Did God make dinosaurs?

Continuing our series of VBS questions, we come to a question that universally seems to fascinate children and adults: *Did God make dinosaurs?* The short answer: Yes.

The more fascinating and controversial question is: *When did God make the dinosaurs?* In fact, that's really the question buried beneath the original question. Think about it. Why does no one ask: *Did God make kittens?* What is it about dinosaurs that forces us to ask whether God made them? We've been told since we could sit and listen to a children's book that dinos died off millions of years before man appeared on the scene. And, if you're told something often enough, you believe it's true. So, when we hear the creation account in Genesis, the dino question emerges. If dinosaurs died millions of years before man arrived, how are we to understand the Genesis narrative?

That question, as you surely know, is a lightning rod in a decades-old thunderstorm. Emotions tend to run hot when this question is addressed. So, before we address the matter, we must first encourage charity. Martin Luther, in The Small Catechism, offered this explanation to the 8th Commandment (You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor):

> We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Our question, which will involve when and how God created, is an in-house debate among Christians. When we encounter fellow believers who disagree, we must remember that we are conversing with fellow believers. Demonizing Christians who differ accomplishes nothing good and certainly does not explain everything in the kindest way. Our differences may be pronounced. Our arguments may be strong. But charity must lead.

It's no secret that many within Christendom endorse some form of Darwinian evolution or progressive creation as a legitimate account of origins. Multiple popes have spoken favorably of Darwinian evolution, beginning with Pope Pious XII in 1950 and continuing through Pope Francis today. Thousands of priests and protestant clergy in America (including church bodies) have signed The Clergy Letter Project, which is basically an agreement to degrade the Genesis creation specifics, including Adam and Eve, and Noah and the flood, to "timeless truths" meant only to convey moral instruction and inspiration, but not history in any real sense. And, yes, some pastors in our church body (The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod) have signed it.

Should this concern us? In all kindness, yes. Are we saying these individuals can't be Christian? No. But let us consider what Scripture says. Throughout the Gospels Jesus speaks of the creation account and ongoing narrative in Genesis as history. Those who claim He was merely referring to the accepted cultural myths recorded in the Old Testament are making spurious claims. Consider the evidence.

- Jesus asked the Pharisees, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female…?" (Mt. 19:4).

- Jesus referred to the days of Noah: "as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away…" (Mt. 24:38-39)
- Jesus spoke of Moses and the manna from heaven: **"**Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness…" (John 6:49).
- Jesus referenced Lot and his wife: "on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed them all…" and "Remember Lot's wife" (Lk. 17:29, 32).
- Jesus accepted Jonah and the big fish: **"**Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish…" (Mt. 12:40).

All of these accounts emerge from the same historical narrative. Waving the allegorical wand over them to empty them of their history is dangerous. Who decides where the allegory ends and the history begins?

And then we come to this text in Exodus 20 as God is giving The Ten Commandments to Moses (words inscribed in stone by the finger of God, no less!): "In six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day" (20:11). The text lacks ambiguity – six days of creation, one day of rest; thus the seven day week we still have today.

What does Scripture Say?

So what do we do with dinosaurs? The same thing we do with every other animal: we ask what Scripture says. Scripture says God created all the air and water dwelling creatures on Day 5 and all the land dwelling creatures on Day 6. If this is historical (and Scripture sure seems to treat it as such), then dinosaurs would have been created on these days.

Further, we have suggestive references in Scripture to dinosaur-like creatures.

> Behold, Behemoth,
> which I made as I made
> you;
> he eats grass like an ox.
> Behold, his strength in his loins,
> and his power in the muscles of his belly.
> He makes his tail stiff like a cedar;
> the sinews of his thighs are knit together.
> His bones are tubes of bronze,
> his limbs like bars of iron (Job 40:15-18).

In the next chapter, God describe a large sea-creature named *Leviathan*. Could these have been dinosaurs? Possibly. Perhaps even probably.

But Scientists Say!

But scientists say dinosaurs died millions of years ago. True. *Some* scientists say this. Are scientists infallible? Scientists (highly respected ones) have also said that life was planted on earth by aliens from some yet-to-be-discovered distant civilization (panspermia), that evolution happened so fast that it wasn't preserved in the fossil record (punctuated equilibrium – as in a bird being born from a reptile egg!), and that our universe is only one of a nearly infinite number of universes (despite having zero evidence of other universes!). Scientists can be wrong.

Further, scientists, just like the rest of us, can be driven by ideology. Respected scientist Richard Lewontin famously remarked

> We are forced by our *a priori* (prior) adherence to material causes to create an apparatus of investigation and a set of concepts that produce material explanations, no matter how counter-intuitive, no matter how mystifying to the

uninitiated. Moreover, that materialism is an absolute, for we cannot allow a Divine Foot in the door.

In other words, a prior commitment to a Godless explanation for everything forces them to look for explanations that may appear mystifying and absurd, even making them blind to evidence that would counter their positions and point to God.

Evidence to Consider

Consider a few pieces of evidence. Keep in mind, though, we don't offer this evidence to prove God's Word; we offer it as potentially corroborating evidence or as evidence that aligns with what God's Word says. But we must remember that evidence is always subject to reinterpretation.

Numerous science journals have reported startling discoveries over the past few decades of un-fossilized collagen, hemoglobin, proteins, blood vessels, and bone cells in dinosaur remains. Process this. It defies credulity to maintain that these un-decayed and un-fossilized remains have endured intact for millions of years. Perhaps, then, dinosaurs are not as old as some scientists suggest. Perhaps the evolutionary ideology has driven the dating of dinosaurs.

Spread across the globe and throughout various ancient cultures we see drawings, pottery, and art that appear to depict dinosaurs. There are suggestive cave drawings resembling dinosaurs in Utah, Arizona, and Colorado. American Indians preserve tales of interactions with fierce flying creatures they called thunderbirds. A monastery in China built in 1200 AD clearly depicts a stegosaurus. Aborigines in Australia etched scenes of hunters spearing a marine reptile that looks like a plesiosaur. Thousands of ceramic figures from Mexico dating back to BC times portray dino-like creatures. In Peru several burial stones have been discovered that depict men interacting with great beasts that resemble dinosaurs.

All of these are hotly contested with alternative interpretations offered. The geographical scope and extent of the finds, however, are at least suggestive. No one piece proves dinosaurs and man coexisted, but the preponderance of evidence is consistent with Scripture's account of dinosaurs being created during creation week.

What about…?

Space will prevent us from examining all the questions that have no doubt popped up in your mind. Questions like: *Why did the dinosaurs go extinct?* (Our answer would involve a close look at the normal process of extinction suffered by numerous species throughout history as well as the conditions of the post-flood world that proved hostile to dinosaurs.) *Did dinosaurs evolve into birds?* (Our answer would involve a careful look at the reptilian and avian lung, the cold bloodedness of reptiles and warm bloodedness of birds, and the proposed evolutionary pathways to achieve the incredible transition – i.e. natural selection and genetic mutation, which have been shown to reduce genetic information, not create it.)

Were there dinosaurs on the ark? (Our answer would involve a careful look at created kinds along with the relative youth, and therefore smaller size, of the dinosaurs taken on board.) *What did dinosaurs eat before the fall?* (Our answer would consider the effect of the fall on creation.)

For now, though, we will simply return to where we began: In the beginning God created the dinosaurs.

Dump debt, make a financial plan, become money wise.

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Sessions begin Wednesday, September 11 at 6:15 p.m.
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www.daveramsey.com/fpu

Trinity hosted VBS at the Manilla Manor. We had two goals: 1) share Jesus; 2) serve others as if they were Jesus Himself. In order to meet these goals, we made VBS add an S (i.e. VBS+S). So, we held vacation Bible plus service.

We held VBS+S at the Manilla nursing home in order to incorporate residents. The residents appreciated seeing younger kids play, learn, and eat.

Why did we do community service during VBS?

GOD sent the Israelites from the Promise Land into Exile; specifically, into enemy territory. The Israelites moved into places like Babylon. Imagine GOD moving you into Iran, the US's enemy, for 70 years - that's along the lines of what the Israelites experienced.

> "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." – Romans 5:8

While the people were there though, GOD expected the people to love their enemies (Jeremiah 29:4-7). Why did GOD have this expectation for His people? Paul paints a picture as to why this is the case in Romans.

GOD saves us from sin - things we do, think, believe against GOD's created world. But it's GOD's timing that is shocking. Our gut inclination is to help others as soon as they get their life together. They have to earn our trust or financial support. But Jesus of Nazareth died for us while we were still sinners (Romans 5:10). He didn't die for you when you had your life put together. GOD did His amazing work while we were still his enemies.

The same held true for the Israelites. GOD rescued them from slavery in Egypt even though immediately after their rescue the people complained about food and comfort. The LORD did not take the people of Israel through the Red Sea because they would demonstrate appreciation and obedience. The LORD saved the Israelites just *because*.

So when GOD transported the Israelites from the land of promise into enemy territory, the expectation was the people would lay down roots and care for the wellbeing of the city even though it was enemy territory. Why? Because GOD demonstrated love for His enemies, the Israelites, when He moved them from slavery into freedom centuries earlier.

The question becomes how much more are we expected to demonstrate love for people and our cities now that we've seen GOD's love poured out onto us - sinners - in the person and work of Jesus of Nazareth on a cross?

What did we do?

We focused on the parable of the Good Samaritan along with the Easter account. We shared Jesus.

When it came to community service, our younger and older kids were split up. The younger kids:

- Rolled bandages
- Organized 60 hygiene kits for homeless people

Our older kids:

- Painted fire hydrants on Main Street and 3rd Ave.
- Painted a utility shed next to the post office
- Cleaned the 7th Ave. creek

Because of Thrivent Action Team financial support, we were also able to provide supplies for two home daycares in Manilla along with hauling books from the Manilla library to the Denison thrift store.

On our final night we hosted a Friday Family Fun night for the community. We rented inflatables and provided food. The residents especially enjoyed looking out the windows in their rooms to see the kids.

38 kids attended VBS+S (10 more than last year).

I'm especially thankful for all the adult volunteers. This experience could not have been as rich as it was without volunteer support. We intend to try the same format next year. -Pastor Johnson

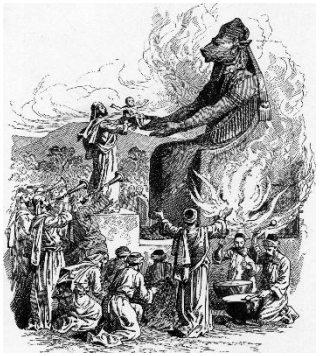
Our Modern Molech: Child Sacrifice in the 21st Century

This paragraph is going to be difficult to read. The ones following it should be more difficult. The picture on the right depicts a metal statue of the pagan god Molech. It is being heated with fire as a priest places a baby into its searing hands. He, and the gathered worshipers, will watch this baby burn to death, all in attempt to earn their god's favor. This was a part of ancient pagan worship.[1]

Repeatedly in Scripture God condemned this practice: "You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord" (Lev. 18:21). Tragically, Solomon erected a high place in Jerusalem to this god to placate his foreign wives!

We moderns like to believe our culture enlightened and far removed from these detestable, morally depraved ancient practices. The truth, however, may reveal otherwise. Consider a full-page advertisement featured in June in The New York Times. It was published in response to a number of recently passed pro-life laws. Under the misleading title "Don't Ban Equality," it read in part:

> It's time for companies to stand up for reproductive health care… Restricting access to comprehensive reproductive care, including abortion, threatens the health, independence and economic stability of our employees and customers. Simply put, it goes against our values, and is bad for business.



Worshipers offer a child sacrifice to the pagan god Molech.

Put a bit more succinctly: "Restricting abortion is bad for business." Or, phrased a bit more honestly: "Abortion is good for business."[2] In other words, abortion must be preserved for the sake of business. How does that sit with you?

To be as charitable as possible, the ad's sponsors were trying to address this underlying reality: pregnancy and babies unequally affect women's professional careers. This cannot be denied. But is abortion the answer?

Justice Anthony Kennedy, in his 1992 majority opinion for *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which upheld *Roe v. Wade*, wrote

> For two decades of economic and social developments, people have organized intimate relationships and made choices that define their views of themselves and their places in society, in reliance on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail. The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives.

In other words, for women to participate equally in the professional business world, abortion must be preserved. Ask yourself, *What is the underlying assumption here*? What is being held up as the

[1] These were among the people God judged by the hand of Israel in Canaan. He wanted this practice abolished.

[2] Abortion has certainly been good for abortion providers. Planned Parenthood alone reported over $240 million in profits from 2017-2018.

most important thing, the thing before which everything else should be sacrificed? A person's career. So the assumption is: nothing should stand in the way of a person's career. It is the highest good.

Do you believe this?

Are our careers the highest good? Isn't this the definition of a god, the thing before which everything else should be submitted and sacrificed? Are our careers God?

You can see now why abortion is so vigorously defended. It protects the god called *career*, *business*, *personal advancement*. Both the Times advertisement and the Kennedy decision make this point. Abortion must be preserved for the sake of our careers. Children must be sacrificed before the god *career*.

Don't misunderstand; careers are fine things to have, good gifts of God to be enjoyed (Scripture repeatedly makes this point, especially the book of Ecclesiastes), but careers are terrible gods. Go back to the opening image. Molech was a horrid god, demanding the lives of his followers' children – an abomination of the worst sort! Our culture may not build metal idols in which our children are burned to death, but are we really morally superior? Every year millions of our unborn children end up dismembered and discarded as medical waste. King Solomon set up the shrine to Molech in the Valley of Hinnom, which became the Greek word for *hell*. How else would you describe landfills of dismembered and discarded unborn babies? Is it any wonder Scripture repeatedly warns us to be on guard against false gods? They destroy us.

But what are we to do about the underlying reality of inequality? Pregnancy and babies do unequally affect women's professional careers, and like we said, a career can be a good gift from God to be enjoyed. First, acknowledge reality, but then ask whether this means that men and women are unequal? Does the ability to bear and nurture new life devalue a woman? Absolutely not! Should it not do the opposite? Shouldn't this God-given capacity elevate the status of women? Shouldn't it move us to doxologies of praise before the Creator who has bestowed this honor upon women? And shouldn't we all begin viewing our careers not as something that exists for ourselves, for our personal advancement, but as the means by which we bless and provide for the children women bear? Should not careers be what call us to sacrifice ourselves (time, energy, etc.) for the welling being of our children and not our children for our careers?

Second, consider the validity of the assumption pulsating through so much of our culture's euphemistic language. The Times ad spoke of equality, an equality that must be achieved through abortion. Here's the unspoken underlying message: *if women want equality in the professional business world, they have to become more like men; babies must be removed from the picture. This part of their God-given capacity must be denied*.

At its core this is anti-woman because it devalues one of the unique capacities God has granted to women – the ability to bear and nurture new life. In the name of business, this beautiful and godly capacity is being denied and devalued. This should stop. And it must begin with Christ's Church. God calls life good. He calls woman and man good. And children are His blessing to women and men in marriage. The Church must confess this with confidence and joy. Careers are good gifts from God, but they are not God. We have one God. He is good and His Word is good and for our good. And when it is received in faith, it's good for women, good for children, and good for men. – Pastor Conner

It has been a busy month even though we only have had one week of preschool! We started working in the room at the beginning of the month and have had parent orientation, home visits for 2 days and open house. The amount of paperwork that is legally necessary is astonishing! The first week was all about getting used to preschool and the routine as well as learning school rules. The first day held a few tears, although short lived, and all of the children soon were playing well together and even said they didn't want to leave at the end of the day!

One of my favorite books at the beginning of the year is *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn. It is a very sweet book about a young raccoon leaving for the first day of school and the unique way that his mother helps him to remember that she loves him even when they are apart. The children really love the story as well and help me act out parts of it as we read it. We spoke about how our powerful God created everything we see in 6 days and how the first day he created light and dark. We started learning a new creation song that we will sing at the Pancake Breakfast on October 13th. Mark your calendars!

We want to thank everyone who donated to the preschool either supplies or $5 scholastic donations. A special thanks goes out to Kari Ranniger for putting together the donation tree, Dorothy Knusdson for taking out a Thrivent card and shopping for the school and Sandra Vahl for also providing supplies. A big thank you also to the preschool board for sponsoring fellowship after worship and to all those that donated on Sunday, August 25th.

Please keep us in your prayers this school year as we help teach these children and show them God's love. Encourage their parents as many of us know that being a parent is the most important calling that God has given us, but also the most challenging!

Your servants in Christ,
Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz

Change is challenging. Change is unavoidable. Sometimes it's sudden. Sometimes it's slow. Sometimes it's stressful. But, like a river, it doesn't stop. Just like time, change waits for no man. Our hymns echo this. Isaac Watts wrote of time as "an ever rolling stream" and Henry Lyte penned "change and decay in all around I see…" The question is *How will I navigate the river of change?*

First, recite the truth that nothing and no one can *make* you feel anything. You truly do get to choose how you respond to change. Second, recall that emotions and feelings are informed by thoughts/beliefs. What you believe about reality will affect the way you respond to it emotionally. So acknowledging the ever-changing nature of life is important. The book of Ecclesiastes is especially helpful in this regard as it details the sobering nature of life under the sun: time marches on; death will consume us all; life is unpredictable. By regularly ingesting the Word of God you will train yourself to speak truth to yourself and this truth will influence the way you feel.

In addition to these, congregational care partner Janet Brus points out,

> Becoming proactive in the change process helps you feel like you have some control of the situation. Victims may sit back and worry about what will happen. Exchange your attitude for gratitude as negative attitudes affect your physical, spiritual, and mental well-being.

She adds,

> During the change process, it is important to keep up with your regular schedule as much as possible. Your normal routine is a safe place for a person to be. It is also important to maintain a healthy diet. When someone is experiencing change and subsequent stress that goes with it, they tend to reach for the carbs – bread, muffins, cake, etc. It is okay to have carbs in moderation. However, try to maintain a balanced diet.

She also points out,

> Some of the biggest changes involve death, a big move, the loss of a job, or a relationship ending. During these transitions, don't push away any grief you might feel. No one gets through life alone. It is okay to ask for help. Acknowledge the loss and pay attention to what you have learned from the experience. Accept help when you are vulnerable rather than when you are angry and irritable which tends to push people away. You can control the stress or let stress control you.

Finally, as we navigate life's changes, it's important to remember that we do not do so alone. Returning to our earlier referenced hymns. Mr. Watts concludes with these strong words:

> Our God, our help in ages past,
> Our hope for years to come,
> Be thou our guard while troubles last,
> And our eternal home.

And Mr. Lyte writes these: "O Thou who changest not, abide with me." The river of change will continue to flow, but you do not navigate it alone. Our God, our help in ages past and our hope for years to come truly does abide with us. If you need help in the midst of life's changes, your pastors and congregational care partner are here for you. – Pastor Conner, Pastor Riggert, Janet Brus

Hymn Festival and Organ Recital a huge success!

Nearly 100 people raised joyous doxologies of praise at Zion's 2019 Hymn Festival and Organ Recital as 11 students of St. Paul's Music Conservatory's Dr. C. played hymns and sacred organ music. Dr. C. celebrated both his students' accomplishments and Zion's marvelous organ, calling it one of the finest in all of Iowa District West. Praise God for these young musicians and for our organ!

Zion Ladies Guild Salad Luncheon

56 members and guests gathered for a potluck salad luncheon at noon. Serving as hostesses were Cynthia Genzen, Margaret Kuchel and Connie Ahrendsen. After a prayer by Pastor Conner and lunch, President Roe introduced Sam Lee, our speaker for the day. Sam told of her rare eye disease, the many treatments she has undergone and her resulting dependency on drugs. She then went on to share about her stay in a drug treatment center all the while witnessing to her Savior Jesus.

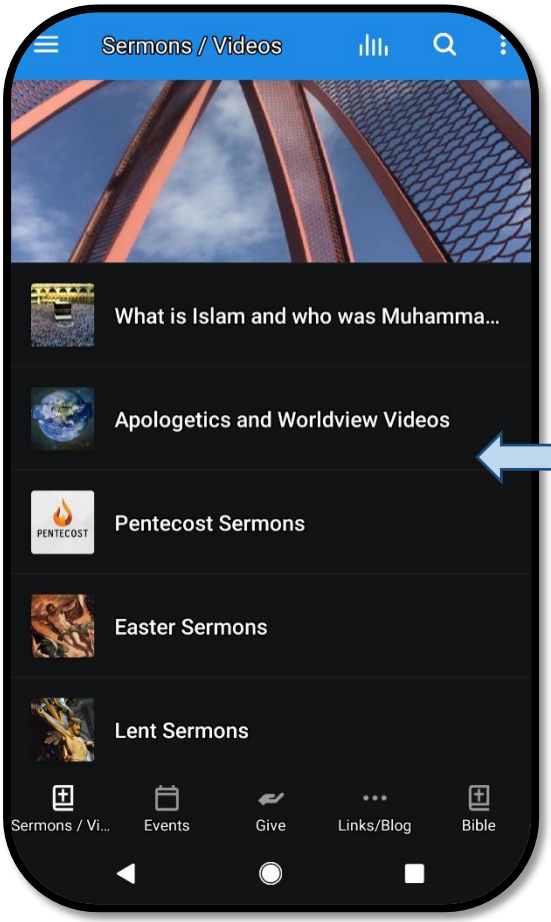
There was no business meeting. Treasurer Mary Grimm had her report for distribution. The next meeting is September 11 with hostesses Monica Christensen and JoAnn Thomas. September 28 is fall rally day at Manning beginning at 9 A.M.

Trizion Youth Group

- Regular Sunday Night YG starts up September 8
- Meet at Zion-Manning @ 6pm
- If you need a ride let Deaconess or Pastor Johnson know

Sr. High District Youth Gathering

- November 15-17
- Des Moines
- Topic: Foundations Prepared based on 1 Corinthians 3:10-11
- Registration materials will be available at Youth Group - or text, facebook, call Deaconess or Pastor



New Content on the Zion App!

You already know that you can watch/listen to Zion's weekly sermons, see upcoming events, give, read Zion's blog, and listen to the Bible on our app, but did you know that you can now watch short videos on a range of insightful topics? Go to the sermons/videos tab and watch videos on apologetics and worldview as well as videos on Islam and Muhammad. More videos will be coming soon, so be sure to check back often.

Haven't downloaded the app yet? Go to The App Store or Google Play and select "The Church App." Then choose Zion Lutheran Church as your favorite.

Checkbook Balancer

Let us help you balance your checkbook. First tell us the ending balance on your statement, then enter all of your outstanding checks and deposits. If your checkbook register matches our calculated amount, your checkbook is balanced! If not, you may need to verify that all of your withdrawals and deposits are correct and accounted for. Learn more at www.lcef.org under the "resource" tab.

Zion Fellowship Club Supports Orphan Grain Train

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) continues to make a difference locally and internationally. OGT was a key partner assisting flood victims in Nebraska and Iowa. Recently clothing and other supplies were brought to People's City Mission in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Over 270,000 Manna Packs were distributed to starving children in Guatemala in partnership with the Feed My Starving Children program. The objective was to feed the stomach and the soul. An Indiana OGT branch sent 178 student desks and 160 boxes of summer clothing to Ghana.

In late July the Iowa District West warehouse in Ida Grove sent a container of medical supplies and clothing to Kishinau, Moldova. The items will be distributed by Bible Mission International. Find out more about OGT at www.ogt.org. Zion Fellowship Club volunteers have periodically visited the Ida Grove warehouse and assisted with processing clothing and supplies for shipment.

New and good, clean, used clothing (all seasons, men, women, children) can be brought to the fellowship hall beginning September 28. New underwear and socks are also needed. Shoes can be brought but heels should not be more than thumb height. A delivery date and work day will be set for early October. Thanks for your support.

The Zion Fellowship Club will begin a new "year" of learning and service as they meet on Monday, September 16 at 7 p.m. This year's theme will be "JOY: FULLY" building on the theme of this summer's LCMS convention. Join us!

There's nothing in life quite as wonderful—and challenging—as marriage. It is the union of two very different people who have come to believe that their lives would be incomplete without the other. As the years go by, it is not unusual for problems to arise—even in the best of marriages. Healthy marriage relationships require constant attention and effort. It is very easy for marriages to lose their way, and it is often difficult to get them back on track. And sometimes, it can seem impossible to do so when you don't know where to turn. Lutheran Family Service provides help for struggling couples. Our counselors approach marriage counseling with a sense of hope. We believe that things can get better and that you can have the marriage you desire, even though you may be tempted to believe this is not possible. LFS marriage counselors are available to help couples throughout Iowa. Marriage counseling is a service of LFS but it is not necessary to be Lutheran or even Christian to use our services.

Contact LFS at 712-276-9000
or look them online: www.lutheranfamilyservice.org.

On August 21 Zion's ministry partner, Jim Schroeder, met with over two dozen Zion leaders to facilitate a conversation centered around Zion's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats/challenges. He also led a conversation on perpetuating ministry at Zion through Christian estate planning. Zion's leaders offered several insightful and helpful thoughts on the mission and ministry of Zion and were encouraged by the opportunities Jim presented for perpetuating ministry at Zion. Praise God for committed leaders! If you'd like to learn more, please speak with Pastor Conner or congregational chairman, Bruce Grimm.

Despite a few weather-related delays, progress continues on the roof. If you haven't taken a moment, you can get a nice panoramic view from the cemetery. Special thanks to Dan Behrens for his faithful attention to details and progress. And special thanks to Sandra Vahl for showing kindness to the workers by repeatedly feeding them lunch. And thank you to the many generous givers of Zion who have and continue to make this project possible!

L.E.R.T.
Lutheran Early Response Team

... through love serve one another. *Gal. 5:13*

LERT Training:

Saturday, November 2, 2019
Trinity Lutheran Church in Manilla
9:00 a.m. – Noon
Registration at 8:00
Light breakfast and lunch served

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

Iowa District West needs LERT-certified volunteers to respond after natural disasters and in times of need by giving spiritual comfort and emotional support while providing food, water, clean up, debris removal, and basic repairs. And you are invited to get certified!

Register online:
https://form.jotform.com/81215292634959

Enter Training Code: 0034 or call Jill Davis at the IDW office: 515-576-7666

Register by Monday, October 28 to help with a count for meals.

Amigos en Cristo

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

September 2019

Annual Hispanic Family Retreat: It's family time at our annual Hispanic summer retreat that took place the first weekend of August. And the Perez family of Denison won the award for the largest family present, 14! Part of the extended family, son Luis Miquel and his wife Victoria and 2 children included our retreat in their vacation from Mexico. At right is their picture at Camp Okoboji where we have held a Hispanic retreat for at least 15 years. At the center are Manuel and Maria the parents of this special family originally from Mexico. Maria told me that they have attended 14 of our retreats over the years. They are a faithful family from Amigos en Cristo in Denison. And now we are blessed to have the third generation participating together. So our retreat had an international flavor as our Hispanic families originally came from many countries, from Mexico and from a number of Central American countries. But God's Word brought our churches together to share the Good News of Jesus as Lord and Savior for all the world.

Retreat is a time of unity: This year we had 80+ present from Denison and Des Moines with Pastor Lincon Guerra directing the weekend event. So all the family was invited to not only relax (one family brought hammocks which were always in use at the beach), to have fun and exercise (we had sports teams in basketball, volleyball and soccer), to eat a lot (great Camp foods with a Hispanic menu), but also to grow in faith in God's Word.

Pastor Guerra taught the adult Bible classes, I taught the Jr. High and High School youth, my wife Paula taught K-2nd grade and Maria Regalado taught the 3rd-5th graders. Pastor Paul Flo, a new missionary to South Sioux City joined us and helped with worship and the bonfire meditation. Our theme was "UNIDOS EN CRISTO", 'United In Christ!' We thank the Camp Okoboji staff for all their faithful service and dedication to our group.

Rev. Daniel Vogel
32678 Aspen Ave., Manning, Iowa, 51455
Home: 712-653-2354
Cell: 712-309-1292
Email: daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org

RETREAT STUDIES: I had 19 youth studying in 2 sessions. They watched "The Privileged Planet," a scientific study of "Intelligent Design" by astrophysics scientist, Guillermo Gonzales. We used this study to celebrate God's special creation and His purpose for us and our lives together as the family of God. The kids were very attentive and involved in the discussions.

Please Pray For: +Thanksgiving for the unity enjoyed at our annual Hispanic Family Retreat at Camp Okoboji. +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. +Our members and friends traveling during these final weeks of the summer months. +Our Storm Lake ministry, for growth and stability. +***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. +++***

PANAMÁ NEWS

August 2019

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

A temptation exists for pastors and church workers to bear the burden of success or failure when it comes to ministry. If a church plant takes off, a pastor may believe that the success is only a result of his hard work or charisma. If a ministry takes a nose-dive, a church worker may also think that they have failed blaming himself for the ministry's demise. In either case, it is important to remember whose church it is and who grows it.

I continue to marvel at the ways in which the Lord grows his church and the opportunities provided me and other workers. In a casual conversation with a friend over coffee we spoke about the university in which he works. He commented on how leaders of other faiths frequently are seen at the university but Christian pastors are not. Suddenly, this friend asked if I would consider coming to the university, offering a Bible study regularly and being available for conversations for students and faculty alike. I had not thought of this opportunity, but he insisted on talking to his friend who is the dean of student life. Long story short, a space has been given for me to be on the university campus offering spiritual care and teaching Bible studies. Hopefully, this will help create a "bridge", so-to-speak, to the ministry of the church in Balboa.

In his conversation with Nicodemus Jesus says of the Spirit, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit" (Jn 3.8). The Spirit works when and where it pleases the Lord. Our Lutheran confessions echo this as well when speaking on the preaching office. Our job is to preach the Word always and give the Sacraments because it is in and through these means that the Lord will grow his church and bless it. We may not always see the results we would like or results at all for that matter, but we hold the Lord to his promise that His Spirit works as He pleases always pointing to and creating faith in Jesus.

We have been blessed to have Aviva in our family for the last three months. She has grown tremendously and we could not imagine life without her. Ezra continues to be a helpful and involved big brother who eagerly anticipates the day when Aviva can actively play with him.

He has really taken to hiking in the jungle, often requesting to go to Gamboa and explore. Amanda, Ezra and Aviva are daily walking around the neighborhood getting to know folks and exploring the outdoors.

Brian continues to adjust to changes in his role in Panamá as well as preparing for the opening of the academic year at Concordia the Reformer Seminary in the Dominican Republic. He will be teaching Exegesis of the Pentateuch this fall, editing content and serving as a mentor for the SMP course Intro. to the Old Testament and developing the courses for the Pre-Seminary program. Many thanks for all your prayers and continued support of our Lord's work in Panamá. In Christ, Brian, Amanda, Ezra & Aviva

Please Pray:

- New seminarians traveling to the Dominican Republic to begin their pastoral formation
- Permit issues for the roof project in Balboa
- Reconciliation and unity for the Panamanian Church

Give Thanks for:

- Safe travels to and from the missionary conference in the Dominican Republic for all missionaries in the Latin America region

SERVING THE LORD

ALL OVER ASIA

NEWS FROM THE FERRY FAMILY

Summer 2019

The Ferry family moved to Taiwan in May of 2018. We did so because my role as Regional Director needed to be located there. And because I needed to move there, the vocations of Cheryl and the kids brought them to Taiwan along with me. In those vocations (wife, mother, teacher / child, student, sibling), they live in Taiwan as faithful, forgiven Lutherans (Christians!). They go to the market, they find places to play, they ride bicycles around the park, and they take the bus to church.

They've all been taking full-time instruction in Mandarin Chinese while we've been living in Taiwan, simply to enable them to talk with the people around them, and to understand our neighbors. The Taiwanese people have been warm, friendly, and welcoming to us as we have settled in among them. And as we have been out among them, there have been wonderful reactions to our presence: including amazement, amusement, and curiosity.

That curiosity often gives us incredible opportunities to see our vocations as opportunities to interact with those neighbors, and to enjoy the relationships those vocations give us. Learning the Chinese language gives my family the chance to learn more about the neighbors we meet, to have a relationship with them, and to speak like Lutherans (Christians!). We speak, in Chinese or English or Indonesian, of the grace and forgiveness we have in Christ Jesus, and of the peace that we have because of that forgiveness.

God grant us all, adults and children both, the opportunity to be faithful in our vocations, to graciously build up relationships with those placed around us, and to speak faithfully according to God's Word when the opportunities naturally arise. Can you talk to your neighbors like a Lutheran? They need to hear what you have to say!

The Ferry family visits the owners of a tea shop in Eastern Taiwan who wanted to know all about us.

Caleb engages a Chinese family at the park: grandmother, mother, and young child.

SERVING THE LORD *Continued*

ALL OVER ASIA

NEWS FROM THE FERRY FAMILY

Summer 2019

Convention Snapshot Your LCMS met in convention from 20—25 July this year. For those days in Tampa, Florida, the delegates elected servants, debated resolutions, and received reports. It was my honor to bring the report on the work of the Asia Region of LCMS. We actually celebrated 125 years of LCMS mission work, which began with the Rev. Theodore Naether being deployed to India, one of the countries in our Asia Region! Thanks be to God that the work of LCMS missions continues yet to this day, and that He chooses to work through YOU in order to keep it going. Check out the presentation for yourself online when they are posted at https://international.lcms.org

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to our first blondie: Carissa! She turned seven years old in June, and celebrated by getting a cake from the local baker near our home in Chiayi. Carissa loves to play "mommy" and to be in the water whenever possible. She also likes to bang up her knees and elbows, giving Daddy plenty of chances to practice his first-aid skills! Happy birthday, dearie!

Please pray:

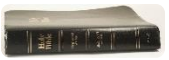
- Cheryl and the Ferry kiddos as they use their God-given vocations to reach out to our neighbors.
- Upcoming presidential elections in Taiwan, that we might live in peace.
- Carissa, now seven years old, that she might grow in grace and wisdom.

Please give thanks for:

- Safe travels to & from the USA to be part of the LCMS Convention and share the news of what God is doing in Asia.
- The generous and faithful support given by our church so that we can continue to work and serve here in Asia.

Charlotte does her part in her vocation, giving us an opportunity to bring a Chinese family into our home to play with their granddaughter.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

Confirmation	September 4	Confirmation Classes begin after school
RALLY DAY	September 8	Rally Day (Sunday School begins / Teachers installed)
	September 8	Alzheimer's Support Group (2:00 p.m.) Manilla Manor
TRIZION	September 8	Youth Group (6:00 p.m.) At Zion
FINANCIAL Peace UNIVERSITY	September 11	Financial Peace University @ Zion! (6:15 – 8:00 p.m.)
FELLOWSHIP ZION CLUB	September 16	Zion Fellowship Club (7:00 p.m.)
Priscilla Guild	September 17	Priscilla Guild at Trinity (2:00 p.m.)
DISCIPLING EVENT	September 25	Confirmation Discipling Event at Zion (6:00 p.m.) ***What happens in a worship service and why does it matter?***
ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN Relief for Human Need Worldwide	September 29	Orphan Grain Train Clothing Collection at Zion
	October 6	Bible highlighting for third graders (during Sunday School) Bibles presented on October 20
	October 13	Preschool Pancake Breakfast at Zion Worship @ 8:00; pancakes @ 9:00)
	October 14	Sukkot Celebration Potluck at Trinity (5:30 p.m.)
Lutheran Early Response Team	November 9	LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) Training (9 – Noon) At Trinity in Manilla
	December 8	Advent by Candlelight (Save the date!) at Zion ***Please note:*** **This is the SECOND Sunday in December!**
	December 15	Children's Christmas Programs

September Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. Lucille Ress
2. Collin Brus
   Cindy Scheuring (T)
3. Graham England
   Bruce Grimm
4. Brock Kusel
   Alaina Salter
5. Madelyn Dreher
7. Kyle Arp
   Taylor Lapel
   Timothy Rosener
8. Austin Johnson
   Jaide Paska
   Carlys Stribe
   Darlene Vollstedt
   Caleb Lahr (T)
   Mary Lynn Lueth (T)
9. Katie Cornelius
   Brice Shrimpton
   Diane Vetter
10. Alison Karsten
11. Ambria Johnson
    Brandi Wiig
    Harold Jurgensen (T)
12. Kristie Borkowski
    Robert Hagedorn
    Christtian Birks (T)
13. Dennis Backhaus
    Carol Brus
    Allen Stribe
14. Dakota Bradley
    Lauren Greving
    Erin Renze
15. Dylon Bauer
16. Brooke Long
    Diane Lahr (T)
17. Ben Langel
    Kaien Stoeckel
    Charlie Tibben
18. LeeAnn Hacker (T)
19. Kora Kusel
    Sue Soll
20. Marlene Jahn (T)
21. Daniel Hilsabeck
    Alexis Karsten
    Wendy Stribe
    Daniel Vonnahme
22. Haley Kuchel
    Jason Boell (T)
    Isia Haubrich (T)
25. Jennifer Grau
26. Tanner Crawford
    Lillian Genzen
    Terri Rosener
27. Don Beck
    Shaun Grau
    Ashley Martin (T)
28. Cassandra Burcham
    Susie Ulrickson
29. Michael Lorenzen (T)
30. Karl Albertsen
    Jason Ehlers
    Judy Irwin (T)

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

Anniversaries

2 Mike & Becky Bruch
3 Bary & Karen Kienast
Frank & Gloria Boeck (T)
4 Don & Trisha Beck
Jon & Jill Saunders
6 Gary & Joyce Schroeder
7 Derek & Brenna Hodne
8 Bradley & Heather Kusel
10 Jason & Lori Ferry (T)
11 Rodney & Deanna Frank
14 Scott & Kristine Lingle (T)
15 William & Louise Bruhn
16 Eugene & Susan Mahnke
19 David & Joene Bohlmann
Kevin & Janet Brus
Jeff & Jean Hargens
20 Todd & Dawn Ketcham
Alex & Kari Ranniger
22 Larry & Connie Ahrendsen
24 Ben & Beth Booth
Karl & Donna Rutz
15 Richard & Sylivia Saunders (T)
27 Jesse & Katie Weitl
28 Conrad & Juanita Kurth
30 Allen & Carlys Stribe

Official Acts

Funeral
Donna Holdsworth - August 17; Pastor Andrew Johnson

Baptism:
Kam Leland; son of Nels and Stacie (nee: Kienast) Nelson; August 10; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Wedding:
Danielle Obman and Collin Brus; August 17; 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), Maridee Bohlmann (David & Joene Bohlmann's daughter-in-law), Charlene Hickman, Joy Umland, Russ Mohr, Bob Behrens (Dan's father), Lynn Kruse, Braelynn Bauer, Joyce Schroeder, Franklin Mohr, David Bohlman, Janet Plumb