This is our confession!

October 31, 1517 is a date Lutherans know by heart – the day Martin Luther nailed his *95 Theses* to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther's pen provided the spark that ignited the blaze we know as The Reformation.

While Luther's *Theses* provided the spark, the log that has kept it burning was penned 13 years later in 1530. In that year the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, summoned the Lutheran reformers to the city of Augsburg, Germany to explain their reforms before an imperial council. With haste, Luther, along with Philip Melanchthon and others, began putting their confession in writing. After several drafts, Melanchthon produced the final product: *The Augsburg Confession*.

The *Confession* begins, "Most serene, most mighty, invincible Emperor, most gracious Lord. A short time ago, Your Imperial Majesty graciously summoned an imperial diet [council] to convene here in Augsburg. The summons indicated an earnest desire… to deliberate and diligently to consider how we may act concerning the dissension in the holy faith and Christian religion and to hear, understand, and consider with love and graciousness everyone's judgment, opinion, and beliefs among us, to unite the same in agreement on one Christian truth, and to lay aside whatever may not have been rightly interpreted or treated by either side, so that all of us can accept and preserve a single, true religion… Wherefore, in most humble obedience to Your imperial Majesty, we offer and present a confession of our pastors' and preachers' teachings as well as of our faith, setting forth on the basis of the divine Holy Scripture what and in what manner they preach, teach, believe, and give instruction in our lands…"

After discussing 28 essential issues, they conclude, "among us nothing in doctrine or ceremonies has been accepted that would contradict either Holy Scripture or the universal Christian church. For it is manifest and obvious that we have very diligently and with God's help (to speak without boasting) prevented any new and godless teaching from insinuating itself into our churches…"

In brief, *The Augsburg Confession* and the entire Lutheran Reformation was about preserving truth *according to Scripture*. Some have mistakenly believed the Lutheran reformers started a new church. That, however, was never their intention. The Lutheran reformers never set out to start a new church; they set out to preserve the true church. Anything that obscured Christ or ran counter to Scripture was eliminated.

"Scripture alone!" became a kind of rallying cry for the Lutheran reformers as they sought to call the church back to the Bible. Modern day Lutherans still rally around "Scripture alone!" We, unlike the Roman Catholic Church,[1] are a Scripture alone church. And we, like the Lutherans who have gone before us, continue to confess *The Augsburg Confession* and the additional Lutheran confessions contained in *The Book of Concord* as a faithful exposition (or explanation) of Scripture. These confessions are firmly founded on Scripture and squarely centered in Christ. This is and always will be our confession. Here we stand!

[1]"The (Roman Catholic) Church…"does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy Scriptures alone. Both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1994, Article 2 The Transmission of Divine Revelation, 26)

Identity not in a Flag, but in the Cross

I write this article with a heavy heart. If truth be told, I'd rather not write what follows because of the risk of being misunderstood and the potential personal cost. And yet, history (and Scripture) has taught me that the Church cannot be silent when God has spoken. So, I write.

I was returning from an errand in town when I noticed a message prominently displayed in the yard of a significant and influential Manning resident. It wasn't an offensive political sign. It wasn't a crude, churlish, or sexist slogan. It wasn't even ghoulish Halloween decorations senselessly glorifying death and gore (everything Jesus rose to defeat!). Two flags waved prominently from a front porch: the gay pride flag and the trans pride flag.

My heart was pierced (and remains pierced) with grief. I have no doubt that the individual displaying these flags means well. He surely believes he is doing good, even echoing godly sentiments. And while I will profoundly disagree, I have no desire to malign the name or motivations of the individual. He, no doubt, is a loving, kind, and intelligent person. Further, the 8th Commandment, as Martin explains, compels me (and you) to "explain everything in the kindest way."

God tells us what is good.

And yet, as mentioned above, history and Scripture compel me to speak. Because God is not silent on this matter, His Church cannot be. A mere 27 verses into Scripture God speaks:

> Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.
>
> So God created man in his own image,
> in the image of God he created him;
> male and female he created them.
>
> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." (Gen. 1:26-28).

GOD IS TELLING US WHAT IS GOOD.

Then, in verse 31, God surveys His creative work and declares it "very good." I cannot overstate the importance of these words. God is telling us what is good. What was good then is still good now. God hasn't changed. His Word hasn't changed. Further, as creatures, especially as fallen creatures, we must be told what is good. Our hearts do not and cannot define good (for they, as Scripture insists, are desperately sick and sinful).

So we take God at His word. Male and female as identifying markers for mankind is very good. Male and female joined in marriage and blessed with the potential to procreate is very good. Imaging God through our loving dominion over creation is very good. These created realities are good.

Creational Identity

These good realities form the basis for our thinking on identity and sexual ethics and marriage. So, our identity is found in creation. We are male or we are female. There is no spectrum. Yes, we may speak of a spectrum of gender *expression*. Men may enjoy the arts and women may enjoy hunting, but a man who enjoys ballets, art galleries, and operas is still a man and a woman who enjoys shooting things, skinning them, and eating them is still a woman. Our preferences don't change our creation-founded identities. We are male or we are female and this is good.[2]

If this is what *transgender* meant, we would have no objection to it. If the *transgender* flag waved to defend gender expression and to decry gender pigeonholing (i.e. shaming a person for not fitting in to stereotypical male or female expressions), we would have no issue with Christians waving it. We should never belittle a person because he or she doesn't fit into some gender stereotype. This is wrong and it hurts people.

But that's not what the word means or why the flag flies. The word *transgender* doesn't celebrate expression; it denies reality. It claims that biology is irrelevant to gender. To make this claim it denies the relevance of the body. In other words, it insists that the created reality of the body is irrelevant to a person's identity. Creation doesn't matter. What God has called good is irrelevant to identity. One's internal feelings determines identity.

But we've covered this before: I'm 41 years old. Even if I feel like 21, I can't be 21. If I identify with seven year olds, I can't enroll in 1st grade. I am Caucasian. Even if I identify with black African culture, I can't be a black African and I can't check that box on a census. I am six feet tall. Even if I identify with people of shorter stature, I can't be five feet tall. Creation has a way of asserting itself.

Consider another example. Some individuals struggle with a condition called Body Integrity Identity Disorder (BIID). This disorder involves identifying with disabled individuals to the point of confining oneself to a wheelchair or fantasizing about being blind. Some insist on having limbs amputated or optic nerves severed. Further, many insist on being identified as *transabled*.

The parallels with *transgender* are easy to spot. Even more, the locus of the person's struggles becomes clear: the problem lies not in the body (whether for transgender individuals or for transabled individuals); the problem lies in the person's thinking/beliefs/desires. Please note: This does not mean the person has chosen these beliefs or desires nor should it give anyone cause to look down upon them.

WE ALL HAVE BENT AND TWISTED DESIRES.

The truth is we all have bent and twisted desires. This is what Scripture teaches. We are fallen creatures. The transgender flag celebrates these desires at the expense of the created body that God has called good. As people with bent and twisted desires, we are not helped by having our desires automatically affirmed, whether we're discussing transgender desires or any desires out of line with what God has called good (as we'll discuss below with same-sex desires).

[2] Yes, there are rare biological abnormalities that make determining the sex of an individual exceedingly difficult, but 1) this does not create a third gender and 2) this is different from gender identity in which there are no biological abnormalities, only differing beliefs about one's identity.

Space prevents a fuller treatment, but we must know that warring against God's created reality will not bring about human flourishing (as the growing number of individuals regretting their sex-reassignment surgeries will tell you). *All of us* must first acknowledge our misalignment with the good (as revealed in creation) and together turn to God for mercy and the daily grace to move forward in faith. But this is the very thing the trans pride flag prevents us from seeing and confessing.

Creational Orientation

The gay pride flag, likewise, distracts us from God's good creation. The gay pride flag grounds a person's identity not in creation, but sexual desires. This is a terrible place to ground identity. Desires change. They enflame and cool, surge and recede. This is no place to establish identity. Further, it pits desires against desires, i.e. homosexual desires against heterosexual desires. This is disastrous. Heterosexual desires aren't good by default. Heterosexual desires can be beset by sin, too, whether through lust or pornography or fornication or adultery.

The message of the Church is not and never can be: "Heterosexual desires are good and homosexual/bisexual desires are bad." God has told us what is good in creation. ALL DESIRES must be judged against what God has called good. When we set our desires before what God has called good, we will all discover that our desires are out of line with the good of God. What, then, do we do? Go to God in confession and receive His forgiveness in Christ and loving acceptance among fellow sinners in the Church!

The gay pride flag distracts us from this. By celebrating gay it grounds identity in desires (not creation), insisting that our desires are good (and not creation). There is no acknowledgement of sin, no recognition of the need for mercy, and no celebration of forgiveness in Christ.

Further still, it cloaks the true relational needs of people with same-sex desires. It may be hard for some to believe, but the deeper relational needs of individuals with same-sex desires aren't really about sex; they're about acceptance among individuals of the same sex. These desires, however, became eroticized during puberty and now serve as the means by which they feel accepted and loved by members of the same-sex.[3] The gay pride flag blinds the church to this and keeps us from offering the true love and acceptance the same-sex attracted need.

Lift high the cross

This is why the church from its inception has not rallied beneath a flag, but a cross. ***The gay and trans pride flags celebrate desires even as they reject creation and trivialize forgiveness.*** Who needs forgiveness for desires that are being celebrated? The cross, however, stands for sinners. The cross stands as the beacon of hope for sinners beset by their desires. Further, it is the assurance that we are not defined by our desires. We are defined by the forgiveness of Christ. So, creation shows us what is good; the cross shows us we are forgiven. We need both. Appreciate creation and lift high the cross! – Pastor Conner

[3] Experience may not be uniform. Many women, for example, report disappointment with men as a reason for turning to women for acceptance. The deeper issue, though, is that for many the real need/desire is not primarily sexual in nature.

Exploited

Why does GOD command that sex should only take place between a married man and woman?

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Sarah's hands quivered. A thin line of air circulated through her insides. She was afraid to look in the mirror that hung on the wall adjacent to the chair she was sitting in because she knew she'd see a face that resembled a red tomato.

Despite the butterflies looping in her stomach, Sarah could not believe that Diamond Computer Enterprises called her back for a job. Diamond Computer Enterprises, or DCE for short, led the market in global technological advances. They were responsible for the first pair of computerized glasses which allowed you to check email, scan prices in grocery stores from a distance, and even evaluate a wearer's insulin levels. DCE had just announced their wheeless-vehicle project just a couple months earlier. Sarah recalled how the announcement fell on the same day she graduated from college. Sarah foamed at the mouth to jump into DCE's pool of creativity and exploration ever since she was ten years old when DCE introduced FCA (Full Clean Ahead), which was a robot designed to collect, wash, fold, and place laundry in domestic and commercial settings. Sarah knew early on that she wanted to wear the coveted sacred white polo uniforms with the red flowered logo of DCE.

Fifteen minutes had passed since Linda the receptionist ushered Sarah into a human resource manager's office. DCE had called Sarah about a month after her graduation. Ever since her freshman year of college, Sarah registered for classes that would sparkle her resume. Physics, calculus, biology, computer coding - she took them all, and as far as she could tell it had paid off. When DCE called they indicated that an initial interview was unnecessary since her resume spoke for itself. If she wanted, a Diamond Computer Enterprises Imagineer Team position was hers for the taking. Over the phone, Sarah had played it cool, but once the call was over she jumped in the air with a fist raised like Wonder Woman flying through the sky. Her mom and dad took her out for a celebratory dinner (mostly because they were excited for their daughter, but partly they looked forward to the day when she'd have a steady paycheck and home of her own other than their basement).

Before the celebration dinner or even before Sarah had hung up the phone, DCE had requested a list of five of Sarah's technological ideas. The request slingshotted Sarah into dreamland. "What if," she imagined, "one of my ideas takes off right away? I can pay off my student loans right away. Buy a house. Maybe buy a new house for my parents! I can single handedly boost the company stock index by percentage points."

Sarah clicked the send button on her email to DCE which included a list of six, one more than what was expected, ideas along with a release waiver which transferred her ideas as Sarah's personal intellectual property into the possession of DCE. She was assured by the interviewer that this was standard operating procedure for new employees. Sarah did not think twice as she snuggled beneath her comforter planning ideas seven through ten for her DCE tenure.

Brushing back a strand of hair that had escaped her tight bun, Sarah sat up and placed her hands in her lap as the office door opened.

"Thank you for coming in, Sarah. My name is Liam. I apologize that it took a few weeks to get this entry orientation scheduled."

"No inconvenience whatsoever," Sarah replied with puppy dog eyes.

Liam began again: "The purpose of this meeting is to go over work hours and of course compensation."

The idea of receiving a paycheck blew Sarah back in her chair. A paycheck could not come a day too soon since her student loans were coming out of deferment soon. She also had looked at an apartment complex just two miles away from DCE's headquarters, and she had a list etched out of all the different furniture she hoped to purchase from Amazon with her earnings.

"Our imagineer team looked over your ideas, Sarah," Liam momentarily popped Sarah's daydreaming, "and I've got to tell you, they're pumped. Matt Mony especially appreciated your ideas concerning your idea about straight from store product pipelines into a consumer's home. Have you heard of Mr. Mony?"

Sarah shook her head up and down. Mony was responsible for the FCA.

"Anyways," Liam continued, "DCE would like to award you an $1,000 idea bonus."

Sarah's puppy dog eyes widened, "That's so generous! What will my work schedule look like?"

"Great question. As an intern you'll work a traditional 8-5 work schedule Monday through Friday."

Liam's words trailed off into soupy blackness the second Sarah heard the word *intern*. What did that mean? She thought she was going to receive a full-blown job.

"Excuse me, Liam," Sarah interjected, "I'm sorry to interrupt, but you said I'd be an intern. I'm sorry, but I thought I was going to have full employee status."

"Good question, Sarah. When new imagineer employees begin at DCE they start at intern status. It's just a trial period formality."

"Oh, so I'll still work and receive a paycheck," retorted Sarah with a sense of reassurance in her voice.

"You will be paid, Sarah," fired back Liam, "that's for sure. But you won't receive full time payment for three years. Here at DCE we want to make sure new employees will stick with us long term, so we have a three-year vetting process - just to make sure you're DCE material - which I have no doubt that you are."

Liam's explanation crushed Sarah like a cement block falling on an ant. Through the fog, Sarah heard Liam talk about a $500 per month stipend. That money just barely covered her monthly student loans, but what about food, gas, car, insurance, home, or even her parents' future home? There was no way she could endure on such a small amount of money.

"So there's no way you can bypass the intern stage?" Sarah asked.

"Unfortunately, no. Like I said, we want to make sure we're a good match and not commit prematurely. It's for both our sakes."

Sarah could not believe what she was about to say: "I can't make that work. I've got debts to pay off. There's no way I can work here for that little pay!"

Liam stiffened, "Well, I'm sorry to hear that. We really hoped you'd stick on. You have a knack for this industry and your ideas are great."

"I appreciate that," Sarah assured Liam. "But I've got to go someplace that pays. I'd like to think another company will accept those plans I gave you."

Liam's face shrunk, "Oh, about that." Sarah's face tightened. "You can't share those ideas with other companies."

"What do you mean?" grunted Sarah.

"You signed those ideas over to DCE. They're now the intellectual property of our company. If another company uses them we'll be forced to take legal action against them and you."

"So I just wasted those ideas on a company that has no interest in fully hiring me?" Sarah formed a fist.

"Wasted is such a strong word, Sarah. Our imagineers will run with your ideas and make the world a better place! That's gotta count for a lot, right? Plus, I'm authorized to compensate you with that $1,000."

That money would not cover one month of living expenses for Sarah. She imagined that the pittance she would receive would turn into an extra pool expansion onto Matt Mony's mansion which she had envied in a magazine once.

In any case, her fingers grasped the check. Sarah sat in her car for thirty minutes. She sat motionless until one of DCE's security guards tapped on the window and pointed her to the parking lot exit now that her guest parking pass had expired. She drove off the lot.

Six months later, Sarah pulled into the lot of one of her employers. She reached for her lunch bag when her cell phone buzzed with a special alert. It read: *Diamond Computer Enterprises announces launch of six new projects at special expo*. She scrolled down to read more: *Analysts predict new projects will bring in ten billion dollars for DCE*. Sarah read the full article. When she had finished she slammed her car door, and walked into her workplace a few minutes late, knowing she would get chewed out.

Diamond Computer Enterprises used every single one of Sarah's ideas.

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One of the reasons GOD calls people to keep sex in the confines of a marriage is because a man and woman have legally committed to one another. Our culture's glorification of sex is not liberation, it's a culture of exploitation. Guys use women like cars; put some mileage on her until it's time to trade in for something new and better – just like DCE took advantage of Sarah. GOD does not want you to be exploitative or exploited, but rather like His Son to be a servant and served. GOD's boundaries aren't repressive so much as they're protective. – Pastor Johnson

On October 31 the church celebrates the Reformation – the rediscovery of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While most of the country knows the 31st as Halloween, for ages it was an evening of preparation for All Saints' Day on November 1. As such it was called "All-Hallows-Eve." This eventually morphed into Hallow-een and was overrun by the secular holiday many celebrate today with costumes and candy. Luther chose All Hallows Eve to post his 95 Theses because he knew large crowds of worshipers would crowd the church the next morning to celebrate All Saints' Day. By posting them when he did he maximized their visibility.

We, in the Lutheran tradition, still celebrate All Saints' Day. This day "is the most comprehensive of the days of commemoration, encompassing the entire scope of the great cloud of witnesses with which we are surrounded (Hebrews 12:1). It holds before the eyes of faith that great multitude which no man can number: all the saints of God in Christ – from every nation, race, culture, and language – who have come 'out of the great tribulation… who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb' (Revelation 7:9, 14). As such, it sets before us the full height and depth and breadth and length of our dear Lord's gracious salvation (Ephesians 3:17-19)" (from *The Treasury of Daily Prayer*).

Unlike some traditions, however, we do not invoke saints. We honor them in three ways: 1) We give thanks to God for the mercy He has extended to them. Their presence in heaven demonstrates God's desire to save. 2) We see God's repeated acts of mercy and grace in their lives and our faith is strengthened. 3) We emulate their faith by learning from their examples. Our celebration of God's saving of the saints is reflected in the white paraments that adorn our altar, pulpit, and lectern. The saints in heaven and the saints on earth have been clothed with Christ and His righteousness. And in our songs we joyfully sing, "For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who Thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia! Alleluia!" We observe this holiday this year on Sunday, November 3rd.

Preschool Praises for September 2019

September is always a fun month as we gradually introduce the children to the different activities in preschool. The first week was about friendship and we made hand print pictures with our new friends. The children love the feel of the paintbrush on their hands! The letter E is for eyes and we began making our tactile alphabet book by gluing googly eyes to the letter E. We added the second day of creation to our song that we will be singing for the pancake breakfast and Pastor started practicing his song with the children as well.

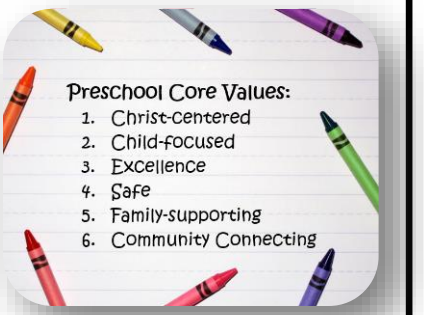
The second week was about feelings and the children began picking out their feelings at the beginning of class and hanging it up with their names. It is fun to see which feeling each child is having on any given day. They can say they are mad as they smile at you! We discussed feelings and sang "If you're happy and you know it". The letter B is for buttons and each child enjoyed picking out different buttons to glue to the letter B for our book. We added the 3rd day of creation to our song and pastor spoke more about the third day of creation and how God pulled the land up out of the sea and made all the plants sprout from the ground.

The third week we learned about different jobs and each child now gets a different job at preschool each day. I love this week as we invite family members and community members to talk to the children about their jobs. A big thank you to Daryl Rohe who spoke about farming, Sam Hanson from the Manning Police Department, Kevin Leffler from the Iowa State Patrol and Pastor Conner for all sharing about their jobs and reading books to the children. They loved it! We worked on the letter C for circles and drew a picture of what job each child would like to have when they grow up. We had police officers, fire fighters, princesses and a monkey! We learned how to cut with scissors and learned about the 4th day of creation when God made the Sun, Moon and stars. Pastor told the children how God made all of the stars and knows them each by name! If He knows each star by name, how much more He knows and loves us!

The last week of September is all about family and each child gets to show a picture of their families and put them on display around the room so they can look at them throughout the day. We also enjoyed having Mom's night, where mother and child come to the fellowship hall and enjoy a story, songs, crafts and snacks. They get to make a scrapbook page about their child and family which is then put in a preschool scrapbook that will be passed around to a different child each week. We learned about the 5th day of creation and the letter M for macaroni. Pastor enjoyed showing pictures of the many different kinds of birds and sea creatures that our creative God made on the 5th day, from the tiny humming bird to the huge whale!

Thank you to everyone for their support of the preschool and your many donations this past month! We are so blessed to have a church family that is so supportive!

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Gore and Mrs. Nemitz



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Zion and Trinity's First Family Discipling Event

On Wednesday, September 25, Zion and Trinity had its first Family Discipling Event for our confirmation families. On three evenings throughout the 2019-2020 confirmation year, we press pause on our class work to gather as families. We eat together and then learn together. This month we discussed the Divine Service. What does it mean and why do we do it? Understanding these questions deepens our appreciation for worship, which is at the heart of our identity as confessing Christians.

Special thanks to Pastor Johnson and Deaconess Tiffany for arranging for the pizza and the childcare providers! And special thanks to Thrivent for providing the Action Card! Our next event is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23. We'll answer the question, "How do I make life decisions as a Christian?" If you're interested in attending the session with our confirmation families, visit with Pastor Conner!

Ladies Guild of Zion
September 12, 2019

Pastor Conner introduced us to the three books of the Old Testament called wisdom literature, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job, by playing a 7 minute video on Proverbs. We then looked at Psalm one. Godly wisdom here dictates the final outcome of the "way of sinners" and the "way of the righteous". After prayer, Christian Life Chairman, Margaret Backhaus read "The hands that will change the world." We remember the hands of our mothers that loved and cared for us. But Jesus has blessed our hands to care for the world whenever we see a need.

President Roe called the meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. We recited the League Pledge. Roll call was answered by the name of a favorite teacher. There were 11 members in attendance. Correspondence included thank you notes from Priscilla Guild of Manilla, speaker at our guest day luncheon, Sam Lee, the family of Jon Asmus, and the kinderfest committee. Treasurer, Mary Grimm, sent her report. A balance of $1,637.37 is on hand. Kitchen treasurer, Darlene Vollstedt said the balance in that account is $4,262.86.

Circle reports: Circle # 1 served infant Braelynn Bauer's funeral. Circle # 2 served Janet Plumb's funeral, and Circle #3 served Franklin Mohr's funeral. Next to serve is Circle #1. Audrey Roe reported receiving fabrics from a lady currently in the nursing home donated by her daughter. They will be used to make Christmas gift quilts.

There was no Old Business. New Business: Sandra Vahl moved that we order 10 issues of the LWML Quarterly for next year, read them and then pass them on to other ladies of the congregation. The motion was seconded and passed. President Roe listed the following 2020 District Convention updates. We in Carroll County will serve as hosts with Boone County. Barb Brockelsby is chairman of hospitality and reception. She needs special name tags for Zone Presidents and Executive Committees, identifying garments for host committee workers, centerpieces for dining hall tables, ushers, and gifts for speakers. Contact Barb if you are able to help. The Convention is June 18-20. Hosts are to arrive on the 17th at Camp Okoboji.

At the zone board meeting it was moved to disperse of the excess funds left in the Carroll Zone treasury. $250.00 will be given to each of the following: Orphan Grain Train, Mission Central, Camp Okoboji for cabin renovations, and Prison Ministries. Zion Manning will be the nominating committee for Zone President Elect for 2020, the baby quilt for the convention in 2024, and the Spring Rally on 2025. Fall Rally will be in Manning on September 28th. Registration and brunch is at 9:00 A.M. Sharon Irwin from Orphan Grain Train is the speaker. There will be an ingathering of hygiene and school kits. October 6th will be LWML Sunday with everyone wearing purple and a "noisy" offering taken. Ushers needed.

September Bingo will be Mary Grimm, Chairman, Margaret Backhaus, Gloria Ewolt and Audrey Roe. The hostesses for the October Guild meeting will be Charlene Hickman and Margaret Kuchel.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer. Lunch was served by Monica Christensen and JoAnn Thomas.

Lutheran Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

Lutheran Family Service is working to activate and equip individuals, pastors and congregations to engage in supporting our elected officials to uphold the value and sanctity of all human life. We believe that life that begins at the moment of fertilization and ends at natural death. Life is valuable, purposeful and meaningful at all stages and ages.

"Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." (Proverbs 31:8-9)

Value does not come not from what we are able to do or not do. It comes from what God has done. Human life has value because:

- God creates every life. (Psalm 139:13-14)
- God redeemed every life with His own blood. (Acts 20:28)
- God desires to call every life into an eternal relationship with Him. (1 Timothy 2:4)

Through this positive and joyful God-breathed truth, God moves us to dispel the myths about life's value such as:

- Unborn life has less value than born life.
- People with severe disabilities are less valuable than the able bodied.
- People with diseases like Alzheimer's or mental health issues like depression are less valuable than others and financially burdensome.
- The elderly are less valuable than younger people.

Right now, two specific issues call for our life-affirming voice.

Stopping Abortion through the Life Amendment

The Iowa Supreme court ruled that our state's constitution gives women the right to have an abortion. This ruling will nullify all previous restrictions on abortion and make Iowa a "Mecca" for abortion in the Midwest. An amendment declaring the constitution DOES NOT guarantee such a right is the ONLY way to reverse this. It would need to be passed in two General Assemblies and then by a vote of the people, a 3 to 4-year process. The process begins in the 2020 legislative session.

Life Amendment

Continued on next page…

Stopping Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS)

A bill to legalize PAS waits for a shift in the legislature so it can be brought to the floor. To keep this from happening and to assure a life amendment is passed, maintaining a life-affirming legislature in the 2020 elections is critical. We must work to make Iowa a place where life at all stages and in all conditions is valued and protected.

Take Action and Be a Voice for LIFE

- Pray for life-affirming action in our legislature and vote for life-affirming legislators to be our elected officials.
- Contact those who represent you (https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find), and let them know your views on abortion and physician assisted suicide.
- Have Lutheran Family Service come and help educate your congregation on these issues.
- Sign up using the form available at the included address to receive our legislative alerts (https://lutheranfamilyservice.org/outreach/life-advocacy/).
- Attend the Prayer Rally for Life on March 2, 2020 at the Iowa State Capitol (more information on LFS's website).
- Support the Life Advocacy work of Lutheran Family Service so that we may continue to equip others and stand up to defend the value of life through countless hours and efforts at the Iowa State Capitol.
- Vote "yes" for the Life Amendment should it come to a vote of the people

Lutheran Family Service is proud to be a member of the Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders. This group is indeed stronger together as we serve to be the voice for the little girl or boy in the mother's womb. Each year, together with the Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders, Lutheran Family Service helps to plan and organize a Prayer Rally for Life. You can sign up with the above link to be notified when life advocacy events will take place, as well as other legislative action steps you can take.

Monthly Afternoon Communion Service at Zion

Is 9:00 a.m. on Sundays too early for you? Does your body cooperate better in the afternoon? Zion will begin offering a Thursday afternoon Communion service every month especially for you. Our first service is scheduled for **Thursday, October 17th at 1:30 p.m.** We'll gather in the nave and then welcome worshipers to remain afterwards for a time of fellowship.

Custodian Position Needed

After three years of service at Zion, our custodian, Margie Gruhn will be stepping down at the end of October.

She has served Zion faithfully and done outstanding work. Thank you, Margie!

If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please speak with head trustee, Dan Behrens. Thank you.

Upcoming opportunities to wear your We Care Wolves shirts and support our Zion/Trinity kids...

- **Thursday Oct 3 @ 6pm - Girls Volleyball - IKM-Manning HS Gym**
- **Monday Oct 7 @ 6pm JV Boys Football - IKM-Manning HS Field**
- **Tuesday Oct 8 @ 4:15pm Junior High Football - IKM-Manning Field**
- **Tuesday Oct 29 @ 7pm JH/HS Vocal Concert - IKM-Manning HS Auditorium**

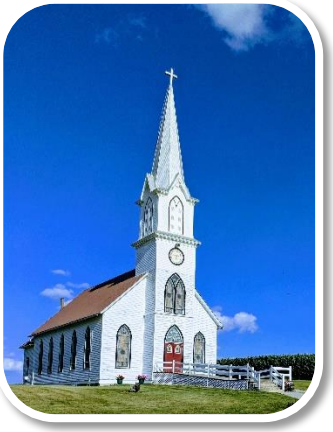
Feast of Tabernacles Service & Potluck

Mark your calendars Monday October 14 @ Trinity 5:30pm

Learn more about this special Jewish holiday with a brief service and potluck. Take a break from harvesting to thank GOD and eat food.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

- Wednesday - November 27
- 7pm @ Historic Trinity-Manning
- Everyone welcome



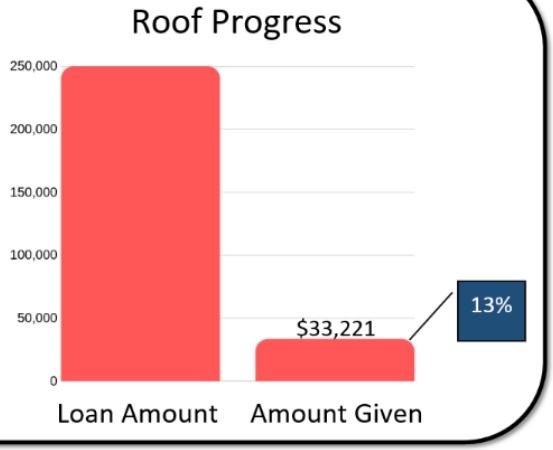
Safety and Security Team

We are excited to be moving forward with our first project after Council approval in September. Zion has had an AED machine stored in the kitchen for quite some time. One of the top priority projects we identified was to get that AED hung up and create a first aid station of sorts near the family bathroom in the fellowship hall. The goal was to get the AED hung in a visible location so that it was easily retrievable if necessary. Additionally, a cabinet will be added below to house some first aid supplies.

Our committee presented a summary of our work so far and a priority list of projects to the Council in September. Some of the items are process related like implementing background checks and transportation waivers for children traveling with volunteers. Other projects will require some budgeting and monetary resources in the years ahead. Some of those examples would be new smoke detectors and testing, hallway motion lights, breakaway doors and electronic locking systems, and security camera/live streaming capabilities. Feel free to reach out to any of the safety and security team members for more information!

Jen Morris

Friends and Family Hayride
Sunday, October 6th / 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Enjoy roasted hotdogs, s'mores, and friendship!
Meet in Zion's field



L.E.R.T.
Lutheran Early Response Team
... through love serve one another. *Gal. 5:13*

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!

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

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.

At 91 and wheelchair bound, Harriett Warnke still loves to go to camp – Camp Okoboji, that is – with her sons, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and their spouses. In July, four generations of Warnkes gathered at Camp Okoboji near Milford, Iowa, for "family week," a tradition started some 30 years ago. But they aren't the only multi-generational campers who congregate at this beloved Lutheran outdoor ministry.

Many other clans – often babies through seniors – have met at the camp "for 30, 40, even 50 years," says Kirk Warnke, camp executive director and one of Harriett's four sons. "Families come over and over and over." It's with campers of all ages and abilities in mind that Camp Okoboji, with the help of Lutheran Church Extension Fund's (LCEF) Laborers For Christ, rebuilt "Samuel," the first of its updated, 100 percent disability accessible, biblically named family ministry cabins.

In 1940, Lutheran pastors and laypeople purchased the camp to serve members of every LCMS Iowa District West congregation. Nearly 80 years later, campers come from throughout the United States. Many first attended Camp Okoboji as children. Now they return with their own families in tow.

"Any given year, we have approximately 25,000 campers come over our bridge," said Warnke. What draws them? Love for this outdoor ministry, Warnke says. Guests appreciate that Camp provides a sanctuary to connect with God and His creation in a safe, friendly environment – a mission that camp leaders and ministry partners are working to strengthen with a continuity plan that began with rebuilding Samuel.

When LCEF Laborers For Christ project manager Lee Smith arrived at the camp in March, he asked the financial benefactor behind the cabin update why the camp was special. "He told us about coming here every year for a long time. He talked about the family atmosphere, the camaraderie, the huge lake – 6,000 acres of lake with lots of inlets," said Smith, who, with his wife, Deborah, traveled from Smithville, Tenn., to serve.

Many guests are regulars at the camp; so is Laborers For Christ. Completing the interior of the three-bedroom, 1,200 sq. ft. cabin marked the building ministry's fifth project there. "Laborers do quality work; it's a partnership we truly enjoy," Warnke said. "We know their heart is in the ministry and that, ultimately, is our major focus – spreading the Gospel and sharing the saving love of Jesus."

The benefactor couple for the Samuel update – who asked to remain anonymous – are Camp Okoboji veterans of more than 50 years. Their children, who began attending camp as youngsters, are "on board" with their parents making possible the rebuild of the first of a planned 37 cabins to be completed over time.

Warnke expects more supporters will help ensure that the camp continues to bless all generations – older campers as well as college-age young people who make up the camp's summer staff and, often, are considering a future in church work. Moving forward into the next 80 years, he said, Camp Okoboji will strive to offer opportunities "to refresh both body and spirit" for all.

Excerpted from: Interest Time
A LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND PUBLICATION

Amigos en Cristo

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

October 2019

Our District Hispanic ministries have been blessed this summer with new pastors in our area to partner with us in our outreach to the Hispanic immigrant community: **Pastor Paul Flo** in South Sioux City, Nebraska; **Pastor Chad Trunkhill** at Our Savior, Denison and the **Rev. Keith Haney**, our new District Assistant to the President in Missions, Stewardship, and Human Care.

Pastor Trunkhill is our partner with Amigos en Cristo at Our Savior in Denison. The ministry at Our Savior has been a founding supporting church of our ministry 20 years ago and we pray that will continue under Pastor Trunkhill who will follow Pastor David Loeschen who retired this Spring. Pastor Chad is originally from Algona, Iowa but comes to Denison from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Fremont, California

The picture (right) shows Gary Thies of Mission Central welcoming the Rev. Keith Haney to our District after his installation at the Fall Pastor's Conference. Rev. Haney will be the District leader to partner with us in supporting our four Hispanic ministries as well as all the mission work of our Iowa District West. Rev. Haney came from the Illinois District where he served as the Congregational Services Executive. He is married and has 6 children and 1 grandson. They will live in Fort Dodge. God bless all of our new mission partners.

This summer we started organizing weekly home visits to our families and friends in our Hispanic ministries in Denison and Storm Lake. Every Thursday in Denison Paula and I pick up Marta and we make home visits. At right we are visiting Olivia's home with her 3 children and a friend. We had a special devotional time and of course, coffee and snacks. We first met Olivia a number of years ago when she put her 3 children in Zion Lutheran School. She has been a frequent visitor to our worship services and we pray she will complete her studies to become a member. On Wednesdays I also make home visits in Storm Lake and always enjoy the honor of visiting our members and friends in their homes.

Please Pray: +In thanksgiving for our new pastoral partners at the District Office and in the region. +For our adults studying for Confirmation in Denison: Ruby, Merlin & Alma. +For the Calling process of a bilingual pastor to serve Hispanics in Storm Lake and in Denison. +For our Storm Lake ministry, for growth and stability. ***+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.+++***

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

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

October - November	Financial Peace University Continues (Wednesdays 6:15 p.m.)
October 6	LWML Sunday with Noisy Offering!
October 6	Bible highlighting for third graders (during Sunday School) Bibles presented on October 20
October 6	Family and Friends of Zion Hayride (4:30 – 6:30 p.m.) s'mores, hotdogs, and chips provided
October 13	Preschool Pancake Breakfast at Zion Worship @ 8:00; pancakes @ 9:00)
October 14	Sukkot Celebration Potluck at Trinity (5:30 p.m.)
October 17	Afternoon Communion Service at Zion (1:30 p.m.)
October 21	Fellowship Club (7:00 p.m.)
October 23	Confirmation Family Discipling Event 6:00 p.m. Family Meal / 6:30 p.m. Session (childcare provided for non-confirmation children)
November 2	Chicken and Biscuit Supper at Trinity in Manilla (5:00-7:00 p.m.)
November 9	LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) Training (9 – Noon) At Trinity in Manilla
November 27	Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service (7:00 p.m.) Historic Trinity in Manning
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 (6:00 p.m. student musicians) (6:30 pre-k – 1st program; 2nd – 8th follows)

October Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1 Eric Rosener
2 Norah Vetter (T)
Ferdonna Zimmerman (T)
3 Marcus Borkowski
Chasity Chedester
Alan Morris
4 Amy Dawson
Robert Ehlers
Charlene Hickman
Camden Morris
5 Bennett Riesberg
Brian Birks (T)
Katelynn Wittala
6 Haleigh Alexander
Benjamin Ramsey
Richard Zinke
8 Marlene Borkowski
Juanita Kurth
9 Amelia Vetter
Bonnie Witt
Sue Mahnke (T)
11 Houston Alexander
Kimber Arp
Drew Doyel
Lynn Kruse
Skyler Sandage
12 Justeen Schwieso
Weston Stribe
14 Wendy Ahrendsen
Lance Gruhn
15 Barbara Doyel
Justin Frank
Lori Lenz
Kaylyn Nelson
Jodi Ramsey
Betty Schroeder
Sandra Sextro
David Weller
16 Miranda Benton
Mya Gaskill (T)
17 Pamela Garvis
Phyllis Lamp
Haven Reese
Gordon Schmarzo
18 Kate Greving
Don Lamb
19 Gloria Ewoldt
Sonia Kuchel
Julie Weller
20 Steve Borkowski
Andrea Nulle
Natalie Nulle
21 Rodney Borkowski
Pam Kusel
Nancy Walters
22 Luella Borkowski
Cynthia Genzen
23 Kyle French
24 Diana Eddy
Wyatt Grabill
Jill Mohr
25 Trevor Booth
Nathan Janssen
26 Brett Saunders (T)
27 Bobby Doyel
Randy Dreher
Lois Peters
Daniel Tibben
Amos Olson (T)
30 Claire Behrens
Mallory Dreier
Geraldine Stripling
Justin Segebart (T)
31 Callan Stribe

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

Anniversaries

9 Ryan & Bobby Doyel
10 Neil & Shala Hass
Duane & Kay Otto
12 Gerald & Rita Beck
13 Howard & Audrey Roe
14 David & Julie Weller
16 Dale & Karen Reinke

Official Acts

Wedding:

- 9/1 - Wedding Alex (Bornhoft) and Trevor Blankman; Pastor Andrew Johnson

Baptisms:

- 9/1 - Bentley James Kropf and Owen Jeffery Kropf; Pastor Andrew Johnson
- 9/22 - Cooper Timothy; son of Jason and Amber Kienast; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Funerals:

- Braelynn Marie Bauer; Died 8/30; Funeral 9/3; Pastor Jonathan Conner
- Janet Kay (nee: Fischer) Plumb; Died 9/6; Funeral 9/11; Pastor Jonathan Conner
- Franklin Earl Mohr; Died 9/8; Funeral 9/14; 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), Bob Behrens (Dan's father), Lynn Kruse, Joyce Schroeder, Randy Saunders