Meditating on the Manger

Tucked in the pages of our hymnal is a marvelously profound hymnic meditation on the manger of Jesus Christ written by the 17th century Lutheran theologian Paul Gerhardt. It merits our notice. But before you read it, resolve to read it SLOWLY. Thoughtful poetry should be enjoyed like red wine or quality coffee. Don't gulp. Sip and savor and then swallow joyfully.

Gerhardt begins,

O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.
For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made flesh for us;
here-in Thy grace forth shineth.

Gerhardt sees the significance of Jesus' incarnation, for where Jesus is, there is paradise. Further, he sees in the manger the Word of God made flesh for us and the grace of God shining for us. And because he sees the startling implications of Christ's manger, he finds rest for his soul as he reclines his soul before it.

He whom the sea And wind obey
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.
Thou God's own Son, With us are one,
Dost join us and our children in our weakness.

As he reclines before the manger, he considers who lies within it. It is none other than God's Son, the One whom the sea and wind obey! And yet this One comes in weakness and meekness to serve us sinners. He has taken on our flesh and has become one with us. But He comes for more.

Thy light and grace Our guilt efface,
Thy heavenly riches all our loss retrieving.
Immanuel, Thy birth doth quell
The power of hell and Satan's bold deceiving.

Consider Gerhardt's words! The light and grace radiating from Jesus' manger efface (wipe away) our guilt! And who among us does not daily battle guilt over sin? Jesus' heavenly riches restore all that was lost through Adam's sin – life, fellowship with God, peace, and wholeness. Jesus retrieves it for us and restores our loss. Further, this child in the manger – Immanuel, God with us! – His birth quells (quiets and stills) the power of hell and the deceptive tongue of Satan. For once God plays His hand, what power does hell have, what lie of Satan can remain unexposed?

Thou Christian heart, Who-e'er thou art,
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!
For God's own Child, In mercy mild,
Joins thee to Him; how greatly God must love thee!

Now Gerhardt turns to us who have joined him in his meditation as he encourages us to be of good cheer and unmoved by sorrow. For as Gerhardt directs our gaze to the Christ child, God's child has, in mercy, joined us to Himself. How greatly God must love us! It's as if he's saying, "Look, look who's in this manger! This is God's Son. He has come in our flesh. He has come to redeem us. He has come to reconcile us to God. How great must God's love be for us!"

Remember thou What glory now
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.
The angel host Can never boast
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

Here Gerhardt reminds us of the reality of our earthly sadness. Tears, brokenness, disappointment, and

grief remain. Jesus' manger doesn't remove them; it does, however, prepare us to face them. For in the manger we see God's glory enfleshed. Sorrow, sadness, grief, and pain will end. This is why Christ took on flesh, not only to bear our sin and sorrow, but to bear them away. The angels in heaven can't boast of such Divine action. They may look upon the manger in awe and wonder, but not with the same deep appreciation. With this deep appreciation, Gerhardt invites us to keep Christ as our true treasure:

The world may hold Her wealth and gold;
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true treasure.
To Him hold fast Until at last
A crown be thine and honor in full measure.

The world boasts of its great wealth, but Gerhardt resolves even as he invites us to see and keep Christ as our true and lasting treasure. To Him we are called to hold fast until God honors us with the crown of life. Then earth's treasures will be exposed as frauds, as false infinites and substitute sacreds. Then Jesus will be revealed as the great treasure of the Church. Our confidence and trust in Him will be vindicated as He honors His saints with the crown of eternal life.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Sunday, December 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Grades 2-8

Nursery – 1st grade

"Birthday party for Jesus" reception to follow

December Ministry Apps—Zion Lutheran Church

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes

You've heard the song on the radio or sung the hymn in church and the melody gets stuck in your mind. You find yourself humming the song for hours or longer. This Advent season I invite you to hear the Advent songs of those who anticipated the Savior and those who welcome Him. Hear the song! Sing the song! Share the song!

"Hark the Glad Sound" Advent Worship

Glad sounds did not begin with angels on Christmas Eve. Patriarchs and prophets sang songs of salvation. The midweek Advent services will include the songs of Zechariah, Mary, and the angels. Hear and sing the Advent songs each Wednesday (December 2, 9, and 16) at 5:45 p.m. worship. The services will again be informal, family-friendly worship events for all ages. Thanks to the special efforts of the youth and their families, a fellowship meal will follow the services at approximately 6:30 p.m. Free-will donations for the meal support the congregation's youth ministry. Hear and sing the "glad sound." Invite family and friends to join you.

Songs of Children

The Savior and His church rejoice in the songs of children. Children of Zion Preschool will share their songs at the December 16 Advent service. Come and celebrate with them.

Sunday school and Midweek children will lead a special worship service on Sunday evening, December 20. The children and their music leaders have been preparing faithfully and joyfully to share their message with you. Grades 2 through 8 will share the story of "A Tree Lot Christmas: Joining Jesus' Family Tree." Younger children will add their own special message. Even if you don't have children or grandchildren in the service, please attend. Their message is Gospel clear and their songs are joyful.

Songs for all "Generations"

Zion has a history of song! The "Generations" campaign ensures that the songs will continue to be sung in a facility that is worshipful, warm, and welcoming. Thanks to the many volunteers who have assisted with the facility transformation. Thanks to the many "Generations" donors whose gifts make the necessary changes possible. Some of the improvements will continue to be made through the winter months and into the spring. Thanks for your patience in the process.

Sharing the Song—LCEF Ministries

Lutheran Church Extension Fund investments help provide facilities where songs of salvation are sung in sanctuaries, schools, and mission outposts. Consider a Young Investor Club certificate (for as little as $25) as a gift for a child or grandchild. The Zion Y.I. Club meets the third Sunday of each month. Contact Warren Puck for additional information. Due to mission and ministry projects requesting LCEF loans, a new fixed-rate term note ($500 minimum) offering 3.5% for 35 month investment is being offered. Additional information is available at www.lcef.org or by contacting Vice-President Carole White (carole.white@lcef.org).

Thanks for singing the songs of Luke

Over 20 members and community members gathered weekly this fall to "Leap for Joy" studying the Gospel of Luke. Another weekly adult Bible study will be offered January. The next study will shine the Light of Jesus on the dark places of our lives.

Q: Since God loves all people, shouldn't we love all religions?

Thanks for asking. In order to answer your question, we need to get a better understand of *how* God loves all people. Consider what Scripture says:

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8).
- By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us… (1 John 3:16).
- In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins (1 John 4:10).
- For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Notice that the Bible doesn't simply say, "God loves all people." The Bible connects God's love for all people to a person (Jesus) and an action (His death for our sins). Jesus' sacrificial death for all people's sins is the heart of God's love. This is absolutely essential. Apart from Jesus' cross, we would know nothing but God's righteous wrath against sin.

St. Paul makes this point in Romans 1-3 where he writes of the righteousness of God. In His righteousness, God hates sin and evil. This is a good thing because we want God to hate sin and evil. We don't want Him to be okay with it. So in His righteousness, God brings justice against sin and evil. The gospel news of Romans 3, though, is that God brings that justice against sin and evil down on Jesus. In other words, in the death of Jesus, God acts righteously against sin and evil. Justice for sin falls on Jesus; justification before God is granted to us. It precisely in that act of justice that God loves us.

The world doesn't understand love in this way. For the world, love is the acceptance of all religions as equally true. But such an understanding actually ends up denying God's love to people. Islam, for example, denies that Jesus died on the cross, thereby denying the very heart of God's love. Judaism denies the significance of Jesus' death even as they reject His resurrection, thereby also denying the heart of God's love. And Hinduism and Buddhism deny that Jesus is the only Son of the one true God whose death atoned for our sins, thereby also denying the heart of God's love.

If we were to love these religions as equal expressions of truth, we would not only break the law of non-contradiction, which says that two contradictory statements cannot both be true in the same sense at the same time, but we would be affirming people's rejection of God's love in Jesus. That is not loving.

Having said that, we do love all people, no matter their religion, but we do that not by affirming them in a religion that denies God's love for them in Christ, but by sharing Christ's saving work with them. So, to get back to your question, we can answer it as follows:

Because God loves all people in the person and work of Jesus, we love all people, no matter their religion, by sharing the message of God's love for them in Christ.

Ladies Guild

November Highlights
Ladies Guild of Zion
November 11, 2015

President Buhr opened the meeting with the Guild reading the LWML Hymn. Pastor Conner followed with a discussion on the Hymn "For All the Saints" which had been sung at the service marking All Saints' Day. Christian Life Chairman, Margaret Backhaus, read "The lesson of the candy corn." The mite box was passed as the mite box prayer was read.

President Buhr opened the business meeting in the name of our Triune God. JoAnn Thomas was welcomed as a guest. Roll call was answered with a dish always on the Thanksgiving table other than turkey, dressing and pumpkin pie. Thirteen members answered, "Present." The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting which were approved as read. A thank you note was read from the family of Pearl Kurth. Bob and Ruth Hansen also sent a thank you note and a donation for helping with their 65th wedding anniversary celebration. Treasurer, Barb Anderson and Kitchen Chairman, Darlene Vollstedt gave their reports. Human Care Chairman, Audrey Roe, will not begin quilting until the fellowship hall will allow it, but mentioned that we might be thinking about assembling health kits or school kits this spring. Sunshine Chair, Bev Grundmeier, sent 6 cards this month. President Buhr is still looking for a replacement for Bev in 2016. Carol Kahl gave a report on the Guild's serving of the lunch at the Hausbarn. Seventy-one were served. Circle #2 served the Glen Kusel funeral luncheon. Circle #3 will be the next to serve.

Old business brought to our attention the holiday mission project. Margaret Backhaus handed out a list of things that might be put into either a purse for the ladies or a box for a man and the guild ladies assigned to each gift. Bev Grundmeier said there will be 20 tables decorated for Advent by candlelight. It was moved by Charlene Hickman that $125.00 be given to the praise band and $10.00 to Timothy Conner for leading the worship for the evening. The motion was seconded and carried.

In New Business the names of Sue Puck for secretary and Mary Grimm for treasurer were put in nomination. It was moved that nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast. The motion carried. November 28th will be the date for decorating the fellowship hall Christmas tree and any other decorations approved for the hall. Darlene Vollstedt asked the Guild to consider purchasing a new cabinet with sink and faucets for the kitchen bathroom. Joene Bohlmann moved that we allow Darlene to order one and present the bill. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dates to remember: Plaza bingo Friday, November 27th with Connie Ahrendsen as Chair, Judy Musfeldt, Margaret Backhaus, and Cynthia Genzen as helpers. The Guild meeting on December 9th will be a noon potluck with Susan Schilling and Bev Grundmeier as hostesses. On November 23rd and 24th the kitchen will be closed to allow the new tile to be installed. There are Christmas cards made available by Sandra Vahl for a free will offering to mites. President Buhr announced that we have 6 new members of Guild. They are Wilma Bogatzke, Becki Ehlers, Nancy Opperman, Laurene Meeves, Monica Christensen, and JoAnn Thomas. The meeting was adjourned with prayer. Lunch was served by Audrey Roe and Sue Puck.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

You know what they say...time flies when you're having fun! This seems to be the case in preschool! It is hard to believe November is coming to an end. This month we stayed busy talking about turkeys and Thanksgiving. We even learned the turkey pokey! The rainy weather kept us indoors quite a bit but we found plenty to do to keep us busy! Grandparents' Day was held Nov 23 and 24. The children had a great time spending the day with grandmas and grandpas! The preschool has a tree at the Festival of Trees uptown at the German Village Mall. If you get a chance to go to the festival be sure to check out our tree. The children worked hard making ornaments to decorate the tree with. Below are some pictures of our activities from the end of October through November. Enjoy!

In Christ –
Mrs. Riesberg

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

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

Lokasi beda, kerja sama! (Indonesian for "Different place, same work")

In St. Matthew's Gospel (6:19), our Lord Jesus admonishes us not to lay up for ourselves treasures on earth, but in heaven. During the month of October, the Ferry family found out that we're going to get some help in honoring our Lord's Words in that respect. Our family has been living in Jakarta for the last 16 months or so, but it's time for us to move on. The owner of our house (which the LCMS has been leasing for a decade) is selling it, and we need to find a new home in Indonesia.

But while it's certainly a challenge for our family, this is also a great opportunity. This December, we'll be moving to North Sumatra, and taking up residence in the Sumatran capital city of Medan. This is also the home of the Bishop of the GKLI, our friendly fellow - Lutheran church body in Indonesia. Medan is one of the largest cities in Indonesia (about 2.2 million residents), and the largest city on Sumatra, but it's still smaller than Jakarta! We've identified a house that will work for our family, and the Bishop of the GKLI has been a wonderful friend and help during this process. The new "home base" for us will allow us to be closer to the GKLI and hopefully be of greater service to them, and they to us.

The Ferrys enjoyed celebrating Reformation Day in October: Pastor Ferry went to Singapore to deliver Word and Sacrament to the small congregation on the Festival Day, decking the altar in red. In Indonesia, the whole family dressed in red shirts to mark the special day, and even encouraged others in our house to do the same. It gave us a good opportunity to share the reasons for the Festival with those who crossed our paths that day!

SELAMAT

October also had two full weeks where the whole family was able to be home together, allowing Cheryl and Charles to nearly complete another round of training in Bahasa Indonesia. Our teacher is energetic and patient, and willing to talk about all sorts of questions each of us has about the other's home country, culture, and religion.

As we transition from Jakarta to Medan, we take comfort that our Lord is already preparing the way for us, and that no matter where we go we are members of an incredible team. Thank you for your prayers, your friendship, and for your faithfulness.

Prayers, Praises, and Thanksgiving

- For our transition from Jakarta to Medan
- For Cheryl and the Ferry kids that they would find new friends to fill the place of those we leave behind here
- That our gracious Lord Jesus would grant His wisdom and grace, so many would be blessed by the work we're doing in Indonesia, Singapore, and all of Southeast Asia

The Ferrys (with friends) dressed in red for Reformation

The Ferry men teach some neighbor kids what to do with a football

To support our work financially, 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*.

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

Iowa District West, LCMS
Year 11, Issue 12, December 2015

Voters of Amigos en Cristo Church getting to work: The picture at (right) took place last month when we blessed the new conference table donated for our ministry. Following the blessing we had our quarterly Voter's Meeting with dinner. Our new Hispanic church is getting organized with new leaders and with the Lord's business of serving the Hispanic community in Denison with the Gospel of salvation. It is no easy task as many of our members are new to the idea of being church leaders and even the concept of membership is so foreign to many. So we work together and with God's Word we will continue to teach the blessings of a ministry of Word and Sacrament for God's people and for the community. We are thankful for our partnership with Zion and our area churches for their support and prayers.

New Families: Olivia came to our church with her children through Zion Lutheran School. Her oldest daughter Wendy is in 8th grade and also in our youth group. Katherine is in 5th, Kevin is in 4th and Heidi is in 2nd grade. They are a blessing to our school, our Sunday School and youth group. We are so thankful for the work our school is doing with our Hispanic children.

Olivia works at Farmland pork plant in Denison on the evening shift and so she has a difficult schedule. We are thankful for her dedication to her family's Christian faith as she sacrifices to put her children in the school to bring them to church. And we are also thankful for our other new families who are worshipping with us, like the family of Elias & Carolina. Pray with us that they will take the next step of becoming members and leaders in our church. The parents' leadership is so important for them and for their children. May God bless our families.

Storm Lake Home Bible Studies: We are meeting this month in homes in order to better know each other and invite our friends. We are so grateful for this faithful group of families in Storm Lake that are looking for new ways to serve their community. They are putting together a budget to call their own bilingual pastor. Please keep them in your prayers that the Lord will send them a new and faithful shepherd.

Choice Dollars from Thrivent: Our church has been accepted to receive "CHOICE" dollars. We thank those who have given and hope many others will take advantage of this blessing from Thrivent. If you have any questions how to do this contact your local Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative or call at 800-847-4836.

PLEASE PRAY: +For God's guidance to grow with new families in Denison. +For the church in Storm Lake as they consider options for calling a pastor. +For continued involvement by our Hispanic Pro-Life group in Denison. +For staff at Zion Lutheran School in Denison as they minister to a diverse group of immigrant children. +For our Spanish speaking missionaries overseas under stressful conditions, especially Rev. Ricardo Schuller. +For our partnership with the African ministry at Zion and beyond, especially with Pastor Gabriel. ***+In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of the Iowa District West who monthly support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants in Denison & in our other 3 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

Official Joint Statement: Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri Synod Lutherans stand against sale of baby parts

It would be easier to forget what we have seen, to erase from our memories and our minds what we have heard. But the statements and actions of Planned Parenthood medical directors and technicians, captured on film and released by the Center for Medical Progress, are the kind we will not forget, the kind that cannot be unseen and unheard.

Like millions of Americans, including those in the Roman Catholic Church and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we have been shaken to the core by what we have witnessed: intact babies, at times still alive, having their body parts harvested as a commodity. We are shocked at the image of tiny hands and feet seen in a glass pie plate. We are horrified at what we have seen and heard. Such actions and attitudes have no place in our society.

While offensive, the degradation of the bodies of these infant human beings is unfortunately just the tip of the iceberg. Those fetal tissue and organs are only available for sale because they are being killed through abortion. Over 57 million unborn children have been lost to abortion in our nation since 1973.

The toll of these lives lost is enormous. We are missing sons and daughters, siblings, spouses, coaches, scholars, mentors and friends.

This loss is symptomatic of a loss of respect for human life in our society today. In so many ways, our culture seeks to deny the humanity of the unborn, of the elderly or of someone with a disability.

Together, we stand firm and repeat that every human life is worthy of dignity and respect. We affirm our continued commitment to offer resources to help parents of any faith background who are in need of medical, financial or social service assistance both during pregnancy and after. We stand ready to assist any parent who wishes to make an adoption plan for their child.

Our commitment is to all life in all its stages from conception to natural death. For those men and women who participated in an abortion, we extend to you the words of Jesus: “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden …” (**MATT. 11:28**), and we invite you to experience hope and healing from your experience.

The Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis
The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Proposed By-law Change

The council of Zion Lutheran Church is proposing a change to our congregation's by-laws. In order to make amendments to our by-laws (which will take place at our December voters' meeting (12/13 following worship), the following steps must be taken:

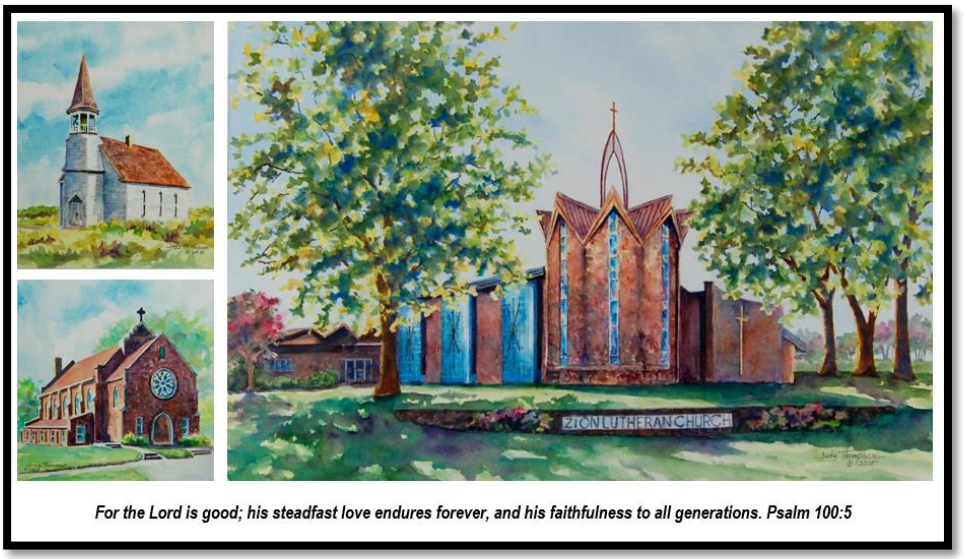
- Every voting member of the congregation must receive notification by mail at least five days prior to the voters' meeting (thus this newsletter).
- The proposed changed must be posted in the bulletin (which has been done).
- The proposed change must be submitted in writing at a previous voters' assembly (which will be done yet this fall).
- The proposed change must be agreed upon by a 2/3 majority vote at the voters' meeting.

Below is the ***existing*** by-law:

- No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms as an officer or board member, except in the cases of the chairperson of the board of elders and the members of the board of elders. Persons serving as the chairperson or members of the board of elders may hold office for more than two consecutive terms. The word 'term' as used herein is hereby deemed to include both whole and partial terms of office.

Here is the proposed changed (deletions are stricken; additions are in bold and italics):

- No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms as an officer or board member, except in the cases of the chairperson of the board of elders***,*** ~~and~~ the members of the board of elders***, and the treasurer***. Persons serving as the chairperson or members of the board of elders may hold office for more than two consecutive terms. The word 'term' as used herein is hereby deemed to include both whole and partial terms of office.

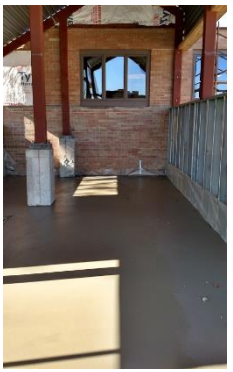


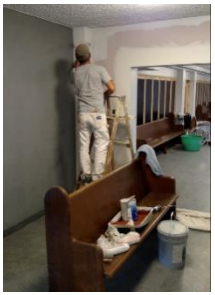
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. Psalm 100:5

Interested in owning a numbered and autographed print? Speak with the church office.

Original art commissioned for Zion Lutheran Church! Zion's council has commissioned an original painting of our congregation's three buildings to celebrate God's faithfulness through our generations. The original work will hang in our remodeled fellowship hall.

A lot has happened in a month! In the top row, the concrete floor is being poured in the new east entrance, while Hunter Alexander supervises the work. In the middle row, spray foam is applied to the new entrance, Jason Weitl lays tile in the fellowship hall, and Dave Gore supervises the crew assigned to hang our movable wall. In the next row, Ben Grabil (and assistant) work on the plumbing in the education wing bathrooms even as the old fixtures are placed on the lawn as temporary outdoor plumbing ☺, and Dave Gore, Bruce Grimm, Stan Baack, and Gina Vollstedt hang the new coat rack for the southwest entrance. In the bottom row, Croghan construction works on opening the east wall for the new entrance, Greg Peters says goodbye to the old pink paint, and the new youth room receives carpet. On page 12, Dan Dawson is assisted by several men in carrying book shelves for the education superintendent office, while Bob trims them to fit, and Rick and Bob wrestle the trim off the base of the kitchen cabinets. Thank you to everyone who has and continues to give generously to this project!





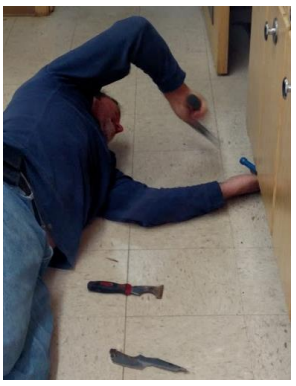
China Lutheran Seminary
Our Missionary in Taiwan
Dr. Stephen and Maggie Oliver

At this 498th Anniversary of the Reformation, I'm happy to say that our first semester at China Lutheran Seminary started very well and we're already looking forward to mid-term exams soon! We have had some good class discussions about God's work through His Word to give us faith and eternal salvation by Christ's work (as the Reformation exalted) in our THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS class. It's a joy to be able to teach this course to our new students!

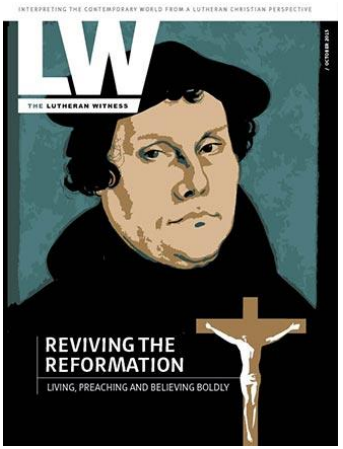
Thanks for your prayers, and continue to pray for us to be God's good and faithful teachers as instruments in His hand to prepare His servants for the Chinese world!

Pastor Oliver poses with his students from Theological Foundations class, a basic required course for new students at China Lutheran Seminary.

Generations Update



Your Church is a busy church! Not only is your local congregation brimming with life and activity, your regional and national Church is living and active. Below are three resources that will help you know what's happening in your Church.



The Lutheran Witness is loaded with thoughtful theological articles along with a District specific insert to help you know what's happening around the Iowa District West.

E-mail lwsubscriptions@cph.org, or call 1.800.325.3040 (option 2) to speak with a customer service representative, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST

The Reporter is the official newspaper of our Church body (The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod). It details national and international mission and mercy initiaitives and opportunities. Online articles are free (www.reporter.lcms.org) and a yearly print subscription is only $15 per year. Subscribe online or call: 888-843-5267.

The Monthly is the e-newsletter of the Iowa District West (our District). It details initiatives and opportunities in our District.

You can request an electronic copy by emailing Jason Fuller (jason.fuller@idwlcms.org) at the District or speaking with Pastor Conner.

Can evolution explain morality?
Can science disprove God?
Is homosexuality wrong?

CROSS EXAMINED .ORG

Teens have questions. They might ask you. They could talk to their pastor. They will look them up on their phone. Give them answers with Dr. Frank Turek at crossexamined.org.
Watch hard-hitting video shorts at https://www.facebook.com/CrossExamined.org/videos
Or look Frank up on You Tube.
Turn their phone into an electronic apologist!

Congregational Servants

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Sam Musfeldt, Vice President
Jean Ferniding, Record. Sec.
Amber Neumann, Fin. Sec.
Karen Kienast, Treasurer
Jeff Hargens, CFO

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Gary Witt, Floyd Forman
Tim Kienast, Lynn Kruse

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Ryan Crawford, Eric Ramsey
Paul Christensen, Richard Zinke,

Ladies Guild:
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Jean Ferneding,
Heather Kusel, Jen Morris,
Janet Smith

Stewardship Board:
Rick Lohrmann, Chair

Altar Guild:
Monica Christensen, Director

Choir:
Dr. Tom Ulrickson, director

Children's Choir:
Susie Ulrickson, Jill Arp

Where Does It Go?

IDW's Stewardship of Your Resources

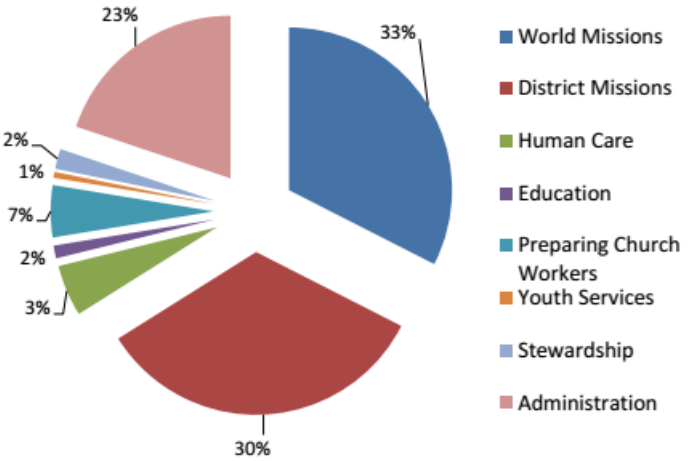
Every year Zion gives generously to our district (Iowa District West). Have you ever wondered what they do with it? You're not alone.

One of my responsibilities as the chairman of the district's Stewardship Committee is "directing the stewardship committee and the stewardship and finance department in formulating, evaluating, and administering the stewardship policies and programs of the district."

As a first step in the process, I asked our district business manager, Roger Curtis (who meticulously accounts for every cent that passes through the District Office) for a summary of where our dollars go. On the right is that summary. If you have questions as you review it, please feel free to ask me. If I don't know the answer, I'll find it.

- Pastor Conner

World Missions:	$768,000 Synod support (48% for 2015)	33%
District Missions:	$687,550 Missions Executive Asst., Grants, LCEF, IOWAY, Campus Missions	30%
Human Care:	$61,360 Chaplaincy, LFS	3%
Education:	$41,000 Early Childhood, School, Family Life Ministry, Preparing Church Workers: Scholarships	2%
Youth Services:	$15,500 Youth Executive Asst.	1%
Stewardship:	$58,000 Gift Planning Counselor, Executive Asst.	2%
Administration:	$542,100 President's office, salaries, benefits, travel, office & building, Board of Directors	23%



December Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

1. Robert Ewoldt
Debra Janssen
2. Renee Grimm
Kamryn Ketcham
Stephen Muhlbauer
Emma Schwieso
4. Darlene Asmus
Janet Gruhn
Tracie Kurth
Rozora Schroeder
5. Tiffani Beck
Jase Hull
Ross Kusel
Brian Lage
6. Melissa Lesle
JoAnn Petersen
Eryn Ramsey
8. Ellen Fielweber
Annette Hilsabeck
Brian Stoberl
9. Piper Doyel
Wade Ranniger
10. Athena Bess
Breyton Johnson
Heather Kusel
Keaton Otto
Elizabeth Trost
11. Jaxen Vollstedt
12. Mike Bruch
13. Tricia Beck
Courtney Page
14. Rachel Hofbauer
Neeka Jacobsen
15. Cheral Buhr
Sam Hansen
Sheryl Zinke
16. Mabel Langel

17. Derrick Janssen
Taylor Roe
18. Zane Diersen
Jay Miller
Amanda Rosener
20. Kourtney Grimm
21. Leslee Gore
22. Kathy Vollstedt
23. Stephanie Rosonke
Joyce Schroeder
Gary Witt
24. Robert Christensen
Brittany Page
25. Ben Booth
Chris Greving
26. Brody Chapman
Larry Mahnke
Laurene Meeves
27. Eric Ramsey
28. Blake Diersen
Elissa Riesberg
Billy Weitl
29. Caden Muhlbauer
Jade Sellner
30. Cody Eischeid
Erica Lohrmann
Ginger Wardrip
31. Larry Ahrendsen
Amber Ehlers
Austin Frank
Ellie Ranniger
Loretta Vinke

3. Gene & Colene Lohrmann
4. Karl & Angela Albertsen
Dennis & Margaret Backhaus
Rodney & Charlene Hickman
5. Steve & Nancy Muhlbauer
12. Robert & Linnet Nissen
13. Greg & Amber Neumann
14. Bruce & Mary Grimm
21. Glen & Shirley Ahrendsen
23. Carl & Carol French
29. Kent & Karen Vollstedt

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

In Our Prayers

Athena Bess, Franklin Mohr, Walt Noelck, Mandi Sandage, Dave Grundmeier, Judy Musfeldt, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Steve Rutz (Karl Rutz's Brother), Les Bruggeman (Judy Bald's brother), Ron Schilling, Susan Lamb, Arlene Mohr, Ora Weston (David & Joene Bohlmann's son)