, Sandra Vahl, Susie Schilling, and Bev Grundmeier as helpers.

April 27th is the date of the Spring LWML Zone rally to be held at St. Paul in Carroll. Registration is at 8:30 A.M. The speaker will talk about prescription medication dependency.

The hostesses for May will be Nancy Opperman and Darlene Vollstedt. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Hostesses for the day were Bev Grundmeier and Mary Grimm.
Sue Puck, secretary

LWML Event at Zion, Manning!

Saturday, May 11
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Sharing from the national conference
Servant event
Refreshments

All LWML ladies invited!

Zion's seniors

Zion Seniors will be honored at a Graduates breakfast on Sunday, May 19 at 8:00 a.m., and also in the Divine Service

Jordynne Chanel Bauer
Baptism: December 23, 2000
Confirmation: April 26, 2015
Daughter of Trisha Rosener and Michael Bauer
Godparents: Tim Rosener and Tammy Otto

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4–7

Lily Jo Doyel
Baptism: July 16, 2000
Confirmation: April 26, 2015
Daughter of Ryan and Bobby Doyel
Godparents: Heath Doyel, Samantha Cohen, Stephanie and John Sonnichsen

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5–6

Haley Beth Kuchel
Baptism: September 29, 2001
Daughter of Mike Kuchel and Sonia Kuchel
Godparents: Natasha Schultes, Nathan Jensen, and Carla Winan

Stephen Todd Grimm
Baptism: October 7, 2000
Confirmation: April 26, 2015
Son of Kevin and Mary Grimm
Godparents: Rhonda Grimm and Dan Grimm

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10

Neeka Ann Jacobsen
Baptism: January 28, 2001
Confirmation Date: April 26, 2015
Daughter of Mike and Judy Jacobsen
Godparents: Sara Grage Kobus and Russell Knobbe

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1

Amelia Elise Grace Vetter
Baptism: November 11, 2000
Confirmation: April 26, 2015
Daughter of Brian and Diane Vetter
Godparents: Jason and Lori Ferry, Doug and Christi Comstock

Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. Psalm 37:5

43 ladies from Manning, Manilla, Jefferson, Dow City, Schleswig, and Denison joined together for Trinity Manilla's Priscilla Guild Guest Day. The Priscilla Guild is Trinity's Lutheran Women's Missionary League chapter. Every year they invite friends to eat, sing, and play games. This year Deaconess Tiffany spoke about her journey becoming a called deaconess. This year's Guest Day was extra special because we had the opportunity to celebrate Marian Drake's 90th birthday!

From weekend worship opportunities to youth camps, family camps, volunteer opportunities, and continuing education opportunities, Camp Okoboji has something available for you!

Check out what's happening at your camp!
www.campokoboji.org

Trinity will be offering Financial Peace University

When: Starting Sundays @ 10am, June 2nd

Where: Trinity, Manilla

How long: 9 weeks

How much: Trinity is subsidizing the cost for first 10 people/couples who sign up - $50 (ordinarily $130)

How do I sign up: Call Trinity or sign up in Trinity's EntryWay

Do I need to be a Trinity member to get the $50 rate? No, that rate is available to first 10 people/couples who sign up. Doesn't matter if you're a member of Trinity, Zion, or not a member at all.

MEMORIAL DAY LUNCH

Celebrate Memorial Day with Zion! Following the services at the cemeteries on **May 27**, 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!

Breaking Shame from Our Identity

All of us, at one time or another, have experienced shame. While dreadfully unpleasant, shame over personal sin and failure can lead us to reflection and self-evaluation that can motivate us toward appropriate life changes. Spiritually, shame can move us to confess our sin to the Lord, thereby receiving His refreshing and liberating grace in Christ.

Sometimes, however, shame seeps into our souls, sullying our self-perception. For some of us, shame was pounded into us by overbearing parents or browbeating teachers or coaches. Some of us have been through painful, even verbally abusive relationships, so that the refrain "You're not good enough" won't stop looping through our thoughts. If this parasitical untruth attaches itself to our identity, we can begin to conceptualize ourselves as shameful individuals. We may believe we are defective, even that we are unlovable. And this can trigger pain in deep down places that erupts in depression, anxiety, personality disorders, self-harm, even abusive behaviors toward others. If we believe we are valueless individuals, we may fall into self-sabotaging addictions (drugs, alcohol, gambling, eating, etc.) that only reinforce the parasitical untruth that has attached itself to our soul. Or, it may leave us with severe insecurities that we hide through shaming and blaming anyone and everyone we fear might expose our inadequacies, thereby alienating people, and compounding shame over our inability to develop healthy relationships.

Here's the good news: real help is available! A discerning pastor or a trained therapist can help you work through the lies looping through your mind and partner with you in prying the parasite of shame from your identity. By speaking truth into your soul, the lies can be evicted and truth can take up residence. And here's the truth: your identity is grounded in your creation and your redemption. You are God's beloved creature and you bear His image *and* you are redeemed! You are loved!

Peter writes, "you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Peter 1:18-19). Paul announces, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). And John declares, "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). This is what God has done for *you* and this is who God has made *you*.

Want to talk? You have pastors who care. And we know loving, Christian therapists who can help.

- Pastor Conner and Amy Hull

Amigos en Cristo

News from ***La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo:*** *Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church:* **Vacancy Pastor Daniel Vogel**, Denison, Iowa

May 2019

Lent, or in Spanish 'Cuaresma', comes from the word for 40. Lent is a very meaningful season for Hispanics who come from a Roman Catholic tradition. In many Hispanic countries Holy Week is a holiday and while many hold it sacred others use it to vacation. And many Hispanics today have a Protestant, Pentecostal background that strongly rejects the traditions of the Roman church. So it is an opportunity to teach the true meaning of the Lenten remembrance of our Lord Jesus and his journey to the Cross and Open Tomb in this season and especially during Holy Week. We have special weekly services during Lent and during Holy Week.

In Denison we have a special Easter service followed by an Easter hunt egg (yes the kids know about Easter eggs and the Easter Bunny too) in the school gym and an Easter dinner together. It is not only a wonderful spiritual season but also a special time of fellowship. Like all of us our Hispanic members are very busy and we have much to share together. This group of leaders at left in Storm Lake work in many different areas of the community. For example Lissette is a Storm Lake math and ESL teacher. Her mother Guadalupe works at the Tyson turkey plant. Danny drives his semi throughout the region. Humbert is a professional guitarist and his wife Francesca works at the Tyson pork plant. Emilia is a school liaison leader with the Hispanic community and is also a member of the Storm Lake school board. They and the other gifted members of our mission at Grace bring many blessings to our communities. May God bless us at Easter!

Please pray for: +Our Lenten and Holy Week services and celebrations. +Elbert, our first baby baptized in Denison and this month to be confirmed at Zion. +Our newly installed leaders at Amigos, Denison. +New visiting families, especially Sergio & Cali and Cristiana in Storm Lake and the families of Elvia and Crystal in Denison. +Betin in Storm Lake and the blessing of his music in worship. ***+In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of the Iowa District West who support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants in Denison & Storm Lake and also in our other 2 missions in Sioux City and Des Moines. +++***

Bible study is an important part of our ministries in both Storm Lake and Denison. At Amigos en Denison we have 3 weekly Bible classes. All our Bible classes at Amigos are bilingual as some English speakers with Mike Segebart attend. Mike teaches ESL, plays the piano and is our financial secretary, but he does not speak fluent Spanish. My wife Paula teaches Sunday school class at Grace, Storm Lake. She teaches the children in English as that is their main language. This year we are making a special emphasis of Bible use (buy and bring your own Bible) and Bible study in this year of our 20th anniversary. Many of our members have not grown up with Bible study and so we challenge them to participate, to understand the meaning of God's Word for their lives in order to learn to disciple others.

LCMS PASTOR'S DAY on the hill

Take a moment and consider the ribbon on the right. On the bottom left are the letters "LCMS," standing for The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (our Church body). The pin holding it together depicts two tiny feet, powerfully presenting the size of an unborn baby's feet at 10 weeks gestation. The ribbon (if you were to see it in color) is a bright yellow-green. Pastor Johnson, Pastor Vogel, I, and over 50 LCMS pastors from Iowa wore these ribbons into the Iowa Capitol building on April 9th as we caucused with our LCMS representatives in the House and Senate and then had the opportunity to meet our respective representatives in our districts. In Carroll County we are represented by Senator Mark Segebart (member of Trinity in Manilla) and Congressman Brian Best. We met with them to encourage them to support life from conception to natural death.

Among the life specific bills we addressed are the following:

- Physician Assisted Suicide
  Endorsed by the misleadingly named group "Compassionate Choices," this bill would allow physicians in Iowa to prescribe poison to terminally ill individuals desiring to end their lives. Fortunately, this bill is effectively dead for the moment. While acknowledging the depth and severity of suffering individuals may face, our Church has opposed assisted suicide, choosing rather to affirm the inherent value of every life from conception to natural death. The granting of life does not lie within our hands; its end doesn't either. Suffering individuals should receive excellent palliative care, but causing his or her death is not care.

  Further, nearly every country that has embraced physician assisted suicide has also embrace euthanasia. In assisted suicide a physician prescribes a poison pill for the individual to ingest; in euthanasia, someone administers the lethal does to the individual bringing about his death. And the slope only gets slipperier the further down you go as suicide medication is expanded beyond "terminal" patients to "chronically ill" to "distressed" to "disturbed." Some in states with assisted suicide laws have reported being refused expensive treatments from their insurance company in favor of cheaper suicide pills.

  In a related issue, the Iowa House recently passed a bill (it still needs to go before the Senate) to ensure parents cannot be forced against their will to remove life support from their minor child (to ensure no situation would arrive as in Britain where their laws allowed the British government to remove life support from Alfie Evans against his parents' will). This bill was adopted, but 36 representatives voted in against it! The need for vigilance never ceases.

LCMS
PASTOR'S DAY
on the hill

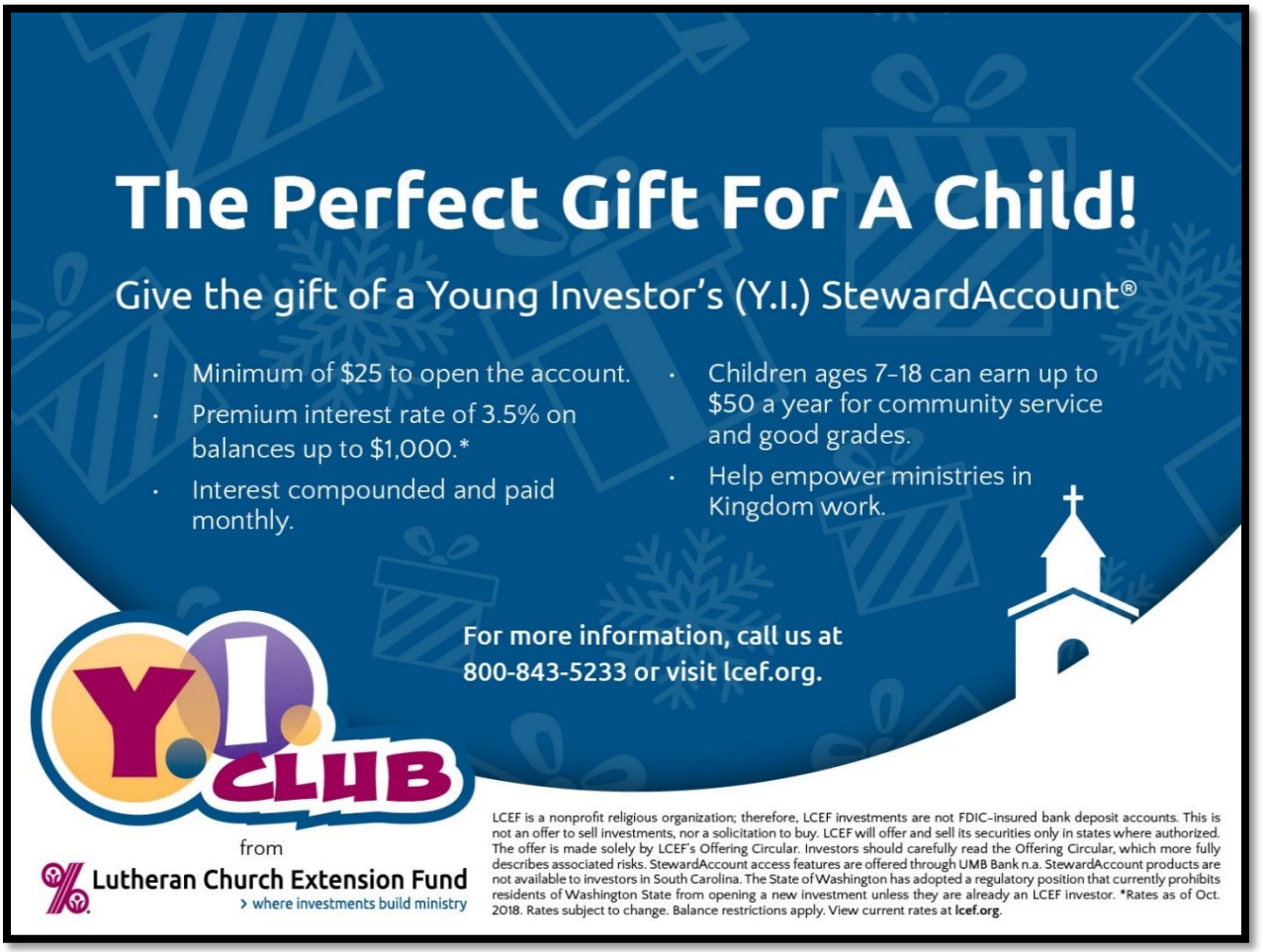
- Life Amendment to the State Constitution
  In 2018, Iowa passed a heartbeat bill that would have banned abortions once a baby's heartbeat was detected. This bill also included a 72 hour waiting period for women considering ending the lives of their babies in their wombs. The bill was challenged in court. Not only did the court declare this bill unconstitutional, but it asserted that the Iowa Constitution guarantees the "right to abortion." This is a completely unfounded claim and has essentially ensured that no pro-life legislation can be passed in Iowa. Life advocates, therefore, are working to add an amendment to Iowa's constitution that clearly states that the Iowa constitution does not establish a "right" to abortion.

Pastor Vogel, Pastor Miller (from Glidden and Coon Rapids), and I (Pastor Conner) requested a special visit with Representative Best, urging him to stay vigilant in the effort to protect life from conception until natural death. As our conversation concluded, I asked him if we could pray for him. He accepted my offer. So, standing in the House of Representatives chambers, I placed my hand on him, we bowed our heads, and I prayed for God to embolden him to be a voice for life.

Did you know you can do the same? You, too, can visit the Capitol building and request a visit with your representative. At the door of each chamber is a doorman. Greet him. Request a meeting with your representative and he will deliver your request. If your representative is available, he or she will come out to visit with you. Then you can be a voice for life.

Further, our District has been blessed with a resource in Lutheran Family Service (the organizer of this event) and Ms. Kimberly Laube who faithfully keeps abreast of happenings on the hill. You are free to contact her with questions.

klaube@lutheranfamilyservice.org
P: (515) 251-4900 | C: (515) 669-5187

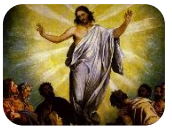


Why Be a Young Investors (Y. I.) Club Member?
He might be a newborn cooing in his crib; a fourth grader romping through the creek; or a ninth grader making plans to buy his first car. No matter their age, you know how important it is to teach children to share, spend and save money wisely. It's equally important to teach them to give thanks to God—and to use their blessings to help others learn about Jesus. And that's what LCEF's Young Investors Club is all about.

For ages newborn to 18 years. To learn more, visit lcef.org, call 800-843-5233 or contact your LCEF district vice president (find at **lcefcentral.org/contact**.)

Lutheran Church Extension Fund is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount® access features are (*offered) through UMB Bank n.a.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

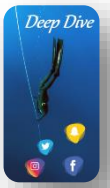


May 30

Ascension Service at Historic Trinity
Everyone welcome.
Historic Trinity in Manning @ 7:00 p.m.

May 5

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made
Mental Health conversation
3:00 p.m. at Zion



May 13

Deep Dive for youth and parents
Parallel workshops on social media safety
A must for parents and youth!
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Zion

May 19

Graduate Breakfast
8:00 a.m. at Zion

May 16

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 27

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

June 2

Financial Peace University @ Trinity
10:00 a.m. – runs for nine weeks

June 3-7

VBS
8:45-11:30 a.m. at Zion
Register: www.vbsmate.com/zionmanning

June 27

Historic Trinity worship
Everyone invited
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.
    Lillian Nolte
    Kari Ranniger
    Richard Saunders (T)
    Jarod Segebart (T)
14. Rodney Backhaus
    Irene Genzen
    Nathan Peters
    Todd Winter
15. Jan Henkelman
    Ella Langel
    JoAnn Thomas
16. Timothy Conner
    Nicholas Grimm
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
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

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

Special Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped at Trinity and Zion's Lenten meals. It's a lot of behind-the-scenes work that needs to be appreciated. A big thank you needs to go out to Bary and Karen Kienast for their work during the meals at Zion. They put in a lot time to make sure there's a top-notch meal on Wednesdays along with highlighting youth ministry.

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)
28. Ben & Mckensie Bess
    Isaac & Courtney Grabill
    Mark & Jessica Kucik

Official Acts

Adult Confirmation:
March 31, 2019 by Pastor Jonathan Conner: Sherry Myers, Cindy Leslie, Kimber Spaulding

Youth Confirmation:
April 28, 2019, by Pastor Jonathan Conner
Brody Dennis Chapman, Julianna Louise Stribe

In Our Prayers

Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Susan Lamb, Natalie Mason (Bruce and Mary Grimm's daughter), Gage Carlson (great grandson of Russ and Virginia Mohr), Carol Kahl, Maridee Bohlmann (David & Joene Bohlmann's daughter-in-law), Charlene Hickman, Joy Umland, Cheral Buhr, Russ Mohr, Otto Noelck (Joan Noelck's great grandson)