



Our Mission Mindset

Where are we going? How do we get there?



Perhaps you've seen a sign like the above before. Often they are posted at the exits of church buildings or church parking lots. They're meant to remind church members of their calling to be neighborhood missionaries, a reminder we all desperately need. Over time,

though, people stop seeing the sign (it becomes wallpaper to them). In fact, they not only miss it, they forget the mission. They leave the building or the parking lot not knowing where they're going (into the mission field). And if you don't know where you're going, you surely have no idea how to get there.

So, let's pause and reorient ourselves. Where are we going (what is the mission of God?) and how will we get there? Let's turn to Scripture to find out. Mark describes it most succinctly in Mark 1:15. Jesus bursts onto the scene proclaiming, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Let's unpack that. Jesus is saying that the time for God's decisive action has come. God's age-to-come redemptive and restorative reign has come into this age. So throughout the Gospels we see Jesus' preaching proclaim the Kingdom, His teaching explain the Kingdom, His parables illustrate it, and His miracles demonstrate it. And He does it all for the purpose of getting His Father's world back. Jesus is on a mission to redeem and restore all things. He's on a mission to heal the hurting, bind up the broken, forgive the sinner, and to make all things new.

That reign comes to us in the Divine Service through the preached Word and the given Sacraments and

we are privileged week in and week out to receive it. And here's the amazing thing: that redemptive and restorative reign comes to our neighbors through us! We are, in effect, special operatives sent out with Jesus to get His Father's world back. We are agents of the King sent out with the King to offer hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved, peace to the anxious, and forgiveness to the sinner. Our vocations are saturated with eternal significance. God has work for us to do with Jesus. God has conversations for us to have in Jesus' Name. God has prayers for us to pray in Jesus' Name.

So when we leave worship, we're going on a mission with Jesus to bring His redemptive and restorative reign. That's where we're going.

How do we get there? We need training (the Bible calls this discipleship). And that's where a missional community is key. We need a little help from our friends. We need to gather regularly with a group of kingdom-minded friends (co-workers, family, friends, etc.) who are eager to join Jesus on His mission. And when we gather, we gather around our Five Mission Questions:

1. How did you see the Kingdom draw near this week?
2. What has God been teaching you in His Word?
3. What conversations are you having with disconnected people?
4. What good can you do around here?
5. How can you help through prayer?

Want help starting your own missional community? Come talk to me.

Hey, and maybe it's time to post a new sign at Zion and Trinity:





Ministry Apps

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

What would your app for “beautiful scenes” display: a colorful fall scene, wagons full of grain, family photo, or . . . ? It is a beautiful season of the year. The hymn writer puts the beauty in perspective:

“For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies, For the love which from our birth over and around us lies: Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.”

Beautiful Savior



In addition to the weekly worship opportunities, the thankful families of Zion and Trinity will gather for a special

Thanksgiving Eve worship on Wednesday, November 23 at 7 p.m. at Zion. The theme of the special service will be “For the Beauty of the Earth” with special hymns and responses of thanksgiving praise. Join us. Invite family and friends to join you.



Advent worship begins on Wednesday, Nov. 30 with an afternoon service (2 p.m.) at Trinity and an evening service (5:45 p.m.) at Zion. Advent meals will again be served after the service at Zion. The Advent series will celebrate “TREEmendous” love, peace, and joy in Jesus.

Beautiful Kids

Senior youth will participate in the “Still Standing in Christ Alone” District Gathering on November 18-20. Thanks to the congregation for their prayer and financial support of our youth.

Sunday school and Midweek students have begun preparing for the Children’s Christmas Service (Dec. 20). Weekly attendance at Sunday school is important for growing in the Word and preparing for the special service.

Beautiful Stewards

Praise God for the generous gifts to “Generations.” The focus now turns to teaching and preaching the Gospel in our facility and sharing the Gospel in our community and into the world. Zion stewards are encouraged to consider the blessings of all seasons and to generously and joyfully to support the mission and ministry of the congregation. Information on electronic giving is available from Jeff Hargens or Amber Neumann.

Thanks to Zion members for their support of the Food Pantry (with your time and donations.) Contact Rhonda Grimm if you’d like to volunteer at the Pantry. Food (and other) donations are always needed as the pantry is being used! Donations can be deposited in the grocery cart at the east entrance.

Beautiful Feet of Witnesses



Isaiah (52:7) notes the beautiful feet of those who bring “good news.” The beautiful feet of Rhonda Mohr will be noted at a special service at Zion on **Sunday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m.** Rhonda has chosen to have her “home church” be the site of her installation as IDW assistant for education, youth, and family ministry. Everyone welcome! The “Joining Jesus on His Mission” emphasis has noted that each of us has beautiful feet washed in baptismal water and blessed to walk into our community as His witnesses.



Celebrating the beauty of God’s grace!
Pastor Riggert



Why does the world call confessing Christians “haters”?

If you've been paying attention, you've noticed that confessing Christians in America (Christians, like LCMS Lutherans, who maintain the church's historic, biblical confession) are under constant fire for our moral stances on marriage and sexuality. Consider a small sampling:

- The government's Affordable Care Act with its HHS Mandate which attempted to force employers to pay for abortion-causing drugs.
- Christian adoption agencies shuttered for maintaining that children do better with a father and a mother.
- Christian law and counseling students denied degrees for refusing to embrace the new sexual orthodoxy.
- Christian professors threatened with the loss of their position for maintaining their faith's historic confession on marriage and sexuality.
- Christian pharmacists forced to sell abortion-causing drugs under threat of losing their jobs.
- Businesses (like Chick-fil-A) threatened for their owners' adherence to traditional marriage.
- Christian public school coaches fired for praying with student athletes.
- Christian colleges and universities threatened with loss of accreditation and access to federal funding and grants for maintaining the historic Christian confession on marriage and sexuality.
- Christian florists, bakers, photographers, screen printers, wedding chapel managers, chaplains, and more sued, fired, and threatened for refusing to marry their creative craft to a union they find morally objectionable.
- Iowa's Civil Rights Commission's recent statement that churches who open their buildings to the public may be required to de-gender their restrooms (allow men and women

to use the restroom of their choice) to avoid discrimination lawsuits.

And the list could go on and on and on and on and...

But why? Why does the world treat us like this? Why do they label us haters and seek to force our compliance? Ryan Anderson, author of *Truth Overruled: The Future of Marriage and Religious Freedom*, says,

Many hate the church not because we minister to poor, not because we visit the sick, clothe the naked, feed the hungry, not because we believe in a Trinitarian God. The reason they hate the church is because of three anthropological truths articulated in first pages of the Bible:

1. We were made in the image and likeness of God.
2. We were created male and female.
3. Male and female were created for each other.

Process these three truths. If humanity has been made in the image and likeness of God, there is a sacredness to our being and that sacredness extends from the moment of conception until natural death. It means that God has placed His stamp of value on mankind. He has, if you will, trenched a moat around the castle of our being and declared, "Don't monkey with this."

Further, if we were created male and female, it means that phrases like "gender spectrum," "gender identity," and "sex assignment" are false. In case you're unfamiliar with these terms, "gender spectrum" suggests that "male" and "female" are two poles on a spectrum. As such, gender is a fluid concept that can land anywhere on the spectrum and can move back and forth throughout a person's life based upon his/her "gender identity," which is self-chosen based upon internal feelings. So a person may be biologically male, but identify as female or vice versa. Or he/she may identify with aspects of both genders. According to this mindset, biology is irrelevant. So, when a doctor delivers a baby and says, "Congratulations! It's a girl!" she is assigning the child's sex rather than announcing it. Biology

means nothing; internal desires and feelings rule the day.

The first pages of the Bible, however, insist that mankind was created male and female. There is an either/or-ness to mankind. Yes, physical abnormalities occur in a fallen world (chromosomal, anatomical, etc.), but the Creator's design remains good and normative. Biology informs our identity. It may be that our thoughts and desires don't align with our biology, but that doesn't mean that our biology is meaningless; it may mean that our mind is confused.

Consider two parallel examples. 1) People who struggle with anorexia believe that, despite being dangerously underweight, they are disgustingly overweight. Would we suggest their biology (a dangerously underweight body) is irrelevant and that their thoughts are what must be trusted? Would we then affirm their thoughts? Obviously not. The problem lies not with their biology; it lies in the mind.

2) People who struggle with Body Integrity Identity Disorder believe that a part of their body needs to be amputated in order for them to be healthy. For example, a person may believe that his right arm is a foreign part that doesn't really belong to his body. He, therefore, believes that it must be removed for him to be healthy. Would we help him by removing his arm or by affirming his belief? Obviously not. As before, the problem here isn't biology; the problem lies in the mind. They believe something that isn't true and we know it isn't true because we can see that their body is healthy.

Scripture teaches that mankind was created male and female. If our thoughts don't align with this reality, it doesn't mean our bodies and biology (i.e. God's creation) are meaningless; it means we are confused. Because of this, despite being culturally unpopular, we don't believe it helps people to affirm their confusion. We help strugglers by trying to appreciate their struggle and by trying to assist them in aligning their thoughts with God's created order. And for this the world hates us.

Finally, Scripture teaches that male and female are created for each other. This doesn't mean that people have to get married to be complete; it means male and female were created as natural complements to each other and that their union produces a specific end, i.e. children. We understand this in almost every other area of life. We know that electric cords must join the male end to the female complement to carry electricity. We know that VGA, HDMI, and USB cords must have the male end connected to the female complement to carry the signal. These designs cannot be circumvented. To produce the designed end, the created complements must be joined together. The physical design informs the purpose of the piece.

In a similar way, male and female were created for each other and their union is aimed toward the procreation of children. That doesn't mean that every union will or must result in a child, but it does acknowledge the Creator's design and speak against unions that cannot coordinate toward this end.

We don't hold these positions because we hate people; we hold them because we love God and believe His design is good and that aligning our lives with it will result in human flourishing. But we know that so long as we hold to these three foundational truths, the world will hate us while, ironically, calling us haters. This shouldn't surprise us or frighten us. Jesus warned us that following Him would have a cost and in America we are beginning to see how that cost will be exacted from us. For the joy of knowing Jesus, however, we are unafraid to pay that price. Further, for the truth of His creation and redemption, we are prepared to show love to both those who label us haters and to those who struggle with identity and sexual issues. Want to talk more about this? Come talk to me or drop me an email. I'd love to hear from you. – Pastor Conner



What's your current situation?

- Couple with minor children
- Empty nest couple with children
- Retired couple with children
- Couple with no children
- Widow or widower and now single
- Widow or widower now remarried
- Single, never married
- Divorced and now single
- Divorced and now remarried
- Farm family
- Business owner

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I promise to help you develop an estate plan that reflects your faith and gives your estate assets to whom you want, when you want, how you want, with the least taxes and expenses.

“You did not choose me but I chose you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last...” (John 15:16). I am offering to help you “bear fruit for the Lord” in three ways:

1. **Confess your Christian faith to your family** at the time of your death through a written statement of faith. (Last will and “testament”)
2. **Provide for your family** by having an up to date will or trust. Attempt to avoid family arguments and reduce taxes.
3. **Support your favorite ministries** after your death by making the best tax-wise gift from your estate.

Offered to you at no cost by Zion in partnership with Iowa District West.

Contact Jim directly or ask Pastor Conner for details.

Raising Smart and Virtuous Kids

Everyone wants to raise smart and virtuous kids. But let's be honest, having the desire is a far cry from actually accomplishing it. A simple look at some stark realities will prove the point. The most widely recognized global benchmark for measuring student comprehension is the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). In 2000 the U.S. ranked 12th among nations. By 2012 we had dropped to 17th.¹

And in a recent study of American high school students, over 60% admitted to cheating on a test or homework within the previous year, yet they insisted that their ethics were "above average." And this cheating isn't limited to low achievers; it's prevalent among the top achievers. According to research by a Harvard professor who has been studying academic integrity since the early 90s, American students' "ethical muscles have atrophied." In fact, he notes that the prevailing mindset even at our most selective universities is *We want to be famous and successful, we think our colleagues are cutting corners, we'll be damned if we'll lose out to them.*²

Raising Smart Kids

Overinvestment in Technology

Diagnosing the problem is difficult, not because the answers aren't available; it's difficult because the answers hit too close to home for many parents. One contributor to American youths' decline is the overinvestment in technology. Our classrooms are full of smartboards, tablets, and other wireless gadgets. But Dr. Sax details a study in his book, *The Collapse of Parenting*, which showed that the countries outperforming America had surprisingly little technology in their classroom. Still unconvinced?

¹ For more info, check out *The Collapse of Parenting* by Leonard Sax, 82-84.

Ask your local school what has happened to its library readership since students received Chromebooks. Or ask study hall teachers how many kids are reading books vs. playing on their Chromebooks during study hall. "Smart" technology may help us do many things, but learn to think well might not be one of them. To do that we need to put our smartscreens aside and immerse ourselves in the sort of prolonged arguments and stories found in books, to say nothing of the prolonged arguments or narratives found in Scripture!

Overemphasis on Sports

If that wasn't close enough to home, another identified contributor to the American decline in academic achievement is the overemphasis on sports. American schools invest exorbitant dollars in sporting equipment and fields at the expense of rigorous academics and especially the fine arts. Student athletes are regularly dismissed from class for the sake of sporting events. In top achieving countries, this rarely happens.

The Culture of Disrespect

While these may hamper academic achievement, there's another factor that may, in fact, overshadow them, and may also impede the development of virtue. We've been writing about it for months: *the culture of disrespect*. Youth culture has supplanted adult culture – and parents have allowed it.

Remember what we've discussed over the last several months: the parent-child relationship must take precedence over the peer-peer relationship. In order to raise smart and virtuous children, parents must establish their relationship with their child as primary and embrace their role as enculturators of truth, beauty, and goodness. They must see

² For more info, check out *The Collapse of Parenting* by Leonard Sax, 128-129.

themselves as educators of desire. Make sure you understand this point: *desires must be educated*. Despite what our culture believes and celebrates, desires are not good simply because we have them.

Dr. Sax writes about these cultural beliefs:

“Today the assumption which pervades American culture is the belief that your child’s personal fulfillment is roughly equivalent to the fulfillment of your child’s desire. A child presumably knows her own desires better than her parents possibly can. If the key to human fulfillment is the satisfaction of immediate and uneducated desire, then the authority of the parent becomes subordinate to the whim of the child.” (152)

Christians, of all people, should know better. Desires are not neutral. In fact, according to Scripture, our inborn desires are bent inwards upon ourselves. A child who is raised to fulfill his uneducated desires will not only struggle academically because he will resent the authority of the teacher who is trying to direct his desires, but he will also lack Godly virtues like self-denial, self-control, and respect.

And many are the educators who have seen and are seeing such resentment mixed with the lack of self-denial, self-control, and respect. The teacher’s authority is regularly disrespected (by youths *and* their parents). Students interrupt at will. They act out for attention. They offer anemic effort and yet expect to be praised and to be given top marks.

Why?

We’ve swallowed a lie. It’s been neatly packaged in a pill labeled “self-esteem.” Self-esteem, in stark contrast to the Biblical virtue of self-control, is focused on making everyone feel good about himself. The Biblical virtue of self-control turns our attention to truth, beauty, and goodness and aims to align our actions and thoughts with them. Self-control teaches children to look beyond themselves for contentment; self-esteem teaches them to look within themselves for contentment.

How does this affect our efforts to raise smart and virtuous children? Like this: parents who have swallowed the self-esteem pill believe they need to make their children feel good about themselves, so they say things like, “You are so smart. You are so talented.” But, as it turns out, if you want to raise smart kids these are precisely the sort of things you should NOT say. Let’s be blunt: if you want to raise smart kids, never tell them they’re smart.

Let’s illustrate. Several years ago a researcher conducted a now-famous experiment. She gave two groups of children an easy math test. All children scored well. To one group she said, “You had a perfect score! You are so smart!” To the other she said, “You earned a perfect score! You must have tried really hard!”

Before we continue, notice the subtle but profound difference. One compliment focused on the child’s identity (You are so smart!); the other focused on the child’s behavior (You must have tried really hard!). One compliment was designed to make children think and feel a certain way about themselves (self-esteem); the other was designed to make children appreciate the value of hard work (self-control).

The researcher followed up the first test with a second, harder math test. The students in the first group, who had been praised for being smart, did poorly on the test. They encountered difficult problems and simply gave up. The children who had been praised for their hard work kept working until they solved the difficult problems, and as a result, scored much higher on the second test.

What was going on? Children who had been praised for their identity as being smart believed that intelligence was fixed. One was either smart or not. Intelligence was either something one had or didn’t. So, when they encountered difficult problems, they concluded that they weren’t smart enough to solve them and gave up. Children in the second group, however, who had been praised for hard work, weren’t focused on their identity as being or not

being smart; they were focused on the virtue of hard work, and as such, they scored better.

It's terribly ironic, but parents who attempt to build their children's self-esteem by telling their children how smart they are, end up destroying it because they set their children up for failure when they encounter difficult problems. So if you want to raise smart kids, don't tell them they're smart (identity). Praise them for their effort (behavior). Intelligence isn't simply a matter of identity; it's a matter of numerous lifestyle choices.

Raising Virtuous Children

When it comes to virtuous children, you don't do it by preaching it; you do it by requiring it. Dr. Sax explains,

There is a notion prevalent among American parents that kids need to be convinced or persuaded that an action is right before being asked to perform it. If you want kids to act virtuously, according to this assumption, you must first persuade your child of the importance of virtuous behavior.

As it turns out, though, reality doesn't work this way. "The arrow of causality," explains Sax, "points in the other direction. Behaving virtuously leads people to become more virtuous..." To be straightforward, Dr. Sax writes: "If you *compel* children to *act* more virtuously, they actually *become* more virtuous."

Jesus said something similar in Matthew 6:21 when he says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Notice what He's saying: your heart follows your treasure. In context He's talking about pursuing the Kingdom of God and He instructs us to lead our hearts by investing our treasure in heaven. So, for example, if you want to strengthen your giving, you shouldn't first try to convince your heart that it's important, because your treasure doesn't follow your heart. Your heart is a mess of selfishness and needs to be trained. You lead your heart by putting your money where you want your heart to be. Your heart will follow. You will become a better giver when you start giving better. You will develop the

virtue of generosity when you force yourself to practice it.

The same goes with children. You will raise generous children when you *require* it. You will raise conscientious children when you *require* it. You will raise hospitable, kind, and loving children when you *require* it (and demonstrate it!).

Then – and this is important – when you see your child demonstrating Godly virtues, focus on their identity in your praise (as opposed to their behavior, as with intelligence). So, if you see your child being kind, say, "You are a very kind person." The goal here is to help your child attach kindness to his identity. Or if you see your child standing up for truth, say, "You are a truthful person. I appreciate your integrity." The goal is to help your child attach truth and integrity to his identity.

Here's why this matters. Everyone knows being rude is wrong and everyone knows cheating and lying are wrong. If parents teach virtue by focusing on behavior ("Don't do rude things." Or "Don't cheat."), children will be prone to think of themselves as nice and honest people who only lose their temper or cheat for certain excusable reasons (as the above mentioned study demonstrated). If, however, their behavior is connected to their identity – "Don't be a rude person." Or "Don't be a cheater." – they are far less likely to engage in such behaviors. The goal is to help children see that behavior *becomes* identity. If you do rude things, you *are* a rude person. If you cheat, you *are* a cheater. If children are compelled to see this connection, they are far less likely to engage in ungodly behavior and pursue godly virtues.

Raising smart and virtuous children can be done, but it requires thoughtful effort by parents. Parents must see the parent-child relationship as primary and embrace their role as educators of desire. And to this, parents must first have their own desires shaped by their faithful hearing of God's Word. When it comes to intelligence, they must emphasize behavior over identity. When it comes to virtue, they must emphasize identity over behavior. Want to talk about this? Stop in or give me a call or email. – Pastor Conner



Ladies Guild

Highlights
Ladies Guild of Zion
October 12, 2016

The meeting began with the recitation of the LWML Pledge. Pastor Riggert's devotional centered on the 499th anniversary of the Reformation that began with Luther on October 31st 1517. Just to put it in perspective for us, Pastor reminded us that Luther was born in 1483, died in 1546 and Columbus discovered America in 1492. Margaret Backhaus' Christian Life Program was "How Not to Fill the Ballot" reminding us how to ask someone to consider filling the offices for Guild. The mite box was passed as a mite box prayer was offered.

President Buhr called the business meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. Roll call was answered by guild members remembering when their parents thought they were old enough to date, and when each member thought she was old enough to date. The secretary then read the minutes which were approved as read. A thank you note was read from the family of Duane Wegner. Treasurer Mary Grimm and kitchen treasurer Darlene Vollstedt gave their reports. An invitation was extended from the New Hope Foundation to take part in a quilt auction on April, 22nd. No action taken. Human Care Chair Audrey Roe asked for sheets or light blankets to be donated for the center of quilts being constructed. Becki Ehlers, Sunshine Chair, said she had sent 30 cards since June. Circle # 3 had served the Mandi Sandage funeral. Circle #1 will be next.

Old business: President Buhr reported on Camp Okoboji's quilt auction. There were 189 entries (6 from Manning). The total raised was \$24,585.00. The LWML fall rally held in Carroll included 7 members from Manning. Sandra Vahl was installed as the new zone president at the meeting. New items being collected are old prescription pill bottles. They should be rinsed and the sticker removed. They will be used in countries where no containers are available for medicines.

New business: Holiday gifts boxes were discussed. It was decided that the nicest thing that could be done for Plaza and Char Mac residents were personal visits, especially at Christmas. Committees for Advent by Candlelight were organized. Bev Grundmeier and Barb Anderson will take care of ticket sales. Cheryl Buhr will line up the program. Darlene Vollstedt will be in charge of the kitchen with helpers. Audrey Roe and Sue Puck will decorate the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall. Sign up sheets are ready for ladies willing to decorate tables or to bring a dessert. The nominating committee was reminded to have nominees for president and vice-president ready for election at the November meeting.

Carroll St. Paul is hosting the loway banquet on November 5th. A catered meal will be provided. Anyone interested in helping decorate the Lutheran Hour float for the 2017 Tournament of Roses Parade is asked to contact Ellie Menz. Plaza Bingo is October 28th. Chairman is Sue Schilling, with Carol Kahl, Becki Ehlers and Mary Grimm. Sue Puck asked members for help in serving lunch to tour members and press at the Hausbarn on October 31st. Becki Ehlers, Sue Schilling, Cynthia Genzen, Darlene Vollstedt and Cheryl Buhr volunteered to bring food.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer. Mary Grimm and Becki Ehlers served refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Puck, secretary

New Collection Item! The Ladies Guild will be collecting empty prescription medication bottles, which will then be forwarded to impoverished nations for medication distribution. Look for the collection basket in the fellowship hall.

Preschool Praises October 2016

What a busy month! The first week of October we talked about fall and learned how to *safely* use scissors and how to hold them before they even touch paper. As an adult, you don't realize how difficult it actually is to learn how to correctly hold a scissors and then balance the scissors in one hand and hold the paper in the other! We enjoyed talking about the falling leaves and all the different colors they change to. Then Lion's Club of Iowa came in and did free eye testing for each student to check for early issues that may require them to go to an optometrist. How fortunate are we all to have these services available to us!



The second week we talked about Fire Safety - Stop, Drop, and Roll; Don't hide-Go outside; crawl under smoke. The Manning Fire Department came and spoke to us about fire safety and showed us how a firefighter looks before and after putting on his life-saving gear. They may look a little scary, but they are really just a person under all those clothes and they want to help. Then, they gave us fire truck rides! You can imagine how excited the children were! To top it off, the fire department also gave the children each a helmet, an activity pack, and a water bottle! We wrote them a nice card (more like a poster!) from each class and included some of the pictures we took that day on it. Again, we thank all those who serve on the Fire Department for their service and sacrifice!

Apples were the theme for the third week and we enjoyed learning the parts of an apple, making art with cut apples and paint, and cutting our way to the apple tree on an activity page. All the while we were warming up for the Pancake breakfast and practicing our song extra hard so that we could sing nicely for our families. The Pancake Breakfast went wonderfully and we had a great turn out! The children did their best on the songs and sounded wonderful. Thank you to the preschool parents for their volunteer work that day - you were essential to its success!

Our last week was a blur with Pumpkin fun and carving as well as Fall Festival and costumes! I need to thank Betty Schroeder for donating the adorable mini pumpkins to the children as well as Chuck and Nadine Ehlers (my parents) for donating 2 large pumpkins for the children to enjoy carving and squishing the insides through their little fingers! A big thank you also to the volunteers that helped make Fall Festival such a fun night for the children and their families! Enjoy this beautiful fall weather and the amazing colors that God gave us!

Blessings, Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz





“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever” (Is 40:8). These words of the prophet Isaiah gave great comfort to people of Israel during their many dark days and lonely nights in exile and they continue to comfort us in these uncertain and transient days.

A common lament nowadays is that nothing seems “sure” or “certain” - the world changes so rapidly. Products break, clothing wears out, and automobiles rust away over time. In fact, the world seems bleak when we consider all that is here today and gone tomorrow. Thankfully, this is not our reality as the baptized. Not everything in our world is transient. It really is true that some things will last forever! The prophet Isaiah reminds us of the Word of the Lord which stands forever. What a joy to know that the Word of our Lord that we hear each week in the Divine Service or can read in our Bibles during devotional time endures forever. The Lord will not break his promises to you nor will the love of God in Christ Jesus wear out.

During the month of October, the Church remembers and commemorates the Reformation. Faithful pastors continued to preach the gospel in season and out. The result? The Word of the Lord endured corruption in the church and in the government. The forgiveness of Jesus was preached to repentant sinners and the gospel continued to go into the world. As the 500th anniversary of the Reformation approaches, we are able to see how the Word of the Lord has endured even the darkest points in history. So as we look to the coming days, keep Isaiah’s words in mind. Despite the economy, the upcoming election, the instability around the world, and our own sinfulness, the Word of the Lord endures forever. To God be the glory!

“Behold, the Lord God comes with might and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young” (Is 40:10-11).

We have lived in the Dominican Republic for a little over two months now. We figured that a unique way to share our experiences would be a few “Highs & Lows” of our time overseas so far.

Lows

- 2 car accidents involving motorcycles (neither of us were driving or injured).
- Dealing with ‘gripe’ (common cold in Spanish) overseas.
- Power outages resulting in food spoiling in our refrigerator.
- Missing a good glass of cold milk (UHT milk is nothing to write home about - google it for more info.).

Highs:

- The installation of a new vicar at the church in Licey and the construction of a new church and school in Licey.
- Our progress in learning Spanish.
- 5 youth confirmed at the church in Palmar Arriba. →
- The joint Reformation service with all the Lutheran congregations in the DR.
- Buying fresh fruits and veggies from street vendors.

In Christ, Pastor Brian, Amanda, and Ezra



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

Missionaries to Indonesia



SELAMAT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We will take away a good number of incredible memories from our Home Service time this year, but our stop at Zion, Manning, is most certainly at the top of the list. We were absolutely touched and stunned by the warm welcome and outpouring of support that your congregation showed to us when we came by the night of Wednesday, October 19th. From the moment we walked in the door, you threw open your arms and brought us in like treasured members of the family. And that means a great deal, with us being so far separated from our own families, both in everyday life and during our travels here.

Thank you so very much for the way you took care of us, showed such interest in our Indonesian lives, and gave our family a safe place to be. It was a wonderful opportunity to share some glimpses into Southeast Asia, and to report to you what fruit is coming from our partnership. We are blessed to be together with you in this work, and our evening together was an unparalleled chance to celebrate that.

Our time together was too short by half, and even on parting you continued to spoil us... we walked out of there with goodies for our travels, which continue to make our journey more enjoyable even a week later! Thank you so much for the friendship and love you showed us, and for your promises of continued prayers; we truly count on them, and on you! God grant you great joy and peace in Christ Jesus, the only hope for sinners, and the victorious and gracious, loving Lord.

Yours in His holy Name,

The Ferry Family (Charles, Cheryl, Caleb, Caitlin, Carissa, Cassandra, and Chloe)

To support our work financially, send a tax-deductible gift to: The LCMS, P.O. Box 790089, St. Louis, MO 63179



Look at all those hungry children!



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 11, November 2016

Pastor Vogel will be preaching at Zion, Manning on Sunday, November 13th!

Presentation at a LWML Zion Rally: One of my favorite tasks in my Hispanic ministry is giving presentations at LWML rallies around the District. I started my ministry by planting a Hispanic mission with the aid of LWML funds in Perrine, Florida. So, I have a great affection for our missionary sisters. In September I went to rural Trinity near Fort Dodge and gave a presentation to the gathering of 40+ women and pastors of the Humboldt Zone. My presentations are always about our ministries among Hispanic immigrants in Denison and Storm Lake. I try to help the ladies understand how we share the Good News of Jesus in our churches. I want them to understand that our work is very similar to what their churches are doing but in the Spanish language. And because of the different language there are cultural differences as well. But the Gospel of the love of Jesus as Savior for all people is the same. The women at Trinity were so positive, asking great questions and being supportive of our work.

Calling a Bilingual Pastor: In September, Pastor Leroy Riemer, Storm Lake Circuit Visitor, and I met with the Call Committee at Grace in Storm Lake. The purpose was to call a bilingual pastor for the Hispanic ministry at Grace and the area communities. The Call Committee consists of the Grace elders and four Hispanic representatives, also members of Grace. I was invited as the vacancy pastor. The Committee was presented with a list of eight bilingual pastors from around the country. The Hispanic members were very insistent that their pastor be very fluent in English as well as in Spanish. The Committee also emphasized the job description of the new pastor which includes partnering with the area Circuit and District churches to promote the work of Hispanic ministry in the Storm Lake area.

At the second meeting last month, the Committee narrowed the list to three and one was invited to come for a personal visit and interview. At the time of this report Pastor Michael Moreno of Norfolk, Nebraska is scheduled to come to visit with the members on October 18. We pray for this important Hispanic ministry in one of the communities of Iowa with the highest minority population. It has been vacant since July of 2015 when Pastor Eric Moeller left Storm Lake. Please pray for this important mission field.

Annual Walk for Life: On Sunday, October 2 we gathered on highway 30 with Pro-Life supporters from around Denison. This national event was established many years ago to silently pray and publically protest the tragedy of abortion and human life issues in our country. Our Hispanic ministry has been participating for a number of years. In the photo, Marta and Maru led our Hispanic group.

Please Pray: + For the Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they pray and prepare to interview a bilingual pastor this month to possibly call him to serve their ministry. + For the new Hispanic mission committee to help guide the ministry in the Circuit and District in the Storm Lake area. + For new adults studying for membership in Denison and Storm Lake. + For plans for our annual Unity service in November. + ***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

Trinity's Salad Luncheon

On Tuesday, October 4th, the Priscilla Guild of Trinity, Manilla hosted its annual Salad Luncheon. Over 150 people attended and enjoyed fantastic food and fellowship. All funds raised go to support missions and youth.



Winter worship time will be Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. This new time will begin November 5th.

Trinity Joins Jesus

On Saturday, October 15, Trinity, Manilla enthusiastically welcomed Pastor Greg Finke. He encouraged congregants to join Jesus on Jesus' redemptive mission in their neighborhoods and then Pastor Finke joined us for an outstanding potluck!



And don't miss Trinity's **Chicken and Biscuit Supper** after church on **November 5th!** Come feast on the Word at 4:00 and chicken and biscuits at 5:30.



Smiles Abound! God blessed us with a beautiful evening for a hayride and cookout on October 2nd! Over 60 people enjoyed hotdogs, s'mores, and an evening of conversation. Special thanks to Shelly Gruhn, Tim Kienast, Dan Dawson, and Horizon Equipment for their contributions to the event!



November Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion

Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Joy Umland | 18. Beverly Grundmeier
Scott Robinson |
| 2. Derek Hodne
Dillon Mohr | 19. Ryan Doyel
Mark Kucik
Garrett Renze |
| 3. Taylor Beckendorf
Wade Janssen | 20. Becky Eischeid
Barbara Gore |
| 4. Caleb Alexander
Kori Beckendorf
Mason Benton
Charles Hickman
Carol Kahl | 21. Margaret Backhaus
Dustin Bruch
Daniel Mohr |
| 5. Joe Riesberg | 22. Matthew Rosener
Thomas Walters |
| 6. Albert Vahl | 24. Allen Ehlers
Kelly Page |
| 7. Barbara Anderson
Samantha Doyel
Fred Gruhn
Levi Lapel | 25. Luann Langel
Amber Neumann |
| 8. Ken Grimm
Travis Mohr
Alexander Thelen | 26. Nancy Baack
Amy Borkowski
Nicholas Diersen |
| 9. Rick Lohrmann
Kenneth Stripling | 27. Ryan Willison |
| 10. Jean Kusel
Jeanette Lerssen | 28. Diane Genzen |
| 11. Debbie Musfeldt
Tammy Winter | 29. Daniel Behrens |
| 12. Kyle Vetter | 30. Alberta Dreier |
| 13. Jacob Dreier
Jordan Edgington
Rodney Frank | |
| 14. Bridget Gore
Steve Renze | |
| 15. Jesse Johnson | |
| 16. Sam Musfeldt
Rachel Nulle
Paula Vogel | |
| 17. Macie Doyel
Shelly Gruhn
Sandra Vahl | |



Anniversaries

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

11. Ken & Rhonda Grimm
14. Elissa & Joe Riesberg
16. Allen & Becky Ehlers
20. Timothy & Amanda Rosener
24. John & Nancy Opperman
26. Ken & Becky Eischeid
Stacie & Nels Nelson
29. David & Kelli Page



Official Acts

Baptisms

Addalynn Norah Alexander, daughter of Michael and Megan Alexander; October 22, 2016; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Graham James England, son of Ben and Jaime (nee: Struve) England, October 30, 2016; Pastor Bob Riggert

Transferred out:

Lindsey Kropf and daughter Avah to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Denison, IA, October 18, 2016

Transferred In:

Robin, Tyler, Shelby, Zoey Heaton from Trinity Lutheran Church, Fremont, NE, October 18, 2016

Funerals:

Merlin Borkowski, October 29, 2016; Pastor Bob Riggert

In Our Prayers

Walt Noelck, Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Arlene Mohr, Bev Rix, Jim Deevers, Duane Karsten, Joy Umland, Gabriel Albers (Pastor and Rebecca's nephew), Madelyn Dreher (newborn daughter of Randy and Crystal Dreher), Eric Lage, Justeen Schwieso