In Wisdom's Pursuit: The Moral Universe of Proverbs

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

People pursue many things – relationships, jobs, degrees, success. You are no different. Consider the things toward which your mind gravitates, the things you find yourself thinking about when you haven't made yourself think about something else. These are your pursuits.

Over the next few months, we're going to see that wisdom should be among your pursuits. To be more precise, we're going to see that wisdom should be woven in, with, and among every one of your pursuits. Wisdom will not only help us understand whether a thing is good, and therefore worthy of pursuit (because some things should not be pursued, i.e. going into debt for a car or signing a lease with a boyfriend or girlfriend), but wisdom will also teach us how to live well within the things we pursue and achieve.

In short, we're after the good life. But even here, before we've really even begun, we need wisdom because that phrase needs to be defined. The good life is NOT the American dream. The good life is bigger than volleyball and dance, football and track, a college degree and a good paying job, a spouse, two kids, an SUV, a big TV, and season tickets. It's not that these can't be enjoyed in the good life – it's that these, too often, become ends in themselves (and as the book of Ecclesiastes will point out, they will vanish like vapor). The good life requires wisdom. To understand why, you'll need to read on.

Wisdom Literature in Scripture

If the good life requires wisdom, we will need to know where wisdom may be found and what wisdom is. Three books in Scripture are specifically dedicated to these questions: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Job. Together they give us a full picture of wisdom and the good life. It's important that we consider them together because each book offers unique and complementary insights into wisdom and the good life. This month we learn from Proverbs.

The Moral Universe of Proverbs

In Proverbs we are seated before a brilliant teacher offering insights on relationships, wealth, spirituality, and so much more. We are invited, even exhorted, to learn from this wise teacher, to think deeply on the instruction given and intentionally apply it. If we do, we will discover the good life. At the center of this good life is wisdom. According to Proverbs, this wisdom is an attribute of God that He has woven into the universe. It can, therefore, only be accessed and applied through a proper regard for the God of wisdom.

Proverbs calls this "the fear of the Lord." This is the lifeblood pulsing through Proverbs. It isn't terror, but awe and reverence. It is a proper recognition of our place in the universe. We are not God. We do not get to define good and evil, right and wrong. We do not get to define reality and the universe. As creatures, and fallen ones at that, we must have these defined for us. So, Proverbs invites us to humble ourselves before God so as to learn His definitions, accept them, and apply them to our lives.

Before continuing, it's vital to appreciate the gravity of these words. We are creatures. We owe our existence to someone beyond us – God. We breathe His air. We occupy His space. We live in His universe. And His universe, as Proverbs insists, is a moral universe. Right and wrong, good

and evil, have objective definitions beyond us. Living the good life requires acknowledging these and living in line with them.

When we do, Proverbs teaches, things will tend to go well for us. So, if you pursue wisdom, if you live virtuously with integrity before the Lord and your neighbors, you will find success and peace. If you don't, if you scorn wisdom, if you live an inwardly turned, prideful life (i.e. one that refuses counsel and correction), you will reel in ruin and shame.

So, for example, if you practice financial restraint (i.e. living on a budget), sexual purity (marriage then sex then babies), and discipline (regular worship and hearing the Word of God), you will enjoy the good life. If you abandon financial restraint, embrace sexual immorality, and sink into spiritual laziness, you will miss the good life and be left with bitterness, guilt, and ruin. This is the moral universe of Proverbs.

Proverbs communicates this moral universe through multiple means. The first nine chapters invites us to listen to ten speeches of a father to a son and four poems from Lady Wisdom to anyone who will listen. The final 21 chapters detail hundreds of individual proverbs that range through nearly every conceivable area of life, inviting us to consider each patiently and meditatively in turn.

The Wise Father

We hear first from the father.

> My son, if you receive my words
> and treasure up my commandments with you,
> making your ear attentive to wisdom
> and inclining your heart to understanding;
> yes, if you call out for insight
> and raise your voice for understanding,
> if you seek it like silver
> and search for it as for hidden treasures,
> then you will understand the fear of the Lord
> and find the knowledge of God (2:1-5).

So great is wisdom's worth that this father exhorts his son to seek it "like silver" and to "search for it as for hidden treasures." If you learned a great treasure was hidden somewhere on your property, would you be content to leave it unfound? Wouldn't you invest in a metal detector? Wouldn't you develop a systematic system of searching? Why would we give any less to wisdom's pursuit? Such is the question this father is asking his son.

"Then," the father observes, when you have discovered wisdom, when you have discovered the moral thread God has woven into His world, "Then you will understand the fear of the Lord…" In other words, when you discover wisdom, you will discover the good life, the life rightly ordered in God's universe. In fact, if space allowed, we would continue reading the father's words and see him conclude,

> So you will walk in the way of the good
> and keep to the paths of the righteous (2:20-21).

Because wisdom is an attribute of God, pursuing it will mean fearfully pursuing God Himself, a pursuit accomplished through the intentional and prolonged study of God's self-revelation in His Word. It is this pursuit which produces the good life.

Lady Wisdom

Proverbs next invites us to listen to Lady Wisdom (a personification of God's attribute of wisdom). She roams the earth calling out to any and all who will listen, exhorting them to learn from her:

> Does not wisdom call?
> Does not understanding raise her voice?
> "…Hear, for I will speak noble things,

and from my lips will come what is right,
for my mouth will utter truth;
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
They are all straight to him who understands,
and right to those who find knowledge.
Take my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold,
for wisdom is better than jewels,
and all that you may desire cannot compare
with her" (8:1, 6-11).

As mentioned before, this is God's moral universe. It is laced together with God's moral thread. Lady Wisdom calls us to see it, appreciate it, and lace our lives with it. And, as Proverbs emphasizes repeatedly, this can only be done through a healthy fear of the Lord.

And when it's done, Lady Wisdom concludes,

Blessed is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors.
For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the Lord,
but he who fails to find me injures himself;
all who hate me love death" (8:34-36).

Whoever finds wisdom finds life, the good life.

Individual Proverbs

Continuing its pursuit of wisdom and the good life, Proverbs turns to hundreds of individual wise sayings. We will consider only a few.

1. A false balance is an abomination to the Lord,
   but a just weight is his delight (11:1).
2. Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
   but he who hates reproof is stupid (12:1).
3. One who lacks sense gives a pledge
   and puts up security in the presence of his neighbor (17:18).
4. A fool takes no pleasure in understanding,
   but only in expressing his opinion (18:2).
5. The rich rules over the poor,
   and the borrower is the slave of the lender (22:7).

Let us briefly consider the wisdom communicated here. In the first proverb, unjust economic practices are condemned. In the second, discipline and reproof (correction) is extolled. The third exposes co-signing as nonsensical (there's a reason the person needs a co-signer – he's probably not going to pay!). The fourth exposes a fool for his ill-considered opinions. And the fifth reveals the true nature of debt: enslavement to the lender. There is great wisdom here! Learning these proverbs alone has the potential to transform a person's life!

This truly is God's moral universe. The good life is discovered by living in line with it. Yes, there are exceptions. Sometimes the wise suffer. Sometimes the faithful experience loss. Sometimes God's people suffer injustice. Scripture is not ignorant of these. Remember, Proverbs is but the first book in Scripture's collection of wisdom literature. They are to be studied together.

Further, we must remember that these proverbs are not promises; they are probabilities. Fearing God and keeping His commandments, living wisely, does not guarantee us everything will go well, but it does teach us how to live the good life no matter our circumstances. If you desire wisdom, your pursuit begins in Proverbs. – Pastor Conner

Preschool Praises for October 2019

October is always a fun and very busy month! The first week we talked about apples and made our own applesauce that we then ate for snack! We used an apple peeler, corer and slicer - the kids loved it! We learned that A is for apple and cut apples in half to look at their parts them make an apple stamp picture with them. We also went to the orchard in town and each child got to pick 2 apples and take them home. What an educational experience as the children got to see what else eats apples and that they don't just come from the store! We talked about the 6th day of creation when God made animals and people and Pastor elaborated on the amazing fact that God made everything from the little worm to the great big bull!

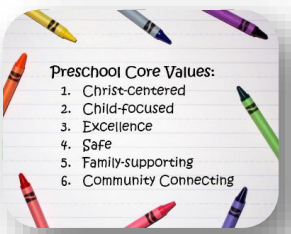
The second week was Fire Prevention and Safety week. We focused on such important topics as stop, drop, and roll, don't hide-go outside, and crawl under smoke. We also worked on the letter F and honing our fine motor skills with tracing lines. The Crawford County Conservation office stopped by and visited the afternoon class and talked about different kinds hibernating animals with the children. The Manning Fire Department came and spoke to us about fire safety and showed us how a Firefighter looks before and after putting on his life-saving gear. They may look a little scary, but they are really just a person under all those clothes and they want to help. Then, they gave us fire truck rides! You can imagine how excited the children were! To top it off, the fire department also gave the children each an activity pack. We wrote them a nice card (more like a poster!) from each class. Again, we thank all those who serve on the Fire Department for their service and sacrifice!

The Pancake Breakfast went wonderfully and we had a record turn out! The children did their best on the songs and sounded wonderful. Thank you to the preschool parents for their volunteer work that day - you were essential to its success!

The third week was all about Fall colors and the letter L. The children gathered different colors of fall from outside (leaves, pine cones, pumpkins, flowers, etc.) and we charted them under either red, green, orange, yellow or brown then counted which category had the most. These charts can be seen in the preschool hallway. We also tried a new art project where we made a leaf rubbing on a paper with a candle then water colored over it. The results are beautifully colored leaves for the letter L! Jesus Time focused on Adam and Eve and how they were created by God differently than other creatures. Pastor spoke of the fall and how sin entered the world.

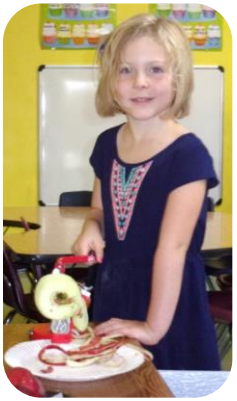
The fourth week was all about pumpkins, shapes, the letter P and the number 3. They used Play Dough to use to shape the number 3 and had fine motor work with making snakes and balls! We ended the week with a pumpkin investigation where each child got to make guesses about out pumpkins - how much they weigh, how many cubes tall they are and if they float or sink. We had some interesting guesses (40 pounds and 78,910 cubes).

Thank you to Betty Schroeder for donating little pumpkins for each child to take home! We also enjoyed the Family Fall Festival where all the preschool families are invited to join us for supper and games. Thank you to all those who volunteered that night and made it so much fun for the children! The fall into sin was our focus for Jesus Time and the children were fascinated with how the devil disguised himself and tricked Adam and Eve, but we distinguished that Adam and Eve made their own choice to listen and disobey God. Pastor spoke about Noah and the Ark and God's love for us. *Continues on next page.*



The last week of October we only had one day of classes as we had Parent Teacher Conferences on Wednesday and Thursday. I had been doing assessments on each child for the previous 3 weeks and enjoyed being able to share the results with the parents. It is amazing how much they have picked up on so far in the school year! It was a super busy month and we all had a great time thanks to many people who make it all possible!

Blessings,
Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz



Process these numbers: the average annual percentage rate on interest-charging credit cards is 17%. 17%! And on store specific cards it's 27.5%! These are obscene numbers. Now process this: the average balance for U.S. households who have credit card debt is $8,602![1] (Don't congratulate yourself if your debt is less; you're still in debt!) Paying $300 per month at 17% would take 38 months to pay off and require over $2500 in interest payments! That's nauseating.

If you're in the thick of it, you feel it. Debt is a heartless enemy. It steals joy, crushes hope, and wrecks lives. It's an angry bull in your personal china shop. Rendering no judgment on how you got to where you are with your debt, you need to know this: it doesn't have to be this way! Yes, you may have a limited income. Most people do. Yes, you may have experienced hard things. Nobody, NOBODY gets out unscathed. Life is full of hard things, and very few of us see them coming.

So here's the question: what are you going to do about it? Chances are money isn't going to magically appear in your mailbox. You need a plan. Start with your monthly income. You need to know what this number is. It's more important than your fantasy football stats and more important than any evening television program. Find this number and write it down. Your life must be lived within this number.

Next, set your giving percentage. Yes, percentage. Do you know your current percentage? Figure it out. Scripture commends the tithe (10%). You may not be there. Fine. Set a percentage and stick to it. This is the first step in your budget. Remember, it's not your money – not a dime of it. It's all God's. You're managing it for Him and He calls you to give your first portion to Him for the proclamation of His Gospel in His Church. We have to start by acknowledging this in our planned percentage giving.

Next, list out your necessities. These are, very simply, food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and utilities. These are things you need to survive. For helpful percentages to designate toward each of these, check out www.daveramsey.com (food: 10-15%, housing up to 25%, clothing 5%, transportation 10%, utilities 5-10%). If you're spending more on these, you may need to change something. In case you're wondering, Mr. Ramsey recommends 10-25% for insurance, 10-15% for saving, 5-10% on health related needs, 5-10% on personal spending, and 5-10% on miscellaneous. If you don't like these percentages, change them. You get to make your budget. Just make sure your percentages end at 100!

Then, get your initial emergency fund in place ($1000 in the bank as soon as possible). This is your insurance fund against the thing that's going to break next week (the fridge, the car, the washer, the water softener, etc.). A wise farmer once told me, "If man made it, it will break." He's right. Yes, you don't know what particular thing is going to break at what particular time, but you know

[1] As reported in The Wall Street Journal, October 15, 2019.

something is going to break. It's going to happen. You need an emergency fund to avoid going into debt over it.

Then go after your debts like a hunger-driven animal. List them off smallest to largest and systematically attack them. Remember, debt is your enemy. It will destroy your life, your marriage, your health, and anything else it can. You need to get it out of your life fast. Hate debt. Evict it from your life.

You may not be able to afford some things while you're evicting debt. That means you're going to have to say no to some things, maybe many things, while you're getting debt out of your life. But here's the painful truth: consumer debt is evidence that you have lived beyond your means. That's hard to hear, but it's true. If you don't have the money in the bank to pay for it, you can't afford it (excepting houses and some of the equipment associated with farming).

Yes, you may be in debt for reasons beyond your control (i.e. a medical event). That's a hard thing, but it gives you even more reason to get out of debt and to do everything in your power to make sure you're not caught off guard again. No, you won't be able to predict your next health event, but you know from experience that health events happen – to everyone. So, just like we prepare for the next appliance to break, we need to plan for the next health event. It's gonna happen.

Once you've fully evicted debt, get three to six months of living expenses saved. Sometimes we get sick for more than a day. And sometimes we get laid up for more than a weekend. And sometimes we lose our job. Your three to six months of living expenses is your insurance against these potentialities. Reality happens to us all and in any ten year span most people will experience a significant life event – one that costs significant money. Plan for it.

Finally, go after your long term goals. List them out: retirement, college, new furniture, addition to your house, etc. and incorporate them into your budget.

Then stick to your plan!

Eating out three times a month might not be in your budget. So, pack your lunch. Don't eat your retirement! Your favorite energy drink or double gussied coffee may not be in your budget. Drink water or make your own coffee at home. Don't sip your emergency fund dry! Cable cannot come before savings. Subscriptions cannot come before prescriptions. A reliable vehicle isn't necessarily shiny and new. Don't buy a vehicle that ends up owning you. It has to fit in *your* budget not your dreams. Dream vehicles that exceed budgets turn into nightmares very quickly. If you can't pay cash for it, you can't afford it.

Obviously, we've only skimmed the surface in this little article. If you want to go deeper, check out www.daveramsey.com, enroll in Financial Peace University the next time Zion or Trinity offers it, or come talk to me for resource recommendations. If you get nothing else from these paragraphs, get this: ***debt is your enemy!*** Either you destroy debt or it will destroy you. Debt doesn't have to be a part of your life. It doesn't have to be this way! – Pastor Conner

Zion and Trinity's Second Family Discipling Event

On Wednesday, October 23, Zion and Trinity confirmation families gathered to engage in our second family discipling event. These events bring our families together to engage in meaningful faith conversations. Special thanks to Gene and Sue Mahnke for providing the meal and Pastor Johnson for leading the conversation on how to make major life decisions as a Christian. To see more, check out Zion or Trinity's Facebook pages.

2019 hayride fun!

More pictures on our Facebook page!

Fear. It's one of the strongest and most disconcerting emotional responses we experience. Although its triggers vary per person (being attacked, falling, tornados, or even public speaking, a big exam, a job interview, or first date), its icy fingers have gripped us all at one time or another.

Zion Cares

Fear, and its cousin anxiety, can last for a short time and pass or it can persist much longer, leaving us stuck in fear. Sometimes, it threatens to take over our lives, affecting our ability to eat, sleep, concentrate, travel, enjoy life, or even leave the house to go to work or school. This can hold you back from doing things you want or need to do, and it also affects your health.

If you're overwhelmed with fear and are avoiding situations, it can be hard to break the cycle. But it can be done! First, remember this phrase: My situation may be hard, but it's not hopeless! As Christians, we are people of hope, a hope, as Scripture insists, that does not let us down (Romans 5:1-5). Your faith in Christ will help you move forward in the face of fear and anxiety as you remember who's carrying you – Jesus! So, when fearful turn to your Heavenly Father in prayer and to the Word for meditation. This will help you move forward in confidence and peace.

Second, you need to face the fear. If you continue to avoid the situation, you give it more power over you. You only make the monster bigger. David's words to Goliath may prove inspirational to you: "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts…" (1 Sam. 17:45). You do not face fear alone. The Lord of hosts is with you.

Third, it may prove helpful to keep a diary or log of your emotions that details when fear becomes a problem for you. This can give you a visual of when you are feeling the increased fear and anxiety about a situation. And this will help you address the situation head on.

Other ways to assist with decreasing your fear and anxiety is to exercise and eat healthy. Avoiding concentrated sugar treats helps the body not experience sharp rises in the blood sugar which may increase the anxiety feelings. It is also important to avoid excessive alcohol and large amounts of caffeine such as coffee and tea.

If you feel your feelings of fear are continuing negatively to affect multiple areas of your life, you should contact your pastor or a mental health center for professional help. This may involve prayer, the study of Scripture, talking to a therapist, referral for medication, and/or support groups for ongoing encouragement. Fear may be a monster, but it is one you don't have to face alone. Want support? Talk to your pastor or visit with Janet Brus or Amy Hull.

Midweek Advent Series: Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love

Family Friendly
Weekly featured video
Take home devotions

See page 19 for times at Zion and Trinity!

Ladies Guild of Zion
October 9, 2019

Pastor Conner offered devotions from 2 Timothy. Paul writes from jail to Timothy, Jesus Christ's missionary, sent out by God to tell men and women everywhere about the eternal life he has promised them through faith in Jesus Christ. Margaret Backhaus presented Christian Life lesson "When You Don't Trust God."

Guest speakers, Mandy Pitscick and Nichole Schiltz from New Hope in Carroll and Manning spoke to the group about operations & opportunities at "New Hope Thrift Shops." President Roe called the meeting to order and led us in the LWML pledge. Roll call was answered by 15 members. The secretary read correspondence and minutes from September meeting which were approved as read. Mite box prayer was read and offering taken. Treasurer, Mary Grimm reported at balance on hand of $1,795.38. LWML noisy offering from Sunday collection was $368.69. Darlene Vollstedt reported on kitchen fund. Circle reports were given on funeral lunches of Braelynn Bauer, Janet Plumb & Franklin Mohr. Circle #1 will serve the next luncheon.

Old Business: President Roe reported on the LWML Carroll Zone Fall Rally that we hosted with 27 attending. 72 Hygiene and 49 school kits were assembled by the group that were delivered to Orphan Grain Train last week by our Zion Fellowship Club. An update was given by Bev Grundmeier on the upcoming "Advent by Candlelight" to be held the second Sunday in December.

New Business: President Roe reported that the old kitchen refrigerator will be replaced this week. The LWML annual Quilt Auction will be held May 23rd at Camp Okoboji. President Roe gave an update on the 2020 Convention to be held at Camp Okoboji, June 18-20. Carroll Zone is in charge of Hospitality and Reception. Volunteers from our Guild are needed. Contact Barb Brockelsby or Audrey Roe if interested.

Plaza Bingo will be October 25th with Sandra Vahl, chair with Sue Puck, Cheral Buhr and Sonia Nulle. The next Guild Meeting with be November 13th with Laurene Meeves and Cindy Leslie as hostesses. The meeting was adjourned with the Table Prayer. Lunch was served by Audrey Roe and Margaret Kuchel.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheral Buhr, secretary pro-tem

thank you

Thanks to everyone who was able to support the Trinity Ladies' annual salad luncheon. They had 190 in attendance and raised about $2,500.

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

2019 Jr. Youth Gathering Report

Near the end of October, Iowa District West of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, of which Zion and Trinity are a part, sponsored its annual junior youth gathering in Des Moines. This was a special year for a variety of reasons:

- A little over 400 kids and chaperones attended
- Zion sent 23 kids and 4 chaperones
- Trinity's Pastor and Deaconess had the opportunity to help plan this year's event

The theme - Come to the Table - celebrated the significance of Holy Communion. The Gathering has had since its inception a strong history of highlighting one of the six chief parts of Martin Luther's Small Catechism:

The Six Chief Parts:

Ten Commandments	Apostles' Creed
Lord's Prayer	Holy Baptism
Confession	Holy Communion

The gathering was broken up into four Mass Events with a young pastor who graduated a few years before I graduated, who serves in Alta, serving as the keynote speaker. In Mass Event 1, the kids considered how the GOD of the Bible consistently makes Himself near to His people (Garden of Eden, Burning Bush, Cloud in the Temple), and how it is consistent for GOD to make Himself close to us in Holy Communion. Does the bread and wine appear to be Jesus' body and blood? Well, maybe not, but the GOD of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and so on consistently brought Himself close to His people in the past, so why wouldn't or couldn't He do that now in ordinary, albeit cardboard-y wafer bread and wine?

In Mass Event 2, our speaker highlighted the seemingly uncomfortable practice of closed communion; the process of allowing some but not all to the Lord's Supper. At Zion and Trinity along with other Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod churches we do our best to take GOD's call seriously to consider what's going on in the Lord's Supper. That is to say, we're called to take Jesus' words seriously; that He is in fact present in Holy Communion and to deny people access to Holy Communion when they deny Jesus' claim. It's not an easy or comfortable practice, but we do our best to take Jesus' claims seriously.

Finally, our speaker provided ways kids and adults can prepare for Communion. Fasting. Praying. There are many ways we can prepare and take the reception of Jesus and forgiveness in Communion seriously. Being intentional can be helpful because like many things in life, eventually everything blends in with the wallpaper. The significance of receiving the GOD of the Universe in Communion can fade away, and the practice becomes insignificant. And while our preparation or lack thereof doesn't take away from the fact that Jesus is showing up, fasting or praying prior to reception helps remind our body that we're coming in the presence of the Holy.

So how was the Jr. Youth Gathering? It was, in the words of one Zion 6th grader, "Epic!" Next year, we'll take a look at the 10 Commandments.

-Pastor Johnson – see page 11 and *Zion's and Trinity's Facebook pages for more pictures!*

COME to the TABLE
2019 IDW JR YOUTH GATHERING

Thank you!

Zion's and Trinity's pastors express our thankfulness to Jodi and Eric Ramsey, Mary Greving, Beth Booth, and Jen Morris for chaperoning the Jr. Youth Gathering. We can't do events like these without amazing servants. Thank you!

Lutheran Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

A FRIEND IN THE DARKNESS

Our minds are created to be beautifully complex, capable of enjoying great pleasure but also sometimes enduring significant pain. Trauma, emotional distress or mental illness can negatively impact anyone, and when it does, we are left searching for answers without knowing where to find help.

Lutheran Family Service offers professional mental health counseling from master's prepared and licensed therapists. As we meet with you in a private, confidential and relaxed office setting, you can begin to explore your thoughts and feelings in a nonjudgmental, safe environment.

If you are struggling, worried, angry, sad or afraid, call us. The decision to begin counseling can be a difficult one, but it is important. Our counselors are prepared to treat a variety of mental health concerns, including but not limited to:

- Depression and suicidal thoughts
- Anxiety and worry
- Trauma or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Personality disorders
- Grief and loss
- Parenting concerns
- Life transitions
- Work and career concerns
- Abuse survivors
- Chronic mental illness

Carroll:
712-276-9000
www.lutheranfamilyservice.org

We're here to listen, to understand and to help you sort through your situation, however complicated, hopeless or overwhelming it may seem.

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, November 21st at 1:30 p.m.** We'll gather in the nave and then welcome worshipers to remain afterwards for a time of fellowship.

LCEF Savings Opportunities

When you invest in LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund), you not only get a great return on your money, but you invest in the future of the Church. Below are three outstanding savings options you may wish to consider.

ConnectPLUS

A fixed-rate term note for new LCEF investors* who wish to invest in the future of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and its Christ-centered ministries.
Now available to LCMS congregations, businesses, RSOs and trusts.
3% fixed rate on the first $50,000 (minimum of $500 to start).
Two-year fixed term note.
Additional funds can be added during the term ($25 minimum).
Balances over $50,000 earn 2.25%.
Rates subject to change.
*This offer is available on a one account per investor basis only to new investors 18 and older who have not had an LCEF investment in the past 24 months.

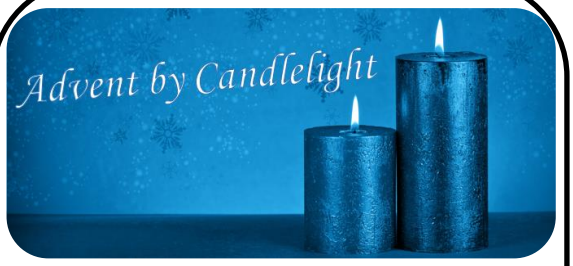
PartnerPLUS

Available to individuals, LCMS organizations and congregations.
Minimum of $500 to start (no transfers from other LCEF investments).
Competitive fixed rate of 2.50% on two-year notes or 3.00% on four-year notes on balances up to $50,000.
Balances over $50,000 earn 2.25%.
Additional funds can be added during the term ($25 minimum).
New money only.
Offer eligible for IRAs.
Rates subject to change.
* This offer is available to investors 18 and older. New money only.

Jumbo Term Note

Fixed rate term note at 3%.
Minimum $100,000.
No maximum.
New or existing dollars.
Open multiple accounts.

Learn more at: www.lcef.org



Sunday, December 8
6:30 p.m.

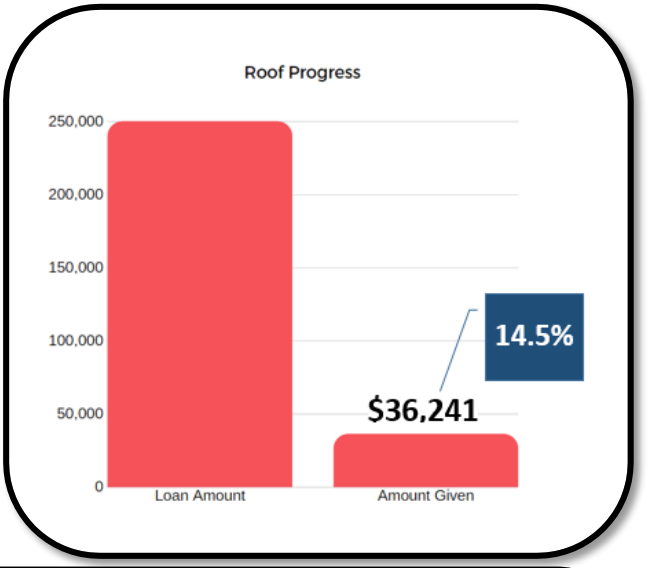
Experience the Christmas story through narration and song in the enchanting candlelight setting of Advent by Candlelight.

Tickets, which are $5, are available for purchase beginning Sunday, November 3rd. All proceeds go to missions.

Desserts are still needed. Sign up in the fellowship hall.

Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship

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



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.

PANAMÁ NEWS

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

brian.gauthier@lcms.org

https://www.lcms.org/gauthier

The Church Marches On… Last month I wrote on how the Lord grows his church. We saw that firsthand these last few weeks in a number of wonderful ways. September was a ful l month! I tra veled to the Dominican Republic to teach and attend various planning meetings for a Pre-Seminary program. It was a great experience meeting some of my students for the first time in person. Additionally, I was privileged to participate in the ordination of Yban Navarro, a former student, who is now a pastor serving at Cordero de Dios in Licey, DR.

A day after arriving back at home, the second course for the deaconess program was offered as an intensive Saturday in Loma Cova and Sunday in Sorá. 12 ladies participated in the classes. We hope to finish up this course over the next few weeks in October. This coming weekend all the churches in Panamá are invited for a celebration at Emanuel in Sorá. This congregation is celebrating 17 years of ministry in the mountains, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Panamá is celebrating 20 years as a formal church body and all of the congregations are kicking off Reformation month together in worship and fellowship. Please continue to keep the church in Panamá in your prayers.

Family News In the middle of August we hit our three-year anniversary of international ministry. In some ways it seems like we have been doing this forever, yet it also feels like just yesterday we were planning for international service with the LCMS. We were reminded of just how quickly time passes when we entered Pricesmart today to buy some items for the house and Ezra yelled “A Christmas tree!” All the Christmas decor is out and ready to be purchased! Soon we will be preparing for the Advent and Christmas seasons in our own home and in the church.

Speaking of time flying by, this coming summer we will again return to the United States to do our network support building. While this is still months away we want to give you a friendly reminder for your own planning that we will be looking to visit congregations throughout the few months we are back in the United States. Please hold a day (or evening) open for us as we would love to reconnect and share about what the Lord has been doing through us in Panamá and for the region of Latin America.

In Christ, Brian, Amanda, Ezra & Aviva

Please Pray:

- Visa issues for a few of our seminarians that would allow for them to continue studying in the DR.
- Permit issues for the roof project in Balboa.
- Reconciliation and unity for the Panamanian Church

Give Thanks for:

- 17 years of ministry at Emanuel in Sorá.
- Safe travels for Brian’s DR trip last month.
- 20 years of ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Panamá.

Amigos en Cristo

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

November 2019

The Theme for this year's school year at Zion, Denison is from Isaiah 60:1: "Levantate y resplandece; porque ha venido tu luz…" Arise and Shine for your light has come….". It's a wonderful thing to see the happy smiles of our children light up our lives and our school. But the greatest light comes to them through our Lord Jesus. They daily hear this as they are taught God's Word in their religious classes. This is one of our goals for our Hispanic ministry, to help each of our families with children to be able to put them in our Zion Lutheran School. We provide scholarships for each of our Hispanic children. Elbert and Kevin (#67 and 83 below), both attended Zion school and now are in Denison high school and doing very well.

So we are very thankful for the Zion school ministry and what it has done for all of our families.

We pray God's blessings for the staff as they prepare our children for life in God's kingdom.

WALK FOR LIFE: Every October in Denison we walk. We invite our folks from Amigos en Cristo to participate in the national Walk for Life. It is a silent public demonstration that takes place on Highway 30 in Denison. We stand along the highway in prayer for the sanctity for human life at all stages of life.

At left above Paula and I and Maru are gathered with members and friends of Crawford Right to Life for this annual silent prayer vigil. Maru, at the far right, has been a big promoter in our church for the unborn and for life. While our group was smaller this year we give thanks for the many Pro-Life groups and especially our local group that work and pray year around for life issues that will benefit all people and cultural groups.

Please Pray: +In preparation for our upcoming Unity Thanksgiving service with our Hispanic churches from Denison, Storm Lake and Sioux City. +In thanksgiving for our growing Bible Study on Wednesday at Amigos en Denison. +For the Calling process of a bilingual pastor to serve Hispanics in Storm Lake and in Denison. +In thanksgiving for Zion Lutheran School. +For God's blessings to Grace Hispanic ministry in Storm Lake. +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. +++

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Email: daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

	November 21	Afternoon Communion Service at Zion (1:30 p.m.)
	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 11	Fellowship Club (7:00 p.m.)
EQUIPPING EVENT	November 24	Confirmation Family Equipping Event Social Media Safety with The Set Me Free Project 6:00 p.m. Session (childcare provided for non-confirmation children)
	November 27	Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service (7:00 p.m.) Historic Trinity in Manning
	December 4, 11, 18	Midweek Advent Services Trinity: 5:30 p.m. supper; 6:30 p.m. service Zion: 5:45 p.m. service; 6:30 p.m. supper
	December 8	Zion's Annual Voters' Meeting (after worship)
	December 8	Advent by Candlelight at Zion (6:30 p.m.) *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)
	December 24	Christmas Eve Services Trinity: 4:00 p.m. Zion: 6:00 p.m.
	December 25	Christmas Day Services Trinity: 10:00 a.m. worship Zion: 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Hymn Sing and Brunch

November Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1 Joy Umland
2 Derek Hodne
Dillon Mohr
Dawn Lorenzen (T)
3 Taylor Beckendorf
Wade Janssen
Duane Boell (T)
Doug Grage (T)
4 Caleb Alexander
Kori Beckendorf
Mason Benton
Lueka Feller
Charles Hickman
Carol Kahl
5 Joe Riesberg
6 Albert Vahl
Nicholas Birks (T)
7 Samantha Doyel
Fred Gruhn
Levi Lapel
8 Ken Grimm
Travis Mohr
Alexander Thelen
9 Rick Lohrmann
Kenneth Stripling
10 Jean Kusel
Jeanette Lerssen
11 Debbie Musfeldt
Tammy Winter
Kysen Folk (T)
12. Kyle Vetter
Levi Kirsch (T)
13. Jacob Dreier
Jordan Edgington
Rodney Frank
Max Renze
14. Bridget Gore
Steve Renze
15. Jesse Johnson
16. Sam Musfeldt
Rachel Nulle
Paula Vogel
17. Macie Doyel
Shelly Gruhn
Sandra Vahl
18. Beverly Grundmeier
19. Ryan Doyel
Mark Kucik
Garrett Renze
Martin Bornhoft (T)
Vera Vollstedt (T)
20. Becky Eischeid
Barbara Gore
Cynthia Leslie
21. Margaret Backhaus
Dustin Bruch
Daniel Mohr
22. Tyler Heaton
Matthew Rosener
Thomas Walters
24. Garrett Blackford
Allen Ehlers
Kelly Page
25. Luann Langel
Amber Neumann
26. Nancy Baack
Amy Borkowski
Nicholas Diersen
Mark Schroeder (T)
27. Ryan Willison
Sandy Grage (T)
Shelia Simonsen (T)
28. Diane Genzen
29. Daniel Behrens
Larry Farley (T)
30. Alberta Dreier

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

Anniversaries

11. Ken & Rhonda Grimm
14. Elissa & Joe Riesberg
16. Allen & Becky Ehlers
19. Brett & Diana Eddy
20. Timothy & Amanda Rosener
24. John & Nancy Opperman
Harold & Marjorie Jurgensen (T)
26. Ken & Becky Eischeid
Stacie & Nels Nelson
29. David & Kelli Page

Official Acts

Baptisms:
Jayden Dennis; Son of Robin and Jennifer Bunker; October 4, 2019; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Landry Oaks; daughter of Jarred and Brandi (nee: Struve) Wiig; October 6, 2019; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Maddox David Vetter; Son of David Vetter and Maria Mulhbauer; October 12, 2019; Pastor Andrew Johnson

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