



The Three Doors of Evangelism

At the 39th convention of the Iowa District West at Camp Okoboji June 21-23, we were privileged to hear the Fifth Vice President of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Rev. Nabil Nour, share the Gospel of God's grace with us. As a Palestinian born in Nazareth and raised until age 16 on Mt. Carmel (as in the Mt. Carmel of Elijah and the prophets of Baal), Rev. Nour's story is quite remarkable. As a child he was raised Roman Catholic and was taught that salvation depended on his work. He so ardently embraced this message that he would kneel to pray on the sharpest rocks he could find, rocks that would bloody and scar his knees. He thought his self-inflicted suffering could gain God's favor. It didn't.

At 16 he immigrated to America and eventually met a young Lutheran woman. She invited him to church and he heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time and embraced it enthusiastically. He went on to become a LCMS pastor and then was recently elected as the Synod's Fifth Vice President.

During his address he celebrated that our synod has doubled its number of career missionaries over the last two years. Further, he highlighted the international impact our seminaries are having as they train men to be pastors from around the world and as they send professors and resources to sister seminaries around the world to assist in training indigenous pastors.

Then Rev. Nour turned to what he calls "The Three Doors of Evangelism." The first door, he said, is our front door. Our front doors need to be open to our neighbors, neighbors we should make an effort to know. In fact, he said, they should feel so welcome in our homes that they would freely turn to the second door – the refrigerator door – and help themselves to its contents. Our concern for our home's appearance or our fridge's tidiness should not eclipse these first two doors of evangelism. For

if they do, they could bar the third door: the church door.

By opening the first two doors to our neighbors, we not only extend hospitality to them, but we stand out as different from the world. And this standing out may move our neighbors to ask what makes us so different. And that allows us to tell them about our Savior who makes us different.

The front door. The fridge door. And the church door. Open them to your neighbors and allow them to encounter the love of Jesus.



Convention Election Report

District President:

After five terms, Rev. Paul Sieveking retired as president of the Iowa District West. Rev. Steve Turner of Trinity, Algona was elected as our new District President

Vice-Presidents:

Rev. Roger Carlisle (Peace, Wall Lake) was elected as the 1st Vice President and Rev. Paul Egger (St. John, Galva) was elected 2nd Vice President

Of special note to Zion members: Zion Lutheran Church of Manning continued its long tradition of District leadership as a number of Zion-connected individuals were elected to serve in key leadership positions in our District.

Nominating Committee

Rev. Bob Riggert and Mr. Warren Puck

Stewardship Chair and member of IDW's Board of Directors

Rev. Jonathan Conner

Youth Services Chair and member of IDW's Board of Directors

Rev. Jonathan Riggert (a son of Zion)

Ordained Member-at-Large of IDW's Board of Directors

Rev. Dan Vogel (former pastor of Zion)



MINISTRY APPS—Zion Lutheran – July 2015

Applying the Gospel in Church and Community

We all have our motivations. Sometimes we are motivated by selfish desires. The motivating power for the Christian is the Gospel. The Apostle Paul proclaimed, *“For the love of Christ controls us. . . He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves, but for him who for their sake died and was raised again.”* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15) Zion Lutheran Church is motivated by the mission to share the love of Christ from the sanctuary to the home and community and into the world.

Motivated for VBS

Praise God for the willing workers who assisted with a record setting VBS week (June 1-5). Over 50 volunteers shared the love of Christ with 134 children (81 families). Zion is blessed with many children and 57 of them attended VBS. The mission field was obvious as we had 20 children registered who noted that they did not have a church home. At the VBS “Camp Discovery” the children and workers discovered that Jesus is at work in us and through us. We pray that the Gospel message will continue to bless the children and families who participated. Thanks to Zion members for their outstanding support! This community mission effort is possible because God provides the motivation and the means in Zion.

Motivated Laborers

Our five Laborers for Christ workers and their spouses continue to make a significant impact on our building, in our spiritual growth as they worship and learn with us, and in our community as they share and live their mission. Continue to welcome them; join them in devotions each morning at 10 a.m.; accompany them on a Thursday night dining

out experience or invite them for a meal or dessert; work beside them as a volunteer; provide snacks and meals to nourish them; support them with your prayers.

Motivated to Walk on Biblical Bricks

God’s Word provides the pathway to salvation. The summer series at Historic Trinity explores “Biblical Bricks” (rocks and stones of Scripture). The July special service will be July 23 at 7 p.m.

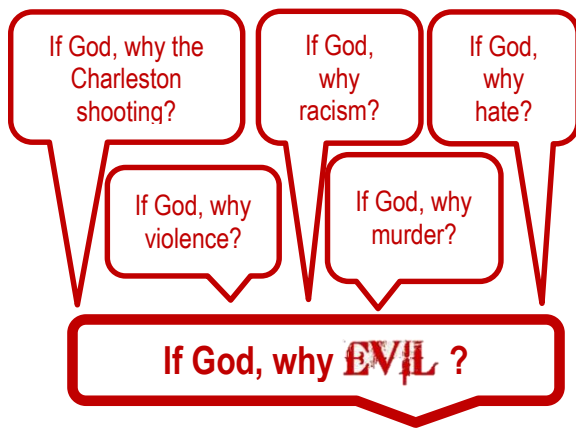
Motivated for Outdoor Ministry

Camp Okoboji is Zion’s Camp! The camp is owned by the congregations of Iowa District West. VBS children contributed \$300 toward the Camp’s DISCOVER campaign—generating funds for a new center for faith building and creation celebrating experiences. The Zion Church council voted to send \$1,000 as a congregation gift to the Camp’s 75th anniversary thank offering (gathered at the District Convention). The congregation and individual members will have the opportunity to support the Camp’s DISCOVER campaign in the fall. Summer camps for children, youth, and families continue to be open for registration. Visit www.campokoboji.org for more information. Financial assistance for children and youth is available through Iowa District West.

Motivated to Build with LCEF

Leaders of Zion recently completed the process of securing the loan (up to \$200,000 as approved by the Voters’ Assembly) to complete the facility improvements. Zion’s strong participation as Lutheran Church Extension Fund investors saved the congregation \$2,000 in closing fees. Several additional LCEF investors will qualify Zion for an annual rebate on the loan. Contact our congregation’s LCEF advocate, Warren Puck, for additional information. Y.I. Club investments for children and youth are a great way to teach children how to save. An LCEF information/investment display board is in the fellowship hall.

IF GOD WHY EVIL?



On June 17 a young man who judged people by the color of their skin entered Emanuel AME church in Charleston, South Carolina, joined the members in Bible study, and then opened fire on them, killing nine. His actions were not just tragic. They were not just heartbreaking. And they were not just senseless. His actions were *evil*.

Plainly acknowledging his actions as evil is the first step in processing and responding to the act and it is a step that our Christian worldview uniquely allows us to make. Because we believe morality is grounded in the nature of God, we are able to ground morality in an objective, unchanging source beyond the individual, the community, and even beyond the government.

This is a point that is often missed by the culture and often underappreciated by Christians. Because of this, many of the responses to the Charleston shooting have amounted to nothing less than a full frontal attack on Christianity. One article will suffice for our purposes. Titled "Pushing back on 'God' at Charleston," it was authored by an atheist and published by the Huffington Post. The author wrote:

I can value the profound fellowship that the Emanuel family displayed in welcoming the murderer into their bible study yet believe that a

just god would not have allowed this parasite in their church home to begin with.

Her words are remarkable because she used morally infused words, words her atheism doesn't allow her to use. Atheism rejects the existence of any objective grounding for morality and leaves us with only the individual in which to anchor morality. Be sure you understand this point. The author labeled the murderer a "parasite" and she expects her readers to understand this in an objective sense. In other words, she expects us to agree that the actions of the murderer were objectively wrong. Christianity enables us to agree with that statement because Christianity embraces objective morality,¹ but atheism leaves morality up to the individual. There is no higher authority than the individual. So while the author strongly rejects the actions of the murderer, she has forgotten that her worldview leaves her unable to establish her morality as superior to his. In atheism objective morality doesn't exist; we have only the morality of the individual. We might not appreciate the morals of the murderer, but atheism leaves us incapable of calling it objectively evil.

She made the same mistake in her definition of justice. She asserted that a "just god" wouldn't have allowed the murderer into the church building. We'll come back to the valid question of why God allowed the murderer into the building, but for now we need to appreciate the author's mistake. When she rejected God she rejected the ability to use morally objective language. She has essentially employed an objective definition of justice (which her atheism doesn't allow) to condemn God, the source of the objective definition of justice. Frank Turek, author of *Stealing from God: Why Atheists Need God to Make Their Case*, perceptively

¹ To understand the difference between objective morality and subjective morality, take note of the root of each word. Objective morality anchors morality in the object (i.e. God), while subjective morality anchors morality in the subject (i.e. the individual).

observes “[The atheist] has to sit in God’s lap to slap His face.”

Of course, none of this gets God off the hook. In fact, our goal is not to get God off the hook, a point we made in May 2015 newsletter when we discussed the inadequacies of various theodicies to justify or make a defense for God’s actions. Various biblical authors acknowledged the problem. The prophet Habakkuk wrote, “Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong?” (1:3). The psalmist implored God, “Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?” (10:1). And Jeremiah complained, “Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive?” (12:1).

Mature believers realize that our faith and trust is not placed in God because He provides answers to all our questions; we place our faith and trust in Him because He saves us from His righteous wrath that we have incited through our evil. Salvation isn’t about getting answers to all our questions; it’s about beings saved from the penalty of sin.

**SALVATION ISN’T ABOUT GETTING
ANSWERS TO ALL OUR QUESTIONS; IT’S
ABOUT BEINGS SAVED FROM THE
PENALTY OF SIN.**

So we must admit that we do not know why God allowed nine of His saints to be murdered. As we said before, faith doesn’t provide the answer. What faith does is assure us that an answer does exist (atheism has no such promise); it resides in an omnipotent, eternal, wise, loving, just, and personal God. Just because we cannot see a reason for God’s actions and for the evil He allows, doesn’t mean a reason doesn’t exist. It simply means God has not revealed His reason to us. As difficult as this may be, we need to realize that God doesn’t owe us an answer.

But! God has not left us revelation-less. We are not left to wonder if God is a God of justice or not, for at

the center of His revelation to us is the demonstration of His justness. St. Paul writes about it in Romans 3. God’s justness (Paul uses the word “righteousness”) is demonstrated first of all in His just wrath against evil. God will bring justice against evil. He may bring it immediately or He may choose to delay that justice until the end of this age, but Paul makes it clear that justice will be done.

So, God will bring justice on the young man who murdered nine of His saints. He will not leave evil unpunished. But this is a sword that cuts both ways because God will bring justice on ALL evil, and we have evil that resides in our hearts. We lust, lie, and indulge our hearts and minds in sin. Our evil may be less visible, but it is evil nonetheless and we will face God’s justice for it.

But this is the great surprise God has revealed in Christ: justice for ALL evil has fallen on Christ in His cross. Paul calls Jesus a “propitiation,” the one who turns God’s righteous wrath against evil away. He does that by receiving God’s justice against our evil in our place. So Jesus receives justice and we receive justification. So Paul says God is “just and the justifier.” Knowing this reality allowed the survivors to extend forgiveness to the man who murdered their friends and fellow members.

The mystery of why God allowed the murderer to take the lives of nine of His saints will remain. Our inability to discern an answer, however, doesn’t mean God has no answer and it doesn’t mean God is unjust, because God shows His justice in Christ’s cross.

Many, including the author of the Huffington Post piece, have asked, “Where... was ‘god’ in that church?” The answer is surprising: He was on the cross paying for the sins of the world, turning away His righteous wrath against evil sinners. Only Christianity can offer an answer like this. We pray that the members of Emanuel AME church may find comfort in the saving work of Jesus and that the young man who murdered their members may find peace in Christ’s work for him.

Moving **BEYOND** the Transgendered and Trans-raced Self to Christianity's Transcended Self

If our culture's recent infatuation with Bruce/Caitlyn Jenner (former Olympic gold medalist now of transgender fame) and rejection of Rachel Dolezal (former Spokane, Washington NAACP president now of transracial fame) have taught us anything, it's that we don't understand identity.² Consider the situation: Bruce Jenner is male; he has two XX chromosomes, but he "identifies" as a female. Rachel Dolezal is white; her ancestors are German and Czech, but she "identifies" as black.

Society, having swallowed infamous sexologist Alfred Kinsey's propaganda pill that sexuality is a spectrum ranging from heterosexual through bisexual (which Kinsey considered the neutral position) to homosexual and even to incestual and bestiality, insists that gender is fluid.³ You can find your identity anywhere on the spectrum.

So Mr. Jenner changes his wardrobe, hair, and makeup and "becomes" a woman, and society hails him as a hero. Mrs. Dolezal changes her wardrobe, hair, and makeup and "becomes" black, and society labels her a fake. Why is Mr. Jenner a hero and

Mrs. Dolezal a fake? If gender is a spectrum, why isn't race? If changing one's clothes, hair, and makeup can make a man a woman, why can't it make a white woman black? It's all so ironically confusing. And it reveals our confusion over identity. Do we find our identity in our preferred sex or in our preferred race? Are these things even matters of preference?

Sex is biologically determined. If you're born with two XX chromosomes, you're male. If you're born with XY, you're female. Yet in the face of such realities, society says male and female represent the ends of a spectrum. When it comes to your sexual identity, biology is ultimately irrelevant. You can choose your identity anywhere on the spectrum.

Unlike sex, however, race is nearly impossible to define. It has almost nothing to do with chromosomes and depends largely on the social and historical context of a given culture. What does it mean to be black or white? What about Native American or Russian? Can you pick the one you prefer? If Mr. Jenner can pick his gender, why can't Mrs. Dolezal pick her race?

Yes, Mrs. Dolezal lied about her father (she said he was black) and her adopted black brother (she said he was her son), but isn't Mr. Jenner lying with his body by pretending to be a female? If pretending to be a black woman is a lie, why isn't pretending to be a woman? Mrs. Dolezal is being criticized for reducing blackness to wardrobe, hair, and makeup, but isn't Mr. Jenner doing the same with femaleness? Can blackness and femaleness be reduced to wardrobe, makeup, and hair? Is blackness defined by hair? Is femaleness defined by image or shape? And is this where identity is found? Our culture doesn't have coherent answers.

Biblically, we recognize two God-created genders: male and female, which God has stamped on our chromosomes. When it comes to race, we recognize only one: the human race, which is composed of myriad diverse people groups

² At the mention of Bruce Jenner and Rachel Dolezal you may be tempted to stop reading. I don't blame you. On the one hand, I would prefer to tune out all talk of them as background noise, but we cannot do so. What sounds like noise to us, is the music in which the younger generations are raised. We need to tune in to hear the message and then learn to sing better songs. If we remain ignorant, we cede the conversation to the world and leave the younger generations without a counter/Biblical narrative with which to shape their lives.

³ Many schools in America use sex education material produced by SIECUS (Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States), which was founded by Kinsey disciple Mary Calderone (from Planned Parenthood) and funded by Hugh Hefner (from *Playboy* magazine). See <http://www.stopsexualizingchildren.org/ssc/history.cfm> for more information.

(diversified at Babel). We may belong to more than one of these groups (for example, I have Irish, German, and English ancestry). We may not belong to more than one gender.⁴ Further, we cannot choose our gender any more than we can choose our ancestry.

And this is precisely what's at the heart of our culture's confusion: they want to choose their identity. Choice is the sacrament of our age. Mr. Jenner flaunted his choice in his seductively feminine-esque pose on the cover of *Vanity Fair*, while Mrs. Dolezal was quoted as saying, "I definitely am not white. Nothing about being white describes who I am... I'm more black than I am white. That's the accurate answer from my truth." Both were living their "truth."

Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy succinctly summarized this individualized spirit of our age in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992), which upheld *Roe v. Wade*. In context, Justice Kennedy was defending a woman's right to "beget or bear a child" as one of her many "constitutionally protected choices." A shocking statement in itself! But here are the words that concern us now: "At the heart of liberty is the right to define one's own concept of existence, of meaning, or the universe, and of the mystery of human life." In other words, God is dethroned and we have crowned the individual Lord.

The implications are chilling. How long can a culture endure where each individual is sovereign, where each individual defines his own concept of existence? What happens when definitions clash? If no authority exists above the individual, what law and whose law govern a culture? Will it not be the loudest, richest, and/or strongest? Can a culture

built on the sovereign individual and the sacrament of individual choice survive? Can such a culture do anything different than continually devolve into quagmire of contradiction and fragmentation?

Without a unifying story and a self-transcending story, we can only expect to see Mr. Jenner and Mrs. Dolezal replaced by the next trans-whatever as our culture continues its desperate search for identity. Christianity offers a self-transcending story because Christianity offers a story that isn't centered in ourselves and sacraments that aren't about our choice. Our story is centered in a creative God who "has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them." Our sacraments are about God's redemptive choice – He chooses us that we "may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness." God chose to create us and God chose to redeem us in Christ. He is the chooser; we are the chosen.

As such, our identity isn't ours to define; it is ours to receive. As creations of God, we are contingent beings who depend upon our Creator for our daily bread and breath. Our creatureliness defines us as is simultaneously dethrones us as Lord. We are not individually sovereign; God alone reigns. Further, our Creator places us in various vocations that define us. I am a husband, father, son, brother, pastor, neighbor, and citizen. You have various God-given vocations, too. These vocations make claims on us and help form our identity, an identity that is specifically other-centered as we serve as funnels of God's creative and preserving love to and for others.

Further, as those redeemed by Jesus, we realize our fallenness. Redemption assumes sin and we were born in it. As those conceived and born in sin, our desires are bent inward on ourselves and they battle against our created natures and vocational callings. Apart from Christ we don't want to live in line with the Creator's revealed will. We want the

⁴ The rare condition of hermaphroditism (the politically correct term is "intersex") must be acknowledged. In this condition individuals are born with a variance in chromosomes, gonads, or genitals that prevent them from being distinctly identified as male or female. This is a biological issue and not a matter of preferred identity.

freedom to define ourselves by our desires, which is precisely what our culture is arguing for.

But the call to follow Christ involves the call to die to our fallen desires. Our baptism calls us to a daily death. As Luther wrote, our baptism means that “the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.”

St. Paul put it this way, “If anyone is in Christ,” which Paul indicates happens in baptism, “he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor. 5:17). Because we have died to sin in baptism, our lives are now “hidden with Christ in God” (Col 3:3). Our identity is found in Christ. Unlike transgenderism and transracialism, which specifically sink identity into the individual, Christianity moves identity beyond the individual. Our identity transcends ourselves.

This self-transcending identity is the individual’s salvation and the only hope for a stable society. As Christians, we truly have cause to celebrate who we have become in Christ, for being in Christ also brings us into His Kingdom, a Kingdom that transcends culture. This is a kingdom of life, joy, and hope.⁵ Yes, we can expect to endure hardship, loss, and brokenness while we wait for the fullness of that coming Kingdom, but we have the privilege of experiencing its joys even now as Christ comes to us with His words of promise and forgiveness and continually invites us out of the self-sinking story of the world into the self-transcending story of God. This is the story we need to hear, tell, and rehearse regularly. It’s a story our culture needs to hear. It’s why Jesus established the Church – to tell this self-transcending story, to offer self-absorbed sinners a new identity in Christ. May we celebrate that new identity and joyfully share it.

⁵ This Kingdom stands in stark contrast to the approximately 40% suicide attempt rate of those identifying with transgenderism’s story.



On Friday, June 19, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled in favor of Planned Parenthood in overturning the statewide ban on prescribing abortion inducing drugs via teleconference. The Iowa Board of Medicine suspended the practice in 2013 when it established a policy that all women seeking abortion drugs must see a physician in person for a physical examination and in-person prescription (the Iowa Supreme Court granted a stay of the ban so that the practice has remained in effect until this decision and will continue to be practiced now).

Planned Parenthood argued that the ban placed an “undue burden” on women who may have to travel over 100 miles to see a physician in person. The lower court sided in favor with the Iowa Board of Medicine, but the Iowa Supreme Court unanimously overturned that decision, agreeing with the undue burden argument. Proponents of the practice argue that people who opposes it (i.e. Christians) are opposed to women’s health care. Christians, however, don’t oppose health care for women; Christians oppose killing babies in the womb, especially when those drugs are dispensed without a personal visit to a doctor, thus putting women’s health at risk as well.

To learn more or to find how you can make your voice heard on this matter check out Lutherans for Life www.lutheransforlife.org (888-364-LIFE) or Iowa Right to Life www.iowartl.org (515-244-1012).



June Highlights

Ladies Guild-- June 10, 2015

Ladies Guild

Zion Guild opened with the League Pledge. Pastor Riggert opened his devotion with prayer and led a meditation on Psalm 145. Margaret Backhaus shared a reading about baptism named, "Make a Splash." The mite box prayer followed the collections of mites.

President Cheryl Buhr called the meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. Cheryl welcomed guests to the meeting. 13 members and 4 guests answered roll. Financial reports were given by Barb Anderson and Darlene Vollstedt. June birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged by Cheryl. Committee Activity reports were given. Human Care chair, Audrey Roe reported that several ladies were sewing blocks together this summer for quilt tops. Bev Grundmeier reported 1 sympathy, 1 birth, 2 birthdays, and 1 get well card was sent this past month.

Circle # 1 served lunch for Jeff Joens funeral (155 served) and the June coffee fellowship.

Old and Unfinished Business included reminders to sign up for serving morning coffee for the workers and for cookies and workers for the cookie walk sponsored by Zion at the Kinderfest celebration.

New Business: President Cheryl urged members to bring a guest to monthly meetings and the pot-luck supper meal in August and also to Guest Day in September.

Zion continues collections of items for the Food Pantry. Place your items in the grocery cart. Collection of soap, ink cartridges, stamps, and Campbell soup labels are still needed. However due to the remodeling, we are asked to keep our collections at home until the reconstruction is completed.

Advent by Candlelight is on the community calendar for December 6.

Hostesses for the July 8th Guild Meeting will be Charlene Hickman and Margaret Backhaus.

There being not further business, the meeting was adjourned followed by The Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer.

Respectfully submitted.

Audrey Roe, Secretary Pro Tem

Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, and Cassie Ferry

Missionaries to Indonesia



The month of June has been an interesting mix of extremes. It started with our family separated, pursuing our vocations in two different countries. I was finishing up a business trip to Singapore with the Senior Regional Director. While there we had an opportunity to have a great meeting with the Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Singapore and talk honestly about our differences and commonalities. I have great hope for this relationship in the future, and it's good to be in contact so we don't duplicate efforts or work at cross-purposes.

Upon my return home to Jakarta, Cheryl and the kids finished up their academic year of homeschooling, and we moved into "summer break." We settled in at the house, as our Indonesian resident permits were about to expire. During our time at the house, we celebrated a few special days this month. Carissa turned three years old on 13 June. She was very excited to have hit this milestone, and has taken the chance to quit diapers cold turkey, now that she's a "big girl." So far, so good, at least during daytime. Cheryl made a cake for her, and she enjoyed having it be *her* special day. I had to face reality on 19 June that I wasn't getting any younger: I turned 40 that day, and had the kids reminding me every five minutes that it was my birthday. Thankfully, age in Indonesia is a point of pride, and there's no shame in talking about it for men or women.

The next day Cheryl and I marked 12 years together as husband and wife, and we took the opportunity to walk together and reminisce about all the blessings our Lord has granted us during those years... and four of the biggest ones are our children.

SELAMAT

This is also an interesting time to be living here, as the Muslim folks (most of the country) are celebrating their fasting month Ramadan. People around us are fasting during the daylight hours: no food, no drink until sundown. Many businesses are closed, and things are generally quieter and more subdued everywhere. In theory, it's much like our season of Lent, leading up to a huge celebration in mid---July. What an opportunity to talk with our neighbors. As these words are written, our family is together in North Sumatra, once again waiting. Our passports are in the hands of the Immigration authorities, and we're hopeful to soon have our residency extended for another year. That will be great cause for celebrating, as we have great plans for the next year. We're thankful for your interest, your support, and for knowing you're celebrating with us!

Prayers, Praises, and Thanksgiving

- Thanksgiving for three incredible years for Carissa, a happy and healthy girl.
- Thanksgiving for twelve years of marriage for Charles and Cheryl, united by God's grace and merciful forgiveness.
- For strong minds as we continue struggling to learn *Bahasa Indonesia*.
- For Cheryl and the Ferry kids that they might grow, learn, and have great joy in their life here in Asia.
- That our gracious Lord Jesus would grant His wisdom and grace, so many would be blessed by the work we're doing in Indonesia and in Singapore.

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The LCMS, P.O. Box 790089, St. Louis, MO 63179

Or

Mission Central, 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to **The LCMS**, and mark them "Support of Charles Ferry." Gifts can also be given securely online through our online giving page at www.lcms.org/ferry.

China Lutheran Seminary Our Missionary in Taiwan Dr. Stephen and Maggie Oliver

May:

Asia coworkers gathered for our workgroup meeting in Hong Kong, and were visited by important leaders from our headquarters in St. Louis: Rev. Dr. Al Collver and Mr. Mark Hofman. We also welcomed quite a few new coworkers! Here is an interesting blog by Dr. Collver, noting an idol removal ceremony for Chinese homes: <http://wmltblog.org/2015/05/the-lutheran-church-hong-kong-synod-visit/>

Pray for our Asia work as some have transitioned out and quite a few are newly transitioning into Asia.

June:

Our new Executive Director of International Mission, Rev. John Fale, invited me to join him on KFUA radio this morning to speak of our mission work. Listen to the recorded broadcast here (the first one):

<http://www.kfuoam.org/2015/06/19/ht-2015-06-19/>

Keep us in prayer as we journey from St Louis to California and back again on furlough.



Please pray that God would provide a director-teacher for Zion Preschool. The Preschool Board initially interviewed two applicants but both have declined the position due to other positions or situations. If you have connections with individuals who have a love for little children, a ministry heart and professional credentials to meet licensing standards, please share their names with Board chairperson Diane Riggert or Pastor Conner.

Pastor Oliver and family will be at Mission Central in Mapleton on July 18 at 1:30 p.m. Mark the date, bring your family, and a friend!

On Monday, June 22, the congregations of Iowa District West had the distinct privilege of welcoming La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo (Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church) of Denison (where Pastor Vogel serves as Pastor) as a recognized congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Here is a portion of the resolution that was passed:

Resolved, That La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo be received as a member congregation of Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod; and be it further

Resolved, That thanks be given to God for the blessing of another partner congregation for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District and into all the world; and be it finally

Resolved, That such thanksgiving and approval of this resolution be expressed by the convention delegates rising and singing the common doxology.

With joy approximately 250 attendees rose to their feet and gave praise to God in a powerful doxology. Welcome Amigos en Cristo and well done Pastor Vogel!



!Amigos En Cristo!
News from IDW Hispanic Ministry
Missionary/Pastor Daniel Vogel

Iowa District West, LCMS
Year 11, Issue 7, July 2015

Hispanic Mission Festival at Mission Central: The highlight of the past month was our 2nd Hispanic Mission Festival on Holy Trinity Sunday, May 31. The purpose of this joint worship service was: 1) To organize an annual Hispanic Mission Festival; 2) To help our IDW Hispanic churches promote all mission work, especially Hispanic mission work in this country and in the 22 Spanish speaking countries; 3) To unite our four Hispanic churches, to make Christian friends across the state. (Over 75 Hispanics joined together on this special day of worship and fellowship.); and 4) To raise up mission leaders as examples to our youth to serve in full time mission settings among us and around the world. We thank Gary Thies and Mission Central for helping us to organize this event with the visiting missionaries and with all the organization required. We have already reserved a date for next year with Mission Central. The worship service included the four pastors of our four Iowa District West churches leading the Spanish language worship service with special music by Ruthie Witte, Michael Segebart, Noemi Guerra, myself and Pastor Witte. Our special preacher was Missionary James Neuendorf serving in the Dominican Republic. He is the Communication Specialist for Latin America. His message of the need for Christ in the midst of his mission field of poverty and violence was something that all of our immigrant families could relate to. Deaconess Noemi Guerra gave the children's message. Following the service Mission Central Director Gary Thies gave a tour of the mission museum.

Mission Leaders: In addition to our congregational mission leaders, we were blessed to have a number of pastors and mission leaders present for the day including Missionaries Caitlin Worden and Markie Burch, both serving in Peru; Deaconess Noemi and husband Pastor Lincon Guerra in Des Moines; Pastor Eric Moeller in Storm Lake; Pastor Henry Witte in Sioux City; and James and Christel Neuendorf serving in the Dominican Republic.

Mission Festival Fellowship: Our Mission Festival day ended with a delicious Hispanic potluck. The meal was a special time of fellowship for our members from four different parts of western Iowa. Our four churches have two other annual unity events each year: our family retreat in August at Camp Okoboji and a Thanksgiving service at Zion, Manning. Our families have gotten to know each other quite well. I pray that this mission festival will become another annual tradition among our churches. During the meal Gary Thies introduced two missionaries currently serving in Peru, - Caitlin Worden and Markie Bruch. They each spoke in Spanish about the work they are doing in Lima, the capital. They both work with families and children in the poor sections of the city. May God bless all of us as missionaries and our special sent missionaries in the field.

Please Pray: +For the blessings this past month, especially at our Mission Festival at Mission Central. +For our reception and participation for the first time as a District church at the June District Convention. +For my work as a Chaplain at Tyson and for opportunities to share the Gospel. +For our VBS at Zion, Denison. +For beginning steps in organizing a Hispanic Pro-Life group in Denison. +For our first garage sale of the season to raise money for school scholarships and our family summer retreat. +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 in Denison and in our other three Hispanic missions.

Please Continue to Support our new church: For our mission friends financial support checks should now be sent to: Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Church: 1004 S. 1 Ave., Denison, Iowa, 51442

NEW E-MAIL: E-mail me at: daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org

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

July Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

1. Heather Adams
Nathan Jensen
Delores Kuhn
Judith Lee
Walter Noelck
Samantha Smith
2. Suri Chavez
Becki Ehlers
Brenna Hodne
Jessica Soll
4. Paige Saunders
Mallory Weitzl
5. Chelsea Page
6. Diane Henkelman
Janet Smith
7. Leonard Dammann
Lisa Drier
Valda Lamp
8. Matthew Weitzl
11. Olivia Beck
Jax Greving
Jason Kienast
Jessica Kurth
Jordan Weller
12. Casey Karsten
Scott Rosener
Trisha Rosener
Clark Tibben
13. Arlene Bald
Dereck Hilsabeck
14. Stephanie Ahrenholtz
Gregory Conner
Bary Kienast
Duane Monson
15. Bill Bruhn
Jesse Weitzl
16. Dean Genzen
18. Joni Kienast

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

19. Bob Genzen
Rebecca Genzen
Brad Otto
21. Louise Bruhn
Kaylee Martin
22. Alle Jacobsen
Christopher Smith
23. Denise Christensen
Jill Saunders
24. Sophie Alexander
25. Nancy Roe
26. Sharon Mohr
Susan Schilling
27. Kevin Brus
Luella Mahnke
Ron Soll
28. Rita Saunders
Adam Vollstedt
30. Dewayne Buhr
Kathy Lage
Howard Roe
Natasha Schultes
31. Markus Neumann
Lyle Ranniger

Official Acts in June

Funerals: Delton Karl Gruhn;
Died June 11, 2015; Buried June
15, 2015; Pastor Robert Riggert

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

1. Randy & Crystal Dreher
3. Warren & Sue Puck
5. Dennis & Michaela Chapman
8. Brian & Kathy Lage
9. Dan & Cheryl Kerkoff
12. Craig & Debbie Musfeldt
14. Glen & Arlene Kusel
16. Doug & Kate Greving
Todd & Shelly Gruhn
24. Gale & Linda Vinke
25. Robert & Diane Riggert
Ron & Sue Soll
29. Pastor Jonathan & Rebecca
Conner
Eric & Jodi Ramsey
31. Steve & Holly Borkowski
Chris & Mary Greving

In Our Prayers

Athena Bess, Lyle Borkowski,
Franklin Mohr, Walt Noelck,
Mandi Sandage, Dave Grundmeier,
Judy Musfeldt, Heather Kusel, Glen
Eickman, Jeanie Petersen, Robert
and Ruth Hansen, Sherri Steffes,
Susan Lamb, Pearl Kurth (Conrad
Kurth's mom), Myra Wittrock,
Duane Karstens, Steve Rutz (Karl
Rutz's Brother), Natalie Mason