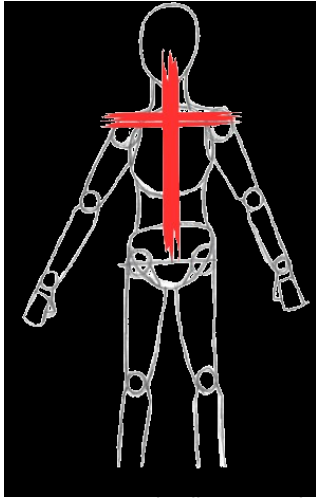




Body: Given to Incarnate Love

This article is going to challenge you. You will need to read it more than once. My aim isn't merely to inform you of some truth, but merely to give you information to log in your brain. It is to get you to adopt new behaviors and habits of your body that will enable you to appreciate, even to celebrate, your embodiment and the divine purpose of your given body. I want to transform the way you conceptualize your life, your body, and your choices.

What I just wrote needs to be appreciated. Your body has a divinely given purpose. Have you ever considered that, ever considered why God gave you a body? To appreciate your body and its God-given purpose, we need first to appreciate our origin. Two texts from Genesis 1 and 2 are of paramount importance:

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Genesis 1:26).

And,

The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature (Genesis 2:7).

The first verse speaks of the divine image and the given dominion. The second verse helps us appreciate that this is an *embodied* image, an *enfleshed* dominion. God created your body in His image and God blessed you to live out that image in your body through the dominion you exercise over His creation. In ways that are sometimes difficult to express, you were created to incarnate God's image, dominion, and love. You were made to live and do these in three dimensions.

What does that mean? It means you were given a body to create beauty and order – little Edens everywhere you go. You were given a body not merely to tell truth, but to express truth in word and deed. Your body is involved in telling *and* doing truth. Depending on how you use it, your body will confess truth or embody a lie. J. Budziszewski, author of *What We Can't Not Know*, perceptively observes,

Because every part of us has meaning, our very bodies have a language of their own; they say things by what we do with them.

Body Lies

Because this is true, it matters what you do with your body. Cohabitation (living together without marriage), for example, tells a lie with bodies. Two bodies, who have not exclusively committed themselves to one another in a public promise of lifelong fidelity, pretend as if they have. They lie with their bodies. Consider the way Paul speaks of sexual immorality:

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body (1 Corinthians 6:18).

Sexual immorality is a body lie. It's using the body for something God has not given it. Living together without marriage, adultery, fornication, lust, etc., all misuse the body. They all involve the body in a lie. They all fail to incarnate God's self-giving love, instead choosing to take from another for personal pleasure. Therefore, sexual immorality is sinning against the God-given body, against the divine purpose of the body.

The social internet invites users to conceptually disembody fellow image bearers, reducing them to profiles, avatars, and emoticons. By its very nature, the social internet invites us to forget we're interacting with embodied images of God. Samuel James, author of the insightful and incisive book *Digital Liturgies*, writes,

The internet, which dominates our lives as the primary medium through which we encounter most of the world, is an entirely disembodied habitat. Consequently, the internet trains our consciences to think of ourselves and the world in disembodied ways.

As a disembodied habitat, the social internet makes certain forms of communication conceptually reasonable that would not be reasonable if we appreciated our divine image-bearing embodiedness. The social internet invites people to say things online they would never say face to face, things they would never say to an enfleshed human standing in front of them. James again offers insight,

...our immersion in computer and internet existence is a crisis of spiritual formation. Our digital environments *dislocate* us, training us to believe and feel and communicate in certain ways that our given, embodied, and physical environments do not.

Further, the disembodied habitat of the social internet invites people to cheapen the body to a two-dimensional sexualized object for mass distribution and consumption. James rightly observes,

Porn and the web go together so efficiently precisely because they are both instruments of commodification, a way to turn the most intimate or even most elementary stuff of human life into consumable content.

Astute readers will see why the sexualization of human identity (under the LGBTQ+ flag) is a body lie. God embodied males and females as sexual complements. Rosaria Butterfield, author of *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert*, lived for years fully embracing the sexualized ideology of our day before repenting of her pride and confessing Christ. She describes the created body as *a pattern stamped with a purpose*.

In other words, when we consider the human body, we observe that each body has its own heart. The heart does what it's designed to do without the assistance of any other body. The same could be said for the lungs and the kidneys and the liver and on and on, until we come to the reproductive organs. Then we discover something designed to pair with its complement to achieve its telos/goal. This doesn't mean that individuals *must* pair with their sexual complement. It does mean, however, that males and females *have* a sexual complement. Further, it means that acting against this created reality would be acting against the created body. It would mean telling lies with the body. And this would be an open rebellion against the body's Creator.

James again proves helpful:

Part of faithfulness to God as embodied humans means living wisely, and this wisdom consists

primarily of seeing the world the way God sees it and responding accordingly. We live wisely when we live along the grain of God's character, his law, and his creation. Consequently, anything that tilts us away from the givenness of reality – including but not limited to our physical existence as bodied creatures – undermines wisdom.

Body Liturgies in Christian Worship

How do we learn to appreciate the body, to live in line with its purpose to incarnate God's love? The answer involves more than information because we are more than mere brains on sticks. The answer involves meaningful actions for our bodies. We must learn to bring a sacred awareness into our body's actions. The word *sacred* surely evokes Christian worship, even its liturgies. That's good and we will expand on this, but these meaningful actions/liturgies must not be limited to worship. They will grow out of worship, but cannot be limited to it.

James Smith, author of *You Are What You Love*, observes,

The way to the heart is through the body. That's why counterformative Christian worship doesn't just dispense information; rather, it is a Christ-centered imagination station where we regularly undergo a ritual cleansing of the symbolic universes we absorb elsewhere. Christian worship doesn't just teach us how to think; it teaches us how to love, and it does so by inviting us into the biblical story and implanting that story into our bones.

In other words, Christian worship involves our bodies. It involves getting God's story into our bodies, into our bones, that we then live out in our vocations. So Smith offers,

Liturgies work affectively and aesthetically – they grab hold of our guts through the power of image, story, and metaphor. That's why the most powerful liturgies are attuned to our embodiment; they speak to our senses; they get under our skin.

Let's start with some of the liturgies for the body baked into Christian worship. Perhaps the most obvious is the sign of the cross (✠). Some have rashly dismissed this as “a Roman Catholic thing,” but Rome has no exclusive claim on the cross. It belongs to everyone because Jesus died for everyone. Further, consider the significance of the bodily confession the sign of the cross makes. The rubric indicates: *The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.* Making the sign of the cross over your body calls to mind the Baptismal liturgy: *Receive the sign of the cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.* In this rite you were marked as one redeemed by Christ! Making the sign of the cross invites you to remember the good news in store for your body:

If we have been united with him in a death like [Christ's], we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his (Romans 6:5).

This is about *your* body! You were joined to a death like Christ's in your baptism. And you will be joined to a resurrection like Christ's when He returns!

Further, in making the cross over your body, you are bodily reminding yourself, *Jesus took on a body like mine and then He died for my body. Jesus forgave my body. Jesus rose for my body. Jesus will return for my body. My body is redeemed.* That's a powerful body liturgy!

And it's a wonderful way to involve children in worship. In their early years they might not know how to read or completely follow the liturgy, but they can learn how to make the sign of the cross. They can be taught the good news of God for their bodies that the cross confesses. They can be taught how to bodily remember their baptism and this will help get the story of God into their very bones.

Throughout the Divine Service you are again and again invited to make the sign of the cross to remember what Jesus has done for your body, to remember what hope is in store for your body, to confess that Christianity is a bodily faith, a faith that involves purpose and hope for the body.

During prayer, you are invited to bow your head, close your eyes, even to fold your hands. These are body liturgies that teach reverence and honor. The body motions help get this reverence and honor into your lifeblood. Before hearing the Gospel reading (and during Trinitarian hymn verses) you stand to hear the very words of Jesus and to glorify the Triune name. You do this with your body. These are body liturgies. They teach your body to respond to its Creator and Redeemer. It gets the truth of God into your body.

As we reverence and gather around the altar, we kneel (or stand together in the front pew) and open our hands and mouths to receive Christ's forgiveness and life into our very bodies. We even hear Jesus say, "This is my body given for you." This is a body liturgy. It gets the Gospel beyond your mind into joints, sinews, and tendons.

The Divine Service, in many meaningful ways intentionally involves your body. Its aim isn't merely to tell you something about Jesus, merely to impart information, but to help you feel the good news of Jesus (who is present and acting in the

Divine Service) in your body. Smith captures the idea well,

The church is that household where the Spirit feeds us what we need and where, by his grace, we become a people who desire him above all else. Christian worship is the feast where we acquire new hungers – for God and for what God desires – and are then sent into his creation to act accordingly.

So the service ends with the blessing of God spoken over your body (and the final invitation to make the sign of the cross over your body) and the call to take your sanctified body into your vocations where you will incarnate God's love in your imaging of God and exercising of His dominion over creation.

Body Liturgies in Christian Vocation

What does this look like? It looks like creating beauty and order out of chaos wherever God places you, little pockets of Eden everywhere your body goes. It looks like seeing the image and dominion of God as incarnational realities in your vocations. It looks like seeing your hands as creative instruments for good and your voice as a positive force for confessing truth and edifying your neighbor. It looks like husband and wife imaging Christ and the church through their loving and selfless bodily self-giving. It looks like grounding your identity in your created embodiedness, celebrating the good and beautiful gift of male and female bodies and how they work in complement to create beauty and order in creation, part of which involves the lifelong, exclusive, one-flesh, potentially procreative union in male/female marriage.

To get a little more specific, it looks like farmers delighting in well-ordered farms. It looks like a marching band delighting in the joy of creating

order and beauty out of the chaos of an undirected crowd of musicians and color guard. It looks like a basketball team delighting in a well-ordered and executed play. It looks like actors/actresses delighting in telling a story that edifies, challenges, and/or inspires.

It looks like a family intentionally gathering around a family table for conversation and food. It looks like an accountant carefully ordering numbers for clients. It looks like a dad chasing behind his five-year-old he has just released from his now-training-wheel-free bike. It looks like disciplining the body through consistent exercise and a thoughtful diet so that you are always ready for the tasks God sets before you. All these involve the body. And each of these invites us to reflect on the purpose of our bodies: to incarnate God's image, dominion, and love.

Further, each of these invites us to develop intentional body liturgies to help us remember and confess this. Perhaps you could find meaningful ways to incorporate the sign of the cross in your day: before you step into your truck, before you enter the classroom, before you begin taking calls for the day, or preparing reports. Perhaps you could recite a hymn verse such as the ones below before beginning your task.

Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

- *LSB 783 Take My Life and Let It Be sts. 2-3*

Maybe you could wear a cross necklace or pendant to remind you of your union with Christ

and the promise of resurrected bodies. Maybe you could simply speak the word *baptized* over your hands before you begin your task or as you look into the mirror in the morning. Maybe it's as simple as remembering that you embody the image of God when you bring order and beauty out of chaos, whether that involves sweeping the floor, raking the leaves, folding the laundry, or preparing a home-cooked meal.

Your body matters. It matters for your identity. It matters for your purpose. It matters for eternity (and Jesus' resurrection puts an exclamation point on this!). In many and various ways we need to develop liturgies to communicate and confess this truth. Leaning into the body liturgies in the Divine Service will help because that's where it starts, where God's Gospel story gets into our bones. And with His story in our bones, we move into our vocations to live out our bodies' divine purpose: to incarnate God's image, dominion, and love.

- Pastor Conner



Thinking Christianly about Your Vote

As another Election Day approaches, a common question on everyone's mind is "How should I vote?" Christians are no exception. We're inundated with the same news, campaign ads, and promises from politicians as everyone else. But does our Christian faith lead us to approach all these things from a different perspective from the rest of the world? How, should we approach voting and politics in general as Christians?

First, we remember that our Lord Jesus reminds us, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). Christ has come to deliver us from sin and death, and has promised to come again to bring us into His heavenly kingdom which He will rule with righteousness and justice (Revelation 21:22-27). He did not come to earth to create a perfect society here on earth. The ultimate victory has been won by Christ on the cross, and we look forward to our eternal home with Jesus when He returns. Therefore, we as Christians have the unique perspective of knowing that whatever happens here on earth before Jesus comes again is always secondary to what Christ has already done on the cross and what He has promised to do in His second coming. We also know that Christ is ruling and governing all things now, and that He works all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). This knowledge and perspective gives

us a certain peace when it comes to politics, or really anything that we might face in this life. Even if the news yells at you that it's the end of the world if a certain election doesn't go a certain way, you have the confidence of knowing that God's ultimate purposes of life and salvation for all who believe in Him will never pass away. You have the confidence that God is in control of all things, no matter how bad the world seems to be. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away" (Matthew 24:35).

While we look forward to Christ's return when He will make all things new, we can also recognize that we can also work here on earth in order to promote the truth, establish good order, and love our neighbors. We know that Christ's kingdom is not of this world and that this world isn't all there is, but we also recognize while we live in this world that the people around us need our good works for their well-being. To use an extreme and obvious example, it would be wrong for Christian parents to use the fact that Christ's kingdom is not of this world to ignore the bodily needs of their children. We're still called to love and care for the people around us while we still live on this earth. Along those lines, it would also be an error for a Christian to think that it doesn't matter what happens in his community or nation. We're also called to care for the needs of our broader community and nation.

For this reason, Christians should care about their communities and try to promote good in them. And this means that Christians certainly

should try to promote good through the political sphere, whether that's through voting or even holding public office. And when Christians are evaluating what decisions to make in the political sphere, God's truths of what is right and wrong revealed to us in the Scriptures should always guide our decisions. Our understanding of good and bad, right and wrong, are formed by God's truth revealed to us in the Scriptures. And what God tells us in the Scriptures is true for everyone on earth, whether they realize it or not, because God created and rules all things. The truths of Christianity guide every action and decision of our lives, and Scripture also guides our political values.

So, as you prepare to make your decisions this Election Day, remember first of all that Christ has conquered and He rules all things according to His will. Therefore, you do not need to fear any unfavorable outcome, for Christ governs all things for the good of His Church. This is why our church liturgies often include a specific prayer for our leaders. All humans are sinful (even those who lead). Thus, we should pray that God has mercy on us in their governing and that He leads them to fulfill their duties well.

Therefore, we can promote good in our community and nation for the good of those around us, and we should likewise pray for all those elected to office to fulfill their vocations in accord with the word of God. - Pastor Staehr

Volunteers Needed!

1

**Zion turns 125 next year.
We need volunteers to
discuss a potential
anniversary book**

**Contact Zion with
questions / to volunteer!**

2

**Our joint directory is
dated. We need
volunteers to help create
a new one.**



eed You.

When my faith feels dry and I feel I am watching it turn to dust blowing away in the wind. Lord, I need You.

When the song in my soul has withered and the tune has been long forgotten. Lord, I need You.

When the grief of loss overwhelms with waves of darknesses and tears. Lord, I need You.

When my bones ache with the pain of sin both done by me and against me. Lord, I need You.

When the weight of my worth feels tied up in all the wrong places, and my value seems trudging through the mud. Lord, I need You.

When the tug of temptation pulls harder than ever before and threatens to pull me under. Lord, I need you.

When the fear of rejection outweighs the freedom of redemption. Lord, I need You.

When the truth spoken stings like a double edge sword. Lord, I Need You.

When the joy of life overflows too wonderfully that I fear it departing. Lord, I need You.

When the laughter enlivens and soothes my soul. Lord, I need You.

When the welcoming hug of loved ones engulfs with waves of belonging. Lord, I need You.

When my song rises to you and your mercies are new every morning. Lord, I need You.

When my weary soul needs rest only found in Christ Jesus. Lord, I need you.

When my steps seem foggy and the path seems long. Lord, I need You.

When sin runs deep. Lord, I need you.

When you graces pours out over me. Lord, I need you.

When I cannot stand. Lord, I need you.

When you put a new song in my heart. Lord, I need you.

When I walk through the fire. Lord, I need you.
All of my days. Lord, I need you.

Every hour. Lord, I need you.

Through all of life's highs and lows. Through every joy and every grief. Through the seasons both fruitful or famine-filled. Through stormy seas and peaceful passages. Through sleepless nights and restful mornings. Through angry arguments and consoling conversations. Through everything.

All of my days. Lord, I need you.

Every Hour. Lord, I need you.

- DCE Kathryn

Resources:

I've recently added to my reading list a book called the *Every Moment Holy* (there are actually three volumes). It is a series that brings new liturgies for the ordinary events of daily life, which I know sounds super theologically nerdy. But I love the idea of adding some ritual and fun new routines into my day. It reminds me of how Martin Luther talks about when you wash your face every morning you can use that as a time to remember your Baptism. There is beauty in the mundane and sacred in the ordinary moments of life. I haven't read all three volumes, but am greatly looking forward to it. But I wanted to share an excerpt from one of the books. As you may not be as nerdy as me and long to add these volumes to your home library, but you may simply enjoy adding a little liturgy to the ordinary too. Here is an excerpt of two liturgies: one for the ritual of morning coffee and one for becoming an instrument of God's Peace. Illustrations by Ned Bustard & Liturgy by Douglas McKelvey & Saint Francis Assisi – DCE Kathryn

A liturgy for the ritual of morning coffee:



Meet me, O Christ,
In this stillness of
morning.
Move me, O Spirit,
to quiet my heart.
Mend me, O Father,
from yesterday's
harms.

From the discords of yesterday,
resurrect my peace.
From the discouragements of yesterday,
resurrect my hope.
From the weariness of yesterday,

resurrect my strength.
From the doubts of yesterday,
resurrect my faith.
From the wounds of yesterday,
resurrect my love.

Let me enter this new day,
aware of my need,
and awake

to your grace,
O Lord.

Amen.

A Liturgy for Becoming an Instrument of God's Peace:



Lord, make me an instrument
of thy peace –
where hate rules, let
me bring love;
where malice,
forgiveness;
where disputes,
reconciliation;
where error, truth:'

where doubt, belief;
where despair, hope;
where darkness, thy light;
where sorrow, joy!

O Master, let me strive more to comfort others
than to be comforted—to understand others
than to be understood;
to love others, more than to be loved!
For he who gives, receives;
he who forgets himself, finds;
he who forgives, receives forgiveness;
and dying, we rise again
to eternal life.
Amen.

Zion Ladies Guild October Secretary Report

The regular meeting was held on October 2, @1pm. Pastor read and talked about the Proverbs of wisdom, Ch. 1-9. And how there is moral grain to the universe. President Ehlers called the meeting to order in the Name of the Triune God. League Pledge.

Roll call was answered with: *When you think of fall, what do you enjoy most?*
14 guests were present.

Birthdays: September-Darlene Vollstedt. October-Bonnie Witt, Gloria Ewoldt, Cynthia Genzen.

Anniversaries: David and Joene Bohlman, Larry and Connie Ahrendsen.
October-Audrey and Howard Roe, Karen and Dale Reinke



The secretary's report read and approved. Mite box passed and prayer read. The Treasures report handed out for those attending to read. Kitchen report given by Becki in absence of Linnet. Circle and Human Care: 93 people were served for the Susan Lamb funeral. Three quilts were donated to the new Spanish teacher home, correction of 1. 19 quilts went to Orphan Grain Train this month.

Old Business:

Kitchen painting is completed as well as cleaning.

Fellowship will restart in Sept. Please notify Gloria Ewoldt, to sign up for a Sunday to help serve. Sign-up sheet will be available when we are back in the building. Praise Band concert is Dec. 8th this year.

New Business:

Fall retreat, Sept. 28th at Mission Central, Oct. 5th, Fall Rally for IWD-Glidden. There will be upcoming changes to the circle, as there are new members, and some have chosen to change status. Circle 2 will be serving fellowship November 10, not the first Sunday.

Linnet is working on an agenda to keep the kitchen cleaned up more frequently. More to follow.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Lord's Prayer and table prayer were recited.

Lunch was served by Paula Vogel, Darlene Vollstedt

Secretary Gloria Ewoldt



Life Chain 2024

Thank you to everyone who lovingly and courageously was a presence for life!



Pancake
Breakfast
2024

Thank you for
supporting Zion
Lutheran
Preschool!

Preschool Praises for October

October is always one of my favorite months full of fun activities and learning opportunities.

We had a few visitors at Preschool this month! Kelly from the Nature Center came to visit both our morning and afternoon class. For the morning class she taught all about snakes and even brought in a real snake for the kids to see and hold! For the afternoon class, Kelly taught them all about wolves! We always enjoy our visits from Kelly!



Linda from the Manning Library was able to come in and read to our morning class and we will look forward to her monthly visits. Jen Chapman, our nurse consultant, came in for her second visit at Zion Preschool. In September she talked all about washing our hands and this month she talked about personal space. We truly appreciate our visitors taking the time to come into our classroom.

We were able to combine our Mom's Day and our visit from the Manning Fire Department this year. All the students were able to invite their mom's to spend some time at school with them. They all sang songs we have been practicing with Miss Kathryn, ate a snack, and decorated a scrapbook page with their mom. The fire department then joined us to share about fire safety and even took us on a fire truck ride around town!

Pastor Conner continued teaching the children about all that God created and most recently talked to the kids about Adam & Eve and how they brought sin into the world by disobeying God. The kids have really been paying attention and can retell the stories down in the classroom very well!

In the classroom we have enjoyed fun themes and been focusing on God's colorful world, shapes, counting, fine motor skills, and more.

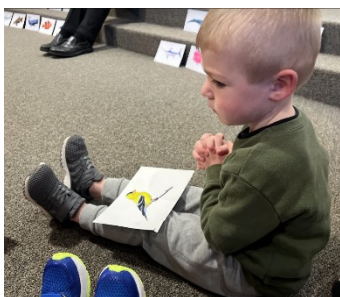
A huge thanks to all those that supported the preschool during the Pancake Breakfast this past month. It was a huge success and it was fun listening to the kids sing their songs for everyone. Thank you to the Preschool parents and the Preschool Board for their volunteer work that day, you made everything go so smoothly and were essential to the success!

Miss Amy & Miss Melanie





Your support allows us to share the love of Jesus with every single one of these children and their families. Thank you!





All Saints' Day November 3

Give Thanks, Remember, Emulate



We Gather Together
Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service
at Zion, Manning
November 27 @ 7:00 p.m.

Mission Board Update:

THANK YOU Zion for your support of our missionaries. We were able to send \$1,243 from the recent door offering to Pastor Lopez and the Hispanic ministry throughout Iowa District West. I know many of you know him and his wife personally, and know of his passion in serving. Barb Page and I helped with the ESL (English as a second language) classes in Carroll awhile back. The experience was so worthwhile. Barb is assisting again this year and there is always room for more volunteers if this is something you have ever thought about. It is not necessary to know Spanish, and believe me, you expand your knowledge of Spanish and of English along the way!



Pastor Ferry and Pastor Oliver are both in Taiwan, but their roles are different. Pastor Oliver's role of teacher and educator is so important so that the Word can be carried out to their own people and Pastor Ferry is ministering to the church leaders in the region and beyond to further spread the Word.

Mark and Megan Mantey are in Kenya and their roles are support and administration. If you follow world news at all, you know that all of our missionaries could see some troubling times in the future.

The Sunday school kids support Tirzah Krey in the Dominican Republic. If you remember, she visited Zion over the summer. What a great way to create mission minded children!

We are reminded regularly of how these missionaries appreciate Zion's support in prayer and in finances as they not only do their daily work, but also need to raise their own finances.

So what does the mission board do? We meet periodically for updates on these missionaries, to pray for them, to set quarterly door offerings, sponsor fellowship coffees, host them if they are able to visit, and to be encouragers to them and to Zion.

Until I joined the mission board, I didn't realize how far reaching their connections are and what they face on a daily basis. I encourage you, if you want to know more or would like to sit in on a mission meeting (we don't meet often), to please let me or any board member know or leave a note with Shannon.

Board members: Barb Page, Casie Eischeid, Warren Puck, Gary and Joyce Schroeder, Pastor and Paula Vogel, Lynn Kruse and Bev Grundmeier and Jean Hargens. Please reach out with any question or information that you would like to have.

- Jean Hargens

At our Family Discipling Event on Oct. 23 we discussed God's marvelous gift of science and how it points to the brilliance and beauty of His creative mind. Below are some participants' "one thing."

There are so many resources available to us!

The videos are very beneficial and helpful when it comes to explaining evolution and gives clear facts on how there is no evidence to support the evolution theory; it supports the true facts - that God is the Creator, not random mutations.

When we see engineering, art, and design, we should look for an engineer, an artist, and a designer.

The undeniable and necessary interdependence in cells renders the spontaneous generation of cells impossible.

Mutations can't build anything new.

God is our designer, engineer, and artist!

Time is not a friend to abiogenesis (life coming from non-life).

What's Your One Thing?

I think it's so great that our children understand that God created us, the world, and everything, and don't let these false evolutionary teachings sway their beliefs.

We did not come from a purposeless blob of goo. We have been specially created by God and our lives are imbued with His purpose and meaning.

Information is what makes life possible and shows that natural processes can't be what created life, but an intelligent Creator.



Zion Newsletter—November 2024 Fellowship

Fellowship Club "Fruit"

The November Fellowship Club Bible study will focus on the "fruit" of "goodness," (Galatians 5:22). The familiar petition "O give thanks to the Lord for He is good" is especially appropriate this month of thanksgiving. God's goodness is evident in our lives. The Holy Spirit directs our response of goodness.

We are good by grace, not for ourselves but for others. We are good people because we are God's people. Come learn more about this "fruit" on Monday, November 11 at 1:30 p.m. Friends and guests are always welcome

Orphan Grain Train (one of the Fellowship Club missions) does "good" nationally and internationally. Organized by a pastor and layman in Norfolk, Nebraska (still the international office), the mission has branches across the United States.

The local warehouse is in Ida Grove. On October 1, Zion Fellowship Club made the delivery of recent donations. Our Zion volunteers helped pack boxes that were going to be sent to the Republic of Georgia (East European country, formerly part of Russia). Recently shipments have been sent to U.S. areas affected by the hurricanes. The Zion Fellowship Club financially supports OGT as well as organizing clothing drives several times a year. Thanks for joining us in supporting the local and international mission. Learn more about this mission at ogt.org. Orphan Grain Train does "good" work!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday December 15th
Special Music at 6:00 pm
Program at 6:30 pm

A colorful illustration of a nativity scene. Mary, in a blue robe and white headscarf, is kneeling and holding the infant Jesus, who is lying in a manger filled with straw. Joseph, in a brown robe and white headscarf, is kneeling beside them. The background is a dark blue night sky with yellow stars. The foreground is a brown, hilly landscape with small green plants.



Equipping You with a Biblical Wordlview

Issues, Etc.

online, on-demand, and downloadable from the app or your computer

issuesetc.org

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



Zion Lutheran Church, Manning IA

ADVENT CONCERT

December 8 @ 7:00 p.m.

**Featuring:
Zion's Praise Team
Woodwind Quartet**

**Freewill offering / No tickets required
Refreshments following
All invited**



Amigos en Cristo

News from **La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo:**

Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Pedro Lopez, Denison, Iowa

November 2024

Hello there mis amigos y hermanos! Here we are again, sharing with you about the happenings in your Hispanic Ministry around the IDW.

We have been blessed to lead many new friends and prospect members to know about Jesus and His work. We are going through the ESL (English as a Second Language) in the areas of Carroll and Hartley with the support of St. Paul Lutheran churches. We are so grateful for the many volunteers and students coming to learn and improve their English skills and the volunteers learning the Spanish language too.

In Hartley, we also had the privilege of having one of our new members confirmed into the membership of the communicant members and reaffirm to her baptismal life. Some of our new members are coming to the Bible study led by our Deacon Noel and attending the English Worship Service there.

At St. Paul in Carroll, we continue to grow in our ESL classes and our Praise, Bible study and Prayer service, new families are joining in, what a blessing to see these new brothers and sisters coming to know God in a deeper and better understanding of who He is and His love for humankind. Class here is happening now until December, Tuesdays and Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30pm. If you would like to volunteer, please give me a call. On October 5, we joined St. Paul's Little Lamb float that participated at the "Band Parade." Here we also continue having the Pray, Praise Bible study on Saturdays at 6:30pm.



In the Denison area, we continue to have individual and family Bible studies at different points there, the Worship Service goes on every Sunday in the afternoons.

In Storm Lake the Bible study continues to happen every Wednesday in the evenings and the Worship Service on Sundays in the mornings.

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

As always, we want to express our
thankfulness and gratitude to all of you
for your ongoing prayers and support.
Please continue to be there for us.

Gracias y bendiciones, Pastor Lopez



OLIVERS LATEST TWIST

SERVING THE LORD IN Taiwan

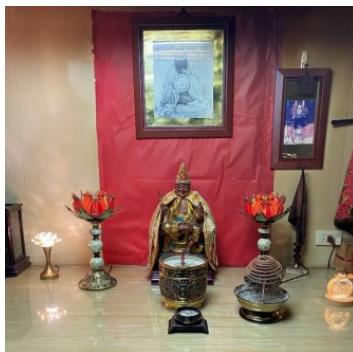
MISSION
OF CHRIST
Network

October 2024

My wife snuck this photo (right) of my first day back teaching at CLS. What a good day! On October 22 my class more than doubled and we had to move to a bigger room since we had a load of believers of all ages interested in possibly becoming our future students. CLS teaches and forms Jesus' servants for a variety of callings in the body of Christ: missionaries, pastors, youth ministers, counselors, teachers, translators, writers, administrators, etc.

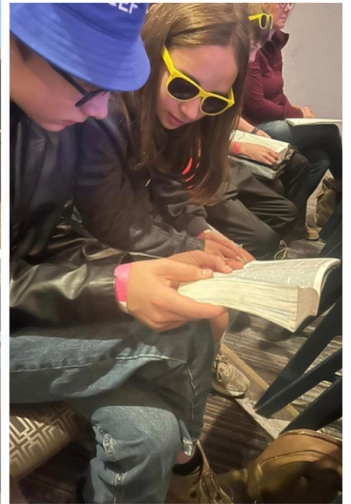


Mr. Ning (below) sells good Ali Mountain tea and I usually bought it from him, so we developed a cordial friendship. As I was going to move away, he showed me his home and the family altar. I was moved to share the Gospel simply with him. He listened kindly and then said that all religions are good and very much similar to each other. But I said that Jesus is different from all because He died on the cross to suffer the punishment of our sin, and he then He rose from death to life, conquering death for all who believe. I saw a tear in his eye. I encouraged him to pray any time to Jesus: "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13).



After some recent experience, I'm ever more sensitive to teaching my students and praying for them diligently that they will become shepherds of His sheep rather than Pharisees. It turns out in fact that my first day teaching had us studying the Gospel of Matthew, written by a tax collector who no doubt lived his life under the judgmental criticism of the Sadducees, Scribes and Pharisees. We even studied the origin of these three groups on my first day back teaching. The Sadducees were like the liberal theologians of the day who didn't believe in resurrection, but the Pharisees had all their orthodox doctrines carefully confirmed like ducks in a row as very good conservatives, but didn't walk in the spirit of the Word with God's mercy for people. Matthew 22- 23 says it all, and it takes one (Tax Collector Matthew) who has lived under their unfruitful influence and judgmental criticism to be keen about recording it all! You gotta see God's humor in it all, right?! Pray that we will have a Holy Spirit given healthy balance in maintaining faithfulness to the content AND spirit of God's Word! Let's repent of the Sadducee and Pharisee within and by the faith He gives, turn to following Jesus! – Professor Oliver

To support our passion, vision and work by giving, go to <https://missionofchrist.org/oliver>



h Gathering 2024: The Great exchange



Snapshots of Zion



Zion 3rd Graders
receive their
Bibles.

The Bruck family celebrates
Maeve's Baptism into Jesus.



Shelby H.,
Emma P., and
Lauren G. attend
the Iowa District
West Sr. Youth
Gathering at
Camp Okoboji.



Upcoming Events @ ZION & TRINITY

Please Note! All times and events are subject to change



Bible Study

Sunday mornings



November 2 & 3

All Saints' Day Celebrations at Trinity and Zion



November 10, 24

Youth Group at Zion (3:00 – 4:00 p.m.)



November 21

Afternoon Communion Service at Zion (1:30 p.m.)



November 27

Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service at Zion (7:00 p.m.)



December 8

Zion Voters' Meeting (after worship)



December 8

Advent Concert at Zion (7:00 p.m.)



December 15

Zion/Trinity Children's Christmas Program
Student musicians (6:00 p.m.)
Programs begin (6:30 p.m.)

Trinity Winter Worship Time Change
November 9 ➡ 4:00pm



Zion's Annual Voters' Meeting
Sunday, December 8
after Worship

Learn,
Celebrate,
Participate



November Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

- 1 Beth Mundt
Joy Umland
- 2 Derek Hodne
Dawn Lorenzen (T)
Dillon Mohr
- 3 Taylor Beckendorf
Duane Boell (T)
Doug Grage (T)
- 4 Caleb Alexander
Kori Beckendorf
Mason Benton
Charles Hickman
- 5 Joe Riesberg
- 6 Nicholas Birks (T)
Melanie Wardrip
- 7 Samantha Doyel
Levi Lapel
- 8 Ken Grimm
Travis Mohr
- 9 Rick Lohrmann
Kenneth Stripling
- 10 Jean Kusel
Jeanette Lerssen
- 11 Piper Mundt
Debbie Musfeldt
Tammy Winter
12. Levi Kirsch (T)
John Lorenzen
Akeo Maynard
Dawson Mundt
Kyle Vetter (T)
13. Jacob Dreier
14. Chase Gaskill (T)
Bridget Gore
15. Jesse Johnson
16. James Asmus
Rachel Keely
Sam Musfeldt
Megan Riesselman
Paula Vogel
17. Macie Doyel
Shelly Gruhn
Sandra Vahl
18. Beverly Grundmeier
19. Martin Bornhoft (T)
Ryan Doyel
Mark Kucik
Vera Vollstedt (T)
20. Becky Eischeid
Cynthia Leslie
22. Tyler Heaton
Thomas Walters
23. Kayla Schwery
24. Garrett Blackford
Allen Ehlers
Kelly Page
25. Hallee Halbur
Luann Langel
Amber Neumann
26. Nancy Baack
Nicholas Diersen
27. Sandy Grage (T)
Sheila Simonsen (T)
Ryan Willison
28. Diane Genzen
Paisley Lorenzen
29. Daniel Behrens
Bohde Blunk (T)

Anniversaries

11. Ken & Rhonda Grimm
14. JR & Kristen Halbur
Elissa & Joe Riesberg
16. Allen & Becky Ehlers
17. John & Kathryn Schneider
19. Katie & Kyle Cornelius
Brett & Diana Eddy
24. Harold & Marjorie Jurgensen (T)
John & Nancy Opperman
26. Ken & Becky Eischeid
Stacie & Nels Nelson
Lucas & Andrea Schwery
29. David & Kelli Page

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

Official Acts

Funerals:

Janice Faye Monson; Died September 28, 2024, Funeral
October 3, 2024; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Transferred Out/Release of Membership:

Barb Doyel to United Methodist Church, Manning, October 9,
2024

Fred Gruhn to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Lake City, IA, October
9, 2024

Baptisms:

Maeve Adelaide Bruck, daughter of Tyler & Morgan Bruck,
October 13, 2024, Pastor Jonathan Conner

In Our Prayers

Kent Rutz, Bruce Rutz, Steve Rutz, Athena Bess, Kaui Jenkins,
Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Justeen Schwieso, Sherri Steffes,
Judy Reinke (Ernie's sister-in-law), Donna Porter, Paula Willett
(Max Beck's sister), Audrey Grinhaug (Howard & Audrey Roe's
granddaughter), Karen Vollstedt, Stacey Rolenz and Ashley
Myers (daughters of Shelly Helmich)