Generations in mission

Mission Mindset Changes

Neighboring

Throughout 2016 we have been focusing on the invitation to join Jesus as He brings the Kingdom into the lives of our neighbors. We've highlighted our five mission practices:

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 focused on Mission Practice #5: Ministering through Prayer. We observed that for many of us, praying for someone in person is beyond our comfort zone, but we were reminded by Pastor Finke that praying for someone isn't about us or our comfort zone; it's about inviting King Jesus into the situation. It's about bringing people into an encounter with the King and His Kingdom. That's not scary – that's exciting!

These five practices have helped us to create a mindset that readies us to seek, recognize, and respond to what Jesus is doing in the lives of our neighbors. Remember, Jesus isn't limited to the four walls of the church. He's at work in our neighborhood!

Further, these practices have put us into a position to enjoy people as we see them as people Jesus died for, as we learn their story, seek to bring the goodness of God into their lives, and invite the King into their particular situation.

Perhaps the most natural people we are given the opportunity to enjoy are the people in our neighborhoods. But in American culture it has become increasingly common to ignore neighbors, to come home from work and disappear until the following morning. That's normal. But we are not called to be normal; we are called to join Jesus as He brings His redemptive reign into our neighbors' lives.

But in order to do that, we have to know our neighbors. How do we accomplish that? Pastor Finke says: "Throw a party!" Find a way to create an environment where neighboring can happen, where you can move beyond trivial conversation to meaningful, beyond ignoring your neighbors to enjoying them. Pastor Finke has put this into a mathematical formula of sorts: Unhurried time + Proximity + Activity = Conversation. And all this multiplied by time equals friendship.

Will this guarantee you have a spiritual conversation? No. But it will provide an opportunity for you to seek, recognize, and respond to what Jesus is doing in the life of your neighbor. It will provide an opportunity for you to join Jesus.

Remember your neighborhood as your mission field. You don't live where you live by accident; God has placed you where you are to be a missionary to your neighbors. So, how will you start neighboring? Want to talk about way to get started? Come talk to me. – Pastor Conner

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.

Schedule

9:45 a.m.	Ribbon Cutting at East entrance
10:00 a.m.	Celebration Divine Service
11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Meal
12:30 p.m.	Celebration Program
1:30-3:30	Open House

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 (September 2016): Zion and Trinity Lutheran

NEW CREATIONS in Hearts and Homes—
September 2016
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come." – 2 Cor. 5:17

As members of the Zion family we celebrate more than a "new" worship, fellowship, and education facility. We celebrate the new people in that facility. The faces may look the same, the names haven't changed, and the activities are familiar. God's people who worship, learn, and serve at Zion are new because Christ has made them new in Baptism. New people, welcome to a new season and new opportunities!

NEW Christian Education Year
Midweek classes began on Wednesday, August 31. There is still time for students in grades 5 through 8 to join the Wednesday after-school explorations of the New Testament and the Small Catechism.

Sunday school classes will resume on Sunday, September 11 with a special Rally Day emphasis. Children ages 3 through high school are encouraged to attend each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

We are thankful for the faithful volunteer teachers. We welcome NEW faces to the teaching team. If you can assist as a substitute or alternate teacher, contact Sunday school superintendent Shelly Gruhn.

Youth ministry will have a NEW focus in a NEW youth ministry room. Remembering that confirmation is not graduation and God's Word has truth and application, parents are encouraged to support their teenagers' attendance at Sunday morning classes.

NEW Children's Offering Project
Praise God for the generous children's ministry offerings shared in the worship service and Sunday school classrooms. Our children's participation in the "Generations" campaign brought in over $2,000 in less than three years. Thank you children! The Christian Education Committee has adopted the Camp Okoboji Discover Center as their new project. For generations children and families have been blessed at our church's camp. The Discover Center will be a NEW facility on the Camp grounds. Consider a Camp Okoboji Camp for your children. Family cabins are available for rental year round. Visit www.campokoboji.org for more information.

NEW Adult Bible Study
Joshua was God's chosen NEW leader to take the Israelites into a NEW land. There were NEW temptations and NEW enemies. God's promises were NEW to every generation. Explore the book of Joshua under the theme "Journey with Joshua" in a NEW weekday Bible study beginning Monday, September 26. Morning and evening sessions will be held. Watch the bulletin for more information.

NEW Creations
Is your child a photographer, artist, author? Have their "creations" been shared in school, county, or state fairs? We encourage CHILDREN'S participation in the NEW CREATION exhibits which will be part of the re-dedication celebration on Sunday, September 25. Join us for a special day of worship, celebration, and fellowship.

Homosexuality

Overcoming the Phobia; Learning to Love

For the Struggler

Over the past few months we have been discussing how to love those who struggle with homosexual desires. What we haven't done, however, is speak to the struggler directly. This month's article is for the struggler. It may be someone you love. It may be you. If you are someone who struggles with homosexual desires, you know how difficult it is to find solid, non-emotionally charged resources. You also know the pressure many place on you to embrace homosexuality and reject any talk of change. Further, if you have experienced these desires for any length of time, you may battle hopelessness and discouragement, believing that change is impossible.

Two Foundational Truths

Chad Thompson, author of *Loving Homosexuals as Jesus Would* and ex-gay, writes of two foundational truths that homosexual strugglers need to accept in order to reorient their sexual desires.

Truth One: Identity is grounded in creation (and redeemed in Christ), not desires

The first truth is centered in identity. He asks, "Do you see yourself as a homosexual or a heterosexual?" He says, "This may sound corny, but it's actually one of the most powerful tools at your disposal." This is true because, as he points out, "a person cannot consistently behave in a way that's different from the way in which they see or think about themselves."

If you believe you are five years old, you'll have a hard time behaving like you're 35. Ask anyone who has battled Dissociative Identity Disorder. Their body may be 35, but if they believe they are five in their mind, they struggle mightily to act like 35. If you believe you are homosexual in your mind, you'll have a hard time living like a heterosexual. What you believe about yourself will affect how you live.

WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT YOURSELF WILL AFFECT HOW YOU LIVE.

If you have homosexual desires, you have no doubt heard the voices in our culture urging you to embrace your desires as your identity: "You're gay; embrace it!" But ask yourself, Is that good counsel? First, does it *really* bring peace to your spirit? Second, are desires good simply because we have them? Should we be counseled to embrace desires simply because they are strong?

Thompson writes about his struggle against these voices and then says, "There as actually one more, a much softer voice. It said, 'I know exactly who you are, because it's who I created you to be.'" He then adds these culturally controversial, but Biblically faithful words: "The knowledge that I am, in fact, a heterosexual created in me the determination to go forward even when it seemed like there was no hope."

As basic as it may seem, accepting your created identity as heterosexual is critical. This doesn't eliminate the homosexual desires, but it does ground your identity in your creation. This is key: identity is grounded in creation, not desires.

EVERYONE BATTLES DESIRES.

And remember, everyone battles desires. You may battle homosexual desires. Others may battle sinful heterosexual desires (pornography, lust, fornication, etc.). Others may battle sinful nonsexual desires.

And their desires may be just as intense and all-consuming as yours. But these desires don't define our identity. God has defined our identity in our creation and redeemed it in Christ.

The first step in overcoming our misdirected desires is accepting who God created you to be and that cannot be determined by your desires; that must be determined by hearing the Creator speak and seeing the physical order that He has created.

Truth Two: God can be trusted

The second truth is centered in how we understand God. Thompson highlights two Old Testament stories to illustrate this truth. The first comes from the book of Jeremiah where Jeremiah speaks words of promise and comfort to the Jews exiled in Babylon. He assures them that God is going to bring them home so that they can again worship God in Jerusalem (see Jeremiah 29:11-14). The second story is God's promise to Abraham and Sarah that they would have a son (see Genesis 18:1-21).

Despite great odds stacked against them, both realities came to pass. So Thompson writes, "[These stories] affirm the nature of a God who can be counted on." God can be trusted. In fact, Thompson says, "they reveal the nature of a God who *must* be counted on…" Neither the people of Israel nor Abraham and Sarah had the power in themselves to bring about the realities they so desperately desired. Israel couldn't free herself from bondage and Abraham and Sarah couldn't will themselves to conceive. That had to trust God's promises. I'm reminded of Peter's confession to Christ: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). There is no God but our God and He alone has the power to save us and transform our desires.

THERE IS NO GOD BUT OUR GOD AND HE ALONE HAS THE POWER TO SAVE US AND TRANSFORM OUR DESIRES.

Further, Thompson points out, "These stories affirm the character of a God who must be waited for… Babylon's captives had to wait seventy years for their freedom, and Abraham and Sarah didn't get Isaac until he was a hundred years old." Then Thompson observes, "the promises of God are often slow in coming." The psalmists echo this truth repeatedly in their counsel to "wait for the Lord" (Psalm 27:14; 31:24; 37:7,9, 34; 130:5). We are often impatient for God to act, but the Scriptures counsel us to wait patiently for the Lord and to put our faith in His promises.

That means our waiting cannot be spent in anxiousness inactivity. Waiting is a time for action as you, the homosexual struggler, commit to live your created identity, as Thompson says, "*regardless of [your] feelings*." Do not be discouraged if change is slow in coming; the process of sanctification is a lifelong process for *all* Christians. Further, as one baptized into Christ, you live in His grace and God offers Christ's Church as a refuge for sinners. All who battle sin are welcome in the Church. Help is available. Acceptance is available.

All of us need to hear these two truths which echo in Christ's Church: Our identity is grounded in creation (and redeemed in Christ), not desires, and God can be trusted. Want to visit more on this? Come talk to me. I'd love to hear your story and your questions. – Pastor Conner

Zion's custodian is transitioning to another position. We appreciate her service and are now accepting applications for this position. If this is your superpower, we want to hear from you! You may make application through the church office.

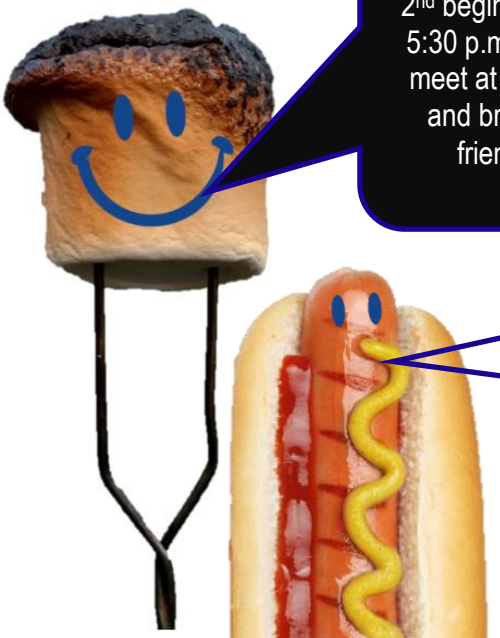
Door Offering

Our third quarterly door offering will support the Ferry family on Sunday, September 11!

This marshmallow was roasted at last year's hayride. Doesn't it look tasty? Mmmm.

Hey! Come roast me at Zion's hayride and cookout on Sunday, October 2nd beginning at 5:30 p.m. We'll meet at Zion – and bring a friend!

Roast me too!



The Ferry Family, Missionaries in Indonesia
Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, Cassie, and Chloe

Support us on Sunday, September 11th in your 3rd quarterly door offering. And meet us on Wednesday, October 19th when we come to Zion in Manning!

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

I'm visiting professor for Concordia Theological Seminary in Hong Kong and was thus sent to Cambodia this month to teach a condensed course in Galatians. So much of our work has become a network of many different people and groups working together (our mission, seminaries, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cambodia, etc.). We even held this three credit BTh class in the Lutheran Hour Ministries office in Cambodia.

Pray for the pastors and church body in Cambodia, where Christians struggle as only 2% of the total population of 16 million.

Photo: CAMBODIA CLASS
Rev. Naro Phin, Kimnang Roth, Stephen Sophal Bang, Stephen Oliver, Vicar Ravy Vann, and Vicar Songim Un.

Remember, Rejoice, Respond! Join the Trinity family from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21, 28, and October 5 as Pastor Conner and Pastor Riggert join Trinity to remember our past, rejoice in our present, and respond to our future opportunities. Join the conversation!

TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANILLA, IOWA
PROCLAIMING PEACE IN CHRIST'S CROSS

Remember
September 21

Rejoice
September 28

Respond
October 5

EMPOWERED PARENTS *Countering the Culture of Disrespect*

Anchoring Identity in the Family

Over the past few months we've been discussing how to empower parents to raise strong, God-fearing children in the midst of a youth culture of disrespect. Among the more important matters we've covered is the critical need for parents to be enculturators of truth, beauty, and goodness. As we detailed, this is accomplished first through the efforts of parents to understand and appreciate this trinity of transcendentals and then by anchoring youths' identity in their family unit and in their church family unit.

This is key because youths who are left to anchor their identity in their peers are forced to cast their anchor into an ever-shifting shore and this leaves youths fragile. And with the advent of (un)social media, the shores of "popular" and "unpopular," "in" and "out," shift faster than ever. Children need something stable and unmoving, something that doesn't change at the speed of Snapchat. The family unit and the church family unit can provide that.

A couple months ago we emphasized the importance of the family table. Meals shared together bind families together (how important, then, is the Church's "family table," i.e. Holy Communion!). They provide something stable and predictable for children. They say, "This is a part of who we are and I am an important part of this. I fit here." You need a family table. Eat together as often as you can. Make it work.

Family rituals are also critical for anchoring youths' identity in the family. The family table would be one important family ritual. Others could include family prayer and family devotions. They might include family walks and family games. The important thing is to establish something stable and predictable that children can depend upon, something that doesn't move or change at the speed of social media, a social context that welcomes them no matter what jeans they're wearing and no matter what brand is stamped on their shoes, some place they can anchor their identity. Once established, these rituals will function like rails that will keep your family together and on track. If you don't establish them, your family will disintegrate. And it should be pretty obvious why – there's nothing to hold them together!

In 2014 we featured in our Zion newsletter a series of articles based on an excellent resource (*Holding Your Family Together* by Rich Melheim) that detailed a doable plan for establishing the rails of family rituals to hold your family together. Those articles are available upon request (as is the book), but very briefly it involved the following:

Share the highs and lows of your day.

Read a Bible verse or story.

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

Pray for one another's highs and lows.

Bless one another.

Dr. Melheim dubbed these "The Faith 5." My family has been practicing them for two years and they effectively establish the rails we desperately need to hold our family together in the midst of ever increasing busyness and demands. Quite simply, they work.

If you want to anchor your children's identity in your family and in your church family, you have to make the parent-child relationship primary. Family rituals will make this possible (include family worship). Your rituals may be different than the next family's – and that's fine. The important thing is that you establish family rituals. Lay down rails now. Establish something stable in which your children can anchor their identity.

Ladies Guild

Highlights
Ladies Guild of Zion
August 10, 2016

Zion Ladies Guild met for a potluck supper at 5:30 P.M. with 16 members and 13 guests in attendance. Connie Ahrendsen and Cynthia Genzen served as hostesses. After the meal, President Buhr opened the meeting with the LWML pledge and called on Margaret Backhaus. Margaret read a devotional entitled "Don't Say You're Not Important". It reminded us that God wrote "our" book and based on 1 John 4:11 we're to be a blessing to others. The mite box was passed and the mite box prayer was offered.

The business meeting was called to order in the name of our Triune God. The secretary's report was read and approved. Treasurer, Mary Grimm followed with her report. There were no other committee reports.

Presidential announcements included the following: Fall retreat at mission central is September 24th. The LWML Sunday will be acknowledged on October 9th. A "noisy" collection of coins will be taken for LWML missions before the regular church offering is gathered. In order to receive news from Iowa District West one needs to send her email address to Christine Schulz at christinefayeschultz@gmail.com and ask to be put on the email distribution list.

The next funeral lunch will be circle #3. Plaza Bingo will be held on August 26th with Cynthia Genzen as chairperson, and Cheral Buhr, Darlene Vollstedt and Susie Schilling as helpers. The September meeting of Guild will be on September 14th at 1:00 P.M. It will be guest day and all ladies of the congregation are welcome. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Puck, secretary

Generations Update

In the pictures below you can see Isaac Grabil grinding out a stump, Croghan's Construction framing in the old east entrance, and McLaughlin's Construction bricking it in. On the right you can see two of our directional signs cut out of stainless steel by PCE. We are nearly done! Thank you to the many generous givers and volunteers over the past three years who have made our Generations campaign possible!

Preschool Praises — September 2016

I am so thankful for the blessing of this new transition and new way to serve God, our Church, and families and children of our community! I am also thankful for the help from Janice Nemitz as my associate this year, Diane Riggert as the Director and mentor, and also for Marlene Borkowski for her faithful volunteering for the morning class. I am surrounded by experience and support! I also want to thank those in my Church family for their support and my wonderful husband for, as he put it, being a single parent, some evenings while I am at different events. God has blessed me in many ways!

I am writing this before the school year has officially started, but that doesn't mean that we haven't been busy! I have been busy learning the ropes as a new preschool teacher, Mrs. Nemitz and I have been getting the classroom set up for the new year and meeting with parents and children.

Home visits were wonderful and most of them ended in hugs or at least a high five. The children met Boo, a little stuffed puppy with a back pack full of stickers who is tricky and likes to hide from me each day. They were all charged with the task of finding Boo for me each day so that he can sit at my desk like a good little puppy. We also read a book about what to expect at school, especially for children attending preschool for the first time, so they could have basic questions answered like "what is a teacher?", "why are there rules?", "will Mommy or Daddy stay with me?" and "what if I am hungry or have to go potty?".

Open house was a huge success with children exploring the room and playing with all the toys. Janet Smith with Thrivent and her volunteers were also kind enough to come and provide free Child Safety IDs to be used in the event of a missing child to save precious time by providing basic and updated information for emergency personnel.

Thank you again to the strong support system that I have and, I'm sure, will lean on throughout this first year as I make this transition. Please join me in praying for the preschool and for our children to learn more about our loving and powerful God!

In His name,
Mrs. Gore

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

SERVING THE LORD IN
PANAMA
NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

July 2016
Vol. 1 Issue VI

Our family spent the end of June and most of July on the West Coast doing some networking building in WA and NV while also spending some R&R time with family and friends in ID and CA. It was a wonderful trip that brought us to some of the most breathtaking scenery in the United States.

The National Redwood Forest as well as the giant Sequoia groves in Yosemite National Park stood out as special in our journey. Quite a few times, in the shadow of these giant trees, Amanda and I stopped and remarked, "Isn't it amazing that these trees stood here when Jesus walked the earth?" They were most certainly shorter, perhaps even just beginning to grow into the giants they now are, but they stood nonetheless. Some two thousand years later, through fires and storms, these trees are still standing.

As a young pastor and new missionary I often find myself stopping to reflect on the fact that I serve in the shadow of the giants who served before me. Saints Peter and Paul, Ignatius of Antioch, Polycarp, Athanasius, Luther, Walther and the countless others have all faithfully weathered the fires and storms of this dark age. What these giants share in common is not that they claimed to live when Jesus walked the earth or were any less sinful than I. Rather, these giants shared a common confession of faith in Jesus the Christ. The one who did not insist on being a giant (Phil 2:6-9) but instead, was himself lifted up upon a tree (Jn 3:15), pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5), and died so that we would know the Father's full forgiveness, compassion, and grace.

While the great Redwood and giant Sequoia trees testify to the handiwork of the Father's creation, it is the lowly tree of the cross, in the shadow of which these other giants stand, that displays to the Lord's great love and sacrifice that brought us into his kingdom. It is good to stand in the shadow of the cross and to serve in the shadow of the faithful as we share a common confession of faith in Jesus the Christ. Standing in the shadow of giants is a great privilege as St. John teaches, That which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ (1 Jn 1:3). To God be the glory!

Thoughts from Amanda

It is time! In only a couple of days we head to the Dominican Republic to begin our training for service in Panama. I want to thank all of you, our Christian friends, for your generosity and support these last few months. Thank you to all the churches that have opened their doors for us to share about the mission work of the LCMS and for those who have hosted us. A special thanks is due to my in-laws as they graciously hosted us for the past few months. Thank you Andy and Karen!!!

While on our last network building trip a sweet friend reminded me that life is not to be lived in fear but in faith. Her words have encouraged me to remember that we cannot control the future but must place our hope in our faithful God. As I think about what is to come as a missionary I am sometimes fearful of the unknown. Boarding the plane on August 19th will most certainly be one of the most challenging moments in my life, but one I do in faith. I know that God goes with us and will faithfully guide us daily, providing for all our needs better than I could even imagine. His ways are better than my ways and his thoughts are higher than mine. Please pray for us as we faithfully look to serve the Lord and his people in Panama! Lord, equip and lead us. Strengthen our faith and fill us with your Spirit, Amen!

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

Bertemu bersama-sama (Indonesian for "Meeting together in community")

The month of July was all about the work again, now that our family situation has calmed down some, and we're finding a "new normal" at the house with the five kids.

July gave an opportunity to represent the Asia workers at the LCMS convention in Milwaukee, which was a humbling experience. Many thanks to all the delegates and representatives who stopped me to say hello, and let me know that you're praying for our family; it meant a great deal! And thanks also for putting up with my jet-lagged self during that very quick trip to the US, which takes 22 hours in the air!

Back in Asia, it was right from one convention to another: the Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) was gathering for its own convention in July, and I was invited to come as an observer and special guest. Their convention was much like ours, only on a more manageable scale: they met to discuss their direction, make decisions for the coming years, to elect their leadership, and to celebrate the blessings God has given to them.

I had the pleasure of being joined in my attendance by the Rev. Roy Askins, Communications Director for our Asia region.

Rev. Askins came for pictures, interviews, and stories because our LCMS people need to know what our partners are doing here in Asia. Some of the pictures in this newsletter are his work. Thank you, Pr. Askins!

SELAMAT

The GKLI honored the LCMS by allowing me two different opportunities to address the whole convention, and by thanking us many times for the partnership we've had over these recent years.

That's YOU at work in Indonesia, making a difference here in the lives of your Lutheran brothers and sisters. I spoke with their newly-elected bishop/president, who assured me he wishes this partnership to continue. Thank you for your help in this!

Don't forget: The Ferry Family is coming home to visit! 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 for the scheduled appearances: ferrys.asia/homeservice2016 and know that more are being scheduled all the time behind the scenes.

- Thanksgiving for a residence visa for Chloe in good time, so we can not only come home in September, but also return to Indonesia later in the year!
- For our friends in the GKLI, that they would stay faithful and strong in the Word with the new bishop's leadership.
- For the many trouble spots in SE Asia, that our Lord would allow His people to live out their vocations in peace.
- Thanksgiving that our family remains healthy and at peace in this strange and wonderful place called SE Asia.

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 9, August 2016

Our Annual Outdoor Worship and Picnic: Our Denison congregation has a tradition of having an outdoor service and picnic each summer. Usually we go to Yellow Smoke County Park near Denison. But this year Paula and I hosted the congregation at our acreage outside of Manning. On the last Sunday of July, we had a special afternoon of worship, food and fellowship. It was a beautiful day that we could enjoy outside. We worshipped our Lord Jesus, we ate, we visited, and we played all afternoon. It was a day of unity that we wish we could repeat every Sunday. It was also special because almost all of our 12 families were represented and we were able to visit with them in an informal setting. The children especially enjoyed feeding our horse "Jack" and our sheep and lambs. May the Lord bless His lambs at Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Church.

A Special Bilingual Baptism at St. John, Charter Oak: In August, I assisted Pastor Richard Merrill with the baptisms of four children of the Factor family. This bilingual family lives near the church and has been attending St. John's. The photo above shows the children, each with their sponsors. This is how we are working with area English churches to help serve the Hispanic community. As more and more Hispanics come to live in our small communities like Charter Oak we are blessed to have mission pastors like Pastor Merrill who look to serve them. We pray for this family that God will continue to bless them as they grow in faith at St. John's.

Recruiting Lay Leaders: During the time I was on vacation in July, we were blessed to have Domingo and Mike lead the two Sunday services in Denison. Domingo Mendoza is originally from Mexico and is the president of our church, Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Church. God has used him to grow in his faith to become a spiritual leader in our church family. He is a quiet man who works long hours in the rendering department of Farmland pork plant in Denison. Mike Segebart is our music director and ESL teacher, a tremendous support for our Hispanic ministry. While he is not fluent in Spanish he is learning more and more each week and proves that you are never too old to learn and to help God's people. May the Lord bless these men of God.

Please Pray: + For the Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they pray for a bilingual pastor to serve them. + For our adult Confirmation students in Denison and Storm Lake as they prepare for a special Confirmation Sunday and as they become a part of our churches. + For the ongoing blessings from our annual picnic and our Family Retreat at Camp Okoboji last month. + For Hispanic students beginning another year in our Lutheran school in Denison. + ***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 missions.***

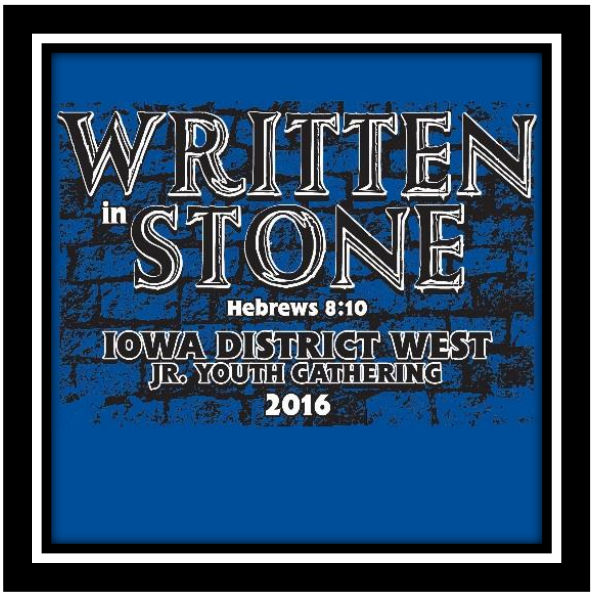
***Please Continue to Support* our new church**: For our mission friends financial support checks should now be sent to: Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Church, 1004 1st Avenue South, Denison, Iowa, 51442

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

Every Sunday Zion is privileged to witness a parade of enthusiastic children marching their offering to the front for the children's offering. Over the past three years children have been giving toward our Generations campaign. In that time the children of Zion have given over $2200 toward our project. Well done!

As we celebrate the completion of our Generations campaign this month, our children will transition to a new mission offering: Camp Okoboji. As our camp, Camp Okoboji is investing in us by updating their facilities and offerings. To find out more, check out the latest at www.campokoboji.org.

Zion Lutheran Church
Sunday School begins September 11, 2016
Teachers installed in the Divine Service
Register now online:
zionmanning.com/emergencycontact.php
or in person on the 11th



Registration is now open for the Iowa District West Jr. Youth Gathering in Des Moines on Saturday, October 29 through Sunday, October 30! This is for all 6th-8th grade Zion or Trinity members – and financial assistance is available. Parent chaperones are also needed – and your registration is covered!

Contact the church office (655-2352) for a registration packet. Don't let your child or grandchild miss out on this faith strengthening event!

LWML Sunday (and Saturday)!

At Zion: Sunday, October 9
At Trinity: Saturday, October 8

Special Feature: Noisy offering

Bring piles of change and get ready to make noise during the offering!

Denison Fall Zone Rally

(September 22)
@ Trinity Lutheran Church
Speaker: Bonnie Ewoldt
Theme: *Using Our Gifts*
Call 654:3031

Congregational Servants

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

Board of Elders:
Tim Kienast, head elder
Don Lamb, Paul Christensen
Gary Witt, Floyd Forman
Stan Baack, Lynn Kruse

Board of Deacons:
David Bohlman, Bruce Grimm,
Ryan Crawford, Dan Dawson
Richard Zinke, Chris Greving,
Larry Mahnke

Ladies Guild:
Cheral Buhr, President

Board of Trustees:
Bob Genzen, Dan Behrens,
Kent Vollstedt,
Kevin Grimm,
Rodney Backhaus
Sam Musfeldt

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

Board of Education:
Shelly Gruhn, Chair
Margaret Backhaus,
Joni Kienast, Dan Dawson,
Kathy Vollstedt, Chris Greving,
Casie and Courtney Eischeid

Preschool Board:
Dianne Riggert, Chair
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

September Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

Birthdays

1. Lucille Ress
2. Collin Brus
3. Bruce Grimm
4. Arlo Dammann
   Brock Kusel
   Alaina Salter
7. Kyle Arp
   Timothy Rosener
8 Austin Johnson
   Jaide Paska
   Carlys Stribe
   Darlene Vollstedt
9. Brice Shrimpton
   Diane Vetter
   Katie Vollestedt
10. Alison Karsten
11. Ambria Johnson
    Brandi Wiig
12. Kristie Borkowski
    Robert Hagedorn
13. Dennis Backhaus
    Lyle Rood
    Allen Stribe
14. Dakota Bradley
    Lauren Greving
    Erin Renze
15. Dylon Bauer
16. Brooke Kienast
17. Ben Langel
    Charlie Tibben
19. Kora Kusel
    Sue Soll
21. Daniel Hilsabeck
    Alexis Karsten
    Daniel Vonnahme
22. Haley Kuchel
25. Jennifer Grau
26. Tanner Crawford
    Lillian Genzen
    Terri Rosener
27. Don Beck
    Shaun Grau
28. Cassandra
    Burcham
    Susie Ulrickson
30. Karl Albertsen
    Jason Ehlers

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

Anniversaries

2 Mike & Becky Bruch
3 Bary & Karen Kienast
4 Don & Trisha Beck
Jon & Jill Saunders
6 Gary & Joyce Schroeder
7 Derek & Brenna Hodne
8 Bradley & Heather Kusel
11 Rodney & Deanna Frank
15 William & Louise Bruhn
Duane & Cynthia Karsten
16 Eugene & Susan Mahnke
19 David & Joene Bohlmann
Kevin & Janet Brus
Jeff & Jean Hargens
20 Todd & Dawn Ketcham
Alex & Kari Ranniger
22 Larry & Connie Ahrendsen
24 Ben & Beth Booth
Karl & Donna Rutz
25 Marlin & Carol Kahl
27 Jesse & Katie Weitl
28 Conrad & Juanita Kurth
30 Allen & Carlys Stribe

Official Acts

Funerals:

Duane Wegner; Died August 3, 2016; Buried August 6, 2016; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Judy Louise (nee: Sortedahl) Musfeldt; Died August 5, 2016; Buried August 10, 2016; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Ruth Boell; Died August 12, 2016; Buried August 15, 2016; Pastor Bob Riggert

In Our Prayers

Walt Noelck, Mandi Sandage, Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Arlene Mohr, Bev Rix, Jim Deevers, Duane Karsten, Joy Umland, Annabelle Wagner, Gabriel Albers (Pastor and Rebecca's nephew), Rita Saunders, Joyce Schroeder