Your Summer Job

As a youth I had a variety of summer jobs. I put up hay for a farmer nearby, walking the field to load the wagon and then suffocating in the airless loft of the barn. I worked with the maintenance crew at a county park, cleaning the pit toilets, clearing the vacated campsites of garbage and mess, painting the dock, mowing the grass, opening the gates in the early morning, and anything else they told me to do. I worked as a stock boy at a sporting goods store, taking inventory, stocking the shelves, and answering customer questions. I waited tables at a Mexican restaurant, delivering buckets of chips and salsa and mounds of fried ice cream, and singing their quirky version of Happy Birthday to celebrating guests. And I spent a summer as a camp counselor at a Lutheran summer camp, shepherding all ages of boys to the archery range, the horse rides, the lake activities, and more.

People sometimes speak about the lazy days of summer. Such has never been my experience. This summer will be no different. In fact, this summer we all have a summer job (both Zion and Trinity). Zion, as you know, our roof is nearly complete. And it doesn't leak!

As soon as VBS is complete (June 7), we will move in earnest into the next phases of our restoration work (emptying classrooms, asbestos remediation, dry walling, painting, carpeting, and returning furniture to classrooms). This will require all of us. Some of us will be called upon to show up and work (watch for calls for volunteers and donations). All of us need to be in prayer throughout the entirety of this project. It's going to be messy. It's going to inconvenience all of us (I'm writing this article from our temporary offices on Main St. with 90% of my books stacked in boxes in the back corner of this building.). We will need to move our worship services off site for at least three Sundays (most likely beginning June 23). There will be unforeseen speedbumps. There will be delays. There will be uncertainty. We must pray for patience and level heads. Kindness must rule the day.

Further, we need to be consistent in worship. Summers may involve vacations, but we must not take a vacation from worship. Show up, whether we're at Historic Trinity or at Trinity in Manilla. Gather with the gathered. Receive God's gifts. Be the body of Christ.

I must also issue a challenge to step up your giving. If you're already tithing, wonderful! If you're not, aim for it. Together, with God leading us, we can do great things. While the bills we are facing in this project are great, the opportunity for ministry is greater. Your giving supports the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Right now that ministry involves restoring our building so that we can keep the ministry moving forward and outward into our mission to bring Jesus into our communities and our communities into Jesus.

Trinity, you also have a summer job: Welcome your new pastor. Shower him and his wife with love. Tell them your name every week (then wear name tags once a month for a year). Show up for worship. Give generously. Invite people to church. Your future is bright. Celebrate it! And remind yourself daily that Manilla needs you. You can be the church of Manilla. Embrace that mission and move forward together.

This is no time for lazy days. This is the summer to invest in the ministry of Zion and Trinity and to move the mission forward. God grant it. – Pastor Conner

Greetings from Pastor-elect Staehr

Dear friends in Christ,

I have had the privilege of being called as the pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church in Manilla, IA. Yet, much has happened since I received my call. I have been diligently completing paper upon paper between April 24th and my graduation which occurred last month on May 17th. I graduated with 8 of my classmates from Concordia University, NE (pictured below) with another who will receive his call after the fall quarter in November. These men are some of the best that I have met and I am sure that the Church will be blessed by their ministry.

The completion of classes along with the Baccalaureate and Commencement Ceremonies brought friends and family together at CTSFW with many celebrations and excitement. Everyone is asking me about my call, and they inquire consistently about you all. They want to know who you all are and how they think my ministry will go. All I can say for now is that I have been blessed by you all already: by your kindness and generosity, by your willingness and eagerness to reach out, and by all those who intend to make my ministry run smoothly. I cannot wait to see how the Lord will bless us together in this calling.

I am likewise excited to finally meet you all in person, and join with you as your pastor in your times of struggle and in your times of joy. I can't help but mirror the questions I am asked, for I also am eager to learn more about Manilla, Manning, and all the people whom the Lord has placed there.

It is my intention to preach the Gospel to you all in words and actions just as 1 Timothy 4 suggests, "set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity… devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching… Practice these things, immerse yourself in them… Persist in this…" So Timothy is encouraged to do all these things as a young pastor, and he is likewise encouraged to make his study and proclamation of the Scriptures a habit that he is called to practice, immerse himself in, and persist in for the benefit of all who hear.

Often, it may seem easier to set aside the study of the Scriptures because the point seems clear enough. However, as a graduate of the Seminary, I cannot say that my vocation as a student of the Scriptures can come to an end. Instead, each of us as a believer is called to learn at the foot of the cross with the words that God has given to us to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest. I cannot wait to join with you in the consideration of the Scriptures as the words of our Lord equip us to proclaim with certainty the truth… "Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life…" (Jn. 14:6)

May the Lord bless you all!

Pastor-Elect Zachary Staehr

Pastor-elect Zachary Staehr

Pastor Staehr

A Well (Ordered) Mind

Minds are a lot like houses; they can be well-built, being a great blessing to their owners, or they can be -conceived, being a constant source of stress and mess. The obvious question is: How do we build a mind that will bless us? The answer can be encapsulated in one word: Worldview.

Think of a worldview like you would approach a set of blueprints for a house. Blueprints answer essential questions: *Where are we going to park our cars? Where are we going to hang our jackets? Where are we going to put our dishes?* Answering these questions well will produce a well-ordered life.

A worldview does something similar. It answers essential questions for a well-ordered mind, questions such as: *Where did we come from? What is the purpose of life? What is right? What is wrong? How do we know the difference? Why is there suffering and evil? What is justice? What happens when we die? Where is hope found?*

Worldviews, like blueprints, will answer these questions differently and this will affect the way we live. Some houses lack adequate closets, some lack sufficient outlets, some have illogical floorplans. If you live in one of these houses, you know how frustrating these oversights can be.

As confessing Christians, we inhabit a fully equipped worldview that provides a place for everything. *Where did we come from?* A Creator has bestowed on us an esteemed status as divine-image bearers in His creation. *Why is the world a mess?* Despite our high status, we have fallen low in sin that has corrupted our nature and twisted our desires so that we set our hopes on things that are less than the good God intends for us, and this results in unrest and great mental distress.

Where do I find purpose in life? We find purpose in knowing God and being known by Him, which God has made possible through the incarnation of His Son and the preservation of His Word among us. Further, God has established a church in which He has gathered us to hear this Word so that we can know Him now and into eternity. We also find purpose in acknowledging and embracing our creaturely status and our creaturely commission to exercise loving dominion over His creation for our and our neighbors' wellbeing.

What is right and what is wrong and how do I know the difference? Our Creator has snapped the plumb line of truth and all humanity must yield to it and judge morality by it. He has laid down the straight line. Whatever is out of line, then, is wrong.

What is justice? Justice is that which extols, defends, promotes, and celebrates not the creature's desires, but what the Creator has called good. This would include the exclusive, lifelong, one-flesh union of husband and wife who welcome the blessing of children. It would include honoring father and mother and the parental figures God works through. It would include caring for our neighbor, his life, sexual integrity, property, and reputation.

What happens when we die? The Creator has fixed the banner of life in Christ in His Church and it hangs high for all to see and celebrate. It boldly declares victory in Christ over death. In fact, it declares not just life after death (i.e. the promise

of souls in heaven with Jesus), but *life after* life after death, i.e. resurrected life with Jesus on a renewed earth.

This is the Christian worldview we inhabit. It is also how we achieve a well-ordered mind. To be clear, though, we're not saying the Christian worldview protects you from the changes, chances, and vicissitudes of life. Neither are we saying the Christian worldview ensures health, wealth, and prosperity. What we're saying is that the Christian worldview provides a place for everything we will encounter under the sun. It tells us where it fits in reality and this is very good for the mind.

Return momentarily to our well-planned house. We arrive home and park our car in our garage. We walk in and hang our keys on the rack, put our shoes on the shelves, and hang our hat on the hook. We throw our work clothes into the laundry and pull clean clothes from our spacious and orderly closet. We begin grabbing pots and utensils from our cabinets and drawers to prepare supper. The well-planned house allows us to do this with ease (and often without appreciating the ease the orderly plan has provided for us).

The Christian worldview is a well-planned house and the key to a well-ordered mind. Here's how: In our scenario of the well-planned house, we saw how it enabled us to put everything in its home: the pickup in the garage, the keys on the rack, the shoes on the shelves, etc. When we come to the Christian worldview, we know that everything has a home, so the question we train ourselves to ask is, "Where does this live? Where does this belong in this house?"

Where does identity belong in the Christian worldview house? In the room labeled "Male or Female Creature: Created and Redeemed." In other words, we don't invent our identity or feel it from any internal sense, but the Creator gives it to us and stamps a pattern (male or female) onto our bodies that communicates a purpose. Further, He promises to resurrect our redeemed bodies to be fully male or female in the new creation.

Where does marriage belong in this house? In the room labeled "Exclusive, lifelong, one-flesh union between male and female who receive the blessing of children." Where does sex belong in this house? In the previous room and in it only. Where does procreation belong in this house? In the room labeled "husband and wife." It does not belong in IVF or sperm/egg selling or surrogacy.

Where does education belong in this house? In the room labeled "The Fear of the Lord." In other words, education is not first about gaining knowledge, but about wisdom, which only comes by putting the Creator before the creature (i.e. *fearing the Lord*). Where does government belong in this house? In the room labeled "ministers of God for good" (Romans 13:4).

Where does communication belong in this house? In the room labeled, as Martin Luther expresses in his explanation to the 8th commandment on not bearing false testimony, "Everything in the kindest way." In other words, love and truth must accompany all communication. Where do finances belong in this house? In the room labeled "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof…" (Psalm 24:1). In other words, our money and possessions aren't ours. We are but stewards of God's money and possessions.

Return again to our well-planned house. What happens when we don't put things where they live? What happens when we don't put our keys on the rack or our shoes on the shelves or our laundry in the hamper or our mail in the stacker or our dishes in the cabinets? Chaos! We can't find

our keys. We trip over our shoes and our laundry. We can't find statements and we miss a bill. We have no room on our counters.

In my home I often call this state of affairs "Anti-Eden." I will good-naturedly declare to our children that they have built an Anti-Eden by leaving things where they don't live. I will then begin what I call a "Restore Eden" campaign. In other words, I want everyone to put their things where they belong because the chaos is disrupting everyone's mental wellbeing.

The same thing happens in our minds. When we put things where they should not be, mental unwellness follows. When people dissociate their bodies from their identities, i.e. they reject their given male or female body as informative for their identity, they become mentally unwell. When they try to invent their identity instead of receiving their God-given identity, they become mentally unwell.

When people disregard the male/female nature of marriage, they become mentally unwell. When people break the one-flesh union of husband and wife, great mental turmoil results. When people divorce love and truth in communication and refuse to communicate in the kindest way, great grief and suffering infects the mind. When people are undisciplined with their finances they experience great mental stress. When governing authorities fail to commend God's good and to punish those who oppose God's good, entire societies and nations experience mental unrest.

When people misplace their purpose (which is to know and be known by God and to love the neighbor in vocation), they anchor it in a shore that cannot and will not hold, and this will bring mental unwellness. When people incorrectly define justice as something other than extolling, defending, promoting, and celebrating what God has called good, they set themselves against God and His ordered reality and this can do nothing but produce individual and cultural unwellness.

When people misplace suffering and evil, as something other than temporary intruders in God's good creation, intruders that will finally and fully be evicted by Jesus, they can experience either pride, in believing we can solve the problem without God, or despair, in forgetting that God has and will deal with it.

To experience a well-ordered mind, and therefore a well mind, we must again and again ask, "Where does this live in the Christian worldview?" To answer this question we need to strengthen our appreciation and understanding of the Christian worldview. How will we accomplish this? Worshiping *with* the church is the obvious place to start. Worship not only brings forgiveness and life in Christ to us, but it orients us to the Christian worldview. It establishes us squarely in it and helps us see where the pieces of reality fit. Joining the church for Bible study is the natural next step, and continuing that Bible study at home through individual Bible reading and/or family Bible reading. Learning from thoughtful Christian thinkers (through in-person/virtual teaching or books) will further your appreciation and understanding of the Christian worldview. I'm happy to recommend such thinkers and teachers.

Achieving a well (ordered) mind will take work, but just like the joys that come from a well-ordered house, it's worth it. Perhaps it's time to embark on your own "Restore Eden" campaign not only for your house, but for your mind. If you need encouragement or direction, I can help! – Pastor Conner

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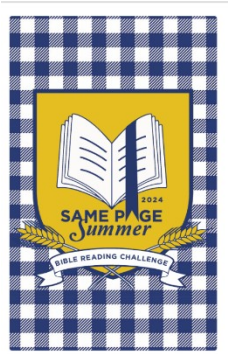
Hear Pastor Conner answer questions from Zion' and Trinity's kids.
At issuesetc.org search for "kids have questions."

Same Page Summer Bible Reading Challenge



There is something enticingly beautiful about a well-read book. The binding broken and edges worn rough and ragged from hours spent turning the pages and immersing yourself in the story within. Of grabbing that old, well-read manuscript off the shelf, cracking it open, and rereading the same old story. The smell of old books, the softness the paper takes on from the constant page turning and use. It beckons the reader to return to the tried-and-true story. To find themselves lost in the world within. Oh, how our souls long for stories, and cherishes them. Do you have a well-loved book, story or poems you return to? One that you read each year or every few years that nourishes your soul, thrills you, and lets you spend your days in a world filled with adventure and intrigue?

I have a few favorite books like this on my book shelves. I love to see them sitting there in their worn-out well-loved state. I love to anticipate the chance to crack them open and reenter the world of tales I have loved over and over again. For me this is books like C.S. Lewis' Narnia, JK Rowling's Harry Potter, Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice and Persuasion, and Louisa May Alcott's' Little Women. The latter one is my favorite as a good friend found me a very old copy of Little Women at an antique store and it is simply lovely!

My love for reading has grown over the years but I recall favorite English teachers reading aloud from their well-loved books, summer days spent going to the library in my Grandparent's small town to check out books and then lounge in the hammock in their front lawn of their farmhouse while the sheep "mowed the grass" around me. I loved the summer Book-it reading plans that helped me get my own personal pizzas. Or the thrill at read a million minutes in elementary school to see what silly things we could make our principals do. Particularly my fourth-grade year when our principal grew a mustache and would allow the student council, of which I was on, to shave off said mustache if we reached our reading goal. We did and let's just say helping to shave off the principal's mustache is a core memory for me, probably because that principal was my own dad. Needless to say, the love of reading was engrained in me from early childhood.

Yet, the love for reading my Bible has only recently been engrained and made a habit in the more recent years. I had the stories from Sunday School memorized, and would try various plans over the years to try to read my Bible more. But it wasn't until I found this particular Bible Reading Challenge that we've been doing now at Zion, that I have truly learned to love my daily time in my Bible. I'm amazed at how much I'm able to actually read in it each year, and each summer. And at how things pop out at me that didn't the last pass through. I've learned to relish reading through it with different translations. My small NIV Bible I got when I went back to school to become a DCE is now falling apart and couldn't appear more beautiful to me. I've listened now through the Bible with the NLT translation on the YouVersion app and have loved hearing the music and sound effects they added. Especially as it brought to life John chapter 3 where Jesus meets with Nicodemus at night as crickets chirped in the background. I've scribbled, highlighted and marked up a much-loved ESV Journal Bible I got as a graduation gift from me DCE program. I love to see each page fill up with notes with each new

read through. I've even debated for the summer buying a new New Testament Journal Bible just for my summer readthroughs, just to make diving into the New Testament again new and thrilling.

The love for reading your Bible, for reading it daily and often is not always one that comes easily. Or rather without hard work and determination. In fact, I expect now to have my mind immediately wander to my tasks to do, chores to get done, and other important things. I've learned to make it a habit to listen to the Bible on my commute time or while I get ready in the morning. To crack the Bible open first thing in the morning before any other "to do", email or notification pops up. That if I want to take time to read the Bible, I have to put my phone on do not disturb, and also keep a notepad close by to write down the thoughts that fly at me of what's waiting for me to accomplish once I'm done. That way I can note it, and forget about it to get back to the task at hand.

Creating the habit of being in the Word is one that takes time, patience, grace and self-discipline. But the fruits of this labor are so very sweet. To be able to call upon scripture in times of need, in despair, in joy, in praise, in grief, in thanksgiving, in doubts. To be able to refute the lies I tell myself in my thoughts with the Truths of God's Word, is beyond valuable and needed for my mental health. To be able to recall passages as balm for the heart for myself and those I love has shown me over the years that the time in the Word is well spent. That even the times I'm hardly listening to the Word while toddlers vie for my hugs and attention still allows the Word to seep into my being and engrain itself in me.

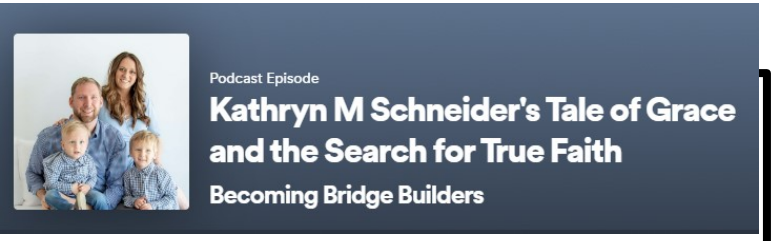
I love to see my Bible Reading Challenge paper all worn out by the time I complete the challenge. The check marks in various colors, with various pieces checked off at different times. The torn edges and coffee-stained well-loved paper all crumbled makes my heart happy to see as it symbolizes my time spent working towards the goal. My imperfect progress over perfection, yet completed one day at a time, plan of reading through the Word of God. I've watched as each time I do this challenge my habit grows, and changes and molds me into the woman I want to become. A woman of discipline who spends time with God daily. I'm not perfect and I don't get to it everyday or get each day's reading done all in one sitting. But the task at hand seems less laborious, less like work and more and more like those summer days spent reading books in the hammock on my grandparents' farm. The desire to be in the Word has grown, little by little with each page read and reread. With each year spent trying to set a goal for myself and slowly yet steadily working towards its completion.

And so, my dear brother and sister in Christ, as this summer kicks off I invite you to take up a summer reading goal with me. Grab your old worn-out Bible, or maybe a new journal Bible you want just for this occasion. Pick up your Same Page Bible reading challenge plan from church, or our Facebook page 'Zion Bible Reading Challenge' and join me. Let's get on the same page together this summer. Let's spend our mornings over a cup of coffee or tea reading through the best story ever. Let's spend our afternoons or evenings rereading the tried-and-True words of God, striving to fall in love with the habit and discipline of being in our Word more and more each day. Of adding yet one more Good Book to our bookshelves, whose edges are worn, whose binding is cracked, whose pages show the love of being read and reread over and over. The Good Book that beckons us to come. To get lost in the soul nourishing story of Jesus Christ, in the pages of Truth. To taste and see that the Lord is good, that His mercies are new every morning. That He died for you, that He loves you, and that we get the chance anytime we want to hear from

the God who created the universe simply by cracking the cover of our well-loved Bible waiting on our bookshelf or end table.

I can't promise you a personal sized pizza for completing this challenge, or even the chance to shave my father's mustache off (although I could see if he's up for negotiation), but what I can promise you is that if you attempt this challenge this summer with me your soul will be nourished. Your time will be well spent and you will grow in love and knowledge in Christ Jesus creating habits that truly nourish your body, mind and soul.

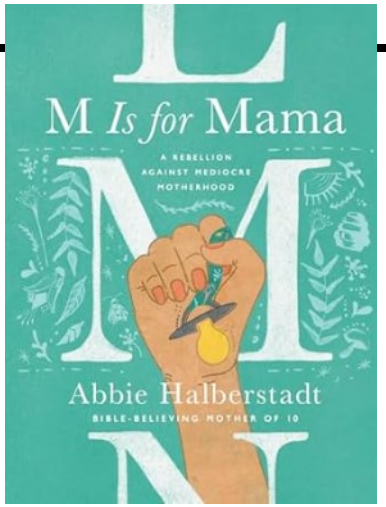
So, get on the same page with me and grab that Bible off your bookshelf, pick up the plan from church or email me at dcekathryn@gmail.com. If the full plan seems like too much try just reading one of the Gospels. The book of Mark doesn't waste any time getting into all the action. Whatever part of the challenge you choose to participate in this summer I pray that you might "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16a). – DCE Kathryn



I, Kathryn, was recently interviewed by Pastor Keith Haney of Iowa District West for his podcast entitled Becoming Bridge Builders. Here is what he wrote to summarize our chat together about my journey of faith: Have you ever witnessed the quiet strength of a faith reborn? Kathryn M. Schneider, a dedicated Director of Christian Education, opens up about her spiritual odyssey, from an Iowa childhood through a college crisis of belief, to a heartfelt return to her church roots. Her narrative is not just one of personal enlightenment but a radiant example of how life's adversities can be a catalyst for profound growth and 'sparkling Jesus' in our every day. Kathryn's tale is steeped in the powerful influences of her grandmother and mentors like Pastor Ken Mitschke and Professor Pat Fick, who have left indelible marks on her journey.

Amid the beauty of redemption stories like Kathryn's, there lurks a darker side to religious life that many young adults face: the specter of hypocrisy and inauthenticity. Our conversation doesn't shy away from these thorny issues. Instead, we examine the void many feel between adolescence and parenthood and how the church can sometimes falter in bridging that gap. It's a candid look at the need for realness within our spiritual communities, the pivotal role of the Holy Spirit in shepherding the wayward back to faith, and how embracing our imperfections can pave the way to a truly authentic church experience.

You can find this podcast anywhere you listen to podcasts or on YouTube if you prefer to watch simply search for my name on YouTube and you'll find the podcast.



M is for Mama: A Rebellion against Mediocre Motherhood by Abbie Halberstadt

This book has been on my "to read" list for a while now and when I walked into The Market Place the other day and saw it on display, I thought 'Yup, it's time to buy it and start reading it!' Boy, am I glad I did! It is funny, uplifting and beyond convicting to grow as a mama and resist the culture currently trying to via for our motherhood. I think too often we go for the quick fix, quick dopamine hit, and easy excuses out of doing the hard. And motherhood is hard!! And the narrative around motherhood today is a real downer. It doesn't seem to uplift mothers or rejoice in what God has done in their lives, but rather units over memes about how "kids are the worst."

This book lovingly brings scripture into motherhood and the culture around it and lovingly challenges us to do not what the world deems is okay but what scripture is calling us to. Can I just say at times reading this book I laughed, and other times I felt convicted to my core that I needed to right now start doing some of the challenges she puts forth. I plan to reread through this going slower through the chapters to let some of them sink in deeper. At the end of each chapter, she has four sections. The first is, the narrative, and in this she places three things society tells us about motherhood and three things for having Christ-like Motherhood. Next, she has a section called action steps that has a verse or two from scripture to meditate and memorize. As well as a few quick action steps to help you in that topic just covered. The next section is a few questions to reflect on and she ends it with a prayer to pray. I've only worked on memorizing one of the scriptures so far from the chapter on anger. Let me tell you about feeling convicted when it comes to managing my own anger, especially while dealing with toddler tantrums. Oh man, that chapter hit me hard and I've since memorized Ephesians 4:2, "Be completely humble and gentle. Be patient, bearing with one another in love," and have called upon it often in the last few weeks. This book is seasoned with humor and grace. And one I think all us mamas could use to encourage, uplift and lovingly challenge us to grow in this amazing vocation God has called us to. – DCE Kathryn

The Holy Sexuality Project

We finished up our first cohort of *The Holy Sexuality Project*. Hear what teens and their parents have to say after going through the curriculum.

Would they recommend it?

- "I'd recommend this because you can grow in purpose that God has for you. You learn to follow Jesus in everything you do. (good or bad). 4 out of 5 stars!"
- "Highly recommend! 10 stars!!!! I can think of no other resource that addresses this extremely important topic (especially given today's society). And does it in such a respectful and caring way in full thought and reflection of Biblical Truths"
- "I would recommend it because it opens up conversations and topics you wouldn't normally have."
- "5 out of 5 stars! I think others should definitely do it, it wasn't awkward or anything like that. It was really very good."
- "Dr. Yuan is incredibly knowledgeable, articulate and winsome. This series is professionally produced and easy to follow. These issues are ones that we will all face in our communities, families and even our churches. Dr. Yuan brings clarity to the difficult topics, and he does so in a compassionate and loving way. 5 out of 5 stars!)
- "It's a top-notch curriculum that facilitated conversations that are sometimes hard to have with teens. It reinforced our Christian viewpoint of many situations that are happening in our culture."

What did was their one big take away?

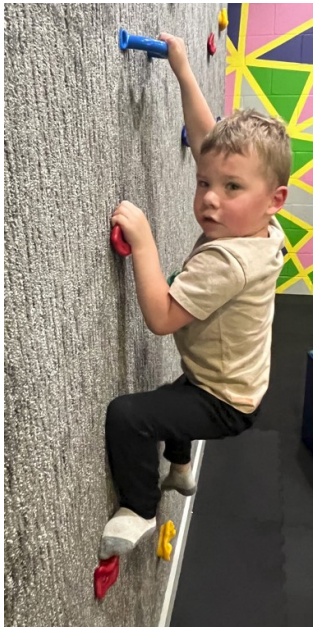
- "The goal of Holy Sexuality is not heterosexual marriage, but glorifying God."
- "Deny yourself, take up the cross, ad follow Jesus. He says that every time and it just makes sense to me and I think it's very important for us to do. Always follow Jesus!"
- "How to best respond to temptation. Through intimacy in Christ through consistent reading/studying of God's Word. Fix our eyes on Christ and follow Him."
- "In all our acts that we do we should do it through God and be holy. Follow Jesus!"
- "Follow Jesus!"
- "No matter our struggle, temptation, or situation, the answer is the same: Follow Jesus!"

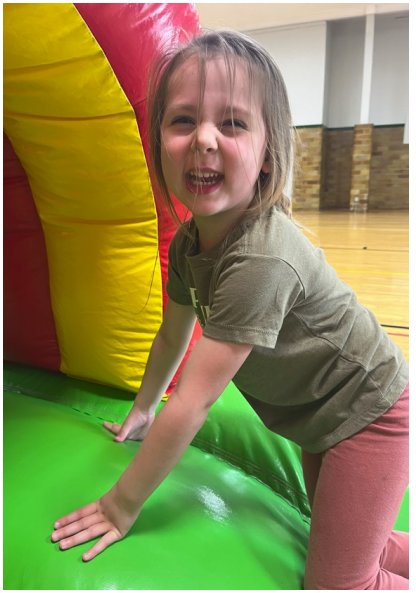
We plan on putting together another group this fall to walk through this curriculum, but if you'd like to learn more about the curriculum and start now feel free to ask DCE Kathryn for more information. We'd love to help you utilize this amazing curriculum in your family!

Preschool Praises for May

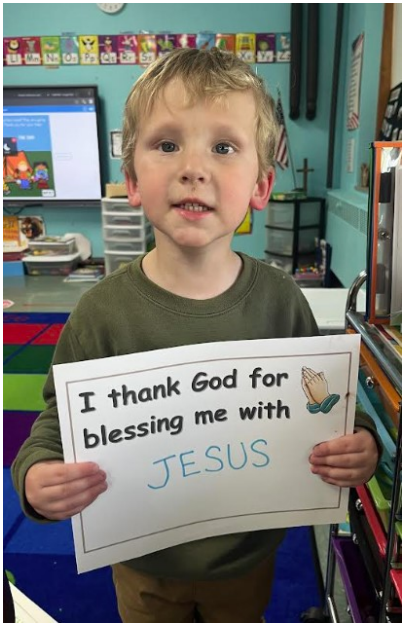
We wrapped up our year of preschool in May by celebrating our graduation. We were happy to have 20 graduates for the 2023-2024 school year. It was a wonderful year. Thank you for your faithful support of Zion Preschool. We feel the love! Please enjoy some photos from the end of the school year.

Blessings
Miss Amy & Miss Melanie





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



Thank you, Zion, for enabling us to share Jesus with children and families!

Zion Newsletter—June 2024 Fellowship Club Update

Fellowship Club THANKS and TRANSITIONS

+THANKS to all who donated clothing to the most recent Orphan Grain Train collection. The items were transported on May 7 with three fully loaded pick-ups and a van. Thanks to the volunteers who loaded the items and traveled with the group to Ida Grove for the sorting adventure. OGT continues to respond to national crises (wild fires and tornadoes) as well as international needs. Learn more at www.ogt.org.

+THANKS for the monetary donations of Fellowship Club members and friends which fund the support of a Garuna student ($360 a year). Sokkong Touko, a third grade boy in the Tbong Khmum school in Cambodia, is our adopted student for the year. In 2024 two new schools (#10 and #11) will be constructed in Southeast Asia. Through this unique outreach children learn of the love of Jesus and are welcomed into His kingdom through baptism. Learn more at www.garuna.org.

+ TRANSITION: The Fellowship Club will recess for the summer months and gather again on September 9. The Club is excited about continuing to grow in Christ and supporting important mission projects.

+ TRANSITION: Warren Puck will serve as the new chairman of the group. Cynthia Genzen (secretary) and Howard Roe (treasurer) will continue their roles. Pastor Riggert will coordinate a spiritual growth series for the group. See you in September!

Zion Ladies Guild May Secretary Report

Zion Ladies Guild May Secretary Report

The regular meeting was held on May 8th,2024 @1pm. DCE Kathryn opened the meeti
with song, Psalm 104 was referenced, discussed. President Ehlers called the meeting to ord
in the Name of the Triune God. League Pledge. Roll call was answered with: what place ha
you traveled to, that you would tell everyone to go to at least once? 14 guests present.

Birthdays: Kathryn Schneider, Joann Thomas. No anniversaries. The secretary's report read and approved. Mite box passed and prayer read. The Treasures report handed out for those attending to read. Linnet reported she had received 2 donations from funerals that were served. Circle and Human care reported 20 Quilts have been delivered to Camp Okoboji, one for the cookie walk in June, and 70 to missions. One baby is done and ready for donation.

Old Business: 4 Zion members attended the Spring Rally in April. Senior breakfast in May 19 @ 8am. Menu discussed. Nancy M is in charge of menu. Becky asked for a volunteer to get the Mighty Mites Box for the mystery silent auction for Camp Okoboji. Discussed the need to pack up kitchen and things for renovation after VBS. Joni Kienast is asking for baked cookies for Kinderfest cookie walk in June.

The next meeting will be June 12@ the Manning Library, with fellowship to follow. Cynthia and Margaret K will serve. The meeting was adjourned. The Lord's Prayer and table prayer were recited. Lunch was served by Linnet and Susie.

Secretary Gloria Ewoldt

Amigos en Cristo

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

June 2024

Hello everyone! It has been a great month of outreach and making new friends in the different communities where we are sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our ESL classes are going very strong in the different areas. In Carroll, we have a very steady group of people coming every Tuesday and Friday from 6 -9 pm. We have a great time together with our volunteers and students. At the beginning of each class, we have time for fellowship. This is the time we hear of the needs, concerns and or accomplishments from our friends and volunteers. We celebrate the Lord with an opening devotional that also serves as an English and Spanish class, then we go to each classroom where our teachers/volunteers share their knowledge in English. We always finish with a word of prayer in English and Spanish.

Every Saturday, we meet to praise God, study His Word and pray; it is what we call a Praise, Study and Prayer Service. This month we will be having the confirmation of two new members to St. Paul Hispanic branch. Fili, who is one of the two, will be commissioned as a Deacon to Hispanic Ministry. He will now be our second Deacon; Noel was the first and is now serving at the Hartley/Spencer area where we have our other Hispanic outreach. Here in Carroll, we also have Bible study on Wednesdays at 11:30 am. We meet in different places in the Carroll area, at members' homes or at the church.

In the Hartley/Spencer area, we also run the ESL program every Monday and Thursday at the same hours: 6-9 pm. On Fridays, we have Bible study led by Deacon Noel at friends' houses at 6:30pm. I go there once or twice a month or more often as needed. In Hartley, we had another adult Baptism and one Reaffirmation of Faith and in July we will be having another adult Baptism and one child Baptism. We have a very strong ESL Program and continue to meet the needs of new friends and enrich the St. Paul's (Hartley) effort to grow the Hispanic branch. Thank you members and friends for all you do to make this possible.

In Denison, after the loss of more than two thirds of the membership due to retirement and members moving out of Iowa, the struggles continue. We have our Worship Service every Sunday at 2:30 pm. We have met new families and are praying that the Lord guides them to join our church. We have Bible Study at different places in Denison as I continue to visit with families.

In Storm Lake, we continue to have our Worship Service every Sunday at 10:30 am and Bible Study every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Our group is growing! We have new families participating making our ministry here more joyful.

All are invited to our first bilingual outdoor Worship Service in Carroll on June 9, 2024 at 11 am. We are inviting all the Lutheran Hispanic groups, the Denison, Carroll, Glidden, Arcadia, and Vail communities, to come and join us and all the English speaking congregations to come and be part of this historical moment for the Hispanic Ministry in IDW. We will have lots of Hispanic food and games for the children.

On July 22 (at Zion Lutheran Church in Atlantic, Iowa), we will have our third RAGBRAI taco sale to fundraise for Hispanic Ministry. We need your help on July 21 at the church to get things ready and on July 22 to serve the RAGBRAI participants.

I will be seeing a lot of our Iowa LWML ladies during the June Convention at Camp Okoboji as I will be their Proclaimer. Thank you for this privilege and for the Bibles and notebooks that some of your groups have already sent to us, and for your continued support.

Rev. Pedro Lopez, Asst. to the President
Missionary at Large,
pedro@iowadistrictwest.org,
571-606-7600

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you may be aware, Greenfield, Iowa has recently been devastated by a powerful tornado that caused significant damage to homes, infrastructure, and lives. Families have lost their homes, cherished belongings, and, tragically, some have lost loved ones. We have heard of others in Western Iowa who have also been impacted by these storms.

In times like these, our faith community has an opportunity to come together and make a difference. We are reaching out to you today to request your support for our disaster relief efforts. Your generous donation will directly impact the lives of those affected by this natural disaster.

How You Can Help:

1. I would ask each of our congregations to keep our communities in your prayers. Encourage your congregation to pray for healing, strength, and resilience during this challenging time.
2. We kindly ask for your financial support. You may wish to consider a door offering. Your contribution will go toward emergency supplies, shelter, and long-term recovery efforts.
3. There will be organized efforts to provide physical assistance through LERT (Lutheran Early Response Teams). If you are trained or would like to be trained by LERT please go to www.lcms-lert.org. All LERT communication can be found on this site.
4. I encourage individual congregations to organize their own volunteer efforts. Just check with community leaders where their needs are.

Ways to Donate:

- By Mail: Send your check payable to Iowa District West with “Disaster Relief Fund” in the memo line.
- Online: IowaDistrictWest.org and click on “Donate” to make a secure online donation. Select the “Disaster Relief” option.
- In Person: Drop off your donation at the district office during business hours.

We are deeply grateful for your compassion and willingness to stand with us during this challenging time. Your support is more than a financial gift; it’s a beacon of hope for those who have lost so much.

In Christ’s love,

Rev. Dr. Steven D. Turner
President Iowa District West
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Office 515-576-7666—Cell 515-341-3602

IOWA DISTRICT WEST
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Trinity News and Notes – June 2024

Summer Time at TRINITY

"Summer time and the livin' is easy; fish are jumping and the cotton is high . . . "

George Gershwin's 1930s lyrics were reflective of another time and culture. Summer livin' today is often as busy as (and maybe busier) than other times of the year. Ball games, swimming lessons, camps and camping, and other activities fill family schedules. Farm and yard work continues. Communities plan for parades and festivals. We also look forward to summer time at Trinity.

Time to Worship

Take time to worship! Join us each Saturday evening at 5 p.m. Most worship services will have a "time" focus: Rest Time; Family Time, Leisure Time, Travel Time, Transition Time. There will be a summertime recess from the pre-service Bible class.

Time to Welcome

Pastor-elect Staehr and wife Emily plan on arriving at Trinity around June 21. We will informally welcome them at worship services on June 22 and 23. They will get settled in their new home, office, and community during the month of July. They will be traveling to various family and friends commitments (weddings, etc.) during the month of July. Ordination and installation is tentatively planned for Saturday, August 3 at the regular worship time.

We also welcome Stephany Olson as Trinity's office assistant. As a long time and active member, Stephany is very familiar with the Trinity family and looks forward to serving her church. Her regular office hours will be posted soon. We thank Melodie Boell for faithful service to Trinity. Melodie will continue to be a valuable resource to Stephany and Trinity.

Time to Learn

Trinity and community families are invited to be part of the VBS program on Monday, August 5 through Wednesday, August 7. Stephany Olson and LeAnn Christiansen will coordinate the sports themed program. There will be many opportunities to volunteer!

Time to Serve

Thanks to all who have taken time to serve: worship preparations, children's education, facility cleaning and maintenance, parsonage remodeling, storm damage clean-up, community government and support; and MANY other contexts.

Thank you for your financial support of Trinity budget and the special projects. Your continuing support during the summer months is important as financial responsibilities increase with the arrival of a full-time pastor. – Pastor Riggert

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Snapshots of Zion

Camden H. gives his opinion of Zion Preschool (and the cake at the closing ceremony).

Zion honors its graduates in worship.

Scott and Lauren O. (and family) celebrate baptism for their son Brock.

"Zion North": Zion's temporary offices during repair work in Zion. (Located just north of Templeton Savings Bank.)

Faithful helpers prepare to deliver and sort donated clothing to Orphan Grain Train in Ida Grove.

Zion again welcomes the community for a Memorial Day meal, providing a place to gather, visit, and catch up with friends.

Upcoming Events @ ZION & TRINITY

Please Note! All times and events are subject to change

	June 3-7	VBS at Zion
	June 10 - ?	Repair Work at Zion
	June 23, 30, ??	Zion's Sunday Worship Moved to Historic Trinity (9:00 a.m.) – watch for updates
	June 27	Historic Trinity Summer Service (6:30 p.m.)
	August 3	Pastor-Elect Zachary Staehr Ordination/Installation at Trinity (5:00 p.m.)

June Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. McKensie Bess
   Monica Christensen
   Jonathan Conner
2. Bristol Bauer
   Haley Mullenger
   Janice Ress
   Autumn Winter
3. Grace Asmus
   Dara Jorgensen (T)
4. Alexander Lingle (T)
   Brett Sanford
5. Warren Puck
6. Angela Albertsen
   Brandon Ranniger
   Jason Rasmussen (T)
7. Wyatt Bandow (T)
   Jarod Gruhn
   Easton Woebke (T)
8. Jacob Ewoldt
   Adalyn Stribe
   David Vetter (T)
9. Harvey Blackwell
   Hayden Blackwell
   Debra Blom (T)
   Kristine Bunker
   Jon Saunders
10. Amy Bradley
    Luke Doyel
    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. Pastor Daniel Vogel
20. Aubrey Alexander
    Dalton Miller
    Dawson Miller
21. Rodney Kurth
    Mason Vonnahme
22. John Blom (T)
23. Brooklynn Booth
    Bowen Bruck
    Mary Grimm
    Kyler Potthoff (T)
    Matthew Vogel
24. Holly Borkowski
    Lana Georgius (T)
    Cooper Kienast
    Kristine Lingle (T)
25. Tanner Hanson (T)
26. Shirley Ahrendsen
    Russell Bruhn
28. Jordynne Bauer
    Carter Ehlers
    Yvonne Klindt (T)
29. Arlo Bornhoft (T)
    Lynn Schroeder (T)
    Hannah Willison
30. Henry Kienast

Anniversaries

2. 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
11. Mike & Amy Hull
12. Stan & Joleen Spies (T)
15. Lynn & Sonia Nulle
26. Mike & Robin Heaton
27. Jerry & Carla Backhaus
29. Craig & Luann Langel

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

Official Acts

Baptism

Brock Alan Opperman, son of Scott & Lauren Opperman, May 5, 2024, Pastor Jonathan Conner

Ryker Adam Diersen, son of Blake & Jasmin Diersen, May 11, 2024, Pastor Jonathan Conner

Ellie Saunders, daughter of Thomas and Nikki Saunders, May 18, 2024, Pastor Bob Riggert, Trinity

In Our Prayers

Kristin Webb, Bruce Rutz, Steve Rutz, Athena Bess, Kaui Jenkins, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Justeen Schwieso, Sherri Steffes, Karen DeBoth, Ron Brus, Judy Reinke (Ernie's sister-in-law), Lynn Kruse, Donna Porter, Paula Willett (Max Beck's sister)