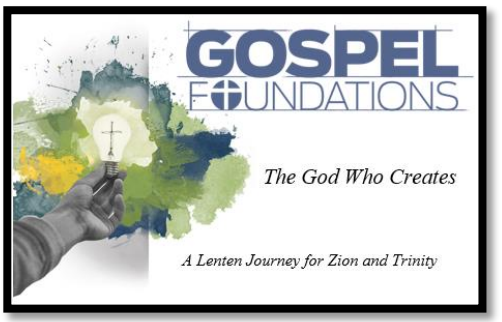
The Bible brims with wonderful stories – Israel passing through the Red Sea, Daniel in the lions' den, Zacchaeus meeting Jesus, Jesus walking on water, Jesus' resurrection, and many, many more. As parents and grandparents, we do well to teach our children and grandchildren these stories. In the process, though, we must remember to teach the biggest story, the grand, unifying story that the individual stories of Scripture join together to tell – a story of God's unrelenting love and pursuit of His people and care for His creation.

In order to help you tell this story, Zion and Trinity are journeying through it together. During our children's messages we are experiencing The Biggest Story, a beautifully illustrated narration of Scripture's grand story complete with accompanying videos. The Biggest Story traces Scripture's story from the Garden to the Cross to the renewed earth. Be sure to have your children in worship to hear and experience The Biggest Story!



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Celebrating and Sharing Christ's Redeeming Love

Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m.
Supper follows

Wednesdays
Supper at 5:30 p.m.
Service at 6:30 p.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
PROCLAIMING PEACE IN CHRIST'S CROSS

From its first page to its last, Scripture tells the unified story of God's rescue mission for His people and His creation. This Lent, join the Zion and Trinity families as we begin journeying through this amazing story. Over seven sessions we'll cover the following chapters in the story:

- God creates
- Man sins
- God makes a covenant with Abraham
- God tests Abraham
- God works through a dysfunctional family
- God gives Jacob a new name
- God redeems Joseph's adversity

Through video and sermon we will trace the rescue mission of God as we see Christ on every page. Join Zion and Trinity and be a part of the story!

Lutheran
Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

Please read below for an update on important legislation regarding "beginning of life" matters that Lutheran Family Service is currently working to impact.

Protect Life Amendment – This measure passed the full senate floor and has passed sub committee / full committee in the House. There is a public hearing on Tuesday, February 25 from 6-8PM and all pro-life supporters are invited to attend.Lutheran Family Service Life Advocates, Rev. Dr. Jim Lamb and Kim Laube, will give testimony at that hearing. We expect to see this debated in the House as soon as the week following.

Abortion Pill Reversal Information – This measure would require abortion facilities and abortion doctors to provide information to women about the potential for the reversal of a medication abortion (used up to 10 weeks of pregnancy) should these women change their mind. This measure has passed through sub and full committee in the House and is eligible for debate on the House floor.

Licensing of Abortion Facilities – This bill would require licensing regulation by the Department of Inspections and Appeals for Abortion facilities. This measure has passed through sub and full committee in the House and is eligible for debate on the House floor.

Fetal Remains – This bill would require a medical professional to ask a woman who has had an abortion to choose between burial or cremation of remains and ensure that bodily remains have been properly and respectfully taken care of or else facilities would face penalties. It would also require a death certificate for pregnancies that ended after 12 weeks (as opposed to the current 20 week measure). This measure has passed through sub and full committee in the House and is eligible for debate on the House floor.

Thank you for your dedication to standing up and speaking out for LIFE!

Rev. Max Phillips and your Lutheran Family Service Life Advocacy Team

lutheranfamilyservice.org

515-573-3138

Hamburgers Can Make Marriage and the World Better

Sitting on a friend's backyard patio, soaking in the succulent scents of sizzling meat, Dr. Emerson Eggerichs, author of *The Language of Love and Respect: Cracking the Communication Code*, asked his friend, who was grilling burgers, "Where did you get these hamburgers?" His friend, hearing a request for information, replied, "At the meat market that just opened downtown."

Not too long afterwards, Dr. Eggerich's wife, Sarah, was preparing burgers for supper. Dr. Eggerich, who was in grad school at the time studying communication with a special interest in the ways and the whys men and women communicate, decided to test a theory. He wanted to know how Sarah would respond to the same question. So he asked her, "Where did you get these hamburgers?" Hearing not a simple request for information, but what her husband might be suggesting, she replied, "Why? What's wrong with them?"

After reading this account, I relayed it to Rebecca. I came to the point of Sarah's response and asked her, "What do you think she said?" And without hesitating, she said, "Why? What's wrong with them?" I suspect the same dynamic would play itself over and over in other marriages. Why? Why did one hear a request for information and one hear a world of possibilities and concerns? And how will understanding this beautiful/baffling difference help our marriages? Read on.

"Report Talk"

In general, men communicate to exchange information. So, when Dr. Eggerich asked his friend where he got the burgers, his friend naturally answered the request for information. In his mind there was no other reason Emerson would ask such a question. Some have called this dynamic "Report Talk" (refer to Deborah Tannen's excellent writings) and it drives men to focus on very concrete things: what information was communicated?, what information is being requested?, what happened?, what action needs to be taken?, and so forth.

In general, men communicate to exchange information.

"Rapport Talk"

This dynamic can be confusing and frustrating to wives, who typically communicate for different reasons. Women, in general, communicate to connect. It's what some have called "Rapport Talk." For women, communication is about establishing connections and negotiating relationships. As such, women often focus not so much on what is said, but on what isn't said, on what might be implied. This makes them very attuned to people's feelings, fears, desires, and concerns. So when Sarah's husband asked where she got the burgers, she naturally heard what wasn't said. She read between the lines and assumed something must be wrong with the burgers. Why else would he ask such a question?

Women often focus not so much on what is said, but on what isn't said, on what might be implied.

This dynamic can be very confusing and frustrating to husbands. Returning to the hamburgers, Dr. Eggerich, if he hadn't been conducting a communication experiment, might have very naturally been confused, even offended, by Sarah's response. Why was she suggesting he was questioning the quality of the burgers? Why did she reply to a request for information with a question? It may have gone something like this:

Emerson: "Where did you get these hamburgers?"
Sarah: "Why? What's wrong with them?"

Emerson: "Nothing. I just want to know *where* you got them."
Sarah: "Why didn't you just say that?"

Emerson: "That's exactly what I said."
Sarah: "No it isn't. You were implying that something was wrong with them." (Notice how she heard what wasn't said.)

Emerson: "No I wasn't. I just wanted to know *where* you got them."
Sarah: "Well, that's not what it sounded like to me."

This probably isn't too far off from how conversations play themselves out in your marriage or in the marriages of people you know. A statement that made sense to us in our minds didn't make sense to our spouse, and instead of clarifying what the other meant, we assume we know and base our reply on a faulty interpretation. Our beliefs about *why* we communicate affect what we hear when we communicate. This is why it's so important for us not only to learn how to decode our spouse's communication, but also to communicate clearly even while we appreciate the unique gifts our spouse brings to the marriage.

Decoding, Communicating Well, and Appreciating

Dr. Eggerich speaks often of the need to "decode" our spouse's words. Failing to do so will tend to produce feelings of annoyance and resentment. For example, wives often communicate their frustrations to their husband not so much because they're looking for a solution to a problem, something they're typically equipped to work out themselves, but because they're looking for a listening ear. From a wife's perspective communication is about connection and building rapport, and talking about a frustration develops this rapport. It's one way she feels close to her husband.

This can be baffling to husbands who assume communication is about conveying information and seeking solutions. And this can lead to feelings of resentment as he wonders, "Why does she talk so much about this? Why doesn't she take action already? And why does she accuse me of not listening or caring when I offer solutions?" On the flip side, she may become frustrated as she wonders, "Why doesn't he listen to me? Why doesn't he hear my heart? Why does he always go straight to the solution?"

Let's apply this to the hamburgers. Emerson asks Sarah where she got the burgers. Sarah knows Emerson typically communicates to convey or gain information. She can either answer the

informational question, or if she wants to be sure, she can reply like this: "Are you looking for information or expressing a concern?" This is a question designed to decode Emerson's question while also satisfying her needs in communication.

What could Emerson have done differently to help ease Sarah's tendency to read between the lines of communication? He could have said something like this, "These burgers are fantastic / look delicious. Where did you get them?" His opening statement would help Sarah decode the intent of his question. He wasn't questioning the burgers; he was seeking information.

Most of the time, a few extra steps in communicating go a long way to eliminating potential confusion or frustration. Remember, your spouse doesn't share your assumptions about communication. The *why* of his or her communication is different than yours. You may need to share *why* you're communicating before you say *what* you want to communicate. These extra steps may seem cumbersome, but they will help you decode your spouse's communication and stave off potential conflicts.

You may need to share **why** *you're communicating before you say* **what** *you want to communicate.*

Further, understanding a husband's tendency to be action-oriented and information-focused will help wives appreciate the strengths their husband brings to the marriage. And seeing a wife's tendency to hear what isn't being said and to be attuned to people's feelings, fears, desires, and concerns, will help husbands appreciate the strengths their wife brings to the marriage. These truly are great gifts that make marriage resilient and delightful. But the first step is to see them!

When we truly see and appreciate the great gift God has given us in our spouse along with the unique insights and abilities he or she brings to the marriage, we will grow closer in marriage. And better marriages ripple outward into families, neighborhoods, communities, and cultures. When you improve your marriage, you improve all of our lives. When you invest in your marriage, you invest in our community. When you make your marriage beautiful, you make our culture beautiful. When you make your marriage better, we all benefit. So go grill some burgers and make your marriage stronger and our culture better today.

If you'd like to talk more about strengthening you marriage, come talk to me, pick up Dr. Eggerich's book (in Zion's library), check out his website (www.loveandrespect.com), or join us for our strengthening marriage workshop at Zion on March 22. – Pastor Conner

1917 is a Christ-film. Some of the best literature, art, music, and cinema depict the work and love of Jesus; sometimes intentionally, sometimes not. Either way, a film like *1917* echoes the beautiful work of Christ in ways we thought impossible. In *1917*'s case, writer and director Sam Mendes depicts Christ in the turmoil that was WWI.

Fair warning, if you have not seen the movie I will discuss specific scenes and ruin important details. Also, it should be noted that the 'R' rating is well deserved. Mendes brings to life the horror of trench warfare and death. The scenes would be upsetting for younger audiences and potentially triggering for veterans. That said, I'd like to savor just how Mendes re-captivated Christ for me on film.

+++

Two British corporals have a straightforward mission. Corporals Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman) and Schofield (George MacKay) must reach another British force before they attack retreating Germans who have set up a trap for the unsuspecting attackers. Blake is chosen because his brother serves as an officer in the other British force. If Blake and Schofield don't make it in time, Blake's brother will die along with 1,600 British soldiers.

Already Christ comes to light. Blake immediately sets forward to the task without taking into consideration the potential danger that awaits him over the other side of the trench. St. Paul writes in Philippians 2 that Christians ought to have the mind of Christ which means counting "others more significant than yourselves." Paul goes on to say that Christians can have this mind only because Jesus counted others more significantly than Himself; so much so that it got Him an agonizing death on a tortuous tree (Phil. 2:8). But death, not even a grueling death swayed Christ from committing to you and your wellbeing. In the same way, Blake remains steadfast even to the point of being rash for the sake of his brother and brothers in arms. In the end, Blake endures an agonizing passion of his own when a German pilot fatally stabs him, but more on that later.

Before the two soldiers crossover the trench into no man's land, they have to find a particular unit which will point the men in the safest direction to exit from the British trenches. Given the name of a ranking officer, the two corporals find out that he was killed a few days earlier. An uncouth, unkempt, untidy officer who has replaced the previous commander greets them. He prophesies their doom. It's hard not to see a John the Baptist figure in this commanding officer. His physical appearance combined with his vulgar speech harkens to the brashness of Israel's prophet. All the other prophets had been killed up to that point (Luke 11:47), much like the countless commanders leading the line of soldiers in that trench. The icing on the cake occurs when the senior officer pulls out his flask and splatters liquid on the two corporals right before debarking from the trench; the commander washes away their sins, effectively "baptizing" the corporals. While there is no voice from heaven that authenticates that this is my Son, the two corporals are given a flare gun which they are told to fire in the *air* once they've made it to safety into no man's land.

Climbing over the trenches, the two corporals immediately run into an endless barbed wire fence. Schofield pulls back the fence for Blake. In the process of doing this, the fence slips piercing

Schofield in the hand. The imagery is not lost and harkens to the stigmata or the wounds made in Christ's hands on the cross. This is the first major wound Schofield receives in this endeavor to save 1,600 men from imminent death.

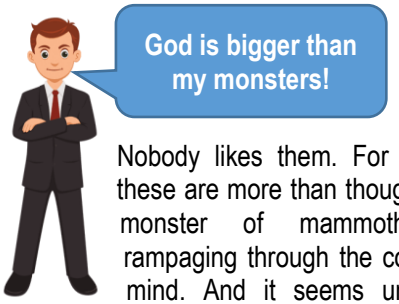
The soldiers enter a German bunker filled with abandoned bunk beds. They find abandoned cans of rations. Before they can dine, however, they notice a tripwire mine. Hoping to find an escape route, a large rat trips the mine sending the soldiers flying. Blake frantically searches for Schofield who is buried by debris. The walls shake as the cave crumbles. Schofield blinded by dirt and debris has to trust Blake for directions in the crumbling cave. Again, it's hard not to hear echoes of Jesus. Moving straight from His baptism, Jesus went straight into the wilderness where He was tempted by the great Rat, Satan. The Devil tempted the starving Jesus with food; in so doing He hoped to tempt Jesus in trusting in something other than His Father. The corporals are prevented from enjoying the German's food when they're nearly destroyed by the cave. The two emerge from the cave entering a dusty, sandy landscape cleared for artillery which has been destroyed by the retreating Germans. The landscape resembles a barren desert which wondrously resembles the landscape St. Mark describes in his Gospel account of Jesus (Mark 1:12-13).

Moving from the harsh, wilderness landscape, the men find themselves on an expansive meadow. An abandoned farm lies ahead, but before they reach the farm the two walk through a cherry orchard. The budding trees put out white blooms which cover the ground. Blake says cherry trees can make it look as if it has snowed. The imagery of white blanketing the soil that has been transgressed by blood and warfare recalls why pastors wear white during the divine service. The sins of the man in the pastoral office and by extension your sins are covered by the purity of Christ's faithfulness. Ground marked by humanity's warring sin becomes hallowed, just as Christ purifies His people.

The men cautiously exit the orchard and secure the farm. Safe on the ground, the two find themselves dropping to the ground as a German biplane crashes into a barn. A fire spreads into the cockpit and the pilot screams as he assumes he'll be consumed in the conflagration. Blake and Schofield pull the pilot to safety; his legs bear burns. Schofield recommends "mercy-killing" the pilot in order to put him out of his misery, but Blake desires to show true mercy. Blake points Schofield towards the well for water. Schofield begrudgingly turns toward the well. Pumping the handle a cry reaches Schofield's ears. The pilot has stabbed Blake in the side with a concealed knife. Schofield quickly eliminates the pilot and runs to Blake's side. The wound is fatal; Blake knows it, and he dies in Schofield's arms. The scene leaves you thinking a couple of things: firstly, the pilot kills Blake even though Blake attempts to enliven the pilot. The Gospels biographies of Jesus -- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John...and Acts for that matter -- make it pretty clear that humanity killed Jesus *even though* Jesus had healed the sick and had forgiven sinners. Secondly, while Jesus did not die because of the spear blow He received from the Roman soldier, the fact that blood flows from Blake's side on account of a knife mirrors Jesus' experience; but more importantly, the viewer finds out that Blake's bloody sacrifice was vital for the salvation of the 1,600 British soldiers preparing to attack the Germans (including Blake's brother). In GOD's story, salvation is costly...very costly! And that Biblical reality comes to life in Blake's sacrifice for his comrades. – Pastor Johnson (*to be continued next month*)

Talk to Yourself

- What if my child gets hurt?
- What if I fail?
- What if the diagnosis is really bad?
- What if other people find out?



You've had these thoughts. We all have. Nobody likes them. For some, though, these are more than thoughts; they are a monster of mammoth proportions rampaging through the corridors of their mind. And it seems unbeatable. I've written before in this newsletter on the battle against anxiety, so I won't repeat myself. If you'd like to re-read that article (or read it for the first time) check out the booklet "The Quest for Peace in the War against Anxiety" in Zion's Resource Center.

In this article, I simply want to highlight one practice I mentioned in the aforementioned article: talking to yourself. I'm not encouraging you to narrate your day; I'm urging you to speak your fears, anxieties, and worries out loud. If you're married, speak them to your spouse. If you're single, find a friend or simply speak them out loud to yourself in the mirror. I'm not speaking metaphorically. Speak them out loud. Why? Because all monsters seem bigger in the dark and get smaller in the light.

When I was a kid, I slept on the bottom bunk and I had this recurring fear that an axe murderer or knife murderer was hiding under my bed. The fear only hit me at night. During the day I never gave it a thought. When the lights went off, however, my imagination got the best of me.

The same goes for your fears and anxieties. Giving them free reign in the confines of your mind allows them to swell in size. You need to expose them to the light. Bring them out into the light. When you do, you may find that there's no monster there at all (there was never an axe murderer under my bed!). You may find there was a monster, but it is far less deadly than you imagined. And you may find the monster you feared is big and fierce. But bringing it into the light will allow you to operate from what you know rather than from what you don't know.[1]

What if my child gets hurt?

Let's do this with our opening examples. "What if my child gets hurt?" You take this chance every time you drive your child to church or school. You could get in an accident. So, what do you do? You take reasonable precautions. You buckle them in and drive responsibly. Yes, sometimes accidents still happen and our children still get hurt. But is the answer never to drive in a car with our child? Are we able to eliminate all risk from life? Should we require them to live in bubble wrap? No.

The book of Ecclesiastes masterfully makes this point:

> I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor

[1] Please don't read this article and conclude that Christianity rejects medical assistance for anxiety. Such is not the case! Medication may be of great assistance in the war against fear and anxiety. Nevertheless, the content communicated in this article can be of great value.

to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all (9:11).

We simply can't eliminate all risk. In a fallen world people will get hurt. So we take reasonable precautions and go forward in sober faith. If "time and chance" happen to us prematurely or unexpectedly, we lean on our Lord to provide the grace we need to get through each day. It was Jeremiah, the weeping prophet, who penned these words in the book of Lamentations:

> The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
> his mercies never come to an end;
> they are new every morning;
> great is your faithfulness (3:22-23).

Say these things out loud. Speak them to yourself. Speak truth into your fears and anxieties. Come at the monsters in your mind armed with the weapon of God's Word.

What if I fail?

"What if I fail?" At some point, you will. Abraham did. Moses did. David did. Martha did. Peter did. Paul did. Good luck finding a Biblical character who didn't. Is failing pleasant? No! Nobody likes to fail. But maybe the greater failure is not trying rather than trying and not succeeding. Stop letting the monster of feared failure rummage through your mind. Bring it into the light and speak this truth into your life: "I am not defined by my failures. I am defined by Christ's victory!"

What if the diagnosis is really bad?

It might be. Then what? Will God abandon you? If you receive a terminal diagnosis, will God reject you? Will He withdraw His promises from you? No. Might you face suffering? Yes. But what does Scripture say? "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). Say this out loud. And say this out loud: "But we have this treasure [the Gospel] in jars of clay [breakable bodies] to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). Speak these truths out loud.

And speak this truth out loud: "Someday, maybe sooner, maybe later, I am going to die. And then I'm going to live! Christ will raise me!" Bring the monster of your diagnosis into the light of God's truth and see how the monster shrinks. Scripture puts it this way: "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison" (2 Corinthians 4:17). Speak it out loud.

What if other people find out?

They might. David's sin with Bathsheba was found out. And God forgave David! If you did something wrong, might there be consequences? Yes. But God's grace and forgiveness are bigger than your sins. Might you be embarrassed? Yes. Might you lose friends? Yes. But you will not lose your Savior. Might you lose your reputation? Yes. But you will not lose your Heavenly Father's love. Speak these truths out loud. The monster may be big. The monster may be terrible. The monster may make a mess of your life. But no monster is bigger than your Lord. Not one. Speak this out loud over and over and over again. Stop listening to the monster in your mind and start speaking God's truth out loud.

God loves you. Yes, you. Christ died for you. Yes, you. Christ rose for you. Yes, you. He will never abandon you. Never. You may suffer along the way. Your children may suffer along the way. In fact, you can probably bank on it. But no bad thing can ever undo the good thing of God's love for you in Christ. Speak these things out loud daily. – Pastor Conner

Strengthening Marriage at Zion!

Grow closer and strengthen communication at this Equipping Event. Childcare and refreshments provided.

Sunday, March 22 @ 6:00 p.m.

Everyone invited! Free!

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

Strengthening the Single Parent at Zion!

What are your stressors as a single parent?
What can you control, what can't you?
What are your needs as a single parent?
Social, emotional, spiritual, physical, vocational?

Childcare and refreshments provided.

Sunday, March 29 @ 6:00 p.m.

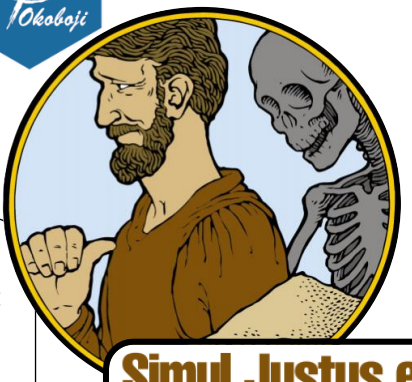
Everyone invited! Free!

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

Lutheran Family Service
For Nothing Is Impossible With God

Future Dates and Events of Interest:
April 23 - 25: Wittenberg Academy
May 1: Final date to receive quilts for 2020 Quilt Auction
May 1 - 2: Spring Women's Retreat
May 6 - 10: Music Therapy Camp for Veterans
May 23: Camp Okoboji Auxiliary Quilt Auction
May 29 - 31: Kids Kamp #1

Camp Okoboji



Register ONLINE
campokoboji.org

March 20-21
Jr. & Sr. Youth

Simul Justus et Peccator
Fully Sinner/Fully Saint
A Higher Things® Youth Retreat

Sometimes, it feels like there's a civil war going on inside us. The good we want to do we don't do. The stuff we're commanded by God not to do, we do (and even enjoy it). But, why does this happen to Christians? The answer lies in the gathering theme: *simul Justus et peccator (fully sinner/ fully saint).*

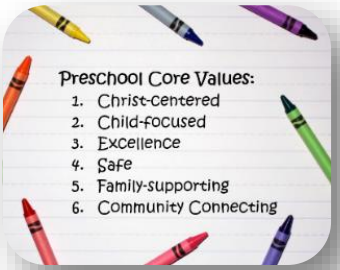
February has been a busy month and a very fun one! The first week we talked about groundhogs, germs and the letter G. We did a worksheet about germs and did a fun activity where we put lotion with green glitter (germs) onto one child's hands and had them pass a toy around to all their friends. We discovered how germs can spread so easily and talked about what we can do to stay healthy. We matched shadows of groundhogs and did the letter G for glue. We worked on our number recognition 0-10 and made cute hearts for the preschool bulletin board saying what each child loves. For Jesus Time we spoke about when Jesus walked on water and had Peter walk out on the water to him. Peter was faithful and able to walk onto the water as well, but he looked down at the water and lost faith and began to sink! He called out to Jesus to save him and Jesus reached out and saved him. Jesus saves us even when we are losing heart if we just call out to him.

At chapel time, Pastor Conner told the children about the paralyzed man who came through the ceiling to see Jesus when he was teaching in a crowded house. Jesus showed that he had the power to forgive sins by also healing this man so that he could walk!

The second week was all about Valentine's Day. This week we decorated our Valentine's boxes and bags for parent presents. We learned about the letter V and used vegetables (peppers) to paint. We also caught up on our cutting skills even cutting curves! The children enjoyed exchanging Valentine cards. During Jesus Time we talked about when Jesus healed the blind man. First we had to explain what it means to be blind. The children were shocked to know that people can have their eyes open and yet not be able to see anything! They were also kind of grossed out when I told them that Jesus made mud with his spit and dust then spread it on the blind man's eyes! Jesus did a miracle when he had the man wash his eyes and he could see! Pastor spoke to the children at chapel time about when Jesus calmed the storm with only his word! Why wouldn't the wind obey He who created it? Jesus still speaks to us through His word in the Bible. The children sang in church and did a wonderful job of singing "Jesus' Love is a Bubblin' Over" and "This Little Light of Mine."

The third week we touched on President's Day and each child got to tell what they would do if they become president and the afternoon class got to clean pennies with salt and vinegar. The rest of the week we learned about teeth and how often we should brush (twice a day) and visiting the dentist. We looked at different foods and discussed if they would make our teeth happy or sad. We also painted teeth white with toothbrushes which they all really enjoyed! An experiment with 3 hardboiled eggs each put into different liquids (water, grape juice and pop) showed why water is better for our teeth and why we need to brush our teeth after drinking sugary drinks. We learned that X is for x-ray and got to make our own x-rays with Q-tips on black lettering. During Jesus Time I read about how Jesus fed over 5,000 people with only 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish and had 12 baskets of leftovers after! Jesus did a miracle to show that he was truly the Son of God.

Pastor spoke to the children about the transfiguration of Jesus. This was when he was on a mountain praying and he suddenly became extremely bright like a lightning and was joined by Moses and Elijah, two heroes from the Old Testament. They were there to point to Jesus as the Superhero of the Bible, the one who they had been getting people ready for. Peter, James and John were amazed! A great cloud surrounded everyone and the voice of God spoke and said, "Jesus is my son. I'm pleased with Him. Listen to Him!"



Registration for the fall of 2020-2021 was good. We still have openings for 3 and 4 year olds to join our program. If you know of anyone with a child who turns 3 before September 15th, 2020, please let them know of our program. The last week of February we learned about weather. We worked on patterning and enjoyed painting with yellow and blue (which makes green!). We matched clothes according to the weather and learned that the letter U is for umbrella. We worked on our number 1-10 recognition and counting and did an experiment to see what objects can be blown by the wind and which are too heavy. During Jesus Time I read about how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus was dead for days and Jesus came and spoke with his sisters and explained, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die." He then called Lazarus out from his tomb and he was alive again. Jesus is powerful and even has power over death! During Chapel Time Pastor Conner told us about how the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness, but Jesus resisted Him with the Word of God.

Thank you for your support and prayers for the preschool!

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz

Your Perception is Reality

Have you ever gone into public and felt like everyone was staring at you? You think people can see right through you and know everything about you. The truth is they probably aren't thinking one way or another. Someone once put it this way: "Don't worry what people are thinking about you; they aren't thinking about you." However, your perception, is your reality. Your belief that they are thinking about you has become your reality.

Zion Cares

Mental illness is similar. Perception becomes reality. And this perception affects a person's thinking, feeling, and/or mood. It may affect his/her ability to relate effectively with others and function on a daily basis. The most common mental illness for older adults is anxiety and depression disorders. Older adults that suffer from mood disorders may also complain of psychosomatic symptoms, such as persistent aches or pains or digestive problems that don't appear to get better with treatment. Depression is one of the most underdiagnosed conditions and therefore undertreated. Untreated depression can actually delay a patient's recovery or worsen the outcome of their other health conditions.

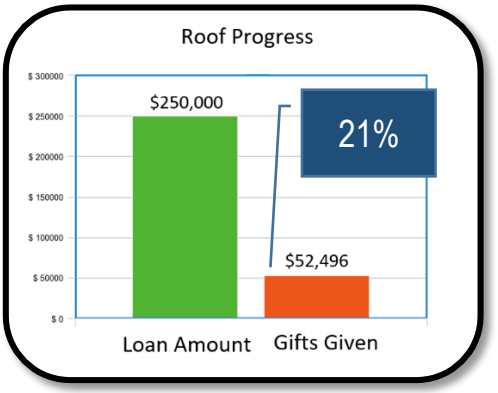
One of the most comforting ways that someone can assist a person struggling with anxiety or depression is lovingly to acknowledge the mood changes. This signals care and concern even as it expresses the willingness to help carry the burden. Sometimes depression and anxiety require treatment. If so, it may be helpful to:

- Accompany a person to a medical appointment, with their permission, and take notes for the person if they have a difficult time remembering details.
- Remind the person to take their medications as prescribed. Mental health medications are just as important to take as the blood pressure medications.
- Make an appointment with the person just to "hang out"; just being there says a lot.

Having a committed and faithful friend brings comfort and helps the struggling know they are not alone. And this is the reality we want them to know.

Janet Brus, RN
Psychiatric Medical Care, Manning Regional Healthcare Center
Program Director, 712-655-8262

Senior Life Solutions®



Ladies Guild of Zion
February 12, 2020

Pastor Conner opened with prayer then had us turn to Deuteronomy 30:11 ff. There we were admonished to "hear" the word for there we find our life in Christ. Christian life chairman, Margaret Backhaus read "He Did It First." God loved us first, thus we are to love others as He first loved us.

President Audrey Roe opened the business meeting in the name of the Triune God and led us in the League Pledge. Roll call was answered by a winter activity we enjoyed as children. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Correspondence included thank you notes from organist Carolyn Kerkhoff, Pastor Vogel and the Hispanic ministry in Denison and Storm Lake, Pastor Ferry from ministry in Taiwan, Molly Ulrickson from India, and Kurt Warner from Camp Okoboji. The mite box was passed as the mite box prayer was recited. Treasurer, Mary Grimm reported a balance of $460.63. Kitchen Treasurer Darlene Vollstedt reported a balance in the kitchen fund of $1950.79.

Circle #2 served the Lucille Ranniger funeral. Circle #1 will serve the fellowship coffees in March and serve the next funeral. Human Care announced 13 tied quilts and 2 donated blankets as well as clothing was given to Orphan Grain Train and delivered to Ida Grove.

Old business: The policies for serving upcoming funeral lunches was tabled at the last meeting. After discussion, Darlene Vollstedt moved that we leave everything as it now stands and later amended her motion to say (with a cap of 150 people or less to be served.) Larger groups would need to be catered. Cynthia Genzen seconded the motion and the motion carried. After further discussion, Cheral Buhr offered to tell Ohde Funeral home that the family could choose to serve either cold sandwiches or maid rites along with chips, pickles, salads and desserts.

New business: Camp Okoboji's annual meeting is scheduled for April 18th at 11:00 A.M. The name of a delegate was requested and it was noted that a food pantry shower would be held at the time of the meeting. Scholarship applications for Cub/Jr. High/ Youth Week/ are to be in by April 15th. The redemption of pop cans for buying new camp mattresses as well as theme baskets to be auctioned off at the meeting or a cash donation are welcomed. The quilt auction is to be held on May 23rd and quilt donations are to be at camp no later than May 1st.

Day of Prayer will be held in Glidden on March 6th. Further information is coming.
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer. Hostesses for the day were Monica Christensen and Connie Ahrendsen.
Sue Puck, secretary

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 now offers a Thursday afternoon Communion service every month especially for you, but any and all are invited. Our next service is scheduled for **Thursday, March 26 at 1:30 p.m.** We'll gather in the nave and then welcome worshipers to remain afterwards for a time of fellowship.

VBS Rainforest Exploration

Are you tired of cold and snow? Would you like to explore a rainforest in a warm climate? Join the children of Zion and the community for this year's VBS exploration. VBS dates are Monday, June 1 through Friday, June 5. VBS will again be held each morning during the week. The setting is a rainforest, and the theme is "Jesus Leads the Way." Children and their leaders will hear God's promises for them and will experience the warmth of His grace.

MANY VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED!!!! (Teen through senior volunteers needed!) We will need small group leaders, decorators, craft assistants, recreation helpers, administrative attendants, kitchen helpers, and more. Mark the dates on your calendar. If you know already that you will be available and would like to help, share your availability with Pastor Bob or Diane Riggert or Pastor Andrew Johnson. It will be a great (and warm) adventure.

FELLOWSHIP CLUB
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Celebrating and Sharing Christ's Redeeming Love

Fellowship Club Field Trip—Thursday, March 19

The Zion Fellowship Club has been blessed to support and participate in the ministry of Orphan Grain Train. (Thanks for the clothing donations from congregation and community.) On **THURSDAY, March 19**, the Fellowship Club will take a field trip to the main Orphan Grain Train warehouse in Norfolk, Nebraska. Fellowship Club members (and friends!) will **leave Zion at 9:00 a.m.**, stop for lunch in route, and at 1:00 p.m. learn more about the international ministry with a tour of the facility. It will be an enlightening day! The Fellowship Club invites other Zion members and friends to join in the journey. If you'd like to join us, share your intent with Dennis Backhaus or Pastor Riggert so transportation can be arranged. The field trip will take the place of the regular monthly meeting.

Another Orphan Grain Train clothing collection will begin on Sunday, March 29. Good, clean used clothing of all sizes and seasons is always welcomed. Donations of new clothing (underwear, socks, etc.) are also appreciated. Friends and neighbors from the community are also welcome to share clothing items.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
Relief for Human Need Worldwide

Over 50 family and friends of Zion gathered to spend time playing games with each other on Sunday, February 16. The fellowship hall was full of laughter and joy! Thank to Zion's Board of Christian Education for hosting the event and to everyone who volunteered!

Filling the Grocery Gap in Manning

Has the closing of the grocery store in Manning made obtaining groceries difficult? Zion is here to help! John Corbet, owner of Food Land grocery stores in Audubon, Woodbine, and Missouri Valley has agreed to partner with Manning to deliver groceries to your door!

How does it work?

Food Land grocery store runs sales from Wednesdays to Tuesdays (weekly ad is available here: www.foodland.biz – click "weekly ads" and then choose "Audubon"). If you do not have internet, you may call Zion and we will print it for you.

Write out or email your order to Zion (zionmanninglcms@gmail.com) by Thursday (Friday morning at the latest) of each week (if you cannot bring your order to Zion, call us and we'll send someone to pick it up!). Be sure your phone number and address are included. We will ensure the order is submitted to Food Land. On Monday or Tuesday Food Land's driver will deliver the groceries to your door! The driver will bring your bill, which you can pay by cash, check, or credit/debit card.

How much does delivery cost?

$3 per order

What else do you need to know?

When you fill out your grocery order, be as specific as you can. For example, if you want green bananas, indicate it. If you only want a specific brand of yogurt, indicate so. If you accept substitutions (one brand of butter instead of another) say so.

If you have questions, please call Zion and we will help! 712-655-2352

Thank You!

The "retirement event" was another demonstration of the generosity and kindness of the Zion family and the Manning community. Thanks especially to Pastor Conner, the choir, and Warren and Sue Puck for the kind words and recognition service. Thanks to the hostesses for the tasty and classy reception. We appreciated the many cards, gifts, and greetings. It has been a privilege to serve you. We look forward to the next chapters of our "partnership in the Gospel."

Pastor Bob and Diane Riggert and the Riggert family

Amigos en Cristo

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

March 2020

In the picture (right) I am speaking to the youth of our Amigos congregation on the day of the Presentation of our Lord. 40 days after Jesus' birth, his Jewish parents brought him to the Temple to be given to the Lord according to the law of God. This tradition is remembered and celebrated by our Hispanic families. If you read about our Epiphany celebration last month, this is a continuation of that visit by the magi.

For the Presentation we recognized our youth with a special message on Baptism, with prayer and a blessing. We praise God that they have been 'presented' to the Lord through Baptism, forgiven of their sins and by the Holy Spirit filled with faith in Jesus their Lord and Savior. Baptism not only reminds us of God's care for us but it means that God lives with us day by day through our lives. Following the worship service we followed the traditional special dinner of tamales. I don't know why tamales are the meal of the day, but we enjoyed them and the fellowship that brings us together.

Please Pray: +For plans for the damaged church at Zion, Denison where Amigos meets. +For our plans and goals for 2020 in Denison and Storm Lake: 1) Calling a bilingual pastor, 2) Evangelistic outreach to the Hispanic community and the joy of meeting new contacts. 3) Leadership growth. ***+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. +++***

In the picture at below Zulema, Briana and Katia are together at Grace church. These ladies are special for a number of reasons. They are bilingual and they come to church with their parents even during the busiest years of their lives. Katia, far right, graduated from High School and works as a substitute teacher in the elementary. She comes with her mom and family. Briana (middle) is a Senior. She comes with her mom and she brought her friend, Zulema (left) to church. Katia and Briana are members and we pray that Zulema will bring her parents and continue to bless us.

Each month at Amigos we celebrate birthdays with a fellowship gathering. Ismaela (below left) is a visitor to our church. We are blessed that she has been coming with friends and is enjoying being a part of our church family. Azucena (below right) grew up in our church and attended Zion Lutheran School with her brother. She is married and has a 2 year old son. We are so blessed that our school girl who grew up in our church and school has continued to be active, now with her own family.

Rev. Daniel Vogel
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Home: 712-653-2354 / Cell: 712-309-1292
Email: daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

	March Saturdays/Sundays	The Biggest Story *continues* A children's message series
	March 4, 11, 18, 25	Lent Midweek Series: The God Who Creates 5:45 w/ supper following at Zion 5:30 meal w/ 6:30 worship at Trinity
	March 5	Preschool Dad's Night (6:30 p.m.)
	March 19	Fellowship Club Field Trip to Orphan Grain Train (9:00 a.m.)
FAMILY EQUIPPING EVENT	March 22	Strengthening Marriage at Zion (6:00 p.m.)
	March 26	Thursday afternoon Communion Service at Zion (1:30 p.m.)
FAMILY EQUIPPING EVENT	March 29	Strengthening the Single Parent at Zion (6:00 p.m.)
	March 29	Fellowship Club Orphan Grain Train collection at Zion
	April 5	Palm Sunday
	April 9	Maundy Thursday
	April 10	Good Friday
	April 12	Easter Sunday
	April 22	Confirmation Witness Night
	April 26	Confirmation Sunday

March Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

2. Jennifer Behrens
Kaleal Hass
LeAnne Haubrich (T)
Curtis Lingle (T)
Marge Schnoor (T)
3. Lori Genzen
LeeAnn Musfeldt (T)
4. Katelyn Crawford
Marion Ream
Rebecca Vollstedt (T)
5. Jessie Blackford
Oliver Saunders (T)
6. Camden Alexander
Josiah Conner
Matthew Gore
Paige Hinners
7. Larry Lesle
Zachary Lorenzen (T)
Errol Wegner
8. Lenus Borkowski
Beverly Bruhn
Bonnie Lorenzen (T)
9. Bentley Kropf (T)
Lynna Miller
Craig Musfeldt
10. Stan Baack
Randahl Peters
11. Cynthia Grau
Curtis Grimm
Jeff Hargens
13. Shannon Walters
14. Ronald Brus
Justice Cornelius
15. Dean Grau
Kora Potthoff
Kelly Rutherford (T)
Tyler Saunders
16. Julie Lamp
Chad Morrow
Kam Nelson
Kelly Nissen
17. Nancy Grimm
Laurie North (T)
Katherine Vogel
18. Lyle Bald
19. Julianna Stribe
Anna Belle Wegner
20. Barbara Grove
Cynthia Karsten
Virgene Kroeger
Abby Lapel
Chloe Otto
21. Dustin Petersen
Russell Ranniger
23. Robert Nissen
Linda Vinke
24. Travis Borkowski
Nathanael Conner
Claire Gore
Alix Puck
25. Carla Backhaus
Danielle Hargens
Ember Jensen
26. Lucas Kluver
Marjorie Jurgensen (T)
Ginger Thorn
27. Noah Gore
Dwight Gruhn
Cade Jensen
Ashley Lage
Aaron Rutz
David Tibben
28. Michael Alexander
Rebecca Conner
Loren Ferry (T)
Rachel Stoberl
29. Beth Booth
Judy Borkowski
Brenda Ehlers
Robert Lueth (T)
30. Lacey Hinners
31. Sharon Fast (T)
Joelle Puck

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

Anniversaries

4. Thomas & Susie Ulrickson
8. Nels & Stephany Olson (T)
William & Shona Weitl
29. Chad & Kelli Morrow
Kenneth & Joelle Puck
30. Scott & Terri Rosener
31. Lorrell & Judy Borkowski

Official Acts

Baptisms:
Abel Donald Hinners, son of Joseph and Ashley Hinners, February 8, Pastor Robert Riggert

Funerals:
Lucille Jean (nee:Veseen) Ranniger; Died January 31; Funeral February 10; Pastor Robert Riggert

Marlene Mathilda (nee: Bogatzke) Radtke; Died February 11; Funeral February 17, Pastor Jonathan Conner

In Our Prayers

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), Lynn Kruse, Joyce Schroeder, Nancy Grimm, Arlene Mohr, Patty Meeves (Laurene's daughter in law), Dewayne Buhr, Janice Monson, Rosemary Stamm (John Erich's sister), Ron Brus, Nancy Walters