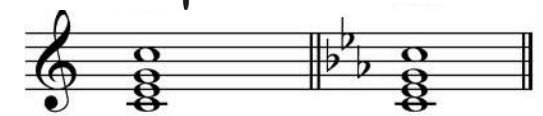
LENT Lent's Key Change



On Ash Wednesday (February 17th) the church will crash from the soaring harmonies and exultant joys of Christ's glory-glimpsing Transfiguration into the grave notes of Lent. Our hymnody acknowledges the descent into this solemn season:

Alleluia cannot always
Be our song while here below;
Alleluia, our transgressions
Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming
When our tears for sin must flow.
(*LSB* 417, "Alleluia, Song of Gladness")

The key change will be sudden and dramatic. The haunting minor chords will bring us face to face with the sober reality not only of our mortality – we are dust and to dust we shall return – but also of our iniquity; we are soiled by sin's mark. We will face the reality of our sin and our death.

And we will renew our penitential cry: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

Savior, when in dust to Thee
Low we bow the_adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe
Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!
(*LSB* 419, "Savior, When in Dust to Thee")

During the Ash Wednesday service we will receive an ash cross upon our foreheads as we hear words reminiscent of the patriarch Job, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (see Job 42:6). These ashes simultaneously remind us of our sin, our mortality, and of the hope that yet remains in the midst of sin and death. This hope is found in Christ's cross, the image of which is traced on our foreheads.

This cross takes us to Maundy Thursday:

When You woke that Thursday morning,
Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
Knowing how the day would end;
Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
Now at last the hour had come
When but One could pay sin's wages:
You assumed their dreadful sum.
(*LSB* 445, "When You Woke that Thursday Morning")

And Good Friday:

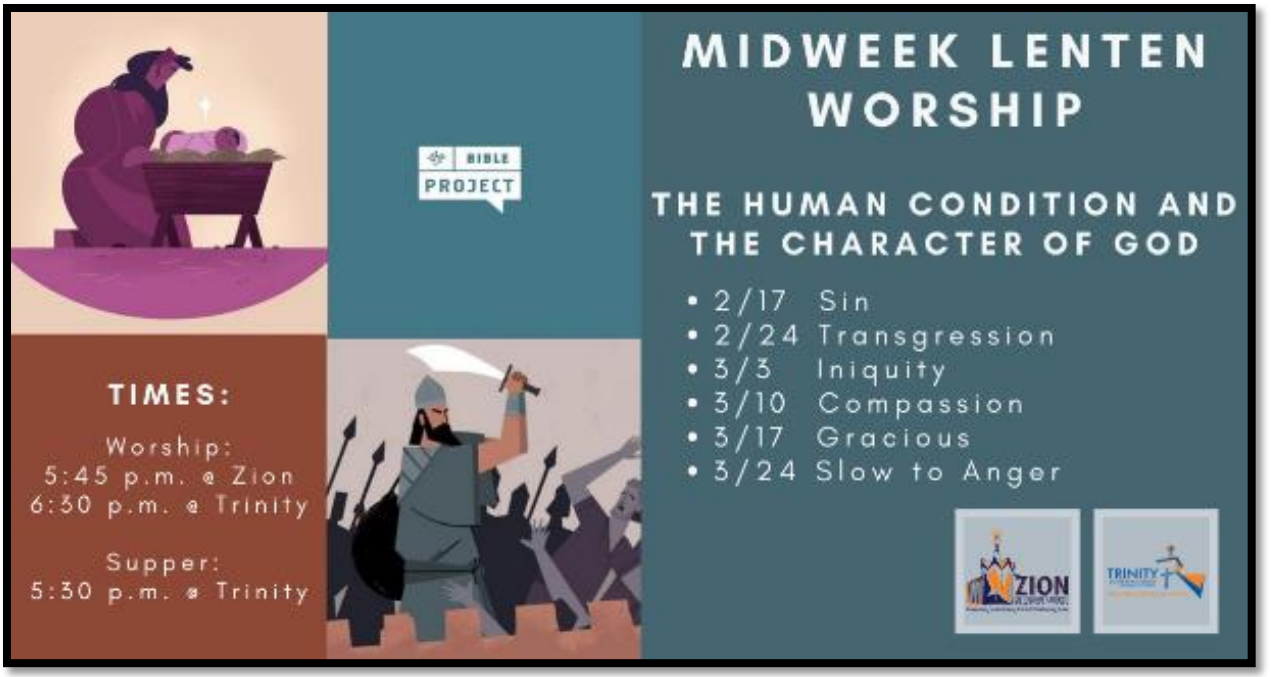
Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.

Ye who think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great
Here may view its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed,
See who bears the awful load;
'Tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.
(*LSB* 451, "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted")

And finally, to Easter's triumphant chords:

Alleluia! Now we cry
To our King immortal,
Who, triumphant, burst the bars
Of the tomb's dark portal.
Come, you faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness!
God has brought His Israel
Into joy from sadness!
(*LSB* 487, "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain")

The time for Lent's key change is approaching. We mark it in hope, for Easter's victorious chords will soon follow. – Pastor Conner



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

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

Family Discipling Event

On Wednesday, January 27, the confirmation families of Zion and Trinity met together for our third Family Discipling Event. Our conversation for this meeting was: Peacemaking as a Christian. What a joy to gather as family and friends to encourage one another in the confessing and living of our faith! Special thanks to Pastor Johnson for leading and Gene and Sue Mahnke for providing the food!

I walked up to the highest part of the bleachers in the gym. I wanted to avoid my classmates and their parents. With pinewood derby car in hand, I stared into the big lights to conceal my tears. As I hid, my 8-year-old-self felt a relatively new sensation…failure, and I wasn't sure what to do with it.

If you're unfamiliar with what a pinewood derby car is, that's alright. It's a block of wood no bigger than two bars of soap put together. You sand it down into a car. Add wheels. Paint it, and then you race against other Boy Scouts and their cars.

For weeks, I had imagined that my car would literally create smoke. It would break records. I'd be the topic of discussion at lunch for a week! Maybe even one of the parents would want to buy my car.

I'm not sure what place I got; it wasn't high though, and I definitely hadn't won. All I was left with was a series of emotions I was unsure what to do with.

For parents, I'd imagine you're not fond of seeing your child deal with failure. You don't want to see them cry. You want to somehow absorb their pain for them so they can feel happy.

But what if there was a way as Christians to utilize failure in such a way that it makes our children more resilient as well as reliant upon God.

Christians have a festival day for failure. It's called Ash Wednesday (which is coming up on the 17th by the way). During the service you receive literal ashes and you hear some variation of "from dust you came, to dust you shall return." Maybe another way we can recapture one of the underlying themes of these words is to say, "You are limited as a human creature, and you will save yourself a lot of heartache if you remember that."

It's a pretty simple thing to forget – our limitations that is. As much as you'd like to, you haven't figured out how you can be at your daughter's volleyball game, be at work, and be on a hot date with your spouse all at the *same* time. Short of lying or stealing, you cannot just have everything that you like on Amazon – you're limited to the resources you have. As good as you are at your job, you cannot save all of your patients and projects because economic, ecological, and biological realities are sometimes outside of your control. Farmers can't *believe in themselves* enough to make it rain.

When we experience failure, *sometimes* what's happened is we've overextended ourselves past our limits. To use some old, theological words, we're not **omnipresent** (able to be all over the place at one time); we're not **omnipotent** (all-powerful); we're not **omniscient** (all-knowing in such a way that we're aware of how life will pan out). The Bible demonstrates and our confessions,

like Martin Luther's Small Catechism, argue that only God possesses those qualities.

When we experience failure, we become aware that we don't possess those qualities. As much as I would have liked to be the talk of the lunch table on account of my all-powerful pinewood derby car, only God is worthy of that sort of attention and admiration because He's the only one who is omnipotent; and more than that, He's used His power in such a way that He loves rather than acts out for self-serving reasons. I am not that.

When our kids' businesses fall apart, it can be a good reminder for them that they cannot see every possible variable that can shape or even harm a business. They're not all-knowing, and that's a good thing. What's not good is when we beat ourselves up for being something that we're not.

So how exactly can we help our kids use failure rather than waste it or just pedal past the pain? Psalm 51 can help us.

King David sang these words in response to his radical failure as king of Israel. He played the part of God and flexed his muscles when he brought Bathsheba into his house. When he impregnated her, he tried to cover up his actions by manipulating Bathsheba's husband, Uriah. He was just sure that if he got Uriah drunk enough it would look as if Uriah was the father. But David's all-knowingness was limited because Uriah proved radically faithful to his men in the field. Finally, David used his power again by using his influence to murder Uriah.

After being shown the error of his ways, David sang Psalm 51. In it he does 3 powerful things in response to his failure:

He **repented**. He said: "Against you [God], you only, have I sinned…." David tried to play the part of God and he failed. By repenting David realigned himself so that he personally was creature and God was Creator. David came to grip with his limitations as a human being.

As our kids fail, we can point out to them where they're trying to play the part of God even though they're not equipped to do so. When we repent, this God not only welcomes us back, but when we see that He is gracious to us, even when we try to overthrow him at home or at work, then we can become more gracious to others when they experience failure; but, we can also experience more emotional stability because we're not trying to overextend ourselves past our abilities. Point is, you wouldn't try to fit a bowling ball into a tube sock.

Failure reminds us we're not shaped in such a way to take on God's qualities, and when we try to take on those qualities anyways, repentance and forgiveness are vital to get the stretch marks out of our kids.

I wouldn't recommend saying, "Hey, repent. Stop being God!" Perhaps a more fluid way into a

conversation with your kid is to say, “Hey, I’ve noticed that you’ve been unhappy lately. Can we talk about that?” And then you can relay how you’ve seen them overextend themselves: “You know you’re beating yourself up about your business, but you couldn’t see X, Y, or Z affecting you. Only God is able to do that. And it’s not healthy for you to try to be like Him.”

Finally, when it comes to repentance, seek or give real forgiveness. You can talk to Pastor Conner or myself, or you can actually speak Christ’s forgiveness to them. Maybe it will sound like this: “You overextended yourself, Kiddo, when you messed up doing ____ . But Jesus was overextended on the cross so that you could be connected to a God Who is the things you’re not. So, Jesus says, ‘I forgive you.’”

David also **relied**: “Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” Rather than relying on his own abilities and accomplishments – which King David had plenty of – he requested God’s intervention.

In the midst of our kid’s failure, you have an opportunity to re-focus on Jesus’ successes. When everyone assumed that Jesus failed upon His death, He was actually just accomplishing the most incredible success plan ever thought up. Jesus loved His unlovable enemies; Jesus defeated death so that people connected to Him will never die again upon His return. That’s a success story if I’ve ever heard one!

We can show our kids that even though we fail, we’re connected to the most successful Person in the whole wide world, and He doesn’t connect us to Himself because we succeed or we live a good life (quite the opposite).

Finally, David **rejoiced**. He moved from the gloom of his failure as king to sing, “O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.” Why did David praise? He praised because David realized that God did not forgive him because he made restitution for his personal sins. This God forgave David *just because*.

So much of our lives are driven by being the best – be the best employee, the best mom, the best hunter. Nobody wants to be second. But if you’ve had a pulse for more than five minutes you’ll realize that you probably have more L’s than W’s on the score sheet, and your kids will find that out for themselves too.

But rather than accepting us because we have kept our business in the black for so many quarters or we’ve stayed out of prison, Jesus, “immortal, invisible, God only wise,” says “you’re mine” whether you’re crying in the bleachers clutching your losing car or you’re picking up the remains of your lost endeavors. And that’s cause for celebration. – Pastor Johnson

Life's Daily Bill

A clipboard sits on my desk. I keep it near me so I can jot down ideas that surface in my mind (lest they sink and never surface again!). Not long ago I scribbled these words: "life presents a bill daily." I had been reflecting on choices, on the choices life presents to us every day – food choices, pleasure and leisure choices, work choices, time choices, spiritual choices, and so, so many more.

It occurred to me that every choice is not only an un-choice, so if I choose to fill up on fast food, I am choosing not to eat vegetables; if I choose to watch an hour of TV, I am choosing not to read my Bible or an edifying book, but each choice also has a price attached to it. And I get to choose whether I pay the bill up front or later… with interest.

Let me flesh this out. Every day presents choices of self-control or self-indulgence to me, choices of discipline or decadence. So, I can choose to exercise or vegetate. I can choose to engage my mind in truth, beauty, and wisdom or I can choose to disengage it through mindless media consumption. I can choose low sugar, high protein, and vitamin rich foods or I can choose high sugar, high carb, and vitamin deficient foods.

Each choice has a price attached that says *Pay now or pay later.*

And each choice has a price attached that says *Pay now or pay later.* If I pay now through self-control and discipline, I will have great things to anticipate and enjoy. The price will have been paid up front with the pleasure to be enjoyed interest free. This pleasure will be experienced in a healthy body, a reflective thought life, meaningful relationships, financial security, and much more.

If, however, I choose self-indulgence and decadence, I will need to pay the bill later… and it will come with interest. So, I may experience physical limitations, a diminished thought life, strained relationships, and financial uncertainty. This is the bill that I must pay with interest.

As I see it, though, the world is deviously deceptive. The interest to be exacted from us is hidden in the fine print, the print few ever bother to read. And it's very costly. It's a little like home mortgages. Lenders offer lower monthly payments on longer termed mortgages and collect larger amounts in interest with buyers often being unware of the cost. See for yourself: a 15 year fixed mortgage on $200,000 at 3.5% requires over $57,000 in interest. Keeping everything else the same, but extending it to 30 years, requires over $123,000 in interest! Pay now or pay later… with interest.

This is really what the wisdom literature of Scripture is saying. Get wisdom and avoid the fate of fools.[1] Recall, wisdom is an attribute of God woven into His creation that is gained through fearing the Lord, through acknowledging Him to be God and His ways to be right and true. So, Proverbs says:

[1] Scripture understands that we still live in an Ecclesiastes world of time, chance, and death, so it is not naively making false promises on life results (i.e. "Do this and life will always turn out great."). It's saying, in general, things will go better for you if you fear God and apply His wisdom to your choices.

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

And Proverbs extols the great worth of wisdom:

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom,
and the one who gets understanding,
for the gain from her is better than gain from silver
and her profit better than gold.
She is more precious than jewels,
and nothing you desire can compare with her.
Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honor.
Her ways are ways of pleasantness,
and all her paths are peace.
She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her;
those who hold her fast are called blessed.
Proverbs 3:13-18

Wisdom would have us read the fine print. How much does this choice cost? What's the upfront cost and what is the interest if I pay later? And, remember, it's the compound interest that will really get you. Recall our mortgage example!

Wisdom would have you read the fine print and ask, *How do I want to pay life's bill? Do I really want to pay interest?* If not, you may find that paying the price up front through self-control and discipline to be preferred.

So, you may choose to change your diet, to deny yourself certain unhealthy pleasures that will charge you interest down the road, in favor of an upfront cost that will come with great pleasure enjoyed interest free. Or, you may choose to adopt an exercise plan that will exact an upfront cost on you, but will keep you from paying the interest of physical limitations down the road.

Or, you may choose to deny yourself the pleasure of TV to engage your mind in meaningful study of Scripture so as to avoid the interest of being ill-equipped to bring Scripture to bear in your life or others'.

No matter what you choose, though, life will present you a bill. There's no way around it. You and I will pay now or pay later. That's how reality is.

That's what makes God's grace in Christ so amazing! Through our sin and failure to live righteously, we pile up debt that we can never pay – never – and God forgives it!

And that's what makes God's grace in Christ so amazing! Through our sin and failure to live righteously, we pile up debt that we can never pay – never – and God forgives it! He doesn't just wipe it away, He pays it Himself. He pays it not with monetary currency, but with Christ's own blood! We are not required to face the eternal consequences for our sin-stained choices. We're not required to pay the bill. It's astonishing.

Life still presents us a daily bill and we still need to employ wisdom in our decisions as to whether we will pay it upfront or on the back end with interest, but our sin-debt before the Father has been paid in full by Jesus. And that's worth thinking about. – Pastor Conner

The Readings

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

"You are what you eat" is a pretty true saying. What it conveys is that we are shaped by the influences we surround ourselves with, whether it's a person, television, or even music.

For that reason, as Christians we saturate ourselves with Bible readings or what we sometimes call *God's Word*. We encounter Bible in the liturgy, as we've seen already, as well as intentionally reading passages from the Old Testament (pre-Jesus), the Epistles (letters written to churches or individuals), and the Gospels (biographies about Jesus).

The Old Testament reading will not explicitly tell us about a day of Jesus' life, but it will anticipate and point to what Jesus *would* do in the future.
The Epistle – a Greek word for *letter* – helps you savor what Jesus has done, and what it means to follow Christ.

Then the Gospel reading clearly offers us Jesus' actual words and deeds.

As a whole the Readings are radically important because we hear from God; the Holy Spirit may even use the words to challenge us or forgive us. Point is, God literally, though contextually, speaks to you during the worship service.

And after God speaks our response is thankfulness – we're thankful for the new life that is ours and we thank God for bringing to our attention where we're not fully being the people He's called us to be. – Pastor Johnson

Running Commentary

2 John verse 10-11

"If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or ***give*** *him any greeting, for whoever greets him takes part in his wicked works."*

A word like **give** is pretty basic; not too fancy. But deeper investigation reveals that John *commands* his hearers to run in the opposite direction from those who teach contrary about the Father and Son.

In 2020 and 2021, we've seen what people are willing to do in the name of politics. John focuses us, however, on what really matters – Jesus and what He did for us. Overly-focusing on any other teaching is wrong and potentially wicked. Why? Because Jesus of Nazareth alone has proven that He has the authority to judge human corruption (sin) well; He alone has the power over death. Entertaining any other teaching or influence over our life is deadly – not just because it betrays Jesus and His faithfulness towards us (in other words, we're no different than Judas), but engaging teachers counter to Christ can forfeit the safety we have in a dangerous world (like we saw last month: "Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God." – verse 9).

Orphan Grain Training Clothing Collection

The Zion Fellowship Club is again collecting clothing items for Orphan Grain Train. Items can be brought to the Fellowship Hall quilting room (east wall). Items can be brought through February 28. Good, clean, used clothing items for men, women, children of all sizes and seasons are welcomed. New socks and underwear are also appreciated. Good, clean shoes can be brought with heels of less than a thumb height. Share this special mission opportunity with your friends and neighbors.

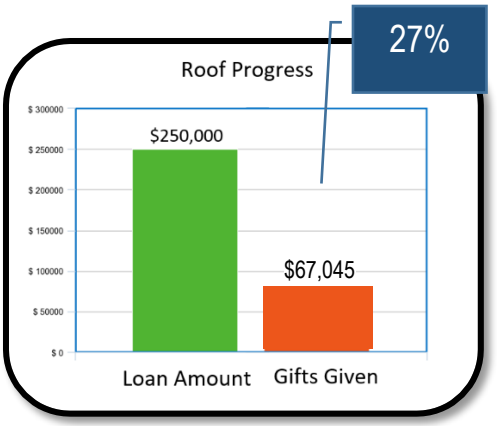
ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
Relief for Human Need Worldwide

For several years the Fellowship Club has supported this ministry with their donations of time and money. Local donations are brought to the Iowa West Orphan Grain Train warehouse in Ida Grove.

Orphan Grain Train (OGT) is a recognized ministry of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. The ministry has brought humanitarian relief nationally and internationally since 1992. In the almost 30 year ministry over 36 million meals have been provided and over 3700 shipments of clothing, medical equipment, school supplies and other items have been shared around the world.

Recent OGT actions included Christmas gift boxes to Zambia. Gospelink Zambia also received Mercy Meals, Bibles, sleeping mats, and medical equipment. California and Arizona border missions dispersed food, clothing, toys, and quilts with families along the Mexico border. More information of OGT outreach and opportunities to volunteer and donate can be viewed at ogt.org. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Please consider making a special gift to the roof or to other ongoing and upcoming mission and ministry expenses at Zion, including technology and facility needs. Ask in the office for a detailed list of giving opportunities. Thank you for your partnership!



New Additions at Zion!

Zion church library has recently been given a Thrivent Action Team gift of books and movies. Check them out and enjoy. If you have a book you would like to be placed In the Library contact Sandra Sextro, librarian or Pastor Conner. Memorial gifts to the library are given in memory of Ladies Guild also.

Books:

1. *A Metrical Psalter*. This two- volume reference. One book has the Psalm and a choice of hymns to sing that has the words in meter. What a wonderful way to read the Psalms—in song. The other volume is meditations of each Psalm. There is a web site to do this if you have internet and computer or smart phone. It is seedbed. It is not an app, it is a website. www.psalms.seedbed.com.
2. *Knowing God*. By J.I Packer who was an influential leader of our time. He was a theologian, cleric, and writer. He died at the age of 93 in 2020.
3. *Abandoned to God*. By Oswald Chambers. A biography of Oswald Chambers.
4. *Total Forgiveness* by R. T Kendall. He is a Christian writer, speaker, and teacher who has written over 50 books.
5. *Bonhoffer*—Pastor, martyr prophet, spy.
6. *In the Footsteps of Jesus—One man's journey* by Bruce Machiano. Bruce played the role of Jesus in the movie. The Gospel according to Matthew. How can one play the part of Jesus? This story is a moving portrayal. Included in the library is the DVD of the movie. I would urge you to read the book first to understand how this team prayed over each scene.

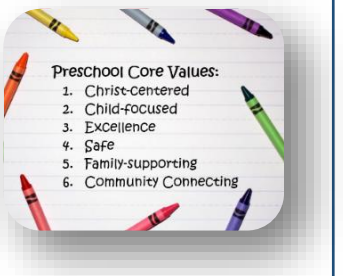
DVDs: Although we encourage our children to read, these movies are a shared family experience and a way to open up teaching and discussions!

1. *The Gospel according to Matthew*
2. *War Room*
3. *The Book of Esther, The Book of Ruth.*
4. *Risen*
5. *The fool*
6. *The Perfect Gift.*
7. *The Perfect race.*
8. *Amazing Love, the story of Hosea.*
9. *Pilgrim's Progress-Journey to heaven.*
10. *Big Miracle*
11. *The Ten Commandments.*
12. *A beautiful Day in the neighborhood.* Tom Hanks plays Mr. Rogers. This move is not just for kids—it is a story of forgiveness.
13. *Sully*

Preschool Praises for January 2021

January was broken up a bit by snow days, but we still had a lot of learning to do!

The first week in January worked on counting and identifying numbers. Scissoring skills were put to use as the children cut along dotted lines. The letter W was the focus this week. They looked at a series of pictures and had to find which picture was different. During Jesus Time we spoke about how the wise men traveled so far to bring gifts to Jesus and that he probably was about 1-2 years old by the time they got there. We also talked about how God used angels to warn the wise men not to go back to King Herod and for Joseph to take Jesus and Mary to Egypt to save Jesus from Herod. Pastor Conner also spoke to the children about the Magi and how they worshiped Jesus even though they themselves were not Jewish. This showed that Jesus is the savior for all people!



The second week of January we studied Penguins. We worked on recognizing circles and the letter I for Ice cream. We also did a search and find for objects that start with the letter S. During Jesus Time we spoke about when Jesus was 12 years old and stayed behind in the temple without his mom and dad's knowledge! When Mary and Joseph realized he was missing, it was several days before they discovered him in the temple discussing scripture with the teachers. When Mary asked why he had distressed them so, Jesus said, "Didn't you know thatI would be in my Father's house?" We didn't have Chapel with Pastor due to a snow day.

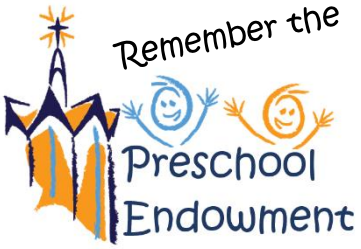
The third week of preschool was the beginning of our five week study of the 5 senses and how we use them to learn about the world around us. This week we talked about the sense of hearing. The children used their sense of hearing as they shook 5 different cups to guess what was in each one (beans, jingle bells, puff ball, a cube or a pinecone). They loved this game and many wanted to play several times! We also reviewed the circle and learned about squares. They enjoyed picking different objects out of a bag and saying if it is a circle or square. We worked on a page where the children explained different aspects of what makes them special. We will keep these and include them in their book at the end of the year. During Jesus Time we spoke about Jesus' Baptism and how, when he came up out of the water, the heavens opened up and the Spirit descended like a dove from above and alighted on Jesus' head and a loud voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Here we see the Trinity - God the Father is speaking about God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit is coming down looking as a dove and resting on Jesus. Three persons in one God! It is a tricky concept to explain to preschoolers, but it is also a tricky concept to understand in general! Our God is a relational, loving God who desires to have a relationship with us!

The last week of January we continued our study on the 5 senses by studying the sense of sight. This week was short as well since we had a huge snow storm on Monday and no class on Tuesday. The children got to use their sense of sight to see what happens when you mix two colors together and what color they make. We reviewed the circle and square and moved on to learn about the triangle. In Jesus Time we studied the Temptation of Jesus in the Wilderness after his baptism. Jesus, unlike Adam, was able to resist the devil's temptations and remain sinless. Praise Him for being the perfect sacrifice for our sins!

Fall Registration is Tuesday, February 23rd from 4-7 pm. Parents of children who turn 3 before September 15th, 2021 are welcome to sign up for the 2021-2022 school year. We have 3 and 4 year old classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for 2 1/2 hours each during the school year. If you have any preschool aged children or know of any families with preschool aged children, please pass on the news about our registration! Please call 655-2352 with any questions or email: zionmanningpreschool@gmail.com

The preschool is now accepting applications for Director/ Lead Teacher and Associate Teacher. If you or someone you know has a love for Jesus, education and children please consider joining the Zion Preschool team! Job descriptions and applications are available in the church office.

Thank you for your continued and faithful support!
Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz



Zion Lutheran Preschool of Manning is currently accepting applications for two positions for the 2021-2022 school year: a Preschool Director/Lead Teacher and a Preschool Associate Teacher. These energetic servant leaders will have the opportunity to interact compassionately and creatively with children and families in the name of Jesus.

Position descriptions and applications are available at Zion Lutheran Church, 1204 Center Street, Manning, Iowa 51455 (712-655-2352).

Preschool Director/Lead Teacher:
This position involves administration of the preschool as well as teaching the 3 and 4 year-old classes. Applicants must meet standards developed by the Department of Human Services. The position involves 29 hours per week during the school calendar year. Salary will be based on experience.

Preschool Associate Teacher/ParaEducator:
This position involves assisting the Lead Teacher with classroom operations in the 3 and 4 year-old classes and 25 hours per week during the school calendar year. Salary will be based on experience.

Coming soon to Zion!

What is Ramsey+? It's your go-to hub for all your needs when it comes to slaying debt, saving like you mean it, investing for the future, giving generously, and experiencing financial peace. And it's coming to Zion soon. Watch for it. Learn more here: https://www.daveramsey.com/blog/what-is-ramsey-plus!

Human trafficking (modern day slavery) is real. It is evil, pervasive, and pernicious. And it's in Iowa. On multiple occasions we have highlighted the efforts of local organizations working to end it. Below is one we have mentioned before: The Siouxland Coalition against Human Trafficking. Please prayerfully consider your involvement.

The Siouxland Coalition against Human Trafficking (SCAHT) is beginning an End the Demand effort – and WE NEED YOU!

In the marketplace, everyone understands the principle of supply and demand. In the world of human trafficking, the same principle holds true. The demand for sex trafficking comes from people who buy sex! And traffickers will continue to supply that demand for girls, boys, women and men by exploiting them to make a profit. **YOU can help put an end to this.**

Below are two programs geared to Reducing Demand (see https://siouxlandagainsttrafficking.org/projects to learn more). They are geared to men because most of the people who buy sex are men. There are things in each program that you as an individual can do to help. We are hoping that some of you will be willing to move beyond an individual commitment to organize some of the suggested group efforts at your church or business or among a group of friends. Feel free to contact us at scahtinc@gmail.com and let us know what you might be interested in doing and if we can help.

If you are looking for help with a sex or pornography addiction, in Siouxland, you can contact: Siouxland Mental Health Center (712-252-3871) or Catholic Charities (712-252-4547) or Heartland Counseling (402-494-3337).

THE DEFENDERS USA
The Men of Shared Hope

Take The Defenders Pledge and help end the demand for human trafficking. The pledge is available here: siouxlandagainsttrafficking.org/projects

TRUCKERS AGAINST TRAFFICKING

Learn about their Man-to-Man campaign and how you can fight to end human trafficking: siouxlandagainsttrafficking.org/projects

Valentine's Day: Now What Happens

The Christmas holiday is over and all of the leftover decorations are cluttering the clearance aisles at the store, just to be replaced by bright red and pink stuffed animals, flowers, and balloons. The site of this may spark a variety of emotions, depending on the person.

Zion Cares

Valentine's Day, like other holidays, may be one that people who have lost a special person may dread. Watching others celebrate with their spouse can trigger deep sadness, or even depression. By family and friends celebrating together, you can show the one you love that this holiday is about love, not just about the person.

While you cannot completely take away the pain of a lost spouse, through love and thoughtfulness, you can do your part to bring some joy to your loved one on this normally difficult day.

- Send a card - to brighten up a home with a cheerful greeting
- Pay a visit – spending time with help pass the time
- Reminisce together – remember together the love that you shared and still share as family
- Re-create past celebrations – continue with a past tradition, while it won't replace the loved one, it may bring some joy to the day
- Do something unexpected – plan a surprise day trip, be spontaneous

For the grieving person, it is important to continue to honor the loved one. Focusing your attention on a meaningful way to honor and memorialize your loved one can help channel your thoughts and feelings in a positive fashion. Ask yourself how your loved one would like to be remembered and then make it happen. It can be a physical memorial such as planting a tree in your yard or donating one to a school, church, or park. You can also do an activity in honor of your loved one such as volunteering at an event. You never know, this may become your new Valentine's Day tradition. Just be sure that you do not neglect the holiday altogether. Give it time. There is no end date to grief.

Janet Brus, RN
Psychiatric Medical Care
Manning Regional Healthcare Center
Program Director – Senior Life Solutions

Senior Life Solutions®

Lutheran Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

Protect Life Amendment

Protect Life Amendment

On January 20, the Protect Life Amendment was passed by the Judiciary Committee, led by Representative Steve Holt, in the Iowa House of Representatives!

The resolution now makes its way to the Full Floor of the House of Representatives. And, we believe that may happen as soon as next week. Now, our Representatives need your encouragement to see this bill through!

How Can You Help?

Click HERE (https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find) to find and contact your Representative and let them know you support the Protect Life Amendment, also known as HSB41.

They need to hear your voice to encourage them to do the right thing. There are many voices at the Capitol. The one voice they need to hear is God's teaching on this matter. All human life has value because we are made in His image. He has created, called and redeemed every single one of us.

- **What is it?** The Protect Life amendment would add a statement in the Iowa Constitution that says there is no fundamental right to abortion within the Iowa Constitution, nor the tax payer funding for abortions.
- **Why Do We Need it?** The Iowa Supreme Court, in a 2018 ruling "found" a right to abortion contained in the Iowa Constitution. This ruling made is nearly impossible to impose any reasonable restriction on abortion in Iowa, right up to the point of birth. Preborn children should be protected from the moment of fertilization until natural death.
- **Where are we in the process?** Attempts to pass this constitutional amendment have been made for the past three years. We are at the very beginning of a long path ahead, but a great deal of progress is being made. See the schedule on the next page.

Lutheran Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

Protect Life Amendment

2021 -2022 (89th General Assembly)

1. Sub Committee Passes in House of Representatives
2. Full Committee Passes in House of Representatives – We are currently here in the process
3. House of Representatives passes
4. Sub Committee Passes in Senate
5. Full Committee Passes in Senate
6. Senate passes

ELECTION – The members of the legislature will change based on the election. The Constitutional Amendment must pass two consecutive General Assemblies in order for the measure to come before the people.

2023 – 2024 (90th General Assembly)

1. Sub Committee Passes in House of Representatives
2. Full Committee Passes in House of Representatives
3. House of Representatives passes
4. Sub Committee Passes in Senate
5. Full Committee Passes in Senate
6. Senate passes

2023-2024

1. The People of Iowa vote at the polls on the Constitutional Amendment by ballot.

Ministry in Motion

College Care Packages

Working together with Pastor Johnson and Trinity, Zion's confirmation kids and Friendship Committee packaged care packages for our college students to enjoy. Zion and Trinity cares for our college youth!

Camp Okoboji

PERSONNEL: We are currently recruiting for our Summer Staff needs. Are you looking for a summer job or know someone who is committed to serving others and glorifying God?? We are seeking to hire up to 21 hard-working, committed young adults to serve campers and guests. Responsibilities at Camp Okoboji range from program assistance, housekeeping, dining hall, lifeguarding (training will be provided), and general maintenance. (Please share with your congregations and interested individuals)

NEEDS/WANTS LIST: Sharing opportunities to assist Camp with specific items
Laundry soap, bleach
Shower curtain liners
Queen mattress pads
2 seat bike trailer for children
Stand-alone Pickle Ball net
Kayaks, aluminum canoes and/or Stand-up Paddle Boards
Thrivent Action Team Cards (check with Kellie Jones for guidance on recommended usages)
Also, see our Amazon Wish List at:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2U3MCM8Z6HGPY?ref_=wl_share

A Prayerful Thought – Vigilante Violence Always Betrays the Cause… Prayer and Faithfulness Fortifies the Cause *by Dr. Greg Seltz*

At a time when we at the LCRL (Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty) seeks to be truth tellers for the sake of our culture (even reconcilers at this moment), we received this notice. REJECTED.[2] Please read for yourself our statement about last week's violence, indeed all the violence of the past several months.

Presently, views that are honorably and clearly stated, such as support for the institution of the family, the sanctity of life, the limitation of government in our lives, the freedom to educate our children in the virtues of the Scriptures, and our liberties to worship God faithful to the whole counsel of the Scripture….such things that run counter to the secular puritanizing of our culture are increasingly demeaned, ridiculed, and now de-platformed.

We will continue to be 2KG (Two Kingdom) people who seek the truth of God's preserving and saving Word in love, speak the truth of God's word in love, and serve others the way that God in Christ serves and leads us. Coming is the day when even the latter will be ridiculed….but fear not, Christians of all ages have seen the power of God's word to transform and direct lives even through the greatest of storms. May that wisdom be ours at this moment for the sake of our culture and for the mission of the Church.

In response to the violence at the Capitol:
FRIDAY, January 8, 2021

Rebellion is not simply vile murder but is like a great fire that kindles and devastates a country; it fills the land with murder and bloodshed, makes widows and orphans, and destroys everything, like the greatest calamity….there is nothing more poisonous, pernicious, and devilish than a rebellious man. (Martin Luther, "Reactions to Peasant Rebellions") (1525).

Violence, particularly vigilante violence, always betrays the cause. The violence of yesterday at the Capitol, is reprehensible and to be punished to the full extent of the law. Law and order—the rule of law, as we have argued many times before, is the basic foundation to a civil society. The peaceful concerns of many people who gathered yesterday were betrayed by vile acts of those who breached the Capitol to wreak havoc on our country. As Luther said in 1525 concerning the actions of the peasants of his day, their concerns (to which he was sympathetic) did not justify their murderous, rebellious actions. We can say much the same of those who were lawless yesterday.

[2] The prayerful thought included below was deemed objectionable by Facebook and rejected.

There is a growing vitriol and violence associated with our political passions. People wish to blame this president for the situation, but the vile language and rhetoric has been growing for years. (I do not deny that our president has contributed in part to the problem, and even bears some responsibility for what happened yesterday). Language is one thing, violence is another. Many have already forgotten a similar breach on our government merely three years ago when James Hodgkinson attempted to assassinate GOP members of congress[2] in 2017 purely for political reasons (He did wound Rep. Steve Scalise). And there's the unjust and often unchecked violence on both sides of the issues of the last several months that have people of goodwill on both sides of these issues, dismayed.

Today, we say again unequivocally concerning these things, "Vigilante violence always betrays the cause, especially the cause of righteousness." For those who were gathered yesterday in Washington D.C. to protest the issue of the past election, violence betrayed the cause. Like Luther during the "Peasant Uprising," their concerns and issues were betrayed by the violence. The breach of the Capitol yesterday was inexcusable, and the perpetrators should be punished to the full extent of the law. Vigilante lawlessness, as we witnessed yesterday and over the last several months, can never serve the cause of the rule of law, justice, and civic peace…and must be uniformly rejected.

What is needed now more than ever? Prayer and faithfulness to God coupled with service to neighbor and to country. Christians have a civic and a missional opportunity and duty to fulfill on God's terms for the sake of others. Today is the day to commit ourselves anew to His calling on our lives in the many vocations in which we live and serve. Civically, that calls us to be law-abiding citizens who denounce all vigilante violence even as we call for and demand a law-honoring government which protects all law-abiding citizens the same. It also means that we must bravely raise our moral and Gospel voice in the public square for the sake of the culture and the church. In all these things, we must also commit ourselves to prayer that God would heal our nation even as He draws us back to Himself in repentance and grace, civility, and virtue.

I am not sure if I fully knew what I was getting into when I took the position of being the Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty back in 2017. However, I had seen the growing abuses of government concerning the church and knew that the church would need to be defended and protected for its ongoing service. I see the growing intrusion still. I've also seen many of the DC political processes (protests included) from the inside or in person. Our view has always been that we need to be less dependent on government (both sides of the aisle included), more dependent on ourselves, our families, and our churches, and free to proclaim the whole counsel of God, especially His Gospel good news of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus alone—which is the only real solution to the many problems we currently face. Today we are reminded again that violence always betrays the cause….while prayer and faithfulness fortify the cause to bless the nation in which we are privileged to live.

[1] https://media.bloomsbury.com/rep/files/primary-source-75-luthers-reactions-to-peasant-rebellions.pdf
[2] https://www.cnn.com/2017/06/14/homepage2/james-hodgkinson-profile/index.html

Amigos en Cristo

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

February 2021

Christmas is Family Time: With the Holy Family of Joseph and Mary, our Hispanic churches celebrate Christmas with their families. God brings us together to celebrate the most important family connection, our faith for all ages in the Christ Child. Two special families joined us on Nochebuena (Christmas Eve) as they do each year. What a blessing to make the worship of the Prince of Peace a family tradition.

Families in all countries have many special family and cultural traditions that they enjoy at Christmas. Sadly not all of them are Christian traditions.

The best Christmas traditions are from God's Word. They point us to the true Christmas, Baby Jesus born in the humility of a stable to poor parents in order to become the King of the world and the Savior of our lives. And so in our Hispanic churches, we began our Christmas preparations with Advent Posadas each week before Christmas. Then the big celebration is on Nochebuena, the birth of Jesus. In the New Year, we celebrate the Epiphany, visit of the Wise men. And in February we will celebrate the Presentation of the Lord, 40 days after His birth. Of course these festivals usually include food and fellowship following our worship service. We look forward to another wonderful year of spiritual blessings together with our families and the community.

Call Update: We continue to partner with Iowa District West for support in the Call process of a permanent bilingual pastor for our two Hispanic ministries. As we go to print, we await the decision of the District Board of Directors whether to call the pastor that we have interviewed on Zoom and in person both in Fort Dodge, at the District Office, and here in Denison at Amigos en Cristo. Please keep this important decision for our special ministry in your prayers.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

Please Note! All times and events are subject to change

Morning Prayer (M-F) via Facebook Live at 7:30 a.m. (viewable anytime)

TRIZION TriZion Youth Group: Sundays at 6:00 p.m. Trinity Manilla Basement

February 1	**LERT (Disaster Response Team) Meeting (6:30 p.m.)** **Trinity Manilla basement**
February 14	**Trivia Night (6:00 p.m.)** **Trinity Manilla**
February 17	**Ash Wednesday Service** **5:45 Zion** **6:30 Trinity (5:30 meal)**
February 18	**Thursday afternoon Communion Service at Zion (1:30 p.m.)**
February 21	**Game Day (3:00-5:00 p.m.) Pizza at 5:00!**
February 22	**Book Discussion Club (6:00 p.m.)** **Trinity Manilla Basement**
February 24	**Midweek Lenten Service** **5:45 Zion** **6:30 Trinity (5:30 meal)**

RED LETTER CHALLENGE
COMING TO TRINITY LENT 2021

February Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. Gerald Beck
   Scott Lahr (T)
   Paige Mohr
2. Robin Bunker
   Carl French
   Brooklyn Riesberg
   Kendra Walters
4. Adella Farley (T)
   Todd Gruhn
   William Joens (T)
   Andrew Puck
5. Elijah Christensen
   Jean Hargens
   Scott Lingle (T)
   Cassandra Neumann
   Daniel Stribe
6. Michaela Chapman
7. Kennedy Adams
   Sasha Backhaus
8. Dena Diersen
   Russ Spies
   Rexanne Struve
10. Joe Ewoldt
    Devontay Hocken
    Keldi Olson (T)
    Olivia Paska
11. Dane Blom (T)
12. Sarah Birks (T)
    Tammi Powers
13. Jason Opperman
14. Ken Puck
15. Kristin Backhaus
    Frank Boeck (T)
16. Ryan Borkowski
    Scott Saunders (T)
17. Cory Beyer
    Carol French
    Adam Gruhn
    Jeanne Gruhn
    Jenna Rosener
18. Zach Dreier
    Carolyn Kerkhoff
    Luke Potthoff
19. Shaunda Martin
    Curtis Weems
    Roger Wegner
20. Lynette Gaskill (T)
    Janice Monson
    Mary Rasmussen (T)
    Jayde Rosener
21. Jean Ferneding
    Sierra Ferry (T)
    Araya Hass
    Mike Powers
22. Myra Asmus
23. Mitchell Lahr (T)
    Tom Wegner
24. Eric Christensen (T)
    Scott Opperman
    Barb Page
25. Josephine Nusbaum
    Kodilynn Rosener
26. Keith Boyens (T)
    Deanna Frank
27. Rylie-Shea Muhlbauer
    Scott Stribe
    Jeremy Wulf
28. Adam Albertsen
    Katie Sextro
29. Karen Vollstedt

Anniversaries

2. Errol & Anna Belle Wegner
3. Richard & Judy Irwin (T)
4. Joe & Becky Karsten
5. Paul & Monica Christensen
12. Lenus & Kristie Borkowski
13. Bill & Deb Ranniger
15. Bob & Gloria Ewoldt

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

Official Acts

Baptisms:

Miles Weitl, son of Jesse and Katie Weitl, 1-24-21, Pastor Andrew Johnson (Trinity)

Owen Russell Grabill son of Isaac and Courtney Grabill, 1-31-21, Pastor Jonathan Conner

Jentry Von Wiig, daughter of Jarred and Brandi Wiig, 1-31-21, Pastor Jonathan Conner

Funerals:

Lucille Ress, Died 1-1-21, Graveside service 1-5-1, Pastor Jonathan Conner

Carol Kahl, Died 1-10-21, funeral 1-14-21, Pastor Jonathan Conner

In Our Prayers

Alan Grimm, Carolyn Werner, Jeanne Gruhn, Nancy Grimm, Dewayne Buhr, Ron Schilling, Connie Sorbe (Annette Hilsabeck's mother), Ron Brus, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Natalie Mason (Bruce and Mary Grimm's daughter), Leonard Damman, Margaret Backhaus, John Sonnichsen (Bobby Doyel's Brother in law), Gage Carlson (great grandson of Russ and Virginia Mohr), Maridee Bohlmann (David & Joene Bohlmann's daughter-in-law), Patty Meeves (Laurene's daughter in law)