GET EQUIPPED

Hey Christian! Admit it – you have questions. Is the Bible reliable? Is same-sex marriage legit? Does Islam worship the same god we do? Why is there evil in the world? The list is seemingly endless. You want answers? Good news: we're building a multimedia library to help equip you. Now, instead of enduring the noise on the radio on your morning or evening commute, you can get your questions answered. Check out the subjects below. Mark the ones that interest you most and then drop this page off at the church office, or email your preferences to zmanning@mmctsu.com and get ready to get equipped.

Science

- ☐ The Existence of God
- ☐ Evolution
- ☐ Can Science Tell Us Everything?

Social Issues

- ☐ Same-Sex Marriage and Homosexuality
- ☐ Abortion
- ☐ Freedom of Religion
- ☐ Is Christianity Responsible for Wars and Violence?

Theology/Philosophy

- ☐ Is the Bible Reliable?
- ☐ Evidence of the Resurrection?
- ☐ Does the Bible support Slavery/Evil?
- ☐ Doesn't Evil disprove God?
- ☐ Is "true for you but not for me" True?
- ☐ Can we be Good without God?
- ☐ Is There More Than One Way to God/heaven?
- ☐ Does God Send People Who Haven't Heard about Jesus?

Cults

- ☐ Are Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses Christian?
- ☐ Prosperity Gospel – Is it Biblical?
- ☐ Christian Science, New Age, and Eastern Mysticism

Atheism

- ☐ What do Atheists believe?
- ☐ Is the Physical World all there is?
- ☐ Does Atheism Make Men better?
- ☐ The Fatal Flaws of Atheism

Islam

- ☐ Do Christians and Muslims Follow the Same God
- ☐ What Does Islam Teach?
- ☐ Is the Koran Inspired?
- ☐ Who was Muhammed?
- ☐ Christianity, Islam, and Violence

MINISTRY APPS—Zion Lutheran – August 2014
Applying the Gospel to Family, Community, and into the World

On June 27 I had the privilege of worshipping at the ordination service of Lucas Witt at St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota. What a thrill to hear Lucas's ordination vow, to witness fifteen area pastors laying their hands on Lucas and sharing a word of blessing, and to see the joy of the welcoming congregation and the Witt family. One of the many thoughts that crossed my mind was "God is calling our kids!"

God was calling the shy, reflective "kid" of the congregation as his parents lived and shared their Christian faith, as Sunday school and confirmation teachers taught the basics of the Christian faith, and as youth counselors journeyed with Lucas to District and national youth gatherings, and as college campus ministry partners continued to provide Christ-like mentoring.

Through His means of grace and through some of the same earthly means, God may be calling the next professional church worker or missionary from our homes and from the Christian education programs of Zion right now. Following a mission presentation by Gary Thies, one of our midweek students commented, "Someday I'd like to be a missionary."

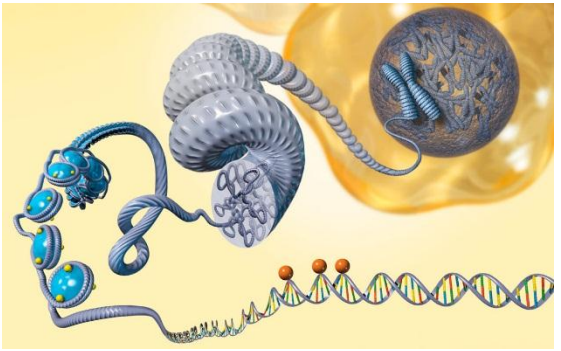
The Good News is that God has already called our "kids" in the waters of their baptism. God has called them to be part of His family. The monthly baptismal birthday celebrations are so significant as our children are reminded of the significance and power of God's baptismal call. Our "kids" are His now and eternally. As Christian parents and as a congregation supporting those families, we pledge to provide instruction in the Word and ongoing nurture of their faith.

God is calling our "kids" to follow Him. The call is not to follow Him someday, but to follow Him every day in every stage of life. As our children soon begin another school year, as Christian parents and as a congregation, we remind them and challenge them to be His witnesses on the school bus, in the classroom, on the athletic court and field, and in the neighborhood. Too quickly our children model us as we segment our lives into the "God times" and "my times." Christ is Lord of every aspect of our lives.

In the next weeks the pastors and Christian education committee will be planning the intentional Christian education ministry for the fall and into the new year. Remember, "God is calling our kids." His call comes through parents. Parents, please make the nurture of your child's faith the priority that you pledged at their baptism. Pray with them. Read God's Word with them. Members of Zion, His call comes to us. Has God gifted you to be one of our Sunday school teachers? Will you support the parents and children as a family prayer partner?

Some of you were present at our June 15 worship service where we emphasized the extreme makeover of the home. The makeover started with a coat of orange paint: the red of the family and the yellow of the church mixed together make the orange of Biblical Christian education. "Orange" you glad they're our kids? God celebrates them and calls them! Thanks for listening to and responding to His call.

Pastor Riggert—Assistant to the Pastor



An Epigenetic Epiphany

Could you bless or curse your (unborn) grandchildren today?

I was (mentally) exploring the ocean depths in a cutting edge, hyper-fast, glowing submarine with Jonathan Park somewhere between mile 2,500 and 3,000 of our vacation when one of the characters used a word that immediately piqued my interest: epigenetics.[1] Epi-what? Epigenetics is the new frontier of genetics and it is causing geneticists to rethink everything they knew about the way our genes work.

Your eyes are blue because your father's eyes were blue. Your smile reveals a dimple because your mom's smile was dimpled. Your pinky toe turns under because your grandmother's pinky toe turned under. This is standard genetics. With epigenetics ("epi" comes from the Greek meaning "upon"), however, your parents' or grandparents' life experiences could be affecting your genes. More specifically, their life experiences could be passed down through epigenes to you! Dr. Georgia Purdom, of Answers in Genesis, explains that behavior can change how a person's body "expresses its DNA," expressions that could be passed to his/her children. According to Dr. Purdom, our DNA has a variety of environmentally influenced tagalongs:

First are molecules attached to the DNA, called methylation marks, that turn genes on and off. Second are balls of protein composed of histones, which the DNA wraps around. Histones and a portion of these proteins, called histone tails, regulate how the DNA is folded (and thus what is turned on or off).

These tagalongs can be influenced by our life choices. As strange as it may sound, it appears that the food we eat, the habits we form, and the experiences we endure can affect the way our DNA folds and, thereby, which genes are turned on or off. This, it seems, can be passed on to future generations. So your psychological and behavioral tendencies could have originated in your great-grandfather and have been passed on to you through epigenetics. The age-old debate between nature and nurture, therefore, just got more interesting. Apparently, it's not an either/or, but a both/and scenario.

But why bring this up in a church newsletter? Because it speaks powerfully to the significance of choices. The choices you make today could epi-genetically bless or curse your unborn children and grandchildren. The habits you form, the foods you eat, and the life-direction you choose could endure long beyond you. That means that the popular quip, "What I do with my body is my business," isn't true. What you do with your body just might influence the bodies of numerous people after you.

How powerful then are St. Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 6: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." The glory you give the Lord in your body today just might reap blessings on your ancestors for years to come.

---

[1] Jonathan Park is an audio series that takes its characters to the four corners of the globe to teach and defend a Biblical worldview. Along the way, they discover and discuss the scientific evidences that confirm the Biblical account of origins. You can find out more at jonathanpark.com or answersingenesis.org. Or visit with Pastor Conner.

Defeating Fear and Becoming Manly Men

Every man struggles with a deep and chosen silence.
– Larry Crabb

"How was your day?" Every wife has asked her husband this question and every wife has encountered her husband's cofounding tendency to respond in the monosyllabic: "Fine." Perplexed, a wife wonders how her husband can communicate with other individuals all day long and retreat into silence in her presence. Men feel the tension, too. In fact, they struggle to understand their chosen silence. It's hard for men to put in words, but as Dr. Crabb says, men often "feel blocked inside. Something will not let their emotions and feelings out."

This silence represents a refusal to give of oneself and it impedes relationships. Men, as we discussed last month, were not created for silence. As Dr. Crabb explained, men were created, "to behave like [God] by courageously moving into whatever spheres of mystery they encounter and speaking with imagination and life-giving power into the confusion they face." Choosing silence, therefore, is not manly.

What are men to do? Dr. Crabb counsels, "a godly man's journey [toward manhood] begins in a strange way. His journey begins with facing failure, not achieving success. It begins with an honest evaluation of what is wrong." The Scriptures take us to the source: Adam. As Eve was being tempted, Adam stood by her side in chosen silence. The text reads,

> When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband ***who was with her***, and he ate.

Adam was *with Eve* and he didn't speak. As Crabb says, "[Adam] was designed to speak but he said nothing. He listed to the serpent, he listened to his wife, he accepted the fruit, and *then* he ate." Crabb observes, "Adam was passive three times before he ate the forbidden fruit."

Then Crabb perceptively comments,

> God's speaking brought creation out of chaos; Adam's silence brought chaos back to creation… God used language to establish relationship; Adam used silence to destroy relationship… Adam ruined paradise by failing to do something. Adam, the image-bearer, did not reflect his God, because he chose to be absent, silent, and forgetful of God's command.

In choosing silence, Adam chose to forget God. In choosing silence, Adam chose to let Satan's word stand unchallenged. He chose to let his wife face Satan alone. "His silence," as Crabb observes, "was symbolic of his refusal to be involved with Eve." Adam failed to be manly, and as a result, he and Eve fell together. Then, when questioned by God, Adam broke his silence by blaming Eve. In a desperate attempt to conceal his failure, he turned from his call to imitate God with life-giving words and imitated Satan by using words to destroy.

Men face the same choice today. They are called to imitate God by courageously moving into life's uncertainties and by speaking as God spoke, with words that build up and bring life and order out of chaos. Too often, they like Adam, fail to be manly and choose silence and blaming.

When their wives ask to talk, men battle resentment and the urge to hold back parts of themselves lest their wives discover the insecure, hollow core that men fear will be exposed through honest sharing. When men encounter their wives' tears, they are baffled. Men don't know what to do with them. Some grumble in silent frustration. Some openly demand their wives stop. When wives observe a fault in their husbands, men too often defend themselves with

vigor even as they retaliate with a list of faults in their wives.

It's hard for men to admit, but at the heart of it all is fear and uncertainty. Men fear being exposed as incompetent or inadequate (which they believe would make them appear unmanly) and many things in life, especially relationships, threaten to do precisely that. This is why nearly every man has exasperatedly asked his wife, "What do you want me to do?!" Men don't like not knowing what to do. It scares them and they wish their wives would give them an exact list of what to do in every situation so that they could make them happy and, perhaps more importantly to men, so that they will never fail and be exposed as incompetent.

This is why so many men throw themselves into hobbies and work and sports. They feel confident in these areas. In many ways, the expectations and "to-dos" are more clearly defined. There is less mystery and fewer unknowns and a reduced risk of being exposed as inadequate. Appreciating this dynamic is essential to understanding men. Dr. Crabb explains,

> A man can be understood by knowing the questions that burn hotly within him. For many men, one question stands out among others as the one that matters most: 'What should I do?' When men feel their deepest agony, that is the question they ask.

God, however, does not provide instruction manuals for every situation. Men must understand this: THERE IS NO INSTRUCTION MANUAL. This doesn't mean the Bible doesn't provide wisdom; it does and men need to read and study it more than ever, but God doesn't provide detailed instructions for every situation. Instead, as Dr. Crabb explains,

> God calls a man to speak into darkness, to remember who God is and what he has revealed about life, and – with that memory uppermost in his mind – to move into his relationships and responsibilities with the imaginative strength of Christ.

When a man is ruled "by the demand that he always know what to do," however, he "cannot experience the deep joys of manhood" because "he has violated his calling and betrayed his nature." A man who chooses silence and inactivity because no one has told him what to do has become an unmanly man.

What is a man to do? How can he move beyond the silence of Adam? How can he conquer the fear of not knowing what to do? Dr. Crabb offers,

> We are to abandon ourselves to God with absolute confidence in his goodness; and with the freedom created by that confidence, we are to move into the depths of dangerous uncertainty with a life-giving world… As we resolve to speak in darkness, God gives courage: not the sort that stills trembling legs but the kind that helps us move forward on them.

As men move forward in faith something amazing happens, their faith deepens as they realize their great need for God. As Dr. Crabb puts it, "Men who spend their lives finding God are quietly transformed from mere men into… *godly men* who know what it means to trust a person when there is no plan to follow."

"The path to authentic manhood," Dr. Crabb concludes, "is entered through the narrow gate of a single-minded passion to abandon oneself completely to God. The path beyond the gate is the freedom to speak into darkness as one hears and echoes the voice of a well-remembered God." In short, manly men are godly men.

Next month we'll take an honest look at the way men relate to others. In particular, we'll examine two pitfalls that often keep men from mature manhood and, in coming months, we'll explore the path to maturity.

Holding Your Family Together

Over the course of the last several months we have walked through Dr. Rich Melheim's five family-bonding faith practices. This month we wrap up our discussion with a final word of encouragement and a reminder why, as Dr. Rich says, "Nighttime is the right time" for the Faith 5 "enrichual."

According to Dr. Rich, while any time is a good time to talk to our children, the "Faith 5 is… most effective when done in the last few minutes before your children go to sleep at night." Why? Much of it has to do with sleep. Some pretty amazing things happen in our brain while we sleep. Contrary to what many of us imagine, our brains aren't inactive during sleep. Dr. Rich cites a molecular biologist who explains:

> If you ever get a chance to listen in on a living brain while it is slumbering, you'll have to get over your disbelief. The brain does not appear to be asleep at all. Rather, it is almost unbelievably active during 'rest,' with legions of neurons crackling electrical commands to one another in constantly shifting patterns – displaying greater rhythmical activity during sleep, actually, than when it is wide awake.

Share the highs and lows of your day.

Read a Bible verse or story.

Talk about how the Bible reading relates to your highs and lows.

Pray for one another's highs and lows.

Bless one another.

Apparently, while we're sleeping, our brains are actively processing and synthesizing the stimuli from our day, trying to matrix new information with existing knowledge so as to make sense out of it all. According to Dr. Rich, it happens in waves of REM (Rapid Eye Movement) and non-REM sleep. He explains,

> During REM sleep, the brain takes important information… and re-fires it and rewrites it thousands of times in an attempt to make sense of it. Then, during the slow non-REM sleep wave, the brain takes those most memorable outward bits of new information… and sifts them through the labyrinth of stored memories. In this way, the brain searches for associated connections, combinations of potential solutions, and meaning.

People with improper or inadequate sleep miss out on this. And we thought losing sleep just made us tired! Our five faith practices before bed helps to bless our children with healthy sleep, which in turn, helps produce emotionally, sociologically, and psychologically healthy children.

Psychologically, consistently sharing, reading, talking, praying, and blessing as a family before bed assures your children that you care for them and are empathizing with their lows and celebrating their highs. And this, as Dr. Rich explains, "can help their brains resolve issues and set the stage for better sleep."

Even more, as Dr. Rich explains,

> Sharing, caring, massaging, laughing, singing and blessing all allow the brain to sop up cortisol from the bloodstream. This is essential because cortisol, the stress hormone, kills baby nerve cells as they are born and instructs the body to hold on to all the fat it can. In turn, this allows melatonin – the sleep drug – to do its duty.

Think about that! A stress-reducer, brain-enhancer, fat-fighter, and sleep-producer all from a few minutes of intentional family faith practice!

Sociologically, our five faith practices help to establish a coherent worldview in our children as we apply it to our daily lives. Further, as Dr. Rich explains,

> We are drawn to trust and appreciate those who share in the ritual and give us the gifts of their time and attention. Returning to, reflecting upon and restating the challenges of the day within the context of a safe and loving family or a family of friends bond us to those people.

The Faith 5 practices is the place where our children process their worldview. In those special moments before bed our children experience our teaching in the safety of the family bond as they wrap truth in love. And then they take it to sleep with them to matrix to a million different connections in the brain! It's like giving a child silly string at recess – by the time the bell rings every child on the playground has been touched by the sticky web. By the time our children wake up, they've connected their worldview, which we communicated through the Faith 5 practices, to every corner of the brain.

According to Dr. Rich, the Faith 5 practices, "Lower divorce rates, raise marital and family satisfaction, reduce family violence, increase responsible fathering, and reduce risky behaviors in adolescence." He reminds us, "The future you write every night will bless [your children] to their graves."

It's time to do this. Start sharing, reading, talking, praying, and blessing TONIGHT. Don't let life's mountain of excuses keep you from giving a lifetime of blessings to your children (and even to your grandchildren). You can do this. Want to talk more about it? Give me a call (655-2352) or email (revconner@mmctsu.com) or stop in and visit with me. – Pastor Conner

A Note from the Preschool

Dear Congregation members,

Help us welcome our preschool parents and children to Zion Lutheran Preschool. We will celebrate God's gifts with a fun-filled exciting year of learning.

August is a busy month. On August 5, we open the preschool classroom for the children and parents to come explore and visit with the teachers. Home visits will be scheduled for August 13-15. The first day of preschool is August 19. We praise the Lord for the children he has sent to Zion Preschool to hear His word.

Blessings in Jesus,
Mrs. Deb Fink and Mrs. Janice Nemitz

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

Faith 5 Tech Rules
To keep tech from ruling

For better *and* for worse, we live in a technologically saturated world. As parents, it's essential that we establish helpful guidelines for technology (especially cell phones) in our homes. While technology adds a lot to our lives, it doubles as a sinister sleep-stealer. Remember from previous months all the bad stuff improper sleep does to people – add to that impaired learning ability, aggressive behavior, susceptibility to illness and disease, and increased risk of auto accidents. You must establish technology rules for your children before technology rules your children!

Dr. Rich suggests reminding your children that you "as an adult with a fully developed prefrontal cortex (judgment center) in your brain, have weighed the evidence of what tech does to sleep and have come to an irrevocable decision concerning cell phone usage in your home." He also suggests reminding them that the cell phone, like the car, belongs to you (you bought it). Because you are kind, you allow them to use *your* phone so long as they abide by these simple rules (breaking the rules results in the removal of the phone for a week):

Rule 1: *Your* phone will be in *your* possession from 9 PM until 7 AM. (Aren't you generous to let them use *your* phone 14 hours each day?)

Rule 2: Your children will put *your* phone on the counter in the kitchen or into your hands by 9 PM each night. It will be waiting for them in the morning.

Rule 3: When you text or call them, they will answer. After all, why should you pay for a communication device if the person you lend it to doesn't communicate with you?

Dr. Rich offers another simple and immediate tech rule to guard your children's sleep: "get the tech out of the bedroom. All of it! Now! No computer. No television. No Internet. No electronic games. No cell phones. No excuses." He says, "Let your children nag, whine and complain all they want. You will be giving them a life-long gift, and they will feel better about it in the morning. Every morning."

He acknowledges that parents of young children will find this rule easier to implement than those with teens who have become addicted to the steady dopamine shot administered by every beep, buzz, or bing squirting from their cell phone or tablet. Setting this rule may be tough. That means parents will "have to be tougher than the tough time."

He offers two additional phrases that parents should get used to saying:

1. We will reconsider these rules when you have a fully developed prefrontal cortex [age 25 for girls and age 27 for boys].

2. We will reconsider these rules when you are paying all of your own bills.

Remember, this is your vocation. Your job is to be the parent – firm, loving, wise, and steadfast. You can expect children with immature pre-frontal cortexes to complain. They need you to be the voice of loving wisdom for them. Guarding your children's sleep by establishing these tech rules may be the best gift you every give to your children. Start tonight!

Counterpoint

Countering falsehoods with facts for the sake of life

The word "contraception" has been in the news a lot lately thanks to a piece of President's Obama's Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare") that was recently challenged by Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Woods. The Court, by the way, according to Wikipedia, ruled "closely held for-profit corporations to be exempt from a law they religiously object to if there is a less restrictive means of furthering the law's interest." In other words, non-publicly traded companies don't have to comply with laws that compromise their religious beliefs if the law's intent can be carried out through another means. In this particular case, closely held corporations don't have to pay for their employees' emergency contraceptives.

In this month's *Counterpoint* we're going to discuss these emergency contraceptives to help clarify why so many Christians and church bodies (including our own) have objected to the Affordable Care Act's "Birth Control Mandate."

Claim: Emergency contraception is a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy after unprotected intercourse.

The above claim is a direct quote from the website of Planned Parenthood (the organization that kills the most babies through abortion in the U.S.). To the casual reader the above claim seems innocuous enough, but Planned Parenthood, as usual, has carefully chosen their words to obscure the truth.

"Unprotected Intercourse"?

Let's unpack their words. We'll begin at the end. We've heard the phrase "unprotected intercourse" so many times that it probably no longer sounds strange to our ears, but think about what Planned Parenthood is doing. Did God design sexual love as something against which we need to protect ourselves? Did God design sexual love as nothing more than "intercourse"? When we accept Planned Parenthood's characterization of sexual love as a mere physical exchange, we inadvertently accept the worldview that comes along with it.

Many of us might not realize it, but Planned Parenthood has adopted infamous Indiana University professor Alfred Kinsey's now-discredited "research," which falsely claimed that people are sexual beings from birth.[2] To be clear, when Planned Parenthood parrots Kinsey's "sexual from birth" (which they do throughout their site), they're not simply observing that humans are born male or female, they're asserting that humans are sexual creatures capable of engaging in sexual stimulation of any variety *from birth*!

Clearly, such a worldview is galaxies away from a Biblical worldview, which places sexual love within the safe bounds of marriage between a man and woman for the purposes of one-flesh union, procreation, and delighting in one another. In this context, sexual love is not mere "intercourse" against which individuals need to protect themselves, but a celebration of a gift God has called good. Trivializing sexual love to a mere physical exchange cheapens God's gift and sets individuals on the path to

[2] In order to "scientifically" study human sexuality and "prove" humans are "sexual beings from birth," Kinsey engaged in and filmed sexual acts alone and with numerous people (including infants and toddlers!) too disturbing to describe in this newsletter. Further, in order to normalize deviant sexual behavior, Kinsey sought out pedophiles and sex offenders to assist him in his "research." His influence is far reaching today. One of his fellow "researchers," Wardell Pomeroy established the nonprofit organization Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SEICUS) with funding from Hugh Hefner (the founder of Playboy). SEICUS's sex education guidelines (which include instructions for appropriate masturbation and genital touching for preshcoolers!), have been approved by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for use in public schools. Another associate of Kinsey, Mary Calderone, went on to establish the organization that became Planned Parenthood.

disappointment as they turn God's gift into a means to personal gratification. Christians should not accept the phrase nor the worldview that comes with it.

"a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy"?

According to Planned Parenthood,

> Pregnancy doesn't happen right after sex. That's why it's possible to prevent pregnancy even after the fact. It can take up to six days for the sperm and egg to meet after having sex. Emergency contraception pills work by keeping a woman's ovary from releasing an egg for longer than usual. Pregnancy cannot happen if there is no egg to join with sperm.

The above statement, aside from cheapening sexual love to mere "sex," is only partly true. If they stopped there, they could only be accused of proliferating inadequate information, but they go on to assert,

> You might have also heard that the morning-after pill causes an abortion. But that's not true. The morning-after pill is **not** the abortion pill. Emergency contraception is **birth control**, not abortion.

According to WebMD.com, however, Planned Parenthood is wrong. WebMD explains,

> Emergency contraception pills use hormones or medications that block pregnancy. Most use the same hormones that are in regular birth control pills.
>
> Emergency contraception pills mainly work by stopping the release of an egg. The pills also may stop sperm from fertilizing the egg. They also may prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus.

Be sure you process the last sentence: "They also may prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus." Despite what Planned Parenthood might claim, that is an abortion, and that is why groups like Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Woods, along with churches like ours, have objected to the "Birth Control Mandate," which would have forced non-church employers to pay for medication that could kill newly conceived children.

Further, some have tried to avoid these unpleasant realities by redefining pregnancy from the moment of conception to the moment of implantation in the uterus. By doing so, they can claim that emergency contraceptives, which may prevent a newly conceived baby from implanting in his mother's uterus, don't terminate pregnancy. By sleight of word they can claim emergency contraceptives don't cause abortions, which are defined as a termination of pregnancy. Christians who cherish life, however, see the newly conceived child as precious and in need of protection from potentially lethal medications such as emergency contraception.

Perceptive readers may also notice WebMD's note that emergency contracpetives use the same hormones that are in regular birth control pills. No conclusive research exists on the abortifacient (abortion-causing) potential of the birth control pill, but the pill's own medication insert indicates that it may prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the mother's uterus. Some Christians see the inconclusiveness as a green light for using the pill, but others have pointed out that the sacredness of life requires us to abstain from the use of the pill to ensure no newly conceived child is unintentionally aborted. Who, after all, would reason, "Because this unnecessary medication might kill my child, I'll take it."?

Life is precious from the womb to the tomb and should be regarded as such. Sexual love within marriage, likewise, needs to be guarded from those who would cheapen or trivialize it into mere "intercourse" and people into mere "sexual beings."

Counterpoint: Emergency contraceptives may terminate pregnancy. Further, sexual love is bigger than mere physical intercourse; it is a celebration of God's gift to husband and wife.

Ladies Guild

July Highlights

The devotion of the day was given by Pastor Conner who discussed Sabbath rest as outlined in Matthew chapter 12. Margaret Backhaus, Christian Life Chairman, read "Fireworks or Handiworks" based on Psalm 104 that declares that the heavens display God's handiwork.

President Schilling called the business meeting to order with 11 members in attendance. The mite box prayer followed. The secretary's report was read and approved and a thank you note from Colton Otto was shared. Treasurer, Barb Anderson gave her report. It will be filed for audit. There were no Kitchen, Treasurer's, or Human Care reports given. The Sunshine Chairman reported sending 4 cards last month.

Circle reports were as follows: Zion's Fellowship Club served the July coffees. Circle # 1 will host August coffees. Circle # 3 served at Darlene Graner's funeral. Circle #4 will have the next funeral.

In Old Business it was reported that $169.00 was taken in at the Kinderfest cookie walk.

The quilt auction at Camp Okoboji on June 14th brought in over $24,000.00 before matching funds were counted.

In New Business it was decided to give $35.00 to the Manning Community Kinderfest Committee. We will also be donating $20.00 to the Zion library in memory of former Guild member, Darlene Graner.

It was decided that Guild will take part in a bake sale on August 15th at the Farmer's Market in Manning. It will be open to all of Zion's members to bring baked goods and, of course, to purchase them. Proceeds will be given to Zion's Generations campaign.

Plaza Bingo will be held on July 25th with Margaret Kuchel as chairperson with committee members Shelly Gruhn, Sandra Vahl and Barb Anderson helping.

Members were reminded that the August 13th meeting will be a potluck at 5:30 P.M. Hostesses will be Cynthia Genzen and Sandra Vahl. The meeting closed with the Table Prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

"The Zion Ladies Guild will be holding a Bake Sale at the Farmer's market on Friday, August 15th, 2014, at 4:00 PM on Main Street. All contributions from our congregation would be really appreciated.

We have designated all proceeds from this sale to be donated to the Generation project, now underway. Donations may be left at the church kitchen before 3 PM on Friday, or taken directly to the table at the Farmer's market. Thank you, and God's Blessings to all!"

SELAMAT

Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, and Cassie Ferry
Missionaries to Indonesia

Saya bukan turis! (Indonesian for "I'm not a tourist!")
This has been a month of changes, adjustments, and forgetting what our comfort zone even used to look like. There's been much happening in the last few weeks, and we continue to become more familiar with our surroundings. We learn things every day, and we're thankful for all those who remember us in prayer.

Most of our days recently have been filled with learning the Indonesian language. Cheryl and I attend language school here in Bandung every morning from 8am until 12 noon. The instructors teach almost completely in *Bahasa Indonesia*. They're friendly and helpful, but they have high standards and don't let us get away with speaking much English. Cheryl and I finished Unit One this month, and had to pass a 20 minute oral examination, completely in Indonesian. We both passed, but Cheryl by a much larger margin than I!

While we're at school, the kids stay at the house with a very nice Indonesian lady who was recommended to us by the school. She takes care of the three older kids, but she doesn't speak any English. So the kids have found ways of communicating with her, and are having to learn Indonesian in their own ways just to get what they need and want. She's also introducing us to Indonesian cooking and snacks!

Cassie went to school with us each day of this first unit, and was completely accepted by the instructors… even being used as a prop for teaching lessons (see the picture!). The whole family goes out into the neighborhood (*kampung*) in the afternoons to interact with our neighbors, practice our language skills, and build relationships.

This month also imposed upon us the first chance to be separated. I had a meeting with our potential church partners up in Medan (about a two hour plane ride north-east), and the rest of the family stayed behind in Bandung. I talked and listened through an interpreter, and did some teaching. It was a great opportunity, but was also nerve-racking! Flying is hectic enough, but especially when you can't speak the language.

Each day that goes by gives us new opportunities to learn and be stretched in many ways. We cling to the Word of God as we do devotions; our songs of God's works in Christ floating out into the neighborhood. Each evening at dinner, we go around the table and recount blessings from our Lord which have had special meaning for us that day.

We are so thankful for your continued partnership and prayers, knowing that no matter how many miles (or kilometers) or hours separate us, we're still part of the Body of Christ with you. Nothing can separate us from Him, for He has united us to Himself by His Word, which endures forever. ✠

SELAMAT

Continued

Caleb (8 yrs old) has been getting involved with the boys in the neighborhood, learning how to play better soccer (football or *sepakbola* here!) and teaching them some American card games (Go Fish! and UNO!).
Caitlin (4 yrs old) has been working hard at learning Indonesian, and has been busily setting up her own *toko* (store) where her animals can shop in the kitchen. Beware: she only accepts Indonesian Rupiah here!
Carissa (now 2 yrs old) celebrated turning two on this side of the globe! Her vocabulary has tripled this month in both languages, and she's nearly used to people wanting to touch her blonde hair everywhere we go.
Cassie (4 months old) will be our most heavily-traveled kiddo, as she constantly hears "*Kesini!*" (Come here!) from everyone as they hold out their arms to hold her. She's a very content little girl, and has learned to grab for things and hold her head up, constantly looking around.

A Parting Word
So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone. (Ephesians 2:19-20 ESV)
✠✠✠

Prayers, Praises, and Thanksgiving
* Thanksgiving for all our partners in the US who volunteered to mail out this newsletter for us
* Thanksgiving for all our supporters who have made this work possible!
* Thanksgiving for the group of selfless folks in Seymour, IN who are mailing this newsletter in paper to those who aren't online
* For sharp minds and humble hearts to learn the Indonesian language;
* For *ongoing* pledged support, that we might continue serving overseas according to our Lord's will
*That our gracious Lord Jesus would grant His wisdom and grace, that many would be blessed by the work we're doing in Indonesia

Carissa and Cassandra spend time with our Indonesian babysitter, who is affectionately known as "our Ibu"

Caleb and Caitlin play Go Fish! with the kids in the neighborhood, using both languages

Pastor Eric is here and Working: Last month I turned over my keys for Grace Lutheran in Storm Lake to Pastor Eric Moeller. I give thanks for the seven years of ministry as the District Hispanic missionary in Storm Lake. This is a special Hispanic group of talented community leaders with very special families. Also I celebrate that our Hispanic ministry, now in its 15th year in Storm Lake, is located at Grace—a very special congregation with a big mission heart! This church has opened its doors and its hearts to our ministry as well as the Sudanese ministry. Please pray for these leaders and especially for Pastor Bradley Ketcham, pastor at Grace, for Pastor Moeller, our new Hispanic pastor, and for the Sudanese ministry as they reorganize their outreach. Finally, I thank all the members and leaders for the support for me and Paula and our ministry together. Praise God that His work continues.

Confirmation at Storm Lake: One of the joys of the Hispanic ministry at Grace in Storm Lake has been having our youth studying in Confirmation classes together with the youth of the English ministry. Confirmation classes start in the 5th grade and finish in the 8th grade with Confirmation. So most of these youth in the class of 2014 have been together for four years. They are a diverse group: local youth, and youth from Sudan, El Salvador, Honduras, and Mexico. May God continue to bless this ministry and these youth and their families. They are God's church now and into the future.

Special Baptism of Freddy: On June 15 we Confirmed four of our youth and baptized a newborn. Baby Freddy is the son of Annahi and Freddy Ramirez of Storm Lake. They attend our church with Annahi's parents, Carlos and Teresa Perez. The godparents are their neighbors, Reynaldo and Catalina Ibarra, who also first invited them to church. We are so thankful that they have brought their son to faith in Jesus and that now the family is also studying for membership.

MY Tyson Chaplaincy at the Plants in Denison & Storm Lake: With Pastor Eric's arrival at Storm Lake last month I have finished my work at Tyson. I was working there temporarily to help them find a new chaplain. We are so blessed that Pastor Eric has filled this position as well as serving as pastor of our Hispanic ministry in Storm Lake. In Storm Lake the plant has the gift of diversity like nowhere I have ever been. Each day they use all these different cultural groups to produce healthy meats that feed the world. And they do it in a positive way. That's quite a feat. God bless Chaplains Eric and Paul in their ministry together at Tyson.

Please Pray: + For the August 17 installation of Pastor Eric Moeller to serve our mission and to work at Tyson. + For the new ministry of Pastor Eric with our Hispanic leaders in Storm Lake, that it may prosper. + For the process of incorporating our mission in Denison and also for outreach and the growth of new leaders. + For my work as Chaplain at Tyson in Denison and the opportunity there to meet many special people from all over the world. + For our ongoing efforts to organize a Pro-Life Hispanic group in Denison. + For summer plans with fundraisers and special events and especially our summer Family Retreat at Camp Okoboji. + ***In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who monthly support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants.***

TO CONTACT ME:
Rev. Daniel Vogel
32678 Aspen Ave. Manning, Iowa, 51455
1-712-653-2354 or Cell: 712-309-1292 or E-mail me at: Dan.Vogel@idwlcms.org

August Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

1. David Kusel
2. Justin Musfeldt
3. Sophia Beck
4. Jade Dawson
   Madilyn Trost
5. Janet Brus
   Kent Hilsabeck
6. Matthew Alexander
   Zachary Grove
   Morgyn Irlbeck
   Alison Peters
   Beverly Rix
   Donna Rutz
   Grace Sextro
7. Mitch Robinson
   Katie Weitl
8. Haylie Irlbeck
   Arlene Mohr
   Makenzie Trost
   Logan Vonnahme
9. Mckenna Benton
   John Ferneding
10. Rhonda Grimm
    Kent Vollstedt
11. Scott Dreier
    Ashley Ehlers
12. Kelly Ferneding
    Stan Musfeldt
    Audrey Roe
14. Elizabeth Alexander
15. Emma Reese
    Rick Spack
17. Jill Arp
    George Doyel
18. Carol Schroeder
    Paula Wulf
19. Jean Borkowski
    Miranda Hansen
    Randy Mahnke
20. Margaret Blisten
21. Jacob Rosener
    Mitchell Walters
23. Karl Rutz
24. Jasmine Bauer
26. Kadynce Ketcham
27. Mary Grimm
    Dorothy Kusel
    Coltan Lesle
    Linnet Nissen
    Gale Vinke
28. Brian Vetter
29. Justin Weller
30. Abby Bruch
    Cash England
31. Margaret Kuchel

1. Scott & Lisa Dreier
2. Dewayne & Cheral Buhr
5. Don & Susan Lamb
6. Scott & Mitch Robinson
   Daniel & Paula Vogel
8. Walter & Joan Noelck
10. Daniel & Taya Vonnahme
12. Bob & Irene Genzen
13. Kent & Annette Hilsabeck
    Alan & Jennifer Morris
18. LaVern & Judy Bald
    Robert & Brenda Ehlers
22. Bob & Diane Henkelman
23. Gary & Bonnie Witt
24. Curtis & Rachel Hofbauer
25. Dwight & Jeanne Gruhn
    Tim & Joni Kienast
26. Ryan & Mandi Sandage
30. Larry & Cynthia Genzen

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

Congregational Servants

Council:
Curt Struve, President
Sam Musfeldt, Vice President
Donna Forman, Record. Sec.
Amber Neumann, Fin. Sec.
Karen Kienast, Treasurer
Jeff Hargens, CFO

Board of Trustees:
Bob Genzen, Dan Dawson,
Kent Vollstedt,
Jason Kienast,
Rodney Backhaus

Preschool Board:
Dianne Riggert, Chair
Jean Ferneding, Diane Riggert,
Sandra Sextro, Heather Kusel,
Jen Morris
Elder: LaVern Bald

Board of Elders:
Stan Baack, head elder
LaVern Bald, Stan Musfeldt
Dave Grundmeier
Tim Kienast, Lynn Kruse
Craig Musfeldt,

Board of Missions:
Arlene Mohr, Chair
Dave & Bev Grundmeier,
Frank Mohr, Lynn Kruse,
Gary Schroeder, Warren Puck

Altar Guild:
Monica Christensen, Director

Stewardship Board:
Rick Lohrmann, Chair

Board of Deacons:
David Bohlman, Bruce Grimm,
Ryan Crawford, Eric Ramsey
Paul Christensen, Richard Zinke,
Don Lamb

Board of Education:
Margaret Backhaus, Chair
Trisha Beck, Shelly Gruhn
Joni Kienast, Laurene Meeves,
Kari Ranniger, Kathy Vollstedt

Ladies Guild:
Susie Schilling, President

Fellowship Club:
Russ Mohr, President

Choir:
Dr. Tom Ulrickson,
director

Children's Choir:
Susie Ulrickson,
Jill Arp

In order to determine mission and ministry needs throughout the church, our synod (The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod) uses a grassroots effort to identify priorities. Congregations survey their members and forward their suggestions on the Circuit (in 2014), District (2015), and Synod (2016). You are invited to voice your opinion in this effort to determine how we as a church body should concentrate our efforts.

Please vote for three:

- ☐ Ethnic Ministry
- ☐ Rural Ministry
- ☐ Church worker recruitment
- ☐ Family Ministry
- ☐ Discipleship training
- ☐ Apologetics/worldview training
- ☐ Youth Ministry
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Please return this sheet to the church office by September 15

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod