Zion Preschool
May, 2021 Update

Hello, friends of Zion Preschool. Although the 2020-2021 academic year wrapped up, the board is continuing its task to hire staff for the upcoming school year. While qualified candidates have been interviewed for the associate position, there have been no applicants for the director/teacher. The board initially advertised for a position similar to years' past, having classes three days each week with extra hours allotted for preparation and required paperwork. With months passing and still no candidate, the board reevaluated data and considered options.

We opted to offer a different package, increasing hours and adding benefits. While this may be a great financial responsibility, we feel it is worth a try for the upcoming school year. Calculating expenses based on the current projections, here are the realities:

- Should the incoming teacher not need medical insurance, the preschool program would profit about $3,000.
- If family health insurance is elected, there will be a deficit of nearly $26,000.

ZioN
Lutheran Preschool
Manning, Iowa
Christ Centered... Child Focused... Family Connecting

There are enough funds in the preschool budget that we could absorb the loss for a year. This would be accomplished without using the endowment fund or requiring additional support from the congregation. However, if the situation remains as is, it would be irresponsible to continue in that direction for multiple years.

In efforts to think outside of the box, Rhonda Mohr visited with the group and introduced the idea of a called worker. If this route is pursued, it would need to be a joint effort with the congregation and much more conversation and communication would take place. If considered, this person would likely be a Concordia graduate with an emphasis in early education. The preschool duties would be his/her first responsibility, but the church would also gain an early childhood worker. Possible duties could include Sunday school, VBS, and youth programming. Again, this is not an option for 2021-22, and we would be intentional with communication should this route be seriously explored.

We are patiently waiting and praying for clarity for the upcoming school year. The board will communicate a decision by August 1 as to plans for the fall. Please continue to pray for the preschool, and if you have questions or would like to visit, we welcome the conversation.

Thanks for your support,
The Zion Preschool Board

Welcome, New Members!

Jim Karsten, Brett, Kasie, Jack, Ella, and Will Sanford, Ben, Ashley, Briar, Brogan, and TBA Lorenzen, John, Sarah, Karsyn, Layton, and Paisley Lorenzen

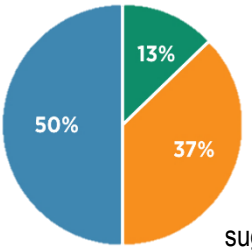
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANNING, IOWA
Celebrating and Sharing Christ's Redeeming Love

Summer Worship

June 24
July 29
August 26

6:30 p.m. Historic Trinity - Manning

The Insidious Insinuation of Income Distribution: *Satan's Tool to Fuel Envy and Covetousness*



Lies rarely stride openly in the light.[1] Lies prefer to hide in suggestions and to lurk in insinuation. Satan, when deceiving Eve, didn't announce he was lying; he suggested God was. He insidiously insinuated that God was withholding some great knowledge or power from Adam and Eve – *God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil* (Genesis 3:5). It seems the suggestion that we are missing out, that something is being kept from us, is a powerful suggestion that holds great sway over humanity.

This is especially apparent in conversations on money. Consider one powerful, misleading, and oft-repeated insidiously misleading phrase: *income distribution*. Do you see it? It's subtle (as insidious insinuations are!). What is the phrase saying? Income is distributed. That thought plants an idea deep in our psyche that leads to resentment, entitlement, and straight-up covetousness. How? Keep reading.

While "income distribution" is true in a statistical sense, like we might speak of the distribution of hair color or skin color across culture, it's not true in a true-to-life sense. To understand this point, consider our hair/skin color analogy. Nobody believes that a mystical storeroom of these traits exists somewhere that some agency or entity is distributing. And nobody bemoans the injustice of unfair hair/skin color distribution.

The same is true for income distribution. We can speak in a statistical sense of income distribution across culture, but we must understand that, strictly speaking, income is not distributed; most of the time, income is earned. Someone provides a good or service that someone else is willing to pay for, whether that be lawn care, medical care, a pickup, or a cell phone.

People provide goods/services that some people are willing to pay a lot for (or a lot of people are willing to pay a little for) – Tesla, Apple, General Mills, Wrigley's, etc. They earn income. And this produces income disparities. In other words, some people end up with more money. And that, in and of itself, is not a social injustice. Earned income that produces financial disparities is not inherently unjust. This truth is foundational. It reflects reality. Reality does not guarantee equal results.

Reality does not guarantee equal results.

But this foundational truth is obscured by the innocent-sounding phrase "income distribution" because it makes it sound like some people are unfairly grabbing a bigger piece of the income pie or that someone or some entity in unfairly giving some more.

Is it true that sinful man is sometimes guilty of lying, cheating, and stealing to get more? Yes! Can disparity in results be the result of injustice?

[1] It's not that people don't embrace lies and parade them in pride; they most certainly do! The lie, though, is typically hidden in insinuations and suggestions like "we are sexual beings," "identity is anchored in one's internal sense," "different outcomes is evidence of social injustice." Lies hide in these false foundational beliefs.

Yes! And that should be justly punished under the law, but the reality of income disparity is not inherently unjust any more than some students getting straight A's and some getting straight D's is inherently unjust. In the real world, some people *earn* more income (and some students get higher grades). And they earn more either because they work harder or because they provide a good or service that people are willing to pay for.

This greater wealth brings greater responsibility (and greater opportunity) to be generous and to help those with less, but it is a separate question whether the mere existence of income disparity requires governments to redistribute money, especially because the income was never "distributed" in the first place; it was earned!

Notice the progression here: if you begin with the insinuation that income is distributed rather than earned, then you will see income disparities (differences in outcome) as a social injustice, and you will advocate for that income to be re-distributed equitably (through government force). We'll return to this shortly.

Thomas Sowell, the renowned cultural commentator, economist, author, and thinker, explains the verbal sleight of hand in "income distribution" in his tour de force *Discrimination and Disparities*:

> The key trick is to verbally collectivize wealth produced by individuals and then depict those individuals who produced more of it, and received payment for doing so, as having deprived others of their fair share. With such word games, one might say that Babe Ruth took an unfair share of the home runs hit by the New York Yankees (146).

Appreciate what he's saying. Through the phrase "income distribution," earned income is removed from the people who earned it, baked into one giant income pie, and then evaluated on the basis of the size of the slices on each person's plate. The pieces are not equitable (evenly proportioned) and this is deemed unjust. [Never mind the question of what good or service they produced and how valuable it was to the people purchasing it.]

As Dr. Sowell points out, complaining of income distribution as a social justice issue isn't true to life any more than complaining that Babe Ruth took a bigger piece of the home run pie than the rest of the Yankees. He didn't take homeruns from any of his teammates; he earned them. There is no income pie to be evenly cut and distributed. The pie is a lie. It's a statistical truth, but not a lived reality.

The pie is a lie.

There are individual producers and workers and earners with disparities in income for dozens upon dozens of reasons, just like there are disparities in grades and homeruns. Some of the reasons may be ignoble (lying, cheating, stealing, etc.), but the mere existence of income disparity is not proof of injustice and it is deceptively misleading to frame the question in terms of income distribution.

Further, it fosters grievance, envy, and covetousness, making those with less believe they are victims of an unjust system where income is not re-distributed equitably. It creates a people fixated on the lie of the pie, always believing they're being cheated or defrauded.

This is what lies beneath socialistic systems of government that see income disparities as a social injustice to which they must bring justice through

equitably re-distributing earned income. They must take from those with a bigger piece of the imaginary pie and redistribute it to those with a smaller piece, an action akin to taking Babe Ruth's inequitable home runs and redistributing them evenly to his teammates, or taking A's from the straight-A student to distribute equitably among his or her classmates.

Understand what's happening here. If we accept that income disparities exist because of unjust income distribution (if we accept the lie of the pie, that the pieces weren't divided equitably), then, in order for there to be justice, we will elevate a governing class to forcibly redistribute it equitably.

So, in order to overcome an inequality in economic outcome, we will produce a dangerous inequality in power. People will lose the freedom to make their own decisions about their own lives. They will lose the ability to agree mutually on the terms of their transactions. Results will be forced by government. So freedom is lost and power is given to a governing class. That's socialism.

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Such a system built on a false understanding of reality (that income disparities demonstrate injustice), fueled by envy and covetousness (as people fixate on their piece of the imagined pie), and governed by power (as ruling elites divvy up the fictional pie), will not and cannot work. It is a war against reality, an exacerbation of man's covetous sinful nature, and a dangerous transfer of power to an unchecked ruling class.

As creatures (beings created by God), we must yield to the Creator's reality, to the world as it really is. Outcomes will not be equitable for dozens upon dozens of reasons. Where there is injustice, we should work to bring justice, but we must not start with a lie.

Disparity in results does not demonstrate injustice – not even in Heaven! We are saved by grace, but Scripture is emphatic: works will be rewarded in Heaven (not *with* Heaven, but *in* Heaven). In other words, disparity in rewards will exist in Heaven (and there is no injustice there!).

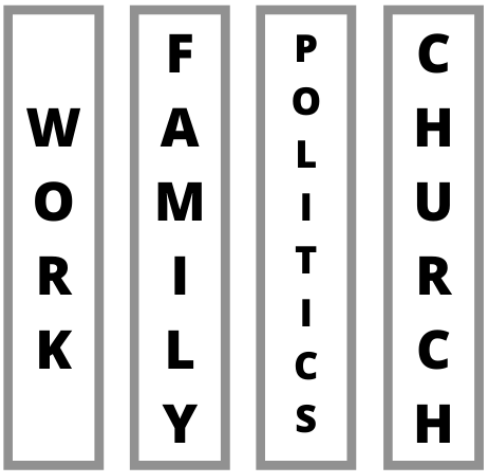
Check out Paul's words, for instance, in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. And the Lutheran Confessions teach:

> For as it is God's will and express command that the faithful should do good works, which the Holy Spirit effects in the faithful, so God allows these works to please Him for Christ's sake and promises a glorious reward for them in this life and in the life to come (Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration IV: 38).

Justice, then, is not found in redistributing a fictitious income pie. Justice begins by acknowledging reality as it is (being vigilant against insidious insinuations!) and in treating each individual equally under the law. Want to visit more on this? Come visit with me. – Pastor Conner

Disconnected Segments: Politics

Last month I noted the disconnect that can occur between the Christian life in relationship to every other area of our life. It's almost as if we have our work life, our church life, and our family life. But they're all disconnected. The question is, should that be the case? Does God's truth actually shape how I do work and family or even politics? I'd argue that God's truth does affect how we do life.



This month I'd like to focus on politics. Specifically, how, based on God's truth, we should relate to our leaders as citizens.

Take a look at Romans 13. St. Paul writes: "Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, **for the authorities are ministers of God**, attending to this very thing. **Pay to all what is owed to them**: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, **honor to whom honor is owed**."

Our politics are related to God in that God works *through* and *over* our governmental leaders. Please note that Paul doesn't make qualifications; he says "the authorities are ministers of God." He doesn't say, "ONLY Republican authorities are ministers of God." Or, on the flipside, Paul doesn't write, "ONLY Democrat authorities are ministers of God." Governmental authorities are ministers of God. Period.

In one of our communities there is a fairly flagrant banner that reads F-Biden. In a Democratic-Republic we have the benefit of disagreeing with our leaders. As Christians, however, we do not have the ability to disrespect our leaders: "Pay to all what is owed to them…honor to whom honor is owed." I don't know about your parents and grandparents, but my family taught me that attaching the F-word to the front of someone's name wasn't all that honorable (call me old-fashioned).

Thankfully, signs like these are few and far between in our communities, but maybe we've thought these words or actually said them out loud. I know our kids see this sort of disrespect. One time my 5th grade confirmation class and I were on a field trip. They saw a political sign and insults were flying like a bad lunchroom fight. "Liberals are a bunch of baby killers!" "Conservatives are idiots!" These were 5th graders mind you. Our kids see how we do politics. That fight reveals that we have a long way to go in demonstrating what I'll call *respectful disagreement* in relationship to our political leaders. Is there a way in which we can be opposed to someone and their views without hating them?

Now you might be thinking, "But what if our leaders are anti-Christian?"; or, "What if their policies are contrary to what God calls good?"

I think a helpful reminder to note is the context in which Paul is writing his letter to the Romans. Roman Emperors up until the time of Constantine (AD 300s), were indifferent and mainly unsupportive towards Christians *at best* or

Emperors flagrantly persecuted Christians *at worst*. Non-Christian historian Tacitus claimed that Emperor Nero persecuted Christians and blamed them for a major fire that consumed a large section of Rome (even though the Christians weren't responsible for the fire). Christian leaders and historians credit Nero with executing Paul.

And yet, Paul still called for Christians to respect their leaders – including an anti-Christian leader like Nero. Why? **Because in respecting the authority, Christians simultaneously respect God.** Governmental leaders do not execute justice on their own authority. The authority comes from God Himself. Remember what Jesus told Pontius Pilate?

"So Pilate said to him [Jesus], 'You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.'"

There are plenty of other biblical examples in which God utilized non-Israelite leaders as His instrument for preserving His people (Balaam, Jethro, sailors transporting Jonah to Nineveh, Darius). Plus, non-Israelite leaders with bad motivations and rulings still demonstrated the glory of God – remember Pharaoh and the Ten Plagues?

Point being, we do not get a free pass to demonstrate dishonor towards our leaders on account of their stances. On the one hand, a wholesome Christian approach will demonstrate respect and honor towards an erring leader because – as the Message translation of Romans 12 puts it – "Your generosity will surprise him with goodness." The best way to do this is imagine the face of Jesus on the face of your political opponent.

On the other hand, a Christian political response takes seriously God's truth and whenever possible supports legislation and leaders who will maintain God's Creation according to how He has designed the world. Voting eligibility versus actual voter turnout reveals that a large proportion of people – Christians included – fail to take the responsibility of voting seriously. Even though the last presidential election was historic with respect to voter turnout (something like 66% voter turnout among eligible voters), that percentage still reflects that 1/3 of US voters are inactive.

To close this all up, God rules over His world through the Church where He gives forgiveness, *and* He also rules over His world through governments where He executes justice. We pay honor to our leaders since they are God's representative. And when we fail to show honor and respect, we are in effect disrespecting God all at the same time. The breaking in of Jesus into our lives should compel us to be the best citizens out there who are capable of demonstrating respectful disagreement; opposition without malice.

As Christians, we take our role as citizen and our leadership's need to enforce and create policies which protect God's good Creation very seriously. Government is just one way in which God enters

into our world. Honoring and respecting our leaders is an act of faith which demonstrates our trust that – as the old song puts it – "He's got the whole wide world in His hands." He even has power over our leaders even when it doesn't *feel* like it. – Pastor Johnson

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It's Put There for a Reason

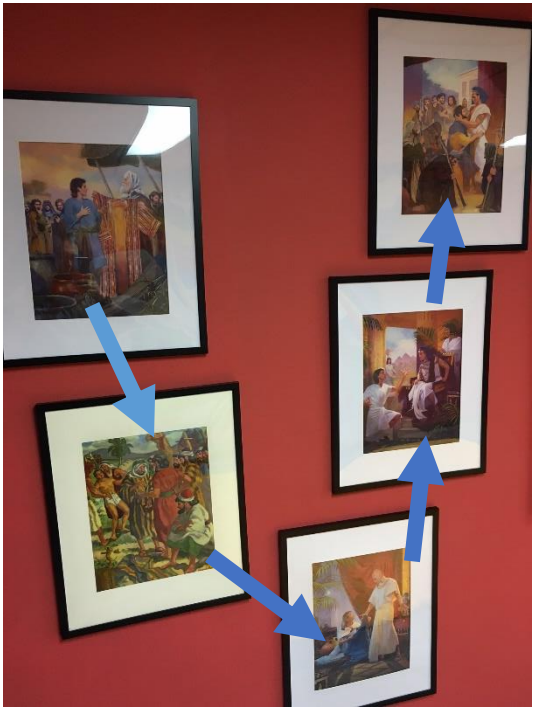
Trinity's basement project is getting nearer to completion. The Council is currently determining the best kind of flooring for the long hallway that connects our classrooms.

One of the features we've put a lot of work into is the artwork. While it may look like a bunch of random pictures and informational graphics, there is a method behind the madness.

On the left hand side of the hallway, all of the banners are pictures of Old Testament accounts. For instance, in the image above Isaac carries the wood on which he will be sacrificed by his father Abraham. You might remember, that a substitute sacrifice is provided by God so that Abraham doesn't have to lose his only son, Isaac.

On the opposite facing wall, there is a corresponding Jesus banner. Opposite Isaac's sacrifice is the true Father's Sacrifice, Jesus. Jesus was forced to carry the wooden cross on which He would be sacrificed. Jesus – the Son of God – was the Father's only Son. But Jesus was a greater sacrifice because He actually died on behalf of the world. He was our substitute, but there was no substitute for Jesus like there was for Isaac.

Another intentional reason the Jesus banner and graphics were placed on the right side of the hallway is because Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father. Art can be more than just pretty; art in the church can teach too.

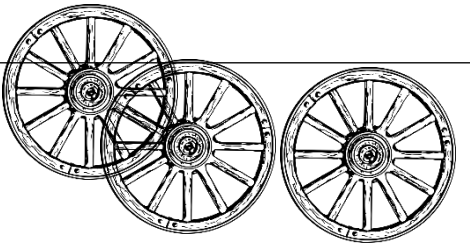


It's hard to see, but in one of our Sunday School classrooms we just hung pictures from Joseph's story. Slowly his life descends into chaos. His life seems to be going well when his father, Jacob, gifts him a special coat, but his brothers hate him for it. So the next picture is him being sold into slavery by his brothers. Joseph's life descends lower when Potiphar's wife accuses Joseph of sexual misconduct (which was untrue), and as result he's thrown into prison. But then the pictures begin to ascend again. Joseph was rescued from prison and made second-in-command of all Egypt. He then forgives his brothers who have come to Egypt for aid during a terrible famine.

Notice that picture on the far right – where Joseph forgives – is higher than when his Father gave him the special coat. Joseph had become a far deeper and wiser person due to the suffering he'd endured.

In the same way, our Creeds retell the ways in which Jesus' life descended: born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. Many debate on whether or not the descent into Hell was a low moment or high moment for Jesus. But we can confidently assert that Jesus rising from the dead and ascending to the Father were all high moments for Jesus. So Jesus' life mirrors Joseph's life (but Jesus' efforts surpass Joseph's). He, like Joseph, was destroyed by His own brothers, but He arose in order to give them new life and forgiveness.

We are thankful that we can tell God's story through art at Trinity. We are especially grateful for all the donors who have made the basement rehab a possibility!



Third Wheels Unite – we've learned from our recent Grief Share experience that it's easy to feel like the third wheel when we lose a spouse or when we're single. We feel out of place among our friend groups now. On **Thursday, June 24 @ 11am** – we'll be hosting a special potluck luncheon for our Manilla-Manning-Irwin-Aspinwall communities at Trinity-Manilla. If you feel like a third wheel, join us for lunch that day – **bring a side** (come, even if you can't bring a side) – so that you can see…you're not alone.

Big Opportunity Headed Your Way!

Zion, in partnership with Iowa District West, has an incredible opportunity to share with you. An all-access subscription to RAMSEY+ is being offered to those who are associated with Zion, including our preschool families.

Many of you in the congregation may be familiar with Financial Peace University offered by Dave Ramsey. That same company is now offering an electronic subscription to all the classes, tools, and apps in their program and because of support from Iowa District West, it's being offered for only $25! This subscription will allow you or your household access until February 28, 2022.

What is it?
It is an Electronic, All-in-One Financial Guide
Discover the plan to dump debt for good, save for emergencies, and have confidence for your future. Use the budgeting tool, EveryDollar, to take control of your money. Track your progress and hit your money goals faster with the BabySteps app. Ramsey+ will walk with you every step of the way.

How can I access it?
Drop off your $25 subscription fee to the church office and provide us with your email address. We will then send you the link to create an account via the Iowa District West's subscription.

The subscription allows participants to take classes such as Financial Peace, Smart Money-Smart Kids, or The Legacy Journey. It also gives access to 3 apps and a multitude of other resources.

Will there be in-person classes?
Yes! We plan to offer several courses in-person at Zion for those people who prefer to do the program in a more traditional way or for those who benefit from brainstorming together in person. Watch for dates and classes to be announced!

I have taken some of the Dave Ramsey classes in the past. Can I download the app to get jump started again?
Absolutely! After you subscribe and get the subscription information, download one of the apps to start tracking or planning, plus check out the updated course materials for a refresher.

We will highlight some of the electronic tools included in the subscription in the weeks and months to come. Feel free to contact Jen Morris with any questions!

Lutheran Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

Protect Life Amendment

Praise the Lord! The Iowa Legislature just passed the Protect Life Amendment!

The chambers worked together toward an amendment to the constitution, the Protect Life Amendment, that will eventually correct a 2018 Iowa Supreme Court decision that found a "constitutional right to abortion" in Iowa.

That one judicial decision made it impossible to pass any legislation limiting abortion in Iowa. The Protect Life Amendment was critical in laying a foundation for protection of unborn Iowans. But, this is only the first step.

A constitutional amendment must pass two General Assemblies. Then, it must be passed by a simple majority of Iowans. Final passage of the Protect Life Amendment will be in 2023 at the earliest. But, this vote today was a critical first step.

The US Supreme Court announced that it will hear an important case coming out of Mississippi which could possibly overturn Roe V Wade. Without the Protect Life Amendment passing in Iowa, even if Roe V Wade were overturned today, abortion would still be legal in Iowa. Simply put, today's passage of the Protect Life Amendment was a critical and necessary step for the state of Iowa.

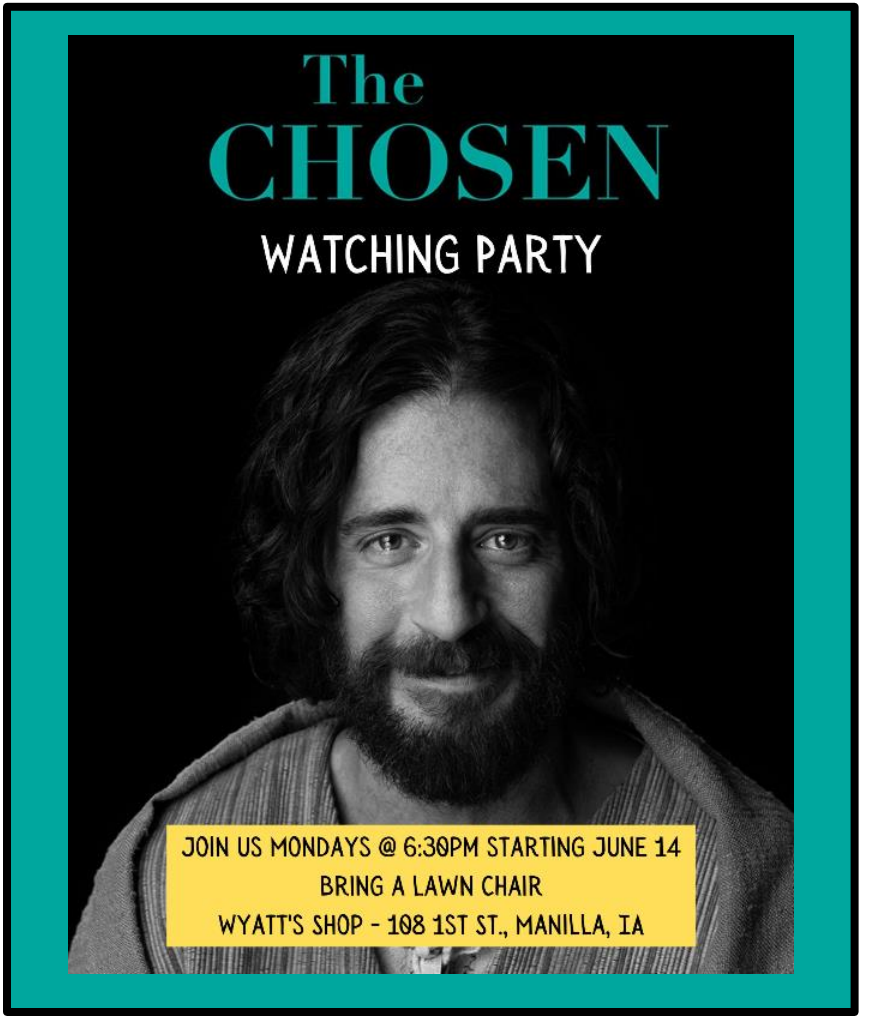
Please join us in praising God for putting these legislators in authority over law-making in Iowa. We look forward to the day the Protect Life Amendment is put into the hands of Iowans who love and value life.

Together we stand, and together we fight for God's truth for LIFE!

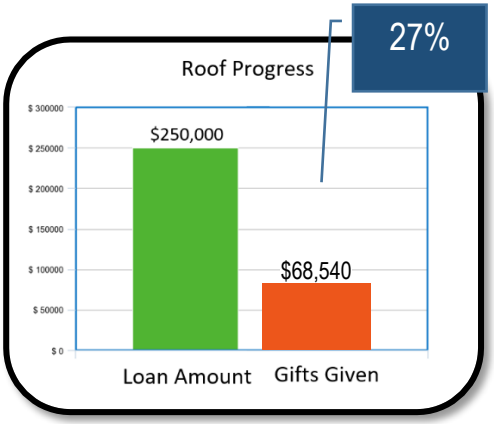
In Christ,

Kim Laube
Director of Life Ministries
Lutheran Family Service

Learn more: www.lutheranfamilyservice.com or call: 515-573-3138



The Chosen is a multi-season series still in production which tells the story of Jesus and His followers. You will meet familiar characters like Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Nicodemus. The show takes some artistic license in giving backstories to disciples for whom we know very little about; however, the prime focus is Jesus. The show asks the question: How would people in Jesus' day have responded to Him? We'll be watching the show down at a Trinity member's shop – Wyatt Bandow – starting Monday, June 14 @ 6:30pm. We'll be outside, so bring a lawn chair. You're also welcome to bring snacks too. We'll watch the first episode and then determine if there's enough interest to continue watching the series. Wyatt's address is: 108 1st St., Manilla, IA.



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!

Sharing the love of Jesus with a warm meal.

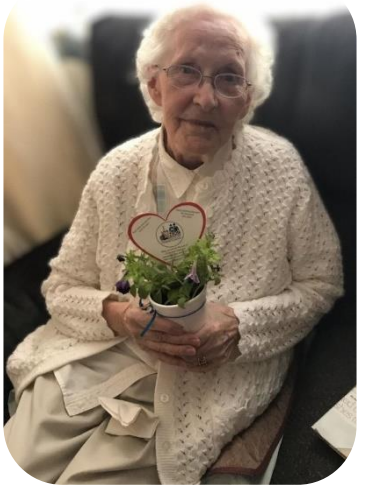
Many thanks to Deb Knueven, Zion youth, Tim Kienast, and parent drivers for delivering meals to our senior members!

Loving with Words and Actions

On May 2nd, Zion's Friendship Committee potted and delivered flowers (from IKM-Manning's Plant Sale) to the residents of Manning's two care facilities. Each plant had a heart with a word of encouragement, Scripture, and greeting from Zion on it.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Celebrating and Sharing Christ's Redeeming Love
Friendship Committee

"A friend loves at all times..."
(Proverbs 17:17)



Preschool Praises for May 2021

Although this year has been challenging, it has gone quickly! When going through the months with the children each morning, I can remember when we first started in August and I felt like we had so far to go and now we are already into May! Time really does fly when you are having fun!

The first week was all about Mom and we wrote what we know about Mom; her name, age, what makes her smile, what she is the best at and what we would buy her for a gift. The answers were all adorable! The children decorated planters with shiny pieces of paper and then chose 2 pretty flowering plants to place in the planter to give to Mom as a gift for Mother's Day. We took their measurements for height and weight so we could record them along with what they were at the beginning of the year. We included this page in their end of the year books that have several pages that we compiled throughout the year.

During Jesus Time we talked about the conversion of Saul from a man who persecuted Christians, to Paul one of the major writers of the New Testament. Jesus can use us, no matter how broken! *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. - Romans 8:28.* Pastor spoke to the children about how Jesus said that he was the door to salvation which means that we enter eternal life through Jesus, and He said that He was The Good Shepherd that lays down His life for the sheep. We are the sheep and Jesus cares for us by giving us forgiveness, grace, mercy, and eternal life by dying on the cross and taking the justice that we deserve for our sins.

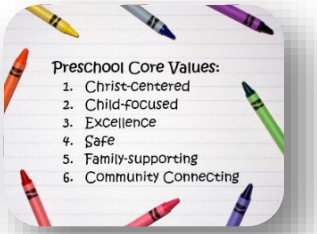
The last week of preschool we practiced A LOT in preparation for the Closing Program. Since this is the first time that the children were able to sing at the front of the church due to Covid restrictions, we wanted to make sure that they were ready and knew what to do. Tuesday was a beautiful day and, after practicing, we went outside and enjoyed playing with bubbles! The children had so much fun blowing bubbles and running around in the sunshine. On Friday, after practicing again, we played inside with a parachute since it was raining outside. Oh my goodness! They loved it and were giggling and smiling the whole time! We made little books to take home with special papers throughout the year as a little keepsake. I hope that the children can look back on those little books and remember their time with us! Pastor spoke to the children about the bodily ascension of Jesus into Heaven and how this is a hope to us as we look forward to being bodily raised from the dead and living with God eternally.

We had our closing ceremony on the 14th and enjoyed sharing some of our songs with the preschool families. One of the activities that we shared was playing instruments and singing the ABC's. The children also learned Jesus Loves Me in sign language and we were able to share that with everyone. One good thing that came from this crazy year, was the church's ability to live stream our closing program! So if you haven't seen the program, check it out on the Zion Lutheran Church Facebook Page and enjoy! The children and their families joined us for cupcakes and juice following the program. We also gave them each a special book and balloon as a present.

Thank you to the Preschool Board for all their support this year as well as their help with the program and cupcakes provided afterwards! Thank you to Janice for all her support this year and for all the 8 years she worked at our preschool! Janice is retiring after this year and we wish her a peaceful and blessed retirement! Thank you also to Cindy Karsten and her volunteering to help transport children for the last 3 years - she was truly a blessing to our school! Thank you to Pastor for his weekly lessons and support and thank you to everyone in the church for your support and prayers!

This is also my last year of teaching at Zion and I will miss being a preschool teacher and sharing the love of Jesus with these children. I will, however, still be in the church and community so I will get to see these children grow, which is a blessing! I pray that another teacher and assistant will be found to continue the mission work at Zion Lutheran Preschool as I know that all of you do as well!

Yours in Christ,
Mrs. Gore and Mrs. Nemitz



Remember the Preschool Endowment

ZION LADIES GUILD—MAY 12, 2021

Pastor Conner led us in a study of Jesus Christ's bodily ascension into heaven and what it means for us Christians. We too can look forward to reigning with our Savior just as He sits at the right hand of His Father. For Christian Life, JoAnn Thomas read Psalm 116:10 which says "The Lord our God is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion." We were given examples of how we might show compassion to those around us even as the Father has shown compassion to us.

President Roe called the business meeting to order in the name of the Triune God followed by the recitation of the LWML Pledge.

Roll call showed 10 members present. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting which were amended to read six high school graduates rather than four as recorded. The minutes were then approved. The mite box was passed and mite box prayer was said. Treasurer, Mary Grimm, reported a balance of $1198.00. Kitchen Treasurer, Darlene Vollstedt, amended her report from last month to read $3075.69 rather than $3077.69. She will have a new report for the June meeting.

The Human Care Chairmen announced 57 quilts have been tied since March as well as 6 more made by JoAnn Thomas. Delivery of the finished quilts will be to Orphan Grain Train. Clothes gathering for Orphan Grain Train will begin again in August when the quilters are no longer using the room. A quilt was donated to New Hope Opportunity for their quilt auction. It was pieced by Margaret Backhaus. 280 loom hats were given to various charities as well.

Old Business: Cheryl Buhr volunteered to be the new Christian Life Chairman. LWML information will continue to be placed in the church newsletter each month as recommended. Cindy Leslie will be ordering cards for the book nook and handling the receipts.

New Business: A six week long LWML Bible study can be found on line at https:www.lwmlorg/posts/longbiblestudy/everypicturecantellgodsstory?month=3&year=2021
A book was purchased for the church library entitled *Kitchen Table Wisdom* in memory of Margaret Backhaus.

The LWML National Convention will be held June 24-27 in Lexington, KY. Zone President Elect, Deb Schmidt, and husband will be driving and will take any items for the ingathering. President Roe has a list of items requested.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer. Hostesses serving for the day were JoAnn Thomas and Cindy Leslie.

Sue Puck, secretary

Finding the Positive after Loss

Life and loss journey together. Such is the nature of life under the sun, as Ecclesiastes puts it. It may be the end of a relationship, being let go from a job, losing a home, or the death of a loved one. Ecclesiastes describes the transient nature of the people and things of life as vapor or breath. They can't be grasped, but must be held with an open hand.

Since loss is inevitable, are there helpful practices for coping? Yes. One helpful practice in the midst of grief (the natural response to loss) is to remember the good things about who or what you have lost. Focusing on the pain will be the automatic response, so choosing to recall the good is important. It doesn't deny the loss or cheapen the pain; it fosters a heart of gratitude, a gratitude that can be openly expressed in payer to the Lord. It may also be helpful to invite another person, even another sharing your grief, to join you in your intentional gratitude-fostering remembering.

Loss is hard. Sometimes the pain persists. If you're struggling. If it's months (or years) and you're struggling to function, consider opening up to someone. Talk to a trusted, mature friend. Contact your pastor. Share your struggles with your primary care provider. Life and loss may journey together, but you don't have to journey with them alone. Help is available.

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

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Dear Believers of Zion,

Greetings in Christ from Uganda. Megan and I pray that you are keeping well. Thank you for your continued prayer and support of the Lord's work here. Without your partnership in mission, we would not be able to serve with the Lutheran Church of Uganda in spreading the Gospel. As you may know, Megan and I were in the US over the winter for home service. Once we returned we were blessed to attend the first graduation at the seminary where we serve, the Lutheran Theological College Uganda. 18 men graduated with a diploma in theology and two completed colloquy. Please pray for the graduates as they get more experience in the field prior to their ordination.

The government of Uganda has lifted the restriction on teaching at Universities and Colleges so Megan's work in the classroom has resumed. She has five courses for the spring 20/21 term. At this time there are 30 students on campus and 12 on vicarage. We continue to be amazed by the way God brings these men to serve Him in this way.

We continue to praise God for the opportunity to walk together with the Lutheran Church of Uganda and you in mission. Thanks again for your prayers and support of this important work. You are a blessing to us and the people of Uganda.

In Christ Alone,
Mark and Megan

Mark Mantey
Project Manager – Uganda / LCMS International Mission / The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
mark.mantey@lcms.org / http://www.lcms.org

LWML Explained

Zion Ladies Guild at the present time has 20 active members, however every woman in our congregation is considered a member of LWML. When called upon, the women of Zion are ready and willing to lend a serving hand. Zion is filled with generous members. Thank you for being there to lend your hands and hearts!

Some information about LWML. Zion Guild is with Carroll Zone along with Coon Rapids Trinity, Glidden Peace, Arcadia Zion, Lidderdale Immanuel, and Carroll St. Paul. Carroll Zone is in Iowa District West which consist of 170 LCMS congregations across the western half of the State of Iowa. Every 2 years Iowa District West LWML meets at Camp Okoboji for convention. At that time among the business conducted is choosing grants to support. At present time the 2020-2022 IWD Biennium goal of $214,200.00 is halfway met. $125,073.89 is needed to meet the goal. Of each $1.00 given (called mites) 25 cents is given to National LWML for their goal, 75 cents to IDW goals. It is amazing that 75 cents from each dollar can add up to $214,200.00!

At our Zion monthly meeting, a mite box is passed and members can choose one of three slots to add their offering—local church, mites, and birthday gift from birthday girl. The local church slot goes into our treasury Guild and each December gifts are given to local giving requests. We empty the account save known expenses incurred. Mission Central, Lutheran Family Service, our missionaries, our pastors and staff, Zion Preschool, Camp Okoboji, Lutherans for Life, are some of who have received our gifts. Mite boxes are available for women who cannot make the meetings or checks made out to Zion Guild LWML mite would help meet the goal. Every dollar counts.

The National LWML meets every 4 years. This year it meets at Lexington, Kentucky June 24 -27. National LWML has met their 2019-2021 Mission Goal of $2,100,000.00. (See the flyer on the bulletin board) Sharon Van Qualen from Carroll St. Paul is on the National Board who will vote to accept the submitted grants. Sharon asks for prayers to fulfill this difficult task. A side note—since formed in 1942, National LWML has given over $100 million in 43 countries.

The LWML Mission Statement: As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

The LWML Vision Statement: The LWML is the leading group of LCMS women where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

Amigos en Cristo

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

June 2021

PASTOR PEDRO LOPEZ IS COMING! We are so grateful that Pastor Pedro Lopez has accepted our Call and is coming to serve our two Hispanic ministries in Denison and Storm Lake. He will be installed as our new pastor on June 13 at 4:00 PM at Zion, Denison. Please join us for this special historic day for our ministries among the Hispanic immigrants of western Iowa. Following the service, a special Hispanic fellowship meal will be served and you will have an opportunity to visit with Pastor Pedro, his wife Francesca and their family.

Pastor Lopez currently serves as pastor of "Nueva Vida" (New Life) Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Virginia. He is an experienced pastor having served for more than 25 years in Hispanic ministries in Texas and Wisconsin and for the past 11 years in Virginia. His wife, Francesca works for the Southeast District of the LCMS as a secretary. They have 4 adult children and 6 grandchildren, who all live in Wisconsin. Both Pedro and Francesca are originally from Mexico and are fluent in both English and Spanish.

Please pray for our new direction under Pastor Lopez. He will be working with our two ministries and he will also be working for our District. So he will be a busy pastor.

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

PLEASE PRAY: + For the Installation of Pastor Pedro and for his ministry among us. + For our 4 young mothers (Adriana, Azucena, Joceyln, Cristina) who have or are making plans to baptize their little ones in the Christian faith. + For our Hispanic ministries in Sioux City under Pastor Flo, and also in Des Moines where Pastor Lincon Guerra has taken a Call to Texas.

Mother's Day in Denison: Each year in our worship service at Amigos en Cristo we take time to honor our mothers. Following the service we have flowers and a reception for them. Usually Maria Eugenia (Maru) takes care of the details. But this year she is in Mexico with her husband who is struggling with cancer. We pray they will soon be able to return to Denison.

The picture (left) shows the mothers present at our service. They are a special group of mothers of all ages, from a number of Hispanic countries. They have become a strong group in our ministry. Hispanic mothers are the spiritual leaders in their families. Sadly many Hispanic men do not see themselves as spiritual role models for their children and grandchildren. So it is most often the mothers and grandmothers who bring their children to church. In Mexico Mother's Day is celebrated the day after our celebration in this country. We thank the Lord for our mother's love.

COOKIE WALK

The Kinderfest Committee has asked Zion to sponsor the Cookie Walk. Donations of cookies, bars (6 or 8 to a plate) or snack mix, homemade or purchased, are needed, as well as workers.

Plates & baggies are available in the kitchen. A worker sign-up sheet is in fellowship hall or call Joni Kienast.

Donations can be left in church kitchen before 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 19, or brought to booth in the park after the parade.

Thank you.

For nearly a year, as we were journeying through the COVID pandemic, I was unable to lead worship in person at our Manning care facilities. So, as shared previously in this newsletter, I recorded a weekly message for our residents that they could individually watch on tablets. In April and May, though, I resumed leading worship in person! It has been such a joy go as your representative to bring God's Word and Sacrament in person to our care facility residents! Thank you for helping to make it possible through your faithful support of the mission and ministry of Zion (and Trinity)! – Pastor Conner

From weekend worship opportunities to youth camps, family camps, volunteer opportunities, and continuing education opportunities, Camp Okoboji has something available for you! Scholarship available! Inquire at Zion or Trinity.

Check out what's happening at your camp!
www.campokoboji.org

Iowa District West
Jr. Youth Gathering
West Des Moines
Cost - $ 150
Registration information will be mailed in August.

Iowa District West
Sr. Youth Gathering
Holiday Inn at the Airport - Des Moines
Cost - $235
Registration information will be mailed in August.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

Please Note! All times and events are subject to change

	Morning Prayer on summer break (previous sessions available at www.zionmanning.com)	
	June 2	**Zion VBS Volunteer Meeting (6:00 p.m.)**
	June 7	**LERT Meeting at Trinity (6:30 p.m.)**
	June 7-11	**VBS at Zion! (8:45 – 11:45 a.m.)** **Register: www.vbsmate.com/zionmanning**
	June 14	**The Chosen Watch Party (6:30 p.m.)**
	June 24	**Thursday afternoon Communion Service at Zion (1:30 p.m.)**
	June 24	**Historic Trinity Worship (6:30 p.m.)**
	June 26	**Outdoor worship and potluck for Trinity (4:00 p.m.)**

Thank you for delivering us a special Sunday dinner. Everything was so very good. We really appreciated being thought of. God's blessings to all who helped prepare our meal.

- Members

Zion Lutheran: Christ is risen! Alleluia! What a glorious message we get to share at Camp Okoboji! Thank you so much for joining with us to proclaim our risen Lord! Your partnership is so important to keeping a camp experience available as we seek to grow disciples in Christ's Kingdom! God bless you! Trusting in Jesus our Savior

- Kirk Warnke

Gift: $790

June Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

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

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. McKensie Bess
   Monica Christensen
   Jonathan Conner
2. Janice Ress
   Sylvia Saunders (T)
   Autumn Winter
3. Dara Jorgensen (T)
4. Kelli Grimm
   Alexander Lingle (T)
   Brett Sanford
5. Warren Puck
6. Angela Albertsen
   Nyle Gruhn (T)
   Brandon Ranniger
   Jason Rasmussen (T)
7. Wyatt Bandow (T)
   Jarod Gruhn
   Easton Woebke (T)
8. Jacob Ewoldt
   Jett Sellner
   Adalyn Stribe
   David Vetter (T)
9. Kristine Bunker
   Debra Blom (T)
   Jon Saunders
10. Amy Bradley
    Luke Doyel
    Neil Hass
    Judy Jacobsen
    Hazel Opperman
    Steve Page
11. Jerry Brus (T)
    Ron Bunker
    Luke Ramsey
    Nolan Ramsey
12. Andrew Ferry (T)
13. Nick Backhaus
    Travis Neumann
14. Richard Irwin (T)
    Jessica Lingle (T)
    Jessica Winter
15. Ann Ranniger
16. Michael Gore
    Ashley Hinners
    Greg Peters
17. Paul Boell (T)
    Lily Doyel
    Dale Reinke
18. Dan Kerkhoff
19. Wilma Bogatzke
    Daniel Vogel
20. Aubrey Alexander
    Lorrell Borkowski
21. Rodney Kurth
    Mason Vonnahme
22. John Blom (T)
    Duncan Hilsabeck
    Kim Wegener
23. Brooklynn Booth
    Bowen Bruck
    Mary Grimm
    Matthew Vogel
24. Holly Borkowski
    Lana Georgius (T)
    Dale Holmes (T)
    Cooper Kienast
    Kristine Lingle (T)
25. Tanner Hanson (T)
    Jared Rosener
26. Shirley Ahrendsen
    Dennis Barten
    Russell Bruhn
28. Jordynne Bauer
    Yvonne Klindt (T)
29. Arlo Bornhoft (T)
    Lynn Schroeder (T)
    Hannah Willison

Anniversaries

2. Jacob & Mallory Dreier
   Duane & Janice Monson
5. Roger & Heather Rasmussen (T)
7. Ben & Ashley Lorenzen
8. Jason & Kimber Opperman
   Bill & Sheila Simonsen (T)
10. Stan & Nancy Baack
    Brian & Deb Birks (T)
    Ron & Kristine Bunker
    Ryan & Heidi Crawford
12. Stan & Joleen Spies (T)
15. Lynn & Sonia Nulle
16. Loren & Jeanette Ferry (T)
24. Jeff & Amy Bradley
    Curt & Debra Janssen
26. Mike & Robin Heaton
27. Jerry & Carla Backhaus
29. Larry & Adella Farley (T)
    Craig & Luann Langel

Official Acts

Funerals

Glen Joens (Graveside service); May 8, 2021; Pastor Andrew Johnson

Valda Ann (nee: Lamaack) Lamp, Died April 30, 2021; Funeral May 4, 2021; Pastor Jonathan Conner and Pastor Robert Riggert

Adult Confirmation:

May 16, 2021 By Pastor Jonathan Conner

Children as baptized members

Jim Karsten; Brett & Kasie Sanford, Jack, Ella & Will; John & Sarah Lorenzen, Karsyn, Layton & Paisley; Ben & Ashley Lorenzen, Briar & Brogan

In Our Prayers

Louise Kinnan (Darlene Asmus' sister), Justeen Schwieso, Nancy Grimm, Julie Weller, Naomi Adams (Jean Ferneding's mother), Jeanne Gruhn, Ron Schilling, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Natalie Mason (Bruce and Mary Grimm's daughter), 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)