What drives you out of bed each morning? A New Resource

It's really easy to switch our lives to automatic pilot. We're no longer aware of why we're doing the things we're even doing. Why do we put oil in our cars? Why do we feed our kids? Why do we go to work? There are quick, obvious answers to those questions, but we need to go deeper. Take *why do we go to work* for example?

Why do we go to work? →
so we'll receive a paycheck
Why do you want a paycheck? →
so I can pay my bills
Why do you want to pay your bills? →
so I can have nice things or people will trust me
Why do you want nice things or people to trust you? → …?

There are different responses to that last question. But if we keep on drawing those questions out, I'd guess that we'd find that we're motivated by fear or pride. We *fear* that people will think little of us. We don't want to be a bum, so we prevent people from calling us that dirty little word by working (maybe even overworking). We're afraid of not having enough. We want to leave a lasting impression on people, so we work for the status not so much the dollar sign.

Question is - are you satisfied with what's motivating you to get out of bed every morning? Can you even identify what's getting you out from underneath the covers? The reality is every single human being is driven by something or someone. The driving force can be an emotion, a person, a hobby, or some sort of cocktail that includes all of these.

When we bank our existence on people, places, or things we settle for short-term rewards without thinking about the long-term. What I mean is how does your hobby equip you for the future when you're facing death? What's going to happen to you internally when that one person you've been pouring yourself into goes away - will you feel like you matter or will that go away once they go away?

The person, place, or thing driving us to get out of bed every morning has great power over us...but we're giving a person, place, or thing too much power over our lives. That's why I've come up with a resource called *What's getting you out of bed each morning?* This resource is designed to help you identify what you're trusting in to make you feel full and whole.

What is a resource like this designed to do?

- QUESTION the thing(s) driving you to exist
- RECONSIDER placing your trust in something or Someone new
- THINK long-term
- ENCOURAGE conversation among friends and family

What is a resource like this *not* designed to do?

- IDENTIFY the Someone who is capable of driving you out of bed for wholesome reasons

This resource does not identify GOD - Father, Son, Spirit - as the only One who can fully fill that void in your life which we're filling in with job, farm, hobbies, dependency, etc (even though I hope GOD is who you go to). The booklet is designed to help you think about how we're shorting ourselves. Farms take and take, but Jesus gave His life for you. Our friends' opinions of us demand sacrifices, but Jesus sacrificed Himself for you.

More than that, our families and hobbies are good and great, but they're incapable of helping us escape death. But Jesus - the only one in all of human history - resurrected back to life permanently, and the Christian claim is that when you're connected to Him in places like baptism you will be raised back to life one day too. Why are you settling for someone or something less than Jesus? Because they will fail you.

The pamphlet will be made available at Trinity and Zion in August. I'd encourage you to use it for yourself first and then if you have friends or family who might need encouragement thinking about the long-term then this might be a helpful resource...if you're willing to follow-up. This resource pulls from the Bible book of Ecclesiastes, but you need to fill in the blanks when it comes to identifying GOD as the true source of meaning and contentment. But before you try to help others see that, you need to be convinced yourself first.

What drives you out of bed each morning?
Available August 1 - Pastor Johnson

Hymn Festival & Organ Recital

Sunday, August 18 at 3:30 p.m.

Zion Lutheran Church, Manning (*712-655-2352*)

Free
Everyone invited
Refreshments following

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Organ students of Dr. J Gordon Christensen of St. Paul's Music Conservatory (Council Bluffs), including:

Jeremiah Bolin, Timothy Conner, Nathanael Conner, Catherine Conner, Thomas Koch, Timothy Pobanz, Augustine Termeus, Shelby Underwood, and Zachary Zieschang

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

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Where Music Serves

Did God make hell?

Last month we answered two questions asked by children at VBS: “Who made God?” and “How tall is God?” This month we answer another: “Did God make hell?” That’s a big question, isn’t it? Just asking it changes the mood in the room. Lutheran theologian, professor, author, and former president of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Francis Pieper captured the sobering nature of the question with these words, “the thought of a never-ending agony of rational beings, fully realizing their distressing plight, is so appalling that it exceeds comprehension” (Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics* Vol. III: 545).

Nonetheless, the question must be answered (for Scripture answers it). In all its jarring brevity the answer to the question “Did God make hell?” is *yes*. Jesus, speaking of the fate of unrighteous people, offers that hell was “prepared for the devil and his angels” (Mt. 25:41). Man, in his unbelieving wickedness, tragically, can be condemned to an eternity in hell.

But such an answer only raises more questions, questions about the nature of God and the nature of hell, questions such as: *How could a loving God sentence someone to eternal torment?* And *Is hell really eternal?*

These are important questions, questions we will address momentarily, but we must point out in advance that these questions cannot be answered by appealing to what we think God should be like or to what we think is fair or just. We do not stand in judgment of God and we do not define justice. These questions can only be answered from Scripture, from what God has revealed. Apart from divine revelation, questions regarding hell can no more be answered than a cave be explored without a light.

Before addressing these questions, however, we need first to define the variety of terms used in Scripture for hell and its related concepts.

Sheol

Sheol occurs over 60 times in the Old Testament and it typically refers to the undifferentiated realm of the dead. For Old Testament writers, both righteous and unrighteous go to Sheol. They don’t often distinguish between fates of the dead (i.e. heaven or hell). Synonyms in English might be *the hereafter* or *the afterlife*, terms that don’t specify whether a person is in heaven or hell. Consider a few examples of Sheol in the Old Testament:

- What man can live and never see death? Who can deliver his soul from the power of Sheol (Ps. 48)?
- I (Jacob) shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning (Gen. 37:35).
- As the cloud fades and vanishes, so he who goes down to Sheol does not come up (Job 7:9).

Even though the Old Testament doesn’t offer a sharp distinction between the fates of the dead, it does ascribe deep and abiding hope to the righteous in Sheol. The psalmist writes, “God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me” (Ps. 49:15). So while the Old Testament doesn’t typically conceptualize the afterlife in hard categories such as heaven or hell, it does highlight the joyful hope (ultimately revealed in Christ’s resurrection) the righteous in Sheol have (as opposed to the unrighteous).

Hades

Hades is the basic equivalent to *Sheol* in the New Testament. It, too, essentially refers to the realm of the dead, although when it specifies the unrighteous dead, it describes the torments endured in Hades. And when the dead described are righteous, Hades (the realm of the dead) may be understood as paradise (i.e., a place of refreshment, what we typically conceptualize as Heaven where the redeemed await the resurrection of the body and the renewal of the earth). Consider how the New Testament speaks:

- For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption (Acts 2:27, quoting Ps. 16).
- [David] (in Ps. 16) foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades… (Acts 2:31).
- The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment… (Lk. 16:23).
- And [Jesus] said to [the thief on the cross], "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise" (Lk. 23:43).

Gehenna

When the New Testament speaks of what awaits the unrighteous in Hades (or the unrighteous still living!) it often uses the word *Gehenna*. This word was originally associated with a deep valley just beyond Jerusalem in which children had been horridly sacrificed to the pagan god Moloch. Later it served as the city's garbage heap, refuse that was often burned with fire – truly an awful, wretched place! This is the term the New Testament uses to describe hell and the experience awaiting the wicked upon Christ's victorious return. Jesus speaks of it this way:

- Everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the hell of fire (Mt. 5:22).
- If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell (Mt. 5:30).
- Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell (Mt. 10:28).
- You (Pharisees) serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell? (Mt. 23:33).

Jesus describes hell as a place of "darkness" with "weeping and gnashing of teeth" (think grinding your teeth to their roots!) (Mt. 8:12), a "fiery furnace" (Mt. 13:50), an "eternal fire" (Mt. 25:41), and "eternal punishment" (Mt. 25:46). He further adds that the unrighteous will be raised specifically to be judged (John 5:29). He even offers that the torments of the wicked in hell will be weighted or degreed based upon the measure of wickedness perpetrated while on earth (Mt. 11:22).

Paul says hell is a place of "destruction" (Phil. 3:19). He adds that the wicked will "suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed…" (2 Thess. 1:9-10).

John adds to the horrific scene in his apocalypse as he describes the last judgment and condemnation into eternal torment:

> (At the judgment) [the wicked] will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and

whoever receives the mark of its name (the eternal sentence) (Rev. 14:10-11).

He adds to his description,

> The devil who had deceived [the nations] was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever…
>
> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10, 14-15).

This is the ghastly fate that awaits the unrighteous. It's real. It's horrible. And it's forever.

Is hell really forever?

Yes, it's forever. Look at what Jesus says about the Day of Judgment: And these (unrighteous) will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life (Mt. 25:46). Notice the parallel between punishment (hell) and life (heaven). Both are eternal. There's simply no way to interpret hell as having a time limit without doing the same thing with heaven. Hell is eternal. There is no moral improvement in hell. There are no second chances. Hell is permanent. Hell is eternal.

Could a loving God really send someone to hell?

Yes. To expose the problem with the question we need only ask, *Could a righteous and holy God allow evil to exist in His presence?* We are too quick to downplay the severity of our sin and the holy and righteous nature of God. A sin against a mortal being would bear a temporal consequence. A sin against an eternal being, however, would merit an eternal consequence. Eternal hell is this consequence. And no one can claim innocence. Scripture is emphatic:

> None is righteous, no, not one;
> no one understands;
> no one seeks for God (Rom. 3:10).

Scripture adds, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God…" (Rom. 3:23).

But because our God is loving, He deals with our sin! The question isn't whether a loving God could send someone to eternal hell. The question is whether a loving God has done anything to prevent such a fate. And the answer is yes!

Scripture echoes with the news that sinners "are justified by [God's] grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith" (Rom 3:23-25). In the death of Christ God has dealt righteously with sin and lovingly with us. Justice for our sin has been done! We have been reconciled to God!

And it's not just that God has saved us *from* hell; God has saved us *for* life, *for* the kingdom, *for* eternal fellowship with Him and the righteous redeemed! We have an incredible future laid up for us in Christ!

But this is the very thing the wicked will not have! So God the righteous judge will sentence them accordingly. Hell is real. It is fierce. It is fearsome. And it's avoidable. So Scripture repeatedly and emphatically calls us to repent. No one knows when he will breathe his last. Now is the time for grace. Now is the time for salvation. It's full, free, and fantastic. But the time is now. – Pastor Conner

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Sessions begin Wednesday, September 11 at 6:15 p.m.
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participant's kit online:
www.daveramsey.com/fpu

Dear Zion Family,

In 2016 we completed a remarkable capital campaign that updated, enhanced, and beautified our building. I have received MANY compliments from guests who have been thoroughly impressed by our accomplishments. Every time I receive these compliments, I pass them on to you, explaining how you gave sacrificially of your time and resources to make it happen. How privileged we are to worship, fellowship, and grow at Zion! There really is so much to celebrate!

It's now time to take the next step to protect our updates. In June we met as a congregation and voted to replace our leaking and deteriorating roof. It's obviously a big project, but you have shown that you are not daunted by big projects. I have full confidence that you will continue Zion's long tradition of joyful, sacrificial giving to bring the project to completion. Below is a letter from our head trustee, Dan Behrens, that shares some of the details about the project. If you have questions, Dan can happily answer them for you. And, if you speak to Dan, be sure to thank him and his fellow trustees for the hours and hours of research and behind-the-scenes work that they have done to make the project happen.

Celebrating and sharing Christ's redeeming love with you!
Pastor Conner

As you are aware, we are moving forward with the reroof project. It is a major project for our Church. We are looking at the first or second week in August to start. The deck part of roof will require a little more work than we were hoping for. After this is complete we hope our leak issues are gone.

For those who are reading this for first time, T/C Roofing out of Harlan is doing the project. It will be a Decra Shake HD metal roof with a 50 year limited warranty, with a 5 year installer's warranty. This product is a class 4 roof to withstand 120 MPH winds and hail penetration protection. It also is freeze and thaw resistant and all fasteners are hidden. The valley part of roof will be rubber coated and finished with the Decra. This will not include the steeple and new east entrance. Once started, they hope, weather permitting, to have a two to three week turn around. If you have any questions, you may contact me.

Thanks for all the support!
Head Trustee Dan Behrens

Lutheran Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

Lutheran Family Service is a place of hope. We live in a time which the church – those who love God and love people – has an incredible opportunity to share its hope and passion for healthy living with those who are struggling to make life work. Through LFS, the church is actively engaged with people who need a word of hope and a little help along the way.

Every day, the man and women of Lutheran Family Service bring the good news of the Savior and His love to the world, one hurting or needful person at a time. We are here to help. We want to show you that nothing is impossible with God. Learn more at www.lutheranfamilyservice.com or call 515-573-3138.

thank you

Manning

an abiliT Senior Living Community

Thank you, Manning Senior Living, for providing the breakfast pizza for our July 28 fellowship time.

Have you heard about Manning Senior Living's Live 2B Healthy program? This social-based activity aims to bring seniors of all ages and abilities together to improve balance, stamina, flexibility, and more… including mental status! Live 2B Healthy personal trainers specialize in leading these upbeat and evidence-based classes.

Ever needed physical therapy or rehab after an illness or injury or anticipate needing it? Live 2B Healthy can help continue your road to recovery even after those services have ended. Classes meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9:00 a.m. and are FREE to the public. For more information, call 655-4893 and ask about the Live 2B Healthy program.

Manning Senior Living welcomes ministry efforts from Zion. If you'd like to organize a service event or ministry initiative, they welcome you! Contact their activity coordinator (Marcia Hacker) at 655-4893. If you'd like tour of the facility, contact the manager (Payton Schultes) at the same number.

Thank you, Manning Senior Living! We celebrate our community partners!

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MANNING, IOWA

Celebrating and Sharing Christ's Redeeming Love

Live 2B HEALTHY SENIOR FITNESS

Ladies Guild of Zion
July 10, 2018

Pastor Conner played a video found on www.thebibleproject.com/explore that gave an overview of the book of Colossians. He then read the verses we heard in worship on July 14. Helpful and concise overviews of all books of the Bible may be found on the above website. Christian Life Chairman, Margaret Backhaus, read "True Freedom". Our fundamental freedom is our freedom to glorify Christ.

President Roe called the business meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. The LWML Pledge was recited. Roll call was answered by 13 members with vacations enjoyed this summer or future vacation plans. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved. A note was read from the family of Ray Christensen thanking the guild for service rendered at his funeral. There was no treasurer's report. Darlene Vollstedt , kitchen treasurer, reported a balance of $4,166.85. Circle #2 will serve for the Jonathan Asmus funeral. Circle #3 will serve the Gary Dammann funeral. Circle #1 will be next to serve.

Old business: It was moved and seconded to give back to the Kinderfest committee the same amount as was given in 2018. The motion carried. President Roe noted that now would be a good time to purchase supplies for an ingathering at our Fall Rally. Needed are washable markers, 12-inch rulers, glue sticks, back packs, colored bath towels, wash cloths, sturdy combs, tooth brushes, and band aids. It was suggested that this would be a great Thrivent team cause.

New business: August 14th is the date of our next meeting and it is guest day. Pricilla Guild from Manilla will be invited as well as ladies of our congregation. Sam Lee has agreed to be our speaker for the day. Advent by Candlelight is scheduled for the second Sunday evening (the 8th) of December. The Praise Band has agreed to lead the worship time. The 2020 LWML Convention at Camp Okoboji has been rescheduled. It will be June 18th-20th at the camp's request.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer. Joene Bohlmann and Audrey Roe served refreshments. Guest Day hostesses for the August meeting will be Cynthia Genzen, Margaret Kuchel, and Connie Ahrendsen.

Sue Puck, secretary

Zion Ladies Guild, Guest Luncheon

Zion Ladies' Guild invite you to join us on August 14 at 12 noon for a salad luncheon and to hear Sam Lee as our guest speaker.

Sam was our LWML speaker for our April Spring Rally which was held at Carroll, Iowa. Those who heard her tell her story, her story of her eye lid disorder and then becoming addicted to prescription drugs and her recovery were deeply moved and inspired of her witness of faith. Her talk is entitled "Saved by Grace." Sam was born in Estherville and raised in Schleswig, IA. She married her high school sweetheart Dewey and enjoyed the life of farming while raising 3 handsome sons. Sam worked as a charge nurse at Willow Dale Nursing Home as well as Denison Care Center and Eventide for many years. She loved to care for the elderly but had to retire because of her eyelid disorder. For many years, she was the Iowa State Coordinator for Blepharospasm Foundation. She is very active in the LWML and enjoys traveling. Loves to be with her grandchildren—7 grandsons and 1 granddaughter. Her love of her life Dewey went home to Jesus is 2013, Loving Jesus and serving Him is her mission in life.

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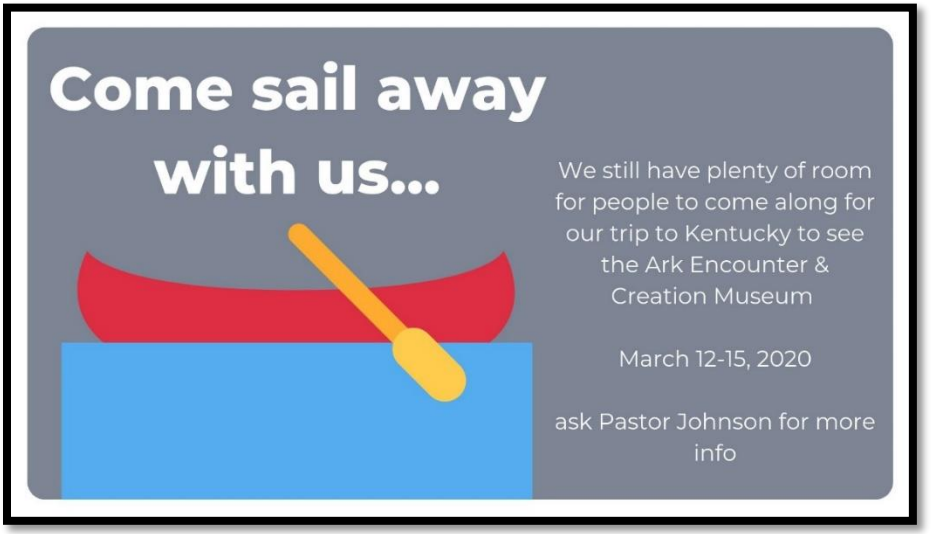
- HSAs offer investors the opportunity to use their funds to pay for qualifying medical expenses. Contributions are tax-deductible, earnings grow tax-free and withdrawals are tax-free for qualified medical, dental and vision expenses.



Everyone Matters

Zion Cares

How many people can say that they do not know anyone that may have a mental health concern? If you say “no one” then you are in the minority.

The world’s population is aging rapidly. It is estimated that about 20% of people that are age 60 or older have a mental health disorder. However, mental health problems are under-identified by health professionals. The most common among these mental health disorders are depression and anxiety. The stigma surrounding mental health makes people reluctant to seek help.

The older population may experience life stressors common to all people as well as stressors that are unique to the aging population. Some of these stressors include reduced mobility, chronic pain, frailty or other health problems for which they require some form of long term care. The older person is also likely to experience events such as bereavement or a drop in socioeconomic status with retirement. All of these stressors may result in isolation and loneliness. Following retirement, the person that was used to going to work every day and being around people is no longer getting out and socializing. Following the loss of their spouse, the person that used to go places and doing things with their spouse no longer goes out. These life changing events contribute to the increase in isolation and subsequent depression.

Depression can lead to impaired functioning in daily life. It can often co-occur with health problems encountered by older adults such as lung disease, hypertension, and diabetes. Depression may also increase the perception of poor health. The person may go to their primary care provider more often for physical symptoms when the concern really may be a mental health concern. Prompt recognition of symptoms will assist the provider to direct the person to the services that will benefit the person the most. If the physical symptoms are managed and the person continues to have concerns, the provider should consider a referral to a mental health professional.

Good general health and social care is important for promoting older people’s health in preventing disease and recognizing mental health symptoms. Family and loved ones have an important role to play in encouraging a senior who may be experiencing symptoms of mental illness to receive an appropriate evaluation. The worst thing to do is to do nothing. Everyone matters.

– Janet Brus, Psychiatric Medical Care, Manning Regional Healthcare Center, Program Director

Source: World Health Organization

Senior Life Solutions®

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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PROCLAIMING PEACE IN CHRIST’S CROSS

The Olivers: Stephen, Ginny, Gary, Maggie, Isaac

What a tremendous blessing it was to be with you on July 28! Your attentive spirit to my preaching about how Jesus' mission among us is motivated by His compassion, your warm and loving interaction with me and my family, your encouragement, your attendance at the Bible class in which I shared photos and a video of our work, your insightful questions, your continued prayers and support are all crucial things that lift us up and propel us forward in spreading God's Word to Chinese and many others throughout Asia!! We are so very thankful to you. Zion, Manning is truly a church that follows Jesus' Great Commission in bringing people of all nations to eternal salvation in His name! We were all blessed by your visit, so much so that my son Gary asked me as we drove away, "Daddy, can we come back to this church next time we come to America?" Thank you so much!

In His Joy and Peace,
Missionary Stephen Oliver, Maggie, Isaac, Gary and Ginny

REAL. PRESENT. GOD. 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering

1) How did this gathering impact your faith in Jesus?

This gathering left a lasting impact on my relationship with Jesus because I became more aware of His love, grace, and joy in my life. Through listening to many of the speakers, I realized that no matter what society tells me who I am in life, Jesus will always welcome me home in loving arms. It was an incredible experience to be able to worship with thousands of other young believers and see how God is alive and working in all of us across the world. He really is a real, present God that is an ever present help in trouble.

Even when we hit a rough patch on our life, God is still there. Even though we feel like He's not, He's watching over us, guiding us every way we go. Even if we may lose faith sometimes he never abandons us. And He's there to get us back on the right path.

2) What is one memory that you will treasure?

One of my favorite memories was a skit they performed at a mass event one night. They had a person be Jesus and he came out of the "grave" and rose up again. He hugged a little boy and made all of the weepers and sinners take off their black garments of shame and wear white. Then, he lifted up his hands and all of the lights came on in the arena, so we were no longer in darkness. It was a powerful moment because I realized I had already been saved by God's amazing grace!

I will treasure meeting a bunch of new people and learning everyone else's thoughts on who God is and what they think He is doing for all of us. The mass events and hearing all the speakers and how they found their faith in God and how they hit a hard patch in life and they were struggling but they still found a way out by their faith in God to help them.

3) Are there any words of thanks that you'd like to offer to the church for supporting you?

I would like to thank all of the members of Trinity and Zion for supporting the youth over the years by donating money to our meals, always talking to and encouraging us, and for consistently praying for us and our futures. It means a lot to me to know that I can always return to a loving church family that supports me and my faith journey with Jesus!

Thanks for always supporting the kids that go to the youth gatherings. Thank you for all the prayers and everything you do to keep these trips going. And especially to Bary for always bringing the kids and making the youth gathering more fun than it already is.

NYG impacted my faith in Jesus by bringing me closer to him and teaching me new ways to worship him through everyday things I do.

I would like to thank the congregation of Zion for their support and prayers and for Zion giving us the opportunity to go to the National Youth Gathering!!

Thanks for the support, we wouldn't have been able to go without support from our leaders and the congregation.

It helped me understand how God is always with us even when it doesn't seem like it, and how much we can change others' lives by turning them to God.

I will always remember one of the skits where a girl was getting painted and every time she got painted it was because of words that were harmful to her and brought her down. At the end of the skit Jesus came out with a white robe and covered her with it so she was always loved and always knew she was loved. The skit taught us that it doesn't matter what mistakes we make God will always love us.

A memory that will always stick in my mind was the pure awesomeness of 25,000 Christians gathered together to celebrate our God. It gives you chills when you are one of thousands of people singing songs together to praise the Lord. I really enjoyed listening to TobyMac the first night of the mass event. He got the crowd going and on their feet and you could feel the electricity in the building. It was something I will remember for a long time.

The skits gave me strong visual understandings of God's Word and the concert we went to was amazing.

I am thankful that Zion gave us the opportunity to go to the gathering and experience a once in a lifetime event. The money that we got from Zion really helped us for getting meals and a nice hotel. The gathering experience wouldn't have been the same without Zion's support.

This gathering really helped me in growing in my faith. We had Bible study with adult leaders each morning who were great at teaching the word to people my age. They always kept you awake and into what they had to say. The theme was "Real. Present. God." and we took time and went over one word each day. They helped me be reassured that God is always present and with you even in the darkest times and places.

The gathering encouraged my walk in faith in many ways. One was seeing 20,000 people from all across the country worshiping and praising the same God that I do, it helped me understand that I am not alone in what I believe. The theme of Real.Present.God. also impacted me. I learned that God is real and is present in our lives. In addition, we have to be real and present in what we do. We are present by not hiding anything and being real in our conversations with others. When we look ahead in our lives and don't concentrate on where we are now, we are not being present. Being present includes focusing on what is in front of us now and looking for opportunities to help others.

My favorite memories from the National Youth Gathering were the mass events that took place every night. Everyone that was at the NYG attended the mass events. Mass events included a praise band that played worship songs every night, skits that were based off of the theme for the gathering, and speakers that spoke on a variety of topics.

I would like to thank the members of Zion for giving us the opportunity to go to the National Youth Gathering. Without your support, going to the gathering may not be possible. Thank for caring about the youth of Zion.

Amigos en Cristo

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

August 2019

In June and July we have been busy with Garage Sales to raise funds for our annual Hispanic Family Retreat in August and also for scholarships for our Hispanic children to attend Zion Lutheran School. And it's a great way to meet our diverse community in Denison. Summer is also vacation time. When our Hispanic families from Mexico return to see their families they stay for weeks and even months. We thank the Lord for this special time to walk together in Jesus!

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God is indeed great as we start new adult Confirmation classes with Ruby, Merlin and Alma. I have been working with these three friends of Amigos for many years, always encouraging them to join. But they were not ready to make that commitment. Last month that suddenly changed. Ruby has been a regular visitor to our Bible classes and retreats. After a recent Bible class she announced her decision to join. Merlin is married to Azucena, she grew up in our church and Zion School. Alma has visited our church for many years as she has family members who are members. She now lives and works in Council Bluffs and attends St. Mark's Lutheran in Omaha but comes home on weekends and enjoys our service in Spanish. Please pray for these special young adults, especially that they will become an important part of our ministry. While these three surprised me with their desire to join the church, God is never surprised!

In July we had our voters' meeting. As we plan for the future, we are unsure who will be our pastoral leader. Our Hispanic meetings are not "normal" as in Hispanic culture the folks like to talk and not particularly follow a set outline. So, our meeting lasted over two hours as we planned for future growth, calling a permanent pastor and celebrating our 20th anniversary this year.

The highlight of the meeting took place afterwards when two guests in attendance (Merlin and Alma) came to me and asked how they could become members!

Our ministry is a joint outreach through our Hispanic churches in Denison and Storm Lake. We are grateful for congregations and individuals who sacrificially support our ministry either with special donations or by Thrivent Choice dollars. If you have any questions on how you can support our Hispanic ministry, especially with Choice dollars, contact your local Thrivent Financial representative or call Thrivent: 800-847-4836. We thank all who have shared their love with us in the past months.

Please pray for: +Our upcoming bilingual Hispanic Family Retreat at Camp Okoboji, Aug. 9-11. All are invited. +Our new adults studying for Confirmation in Denison: Ruby, Merlin and Alma. +The Calling process of a bilingual pastor to serve Hispanics in Storm Lake and in Denison. +The Vogel family as last month we lost brother Ted. + Our members and friends traveling during the summer months. +Our Storm Lake ministry, for growth and stability. +Thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants in Denison & Storm Lake and also in our other two missions in Sioux City and Des Moines.

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

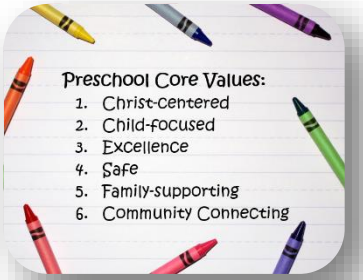
Although classes haven't started yet, we are gearing up for a great year! We currently have 16 children enrolled in the morning class and 8 in the afternoon class. Janice Nemitz will be here all day this year and Marlene Borkowski will again be volunteering in the mornings. What a blessing!

Parent Orientation is August 14th from 6:30-7:30 pm, or shorter if I talk quickly, and home visits will be 20-21st with open house on the 22nd from 6:30-7:30 pm. The first day of preschool is set for the 27th.

Kari Ranniger has volunteered to make the Preschool Donation Tree again this year, so keep an eye out in the fellowship area for the little Christmas tree with donation options for the preschool. Our needs include $5 scholastic subscriptions, 5 oz Dixie cups, Bounty Select-a-size paper towels, and Clorox Anywhere spray to name a few. Thank you in advance for your kind donations; every little bit helps!

Please keep us in your prayers as we prepare the classroom, plans and paperwork for the new school year so that we can help these little ones gain knowledge, not only in the basics, but also of Jesus! Please also pray for the parents, in thanksgiving for their bringing their children to us, but also that they may see the benefits of their children's schooling and see Jesus at work in our school and their children's lives.

Working to the Glory of God,
Bridget Gore and Janice Nemitz



ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Ladies Guild are gathering items for Orphan Grain Train projects. Consider giving items for school and hygiene kits. The information for items needed are posted and receptacles are located near the East entrance. The items will be delivered in September, however the school items are on sale at this time, No need to fill an entire kit, any will be appreciated. Thank you.

PANAMÁ NEWS

July 2019

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

Mission News: At the May Foro meeting in Panamá, the church decided to change the focus of work for the missionaries serving in Panamá. My responsibilities with the seminary in the Dominican Republic have grown over the last year. In addition to teaching courses each semester, editing curriculum for the online program, and writing courses for the deaconess program, I have been named the Pre-Seminary Program coordinator which entails not only developing the program and writing courses, but also working in cooperation with sister Lutheran church bodies throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to get pre-seminary programs running.

My work will continue in Panamá but in a more specific manner. In addition to teaching 2 courses a year for the deaconesses, I will be dedicating 20 hours a week to working at the congregation of El Redentor in Balboa. The idea behind putting the extra pastoral work and presence in Balboa is to help revitalize or essentially "replant" the church, which has struggled under the weight of a building facility that desperately needs attention in the midst of a community that has changed radically in the last ten years. In the past month I have worked with church leadership to write a strategic plan for evangelism and the strengthening of the congregation. I have also begun conversations and plans to work with new members by offering weekly Bible studies in their neighborhoods for the strengthening of their faith, but also as an opportunity to invite their friends and families to come and know Jesus. There is much work to be done so please keep this project in your prayers. In Christ, Brian, Amanda, Ezra & Aviva

Ezra's Corner

This summer I am doing "Camp Daddy." Every Monday me and daddy go on adventures. The first one we went hiking in Soberanía a national park of rainforests near the city. I saw a snake! This past Monday we took my big trucks to the park to play in the sand. I can't wait to see what we do this Monday!

Please Pray:

- The revitalization efforts in the congregation El Redentor in Balboa.
- Permit issues for the roof project in Balboa.
- Arnelis, Rufina, Claribet, Yodalis, and Jazmín, my deaconess students in Loma Cova.
- Ezra who has just begun school.

Give Thanks for:

- We were able to get all of Aviva's Panamanian papers and passport as well as US papers and passport this past month.
- A good visit with Amanda'a family this past month.

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UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

VBS + S	August 7-9	VBS + S at Trinity (Register on Trinity's Facebook page) (5:30 p.m.)
Ladies Guild	August 14	Zion Ladies Guild Potluck and Guest Speaker (Noon)
	August 14	Board of Education & Sunday School Teacher Mtg. (6:30 p.m.)
	August 18	Hymn Sing and Organ Recital (3:30 p.m.) Everyone invited. Refreshments to follow
Priscilla Guild	August 20	Priscilla Guild Potluck (12:30 p.m.)
	August 21	All Leaders' Meeting at Zion (6:30 p.m.)
	August 22	Zion Preschool Open House (6:30 – 7:30 p.m.)
	August 22	Historic Trinity worship (7:00 p.m.) Everyone invited
	August 25	Youth Group begins
	August 27	First Day of Zion Preschool
Orientation Confirmation	August 28	Confirmation Orientation (7:00 p.m. at Zion) 5th – 8th grade families
Confirmation	September 4	Confirmation Classes begin after school
RALLY DAY	September 8	Rally Day (Sunday School begins / Teachers installed)
FINANCIAL Peace UNIVERSITY	September 11	Financial Peace University @ Zion! (6:15 – 8:00 p.m.)
	October 13	Preschool Pancake Breakfast (worship @ 8; pancakes @ 9)
	October 14	Sukkot Celebration Potluck at Trinity (5:30 p.m.)
	December 8	Advent by Candlelight (Save the date!) *Please note:* This is the SECOND Sunday in December!

August Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

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

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

Anniversaries

1. Scott & Lisa Dreier
2. Dewayne & Cheral Buhr
3. Nathan & Chelsey Jensen
4. Rob & Mary Lynn Lueth (T)
5. Don & Susan Lamb
6. Pastor Daniel & Paula Vogel
9. Duane & Melodie Boell (T)
10. Daniel & Taya Vonnahme
12. Bob & Irene Genzen
13. Alan & Jennifer Morris
15. John &Deb Blom (T)
18. Robert & Brenda Ehlers
20. Mark & Cathie Segebart (T)
23. Gary & Bonnie Witt
24. Curtis & Rachel Hofbauer
    Jerry & Mildred Brus (T)
25. Dwight & Jeanne Gruhn
    Tim & Joni Kienast
30. JoAnn and Earl Thomas
31. Daniel & Wendy Stribe

Official Acts

Funerals:

Jonathan Amos Asmus; Died June 26, 2019; Funeral July 14, 2019 (Historic Trinity); Pastor Jonathan Conner

Gary Howard Dammann; Died July 8, 2019; Funeral July 15, 2019; Pastor Robert Riggert

Baptism:

Ember Darlene Jensen, daughter of Nate and Chelsey Jensen; July 13, 2019; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Braelynn Marie; daughter of Natalie Bauer and Rylan Hass; July 20, 2019; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Elijah Jayce and Kaia Marie; Children of Rodney and Kristin Backhaus; July 21, 2019; Pastor Jonathan Conner

In Our Prayers

Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, 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, Russ Mohr, David Bohlmann, Bob Behrens (Dan's father), Randy Saunders (Rita's son), Joyce Schroeder, Braelynn Bauer, Lynn Kruse, Joann Karsten, Franklin Mohr