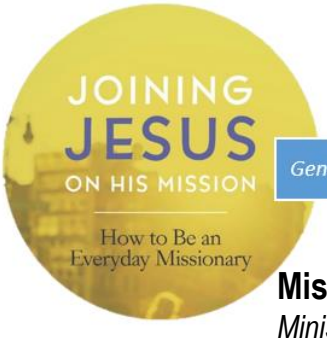


Generations in mission

Mission Mindset Changes

Ministering through Prayer

For the past months we've been discussing five helpful mission practices for everyday missionaries like you and me. They are:

1. **Seeking the Kingdom:**
   How did you see God's Kingdom coming?
2. **Hearing from Jesus:**
   What has Jesus been teaching you in His Word?
3. **Talking with People:**
   What kind of conversations are you having, especially with those who are not yet Christians?
4. **Doing Good:**
   What good can we do around here?
5. **Ministering through Prayer:**
   How can we help you in prayer?

Last month we emphasized *talking with people* and *doing good* and we learned that talking with people isn't about sustaining chit-chat, but about listening to people's stories, their dreams and aspirations, their fears and anxieties, and being ready to offer a little bit of what we have received in abundance from Jesus. Doing good is about watching for opportunities to make the good of God more real to the people around us. If we're paying attention, opportunities abound.

This month we zero in on *ministering through prayer*. For many Christians, moving beyond prayers in private to prayers in person is terrifying. But Pastor Finke puts the practice into perspective:

> It's not about me and my comfort level. If I focus on me, I'm terrified. But if I focus on the fact that I'm getting to pray for someone I care about, I focus on them and their fear and their pain and their need for hope, I'm a little less terrified. In fact, it can be pretty awesome.

The goal, as Pastor Finke reminds us, is to "move from an offer of prayer to an actual encounter with the King and the kingdom." That's why praying in person with someone is so powerful. We're bringing them into contact with the King and His Kingdom.

Believing this is the first step in ministering through prayer. The next step is getting over our fear of not knowing what to say. This fear has kept many of us from bringing people we care about into an encounter with King Jesus. Remember, prayer isn't about our comfort level; prayer is about inviting in King Jesus. Prayer isn't about getting all the words right; it's about bringing in Jesus. So, keep it simple. Keep it in the name of Jesus. Invite Him into the situation. He knows what to do.

And, yes, you have time for this. This isn't about adding meetings onto your already busy life. This is about seeing what Jesus is already doing, about seeing the people He's bringing into your life, and being ready to minister through prayer. Pastor Finke offers these words of encouragement:

> Jesus isn't asking us to give up our current life and responsibilities for our missional life. Jesus wants us to see that our current life and responsibilities is our missional life. He has already placed us where he wants us to be on mission. All we have to open our eyes and see what he's already up to.

So, Pastor Finke says,

> See what the king is already showing you. Listen for the words he's already speaking to you. Talk with the people he's already bringing across your path. Do the good that he's prepared in advance for you to do. And pray. Pray for people and pray with people.

Generations

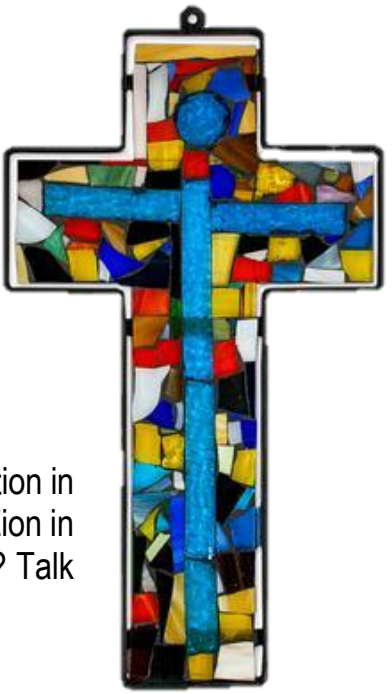
A New Creation Celebration at Zion's

Celebration and Dedication Service with Open House

On Sunday, September 25, Zion will celebrate the completion of our Generations campaign with worship, fellowship, and art. You are invited to participate! Unleash your creativity and share it, to the glory of God. We welcome musical creativity through choir, instruments, and hymnody, including vocalists (of all ages), handbells, and praise instruments.

We also welcome other creative expressions of worship:

- Art (watercolor, oil, acrylic, etc.)
- Photography
- Woodworking
- Quilting
- Poetry
- Needlework/sewing
- Pottery
- Sculpture (including chainsaw art)
- Stained glass
- Knitting
- Flower arrangement



We encourage you to imagine the implications of our new creation in Christ through your creations. Submissions can be brought to Zion in advance (talk to Joelle Puck for deadlines). Questions? Ideas? Talk to Pastor Conner or Joelle Puck.

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes (August 2016): Zion and Trinity Lutheran

"I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and last, the beginning and the end." (Revelation 22:7)
Jesus is the beginning and end of Scripture. Jesus begins and ends all seasons. August is a time of endings and beginnings.

Families END. . .

- Many of the summer athletic events, fair exhibits, and children's activities.
- Special family trips to zoos, amusement parks, and vacation destinations.
- Unique faith growing experiences like a National Youth Gathering or Camp Okoboji programs.

Church and family BEGIN . . .

A Worship Routine: God never takes a break from offering us His means of grace. We are alive in our baptism every day. His Word guides us in every season. Join us for worship in August. Sunday services continue at 9 a.m. with an additional opportunity at our vacancy partner, Trinity, Manilla, at 6 p.m. on Saturday evening. The service at Historical Trinity at Heritage Park will be Thursday, August 25, at 7 p.m.

Christian Education Adventures: The Zion Midweek program is for students in grades 5 through 8. Fifth and sixth grade students journey through the Bible in their two years of instruction. Seventh and eighth grade students are equipped for a life-long faith journey through the confessions of the Small Catechism. All potential midweek students and their parents are invited to the orientation meeting on Wednesday, August 24, at 7 p.m. Midweek classes will begin on Wednesday, August 31, right after the school day. Sunday school classes will begin in early fall with specific schedules shared with families soon.

Bringing Christ to our Community: On Sunday, July 24, school supply packs were assembled by children (and adult helpers). The backpacks are available for families from CHURCH AND COMMUNITY. If you know of a child/family whose situation makes it a challenge to gather basic school supplies, please pick up a supply bag from the church. The supply packs will also be available to community families at the local food pantry. Thank you for the continuing generous donations to the food pantry. Pantry donations can be brought to the grocery cart in the fellowship hall.

Planning for the "Generations" Rededication: Be sure to note the special rededication service and celebration on your September calendar—September 25! A special Sunday morning service will focus on God's generosity to us in providing this opportunity. A special meal will follow the service with a short program. The community is invited to the service and to an afternoon open house. What "New Creation" can you add to the celebration?

Investing for Kingdom Growth: The Young Investor Club (a service of Lutheran Church Extension Fund) provides children (up to age 18) an opportunity to save (3% interest) as well as participate in building churches and schools around the world. The "club" meets the 3rd Sunday of each month (Aug. 21). Contact Warren Puck for more information.

In the name of the One who begins and ends,
Pastor Riggert

Confirmation Orientation

August 24th 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Parent and confirmand required to attend

August 31st Confirmation begins

Call the church office with questions: 655-2352

Homosexuality

Overcoming the Phobia; Learning to Love

For the past couple months we've been taking a careful look at a complex and controversial issue: loving those who struggle with homosexuality. Last month we learned of the importance for homosexual strugglers of loving, non-sexual, non-romantic touch in their journey toward overcoming homosexual attractions.[1] Chad Thompson, ex-gay author of *Loving Homosexuals as Jesus Would*, and ex-gay shared:

> The most powerful healing agent in my life has been the presence of real live men who have offered me the nonsexual and nonromantic love I've needed; they are my brothers… Like a light in an underground tunnel, they provide a path of escape from the prison of disconnection and abandonment.

Unfortunately for homosexual strugglers, this love is typically hard to come by in the church. As one gay man commented, "As a gay man, I've found it easier for me to get sex on the streets than to get a hug in church." We may not like the term *homophobia*, and some politically motivated people and groups may use it indiscriminately as a club to silence opposition and advance their agenda, but we must acknowledge that our hesitancy to show appropriate love to homosexual strugglers has often been driven by fear.

This month we're challenging each other to overcome fear and move toward love. Mr. Thompson suggests three ways the church can show appropriate love toward homosexual strugglers.

- Nonsexual touch from members of one's same gender
- Surrogacy (substitute parenthood)
- Camaraderie with members of one's same gender

Nonsexual touch

It's critical from the outset that we emphasize that this touch is *nonsexual* and *nonromantic*, including handshakes, back-pats, hugs, fist-bumps, arm-ribbing, high-fives, chest-bumps, and things like these. Homosexual strugglers typically report a lack of this sort of homosocial touch during adolescence. This deficiency left them with a deep longing to connect with members of their own gender.[2] During puberty these longings became eroticized, but they weren't initially about sex. This is why nonsexual touch is so important to homosexual strugglers. Mr. Thompson writes,

> Touch can be used as a tool to recover the love that either was not offered by the homosexual struggler's mom or dad or was not properly internalized by the struggler while growing up.

"Between the ages of nine and fourteen," as Thompson explains,

> boys go through what is called the 'body longing stage.' This is when boys crave physical attention from their fathers and their same-sex peers. During this time, boys will hit, punch, wrestle, horse around, and smack each other on the butt.

When adolescents don't receive the healthy same-sex touch they need, they can get stuck in the "body longing" stage and struggle even into adulthood with the desire for touch from members of their same gender. What they need is what they didn't receive in adolescence: nonsexual intimacy. As Thompson

[1] Last month we learned that this may be referred to as "homosocial" touch.

[2] This could have come about through feelings of distance between child and parent *or* between child and peers.

writes, "Nonsexual intimacy in any form will extinguish homosexual desires…"

This is why affirming homosexual behavior (as many churches do and much of our culture does) isn't truly loving. It affirms the wrong kind of touching and hamstrings the homosexual struggler's potential for overcoming his same-sex attractions. Thompson explains,

> Erotic, sexual touch with someone of our own gender reinforces the connection between same-gender intimacy and sex. This stifles our ability to internalize affirmation from males in a way that will quench our same-gender attractions.[3]

Homosocial nonsexual touch, however, will unite touch with nonsexual friendship and help homosexual strugglers overcome their same-sex attractions. Thompson explains,

> When a struggler can learn to be physically close to members of his gender without becoming sexually aroused, he may experience the kind of connection that he needs to heal the wounds of his past and transition into heterosexuality.

But remember, this is a long process (possibly life-long), one that requires perseverance on the part of the church showing love and the homosexual struggler receiving it. We need to be quick to listen, eager to pray, and ready to embrace homosexual strugglers. Some within the church may need to step forward as surrogates and some as comrades. We turn to these ways of showing love now.

Surrogacy (substitute parenting)

Before we discuss surrogacy, we need to begin by emphasizing that blame for children with homosexual desires should not be hastily laid at parents' feet. Poor relationships between parents and child don't necessitate homosexual attraction and strong parent-child relationships don't definitively guard against it.

Having said that, the homosexual struggler may need to express anger or disappointment with his parents and his parents should let him. We can't stop there, though. Simply lamenting brokenness does little to move anyone toward healing. If possible, homosexual strugglers should be encouraged to seek reconciliation. As one ex-gay man put it: "If you want to experience victory over your homosexual attractions, forgive your parents." Because, as Thompson explains, "Harboring bitterness only fuels our homosexual desires by emphasizing the disconnection that took place" and typically leads strugglers to seek acceptance through sex with the same gender. Extending forgiveness and achieving reconciliation is no easy matter. Families should strongly consider finding a qualified counselor or pastor to facilitate the process.

When parents are unwilling or unable to help their child in this process of gender reconciliation, a surrogate parent may be needed. To be blunt, the church needs to step into the gap. We need to look beyond our family units to the wider church family. We may see children in difficult situations who need our love. We may also see adults in need of father or mother figures who will show them appropriate love.

Camaraderie

As mentioned before, homosexual attraction should not be hastily traced to a poor parent-child relationship. Sometimes homosexual strugglers have enjoyed great relationships with their parents, but struggled throughout their adolescence to connect with their peers. Thompson shares his story:

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[3] Neuroplasticity comes into play here as repeated behavior widens neural pathways in the brain and makes change more difficult.

> During my adolescence, I felt like I was always on the outside looking in, watching as other boys connected with each other but somehow unable to figure out for myself how in the world they were doing it. I felt as though I had missed this 'initiation into maleness.'

As the church, we need to be mindful of those who feel excluded, who struggle to fit in. Befriending a homosexual struggler may be just the thing he or she needs to gain victory over his or her homosexual attractions. Look for common interests. This can be anything from sports to healthy eating to music or literature or technology. For homosexual strugglers this camaraderie is invaluable because it fosters acceptance among same-sex peers and connects it specifically to something nonsexual.

For those befriending homosexual strugglers it's important to help them see themselves as equals in the relationship because, as Thompson points out,

> It is likely that some issues will surface that he or she may need some help to process. These could include feelings of jealousy, inferiority, inadequacy, codependency, self-condemnation, and misplaced anger.

Providing a safe place and a trusted face that will listen without rejecting is vital for the homosexual struggler. He needs to know that his friends knows his deepest struggles and still accept him.

Nonsexual touch, surrogacy, and camaraderie are three ways that we in the church can overcome our latent phobia and truly begin to show love to homosexual strugglers, love like Jesus would. Want to talk about it? Drop me a line, an email, or just drop in. We have a lot to learn. Let's do it together.

National Convention

upon this ROCK
REPENT CONFESS REJOICE

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

From Saturday, July 9 – Thursday, July 14, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod met in convention in Milwaukee. I was privileged to serve as the pastoral delegate from the Carroll Circuit. Space prevents a full review, so a few words will have to suffice. Over the course of the convention, I observed a spirit of unity and peace in our Synod. And, despite challenges (shrinking family sizes resulting in shrinking congregations, and increasing cultural hostility toward Christianity), Christ's Church remains strong. In his opening address (excerpted on page 7), President Harrison emphasized Christ's promise in Matthew 16 that the gates of hell will not prevail against His Church. We can, therefore, be bold in confessing Christ.

Among the many highlights was receiving greetings from some of the representatives of our 30 partner churches around the world from Canada to Brazil, from India to Japan, from Russia to Nigeria. We also welcomed seven new international partner churches. In addition, we heard representatives from around the world personally thanking the LCMS for its scriptural fidelity and confessional commitment and for our Global Seminary Initiative which has provided scholarships for international seminarians to study at our seminaries and has sent our professors to teach in their seminaries.

Further, our Synod in convention took the opportunity to celebrate our 125 domestic and international career missionaries. I was privileged to meet one of Zion's missionaries, Pastor Ferry. He immediately recognized Zion Manning and eagerly thanked me for Zion's prayers and support. He shared that he will be traveling in our area this fall and hopes to meet members of Zion in person.

Our Synod in convention also adopted numerous Christ-centered, Biblically faithful resolutions (one is printed on page 8). To learn more go to lcms.org/convention or stop in to visit with me.

upon this ROCK
REPENT CONFESS REJOICE

Excerpts of President Harrison's Report
66th Regular Convention of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Presented to the Convention
July 11, 2016

"The gates of hell shall not prevail" (Matthew 16:18). That's Jesus' promise.

- It was true when He spoke it to his apostles.
- It was true as they fled His crucifixion (Mark 14:50).
- It was true as those apostles faced persecution and martyrdom (Acts 5 and 7).
- It was true in the face of Islam as it swept over North Africa beginning in the seventh century, and it hasn't stopped since.
- It was true as the medieval sacramental system of merit and indulgences choked the faithful and robbed the church of the Gospel.
- It was true when Luther stood before the Emperor and confessed, "Here I stand, I can do no other," and left Worms under a death sentence.
- It was true when a Prussian king decided it didn't matter if one was Lutheran or Reformed and outlawed the Lutheran Confession in what was at the time the largest Lutheran church in world.
- It was true as twenty million Christians (many Lutherans and Lutheran pastors) were deported and murdered by the Soviet Union.
- It was true when activist courts began limiting the freedoms of the First Amendment regarding the "free exercise of religion" in this country.
- It is true as a thousand former Muslims are now catechized and confess Christ in our sister church in Germany.
- It is true—the gates of hell shall not prevail—in the face of a U.S. Supreme Court and other courts and legislatures throughout the land detached from eternal truth.
- It is true in the face of the most rapid moral, social and religious decline in the history of this nation.
- It is true in the face of Obergefehl.
- It is true in the face of Orlando.
- It is true in the case of abortion law in Texas.
- It is true in the face of radical Islam.
- It is true in the face of California legislators, who would deny the constitutional rights of religious universities and threaten one of own crown jewels, Concordia University Irvine.
- It is true in the face of a culture so screwed up that innocent and courageous law officers are murdered gratuitously.
- It is true in the face of the fact that in the past ten years the number of Christians has not increased in a single county in the U.S.
- And it is even true in the face of the maddening fact that the Missouri Synod has been declining numerically for over forty years…

Luther says in the Large Catechism: "I believe that there is on earth a little holy group and congregation of pure saints, under one head, even Christ" (LC II 51). She may be little, but she's powerful. "For the gospel is the power of God unto salvation" (Romans 1:17). Jesus was bold. The apostles were bold. Let's go on the offensive. Let's be bold.

Over the course of the convention, our church body (The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod) adopted dozens of Christ-centered, Biblically faithful resolutions. All were important. Two bear special mention here: "To Confess the Sanctity of Marriage" (printed below) and its partner resolution "To Respond Compassionately to Challenges to the Biblical View of Marriage and Human Sexuality" (available upon request). The LCMS remains committed to upholding the sanctity of marriage and to offering compassionate responses to those who differ. As a part of that commitment, our convention welcomed Dr. Ryan Anderson, author of *Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom*, to speak. His address is a must-see. You can watch it here: livestream.com/thelcms/convention-july11.

To Confess the Sanctity of Marriage (RESOLUTION 14-02A)

WHEREAS, Our Triune God, before the fall, created and sanctified marriage as a life-long union between one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24); and

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus through his presence at the wedding at Cana has affirmed God's original design for marriage (John 2:1–11), and through His teaching has made it clear that the tragedy of divorce is not part of God's original design or intent, but occurs only because of "the hardness of your hearts" (Matt. 19:4–6); and

WHEREAS, the apostle Paul sees marriage as an icon or reflection of the union that the heavenly bridegroom Jesus has with His Church (Eph. 5:22–32); and

WHEREAS, God, not the state, has instituted marriage
• to provide fidelity within the lifelong union of one man and one woman;
• to continue his procreative work of bringing children into the world;
• to enable a father and mother, in their household, to "bring up their children in the fear and instruction of the Lord so that they may offer Him their praise" (*Lutheran Service Book [LSB]*, p. 275); therefore be it

Resolved, That the Synod, on the basis of Holy Scripture, joyfully confess marriage to be an unalterable estate which God continues to uphold and bless within the human community; and be it further

Resolved, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) commend Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) 1981 report, *Human Sexuality: A Theological Perspective* (p. 40), as a faithful explication of timeless truths of the Word of God; and be it further

Resolved, That the LCMS in convention encourage its seminaries and its universities to place a high priority on equipping their students to articulate the biblical view of marriage and provide resources for the church through continuing education, conferences on marriage, publications, and other resources; and be it further

Resolved, That pastors be implored to provide responsible care in this area through their preaching, teaching, counseling, and administration of the sacraments; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations and commissioned workers be implored to provide care through teaching, counseling, and acts of mercy; and be it further

Resolved, That we, as God's baptized children living in this broken world, live out our vocation as people shaped by God's Word and His forgiving love to respond with mercy to those whose lives have been wounded by sin; and be it finally

Resolved, That as a Synod we continue to speak prophetically of God's institution and preservation of marriage as it is reflected in creation, even as we also give thanks to God for His indescribable gift of the one flesh union between one man and one woman.

The Anti-Social Culture of Social Media

Over the past couple months we've been studying the cultural sea change in parenting from one in which the parent-child relationship took primacy over child-peer relationships to precisely the opposite. Instead of parents understanding their vocations as enculturators of truth, beauty, and goodness, many (if not most) parents now believe it's best to "let the children decide."

To be blunt: that's ignorant and foolish.

Children simply aren't mature enough to define truth, beauty, and goodness. And intelligence has nothing to do with it. Their brains aren't fully developed until their early to mid-20s. Your teenager may be a genius, but it's still your job to educate his desires. Further, when parents turn the role of enculturator over to their children's peers, the kiddie culture of disrespect emerges. Unless children have their desires shaped, they will gravitate toward the immature, the base, and the juvenile (think Miley Cyrus, Justin Bieber, and Kelly Ripa!).

In no place is this more evident than social media, where immaturity and indiscretion are given free reign. It is no exaggeration to say that sexting, profanity, manipulation, insinuation, and deception dominate this media. The horrible irony of it all is that it's called "social" media, when in reality it is teaching kids antisocial behaviors, behaviors that will destroy relationships through eliminating trust, cheapening beauty, gutting truth, and deepening suspicions.

Last month we encouraged parents to consider the wisdom of giving children access to social media due to its anti-social potential and its likelihood to undercut the primacy of the parent-child relationship. For those who do grant access, however, we advocated having *full* access to children's accounts. This is not spying; this is being a responsible parent who knows better than a child and who is keenly aware of the dangers of social media.

And this should go without saying, but you MUST have internet security and filtering on your devices. Net Nanny (www.netnanny.com) is consistently rated among the best and they not only provide top-notch protection against pornography, online predators, and cyberbullying, but they publish a monthly newsletter to keep parents abreast of trends in social media. These updates are invaluable for helping parents keep up with the ever-changing landscape of the social media world.

BUT! Even Net Nanny can't protect children from some social media apps. This is why it's vital for parents to have *full* access to their children's accounts and devices. And if you're a parent, don't deceive yourself into believing that your child would never sext or get mixed up in inappropriate conversations. According to Net Nanny, 70% of children hide things from their parents on their devices. Sure your child isn't one of them? Did you know they can download innocent-looking apps specifically designed to hide content from you? They're called "vault apps" or "ghost apps" and they're everywhere in the Google Play store and iTunes.

For example, Audio Manager appears to be an app designed to manage music files. It's not. It's specifically designed to hide apps and photos. Or Calculator%. It looks just like a calculator app and will do all the things calculators do – and more. Enter the right passcode and it reveals a vault for hidden pictures. It was this app that was used at a Colorado high school in 2015 to hide a massive sexting ring from parents and teachers. If you're a parent who thinks your kid would never get mixed up in this, you're not only naïve; you're not taking Scripture seriously. God's Word tells us that each and every

one of us is bent inwards on ourselves. We are attracted to sins of the flesh. And we will lie to get what we want. Your kids are no exception. In fact, they are especially prone to lie to you because they desire your approval. Your kids will lie to you.

YOUR KIDS WILL LIE TO YOU.

Let me be blunter. They *have* lied to you. I know. They've told me. They're sharing content on their phones and they're lying to you about it. I know.

Other apps, like Snapchat and Kik, appear safer. Are they? Not necessarily. Snapchat and Kik are both social messaging apps. Snapchat differs from media sites like Facebook in that it deletes "snaps" (short bursts of communication or photos) after a set amount of time, whereas Facebook leaves them up indefinitely. This provides false confidence for kids (who, as mentioned before, lack discernment) who think their snaps will disappear. The truth is it's pretty easy to recover snaps or take a screen shot of them and repost them elsewhere.

In fact, thanks to Snapchat an entire new type of sinful site was born – snap porn, where people repost nude snaps that senders thought would disappear. Further, the entire premise of the app is built on the assumption of no accountability – say or post what you want and it will disappear. Parents grounded in Scripture know the dangers of sinful humans and the belief in no accountability. How many evils have been committed under the belief of no accountability!

Kik allows users to exchange videos, photos, and sketches with each other, which sounds innocent enough. But as before, because many (if not most) teens are using these apps without their parents' knowledge or oversight, many teens wander into immorality. Teens (or adults deceptively claiming to be teens) can make "sext buddies" with acquaintances online. These sexting buddies now slide under the radar with the euphemism "Kik buddies." Teens (or sexual predators) can post classified ads for sex on social forums like Reddit and used their Kik username. And because Kik lacks parental controls, predators have free access to minors.

Aside from all the potentially dangerous and damaging content streaming through social media, it is its erosive effect on the primacy of the parent-child relationship that should concern parents most. Parents are losing the ability to enculturate their children. If we want this to change, we have to change.

This change has to begin with parents who appreciate their vocation as enculturators of truth, beauty, and goodness. Once parents understand their vocation, they will regain an appreciation for the church. Church is about culture. It's about inculcating truth, beauty, and goodness. It's about teaching and modeling life in Christ. It cannot be a part-time thing and it has to move beyond the Sunday-school drop off. Study after study has shown that this doesn't work. Children who don't worship regularly with parents and continue the conversation at home through intentional family devotion and meditation on Scripture, don't embrace the church's Christ-centered culture.

CHURCH IS ABOUT CULTURE.

If you're a parent and you want your child to have a Christ-centered understanding of truth, beauty, and goodness, it has to begin with you. The church is your partner in this, but there are no shortcuts. We are creating a different culture and that takes work. Last month we highlighted The Family Table (renamed from the kitchen table) as we emphasized the importance of the conversation that happens there. In coming months, we'll move on to other culture shaping activities like family rituals, vacations, extra-curricular activities, and more. Until then, I recommend re-establishing the primacy of *family* worship with the church and the necessary follow-up conversation. You would also do well to read Leonard Sax's *The Collapse of Parenting*. And, as always, I welcome your visit, email, or call.

Ladies Guild

Highlights
Ladies Guild of Zion
July 13, 2016

The LWML pledge was recited to open the gathering.

Pastor Robert Riggert gave the opening devotion entitled "**Generations of Faithfulness."** This devotion was given to the LWML convention at Okoboji. Pastor took us through God's faithfulness in the past and present, and to future generations: our responses to God's faithfulness, exploration of barriers to trust and what we miss by not trusting. Opportunities for us in this Cultural Moment are to pray, engage (connect), encourage, teach, model and provide perspective.

Margaret Backhaus gave a "Christian Life" devotion titled "Don't be Like that Monkey" based on 2 Peter 2 and Numbers 23-25. President Cheryl brought the meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. The mite box offering was taken following the Mite Box prayer.

Audrey Roe read the minutes of the June Guild meeting in the absence of Secretary Sue Puck. The minutes were approved as read. A thank you note from the family of Kent Hilsabeck for serving Kent's funeral lunch was read. Carol Kahl thanked the guild for serving Marlin's funeral and shared that she will be using memorial money to purchase and make health kits for IOWAY.

The activity of the financial secretaries was reported and will be placed on file. It was noted that the Kinderfest Cookie Walk brought in $110.75. Circle # 3 will be serving the lunch for Craig Hansen funeral on July 15.

Sandra Vahl and Cheral Buhr gave a report on the LWML District Convention/Okoboji. The Theme was **"Generations of Grace."** There were 310 in attendance (200 delegates). The collection of purses was successful. Pastor Bob and Diane worked on this fund raiser. $2,700.00 was raised. 80 purses from Zion Manning contributed to this fund raiser. Left over purses were to go to Hope missions, Orphan Grain Train, and Milford Community Gift Store. Due to a glitch in the computer voting system, the mite missions was not decided. Ballots will have to be sent to each delegate and a new vote will be tallied. Several offerings were taken throughout the convention totaling $26,456.00. Zion's offering was unfortunately not sent. Discussion of an amount to send ended in a motion to table until the next meeting. Offerings were for Lutherans for Life, Veterans of the Cross, 70th anniversary of LWML, mission walk, and other needs were discussed. Gratuities for the staff and for a medical missionary were offered by attendees.
Quilt Auction results. 189 quilts. Go to **www.campokoboji.org/quiltauction.php** to see Zion entrees. # 39, 40, 45, 46, and 168.
New Business:

- LWML fall retreat at Mission Central will be Saturday, September 24, 9 am to 3 pm. Registration sheets are available.
- Lutheran Women's Quarterly will be ordered (10 copies)
- Pot luck and Fun Night Zion Guild meeting will be August 10th at 5:30 PM.
- Plaza bingo July 22nd: Sandra Vahl, ch, Shelly Gruhn, Margaret Kuchel, and Barb Anderson.
- Kinderfest cookie walk will give $30.00 to Kinderfest Committee.
- September 25th dedication of church celebration of the renovation were discussed.
- Library will receive $20.00 for a book in memory of Betty Andresen
- Advent by Candlelight is on the community calendar.

The meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer.
Lunch was served by Charlene Hickman and Margaret Backhaus.
Respectfully submitted, Audrey Roe, secretary pro tem

Preschool Praises — August 2016

The summer is going so quickly, and soon the preschool wing of the building will be filled with lots of energy and curiosity. We are excited about another year of preschool ministry. Bridget, Janice, and I are ready to begin Zion's 31st year with a full a.m. class of children and a p.m. class that still has a few openings. Contact me or the church office for more information on the afternoon four year-old program.

Upcoming dates for parents to put on their calendars are:

- August 17 at 6:30 p.m.—Parent Orientation
- August 25 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.—Open House
- August 30—Classes begin at 9 a.m. and 12:30 pm.

Have a great rest of the summer!
Diane Riggert, Board chairperson

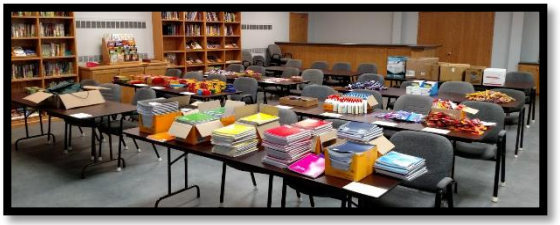
ZioN Lutheran Preschool
Manning, Iowa
Christ Centered... Child Focused... Family Connecting

Generations Update

Our Generations campaign is drawing very near to its completion. In the photos below, the second half of the concrete is being poured along with the drive on the south side of the church. When this is completed, a sidewalk will be added to the section south of the new entrance. Other items yet to be completed include some finish work on the new entryway, the bricking of the old entrance, and the delivery and mounting of our indoor signage (being cut by PCE). Thanks to our many committed volunteers and generous givers.

Generosity IN ACTION

On Sunday, July 24, Zion Lutheran Church (thanks to the leadership of Sandra Vahl) put generosity into action as we assembled school kits for children in our greater Manning area. In no time, we had assembled 72 kits! Well done! If you know a child who could be blessed by a kit, stop by Zion and pick it up. If you'd like to donate to this ongoing effort, bring any or all of the following to Zion: wide ruled notebooks, colored pencils, washable markers, glue sticks, #2 pencils, pens, 12" rulers, blunt scissors, erasers, and/or glue bottles.



Congregational Servants

Council:
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Eric Ramsey, Vice President
Jean Ferniding, Record. Sec.
Amber Neumann, Fin. Sec.
Shannon Walters, Treasurer
Jeff Hargens, CFO

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Don Lamb, Paul Christiansen
Gary Witt, Floyd Forman
Stan Baack, Lynn Kruse

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Ryan Crawford, Dan Dawson
Richard Zinke, Chris Greving,
Larry Mahnke

Ladies Guild:
Cheral Buhr, President

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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

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

SELAMAT

As this update is written, our family residence permits have been extended for another year, thanks be to God and our GKLI friends.

And the new passport for Chloe has been picked up in Jakarta in record time! Now we have to take her passport out to Immigration right after the holidays for Idul Fitri have ended and offices open up again. Especially during this month of Ramadan, we are so grateful for your continued interest, friendship, prayers, and partnership in the work we're doing here. We cannot begin to describe how much your ongoing love means to us.

Great big news to share: The Ferry Family is coming home to visit! We've just set the plan for our very first family trip back to the US since leaving to live in Indonesia. We will be back in the US from late September through early December. That means we could be arriving at a location near you! We would especially be interested in any midweek opportunities to visit: group meetings, school assemblies, etc. Check the website below for the scheduled appearances, and email us for more information: charles.ferry@lcmsintl.org

Prayers, Praises, and Thanksgiving

- Thanksgiving for safe delivery of Chloe Elizabeth, and that it was quick for Cheryl!
- Thanksgiving for a smooth renewal process of our resident visas once again, so we can continue serving here
- For our friends in the GKLI, that they would stay faithful and strong in the Word, especially as they approach their synod convention in July

Keluarga kami: semakin banyak! (Indonesian for "Our family getting larger")

These updates usually focus on the work being accomplished in SE Asia, especially in Indonesia, which is where we live. But at the end of May our lives changed in a wonderful way: the Ferry Family was blessed with the birth of Kiddo #5, Chloe Elizabeth.

Chloe was born in North Sumatra, at a hospital in the city of Medan, where we now live. Once there, I went down to complete the registration paperwork as the staff requested. I came back 20 minutes later to find Cheryl holding Chloe in her arms... it was all over that quickly! Thanks be to God for His protection and grace. Both Cheryl and Chloe came through things just fine, and everyone's adjusting to the house's new little ruler.

We had the great privilege of seeing Chloe brought into the kingdom of God through the waters of Holy Baptism that next Sunday during the Divine Service in our home chapel, and all her sisters and brother were on hand to witness, assist (in their own ways), and sing. I'm sure they will tell marvelous stories about it in the years to come.

By necessity, the majority of June has been spent getting documents arranged. Little Chloe Beth will be a US citizen and not an Indonesian, so we've had to get papers from not only North Sumatra, but from our US embassy as well. Added to that is the fact that our residence permits for the whole family were expiring this month and had to be renewed. Our friends in the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) worked hard for several weeks to make the renewal possible, and we're grateful for their partnership and friendship.

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 ***La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo:*** *Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church:* **Pastor Daniel Vogel**, Denison, Iowa

Iowa District West, LCMS
Year 12, Issue 8, July 2017

First Zion Block Party: On a hot summer Saturday afternoon in July, Zion Church, School, Hispanic and African ministries joined together to get to know the neighborhood. With representatives from each ministry we met over the past months to plan how to get to know our neighbors around the church. Twice we passed out flyers to neighborhood homes. For the 3 hour event we had food, games, and music in the informal setting of the playground and parking lot of the school. The idea for this block party came from a Bible Study group lead by our School teachers on the book by Jeff Finke, "Joining Jesus on His Mission". While we didn't reach our goal of having 100 neighbors in attendance we made a good start. I met John from South Sudan, a young man educated in banking and finance and looking for a job in Denison. He came with members of his family. And he also came Sunday to our Spanish worship as he wants to learn Spanish. I also met Carlos a talented young Hispanic man who brought his sisters. Carlos is looking forward to attending Iowa State and studying to be an actuary.

Our Amigos en Cristo congregation held our July Garage Sale to encourage folks to come into the church. And we had a special singer, Will Bauermeister, of Minnesota who came just for this afternoon. Thanks Will for the great music! So we had many blessings, working together in our multicultural church and community. Making plans for next year!

English Classes Lead to Citizenship: Mike Segabart's classes are again showing benefits to the community. Above left is a group of ESL students of a family of 3 from Guatemala and also Marta, our member from El Salvador. Juan and his family are members of an indigenous tribe in Guatemala and so English and even Spanish are a challenge for them. At the photo at right Salvador became a U.S. citizen after studies with Mike.

Garage Sale Season: Our second Garage sale of the summer took place on a Friday and on the Saturday of our Block Party. It brought new families and crazy moments. We met a young family and Marta and I found wigs to model during a quiet time. Once again we were blessed to meet lots of people, to work together, and to raise funds for Hispanic school scholarships and for our annual retreat. We thank Zion, Denison and area churches for all their donations and ongoing support.

Please Pray: + For the Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they await a Call list for a bilingual pastor to serve them. + For our 8 adult Confirmation students in Denison and Storm Lake as they study to grow in faith to become a part of our churches. + For future blessings from our past Zion Block party that we might better know our neighborhood. + For plans for our upcoming District Hispanic Family Retreat at Camp Okoboji, August 12-14. + ***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 1st Avenue South, Denison, Iowa, 51442

CONTACT ME:
Rev. Daniel Vogel
32678 Aspen Ave. Manning, Iowa, 51455
1-712-653-2354 or Cell: 712-309-1292
E-mail: daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org

August Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

Birthdays

1. David Kusel
2. Justin Musfeldt
3. Sophia Beck
4. Jade Dawson
   Madilyn Trost
5. Janet Brus
6. Matthew Alexander
   Zachary Grove
   Morgyn Irlbeck
   Alison Peters
   Beverly Rix
   Donna Rutz
   Grace Sextro
7 Mitch Robinson
   Kevin Struve
   Katie Weitl
8. Haylie Irlbeck
   Arlene Mohr
   Makenzie Trost
   Logan Vonnahme
9. Mckenna Benton
   John Ferneding
10. Rhonda Grimm
    Griffin McManigal
    Kent Vollstedt
11. Scott Dreier
12. Kelly Ferneding
    Stan Musfeldt
    Audrey Roe
14. Elizabeth Alexander
15. Emma Reese
    Rick Spack
17. Jill Arp
18. Carol Schroeder
    Paula Wulf
19. Jean Borkowski
    Miranda Hansen
    Shelby Heaton
    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
    Leggy Thomson
    Gale Vinke
28. Brian Vetter
29. Justin Weller
30. Abby Bruch
    Cash England
31. Margaret Kuchel

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

Anniversaries

1. Scott & Lisa Dreier
2. Dewayne & Cheral Buhr
5. Don & Susan Lamb
6. Scott & Mitch Robinson
   Pastor Daniel & Paula Vogel
8. Walter & Joan Noelck
10. Daniel & Taya Vonnahme
12. Bob & Irene Genzen
13. 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. JoAnn and Earl Thomas

In Our Prayers

Franklin Mohr, Walt Noelck, Mandi Sandage, Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Arlene Mohr, Bev Rix, Jim Deevers, Marlys Marshall (Sandra Sextro's mom), Duane Karsten, Joy Umland, Judy Musfeldt, Annabelle Wagner