

Pentecost Continues

When you picture Pentecost, chances are you don't see water dripping down an individual's head over the Baptismal font or bread and wine being distributed around an altar or even a preacher opening Scripture to gathered hearers. You probably have images of a fiery, Spirit-driven wind storm amid a cacophony of diverse tongues giving glory to God. And while this may capture the original Pentecost event, it does not describe Pentecost's ongoing manifestation in the Church. God continues to pour out His Spirit today – Pentecost continues – and it continues through certain means: the preached Word and administered Sacraments.

On the first Pentecost, St. Peter declared that the outpouring of the Spirit had last days significance. In other words, Peter was declaring that the last day, the age to come, the end times, the time when God's saving reign was coming to the world, had been inaugurated with the giving of the Spirit. We are living in the end times. God's Spirit, poured out visibly at Pentecost, was given to begin the work of gathering the nations into the Church. And, if you follow the manifestation of the Spirit through Acts, you discover that the Spirit is revealed each time the Gospel reaches a new people group: Samaritans and Ethiopians (Acts 8), Gentiles (Acts 10), disciples of John the Baptism (Acts 19). During the apostolic era God gave the Spirit in special ways repeatedly to teach His fledgling Church: The gospel is for them, too. The gospel is for all people.

But when Acts describes how Pentecost continues, it doesn't speak about fantastic Spirit manifestations. Peter himself, after finishing his Pentecost sermon, is asked by the gathered congregation "What should

we do?" And, perhaps surprisingly, he doesn't say, "You need to experience a fantastic outpouring of the Spirit." Instead, he says, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." This is remarkable! Peter is saying that Pentecost continues in the Baptismal font, where God continues to pour out His Spirit as He forgives sin. He's saying Pentecost is for us and for our children.

Then, a mere three verses later, Acts tells us that the church "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Pentecost was God's bold declaration that the Gospel was and is for all people and Pentecost continues today as the church continues to devote itself to the same things. We continue to gather to hear the apostolic teaching as recorded in Scripture and summarized in the Church's historical creeds. We continue to emphasize the fellowship we share in the Spirit who works among us through Word and Sacraments. We continue to celebrate the breaking of the bread in the Church's great fellowship meal, Holy Communion. And we continue to gather as the Church in prayer, prayer for the Body of Christ and for the continuance of the Gospel's expansion into our world.

Pentecost continues among us today – not in the wild, "Spiritized" experiences some emphasize, not in the attempts to make it feel like God is present in worship, but in the faithful proclamation of the apostolic teaching, the faithful administration of Baptism and Holy Communion, and the faithful prayers of the Church. God is present and working through these means and Pentecost continues among us.



Ministry Apps

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes (June 2017): Zion and Trinity Lutheran

“They gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.” 2 Corinthians 8:5

There is no “app” for “steward.” Blessed by the grace of God in Christ Jesus, we respond as wise managers of everything that God has given to us.

Stewards of TIME

The world suggests it's MY time. God's Word teaches that time is God's gift to us to use for His glory. God entered our time in the person of Jesus to redeem the times. As we enter the time of summer, we value time for family, travel, relaxation, etc. We also prioritize the time of worship. The month of June offers some inspirational times.

- June 3/4—Pentecost Sunday; Christian vocalist, Jennie Williamson, will lead worship music at Zion
- June 10/11—We celebrate the gift of children as we review the VBS “Mighty Fortress” celebration
- June 17-18 –Family Focus weekend with Children's Day in Manning and Father's Day
- June 24-25—“No Fear!” Focus; Praise Team assists with worship at Zion
- June 22—“Here I Stand” special Thursday evening worship at Historic Trinity at 7 p.m.

Stewards of TALENT

As the Christian Education Board organized an end-of-year “thank you” for the Zion Sunday school staff, a list of 25 volunteers (teachers, substitutes, administration) was generated. Praise God for this gifted and generous team.

A team of over 50 volunteers will lead children to their “Mighty Fortress” during this year's VBS adventure (June 5-9). Volunteers serve Zion and Trinity in a variety of contexts and settings. Thanks for sharing your talents in church and community. Zion volunteers are important to our community assisting with Food Pantry, C-3, Hausbarn and Heritage Park, and other areas. Thanks for being Jesus' lights.

Stewards of TREASURE

Financial needs (utilities, salaries, maintenance, programs, missions) of the church don't take a vacation. The consistent and generous support of all members is needed each month. Financial reports through the month of April indicated that monthly budget goals are not being met to date. Consider electronic giving (contact the church office for more details) or send your weekly/monthly gift to church if you are out of the area for several Sundays.

Steward TOGETHER

The Zion Fellowship Club will gather at the Riggert home (810 Nishnabotna Drive) on TUESDAY, JUNE 13 at 6 p.m. Fellowship Club members AND FRIENDS are invited! Brats will be provided by the hosts. Other potluck items can be brought by guests. Everyone welcome!

Registrations for children and youth camps at Camp Okoboji continue to be accepted. Zion will pay for half the registration costs for Zion AND Trinity members. Camp Okoboji offers unique opportunities to grow as stewards of God's creation and God's grace. Visit www.campokoboji.org for more information. Blessed by the generous stewardship of many donors, the new Discover Center was recently dedicated.

Your fellow servant and steward,
Pastor Riggert

UPCOMING EVENTS

@ ZION & TRINITY



June 4

Jennie Williamson at Zion for morning worship then at Manning's Heritage Hausbarn for the C3 Concert. Gates open at 4:00 p.m.



June 5-9

Zion VBS

Be a part of Zion's victory celebration in Jesus!
The celebration goes from 8:45 – 11:30 a.m.



June 19

Youth Ministry Round Table Discussion

Join Pastor Mark Keisling (LCMS Youth Ministry Director), Pastor Jonathan Riggert (IDW Youth Ministry Chairman), Pastor Bob Riggert, Pastor Johnson, and youth leaders from the surrounding churches for an evening of resourcing, sharing, and encouragement.

The Conversation begins at 6:00 p.m. at Zion.



July 8

Ordination/Installation of Pastor-Elect Andrew Johnson

Join our brothers and sisters in Christ at Trinity in Manilla for this special celebration service.

Service begins at 4:00 p.m. / celebration meal to follow



August 14

Philippians Workshop: Pastors and People: Partners in the Gospel

Join Pastor Heath Curtis (LCMS Stewardship Director) for a fellowship meal and evening of conversation and equipping in Christian Stewardship

Meal begins at 5:30 p.m.



November 4

Iowa District West Treasurers' Workshop

Pastors, treasurers, financial secretaries, and church leadership, take advantage of this opportunity to learn, listen, network and grow from the expertise of our District partners.

Sessions begin at 9:00 a.m., break for lunch, and finish by 3:00 p.m.

The Formation of a Pastor in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

As you know, Pastor Johnson and his wife Tiffany will be arriving in Manilla on July 1. He has completed his seminary studies and will be ordained and installed on July 8 (4:00 p.m. at Trinity, Manilla). All this you know. But do you know what it took to get to these important dates? Do you know what it means to “go to seminary”? In the following article, Pastor Johnson explains the seminary experience.

The formation of a pastor in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod can occur in a couple of different ways. The primary way by which most pastors are formed is through residential education that takes place over a period of four to five years. Seminarieas live and learn at either Fort Wayne Theological Seminary or Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. I attended seminary in St. Louis.



Concordia Seminary St. Louis



Martin Luther at Concordia



The seminary develops pastors using lessons that derive from four overarching categories: historical, systematic, exegetical, and practical theology.

Historical theology focuses on where God’s people have been in the past and where they are now. So students look at figures like the Apostle Paul, Martin Luther, C.F.W. Walther, and many others.

Systematic theology arranges God’s truth into organized, digestible categories. So systematics take God’s teaching from the Bible and highlights special themes. For example the Lord’s Supper is a major theme in the Bible that systematic theology examines.

Seminary Chapel



Exegetical theology focuses on the Bible. More specifically, exegetical theology compares and contrasts all the books of the Bible to one another. Unfortunately there is never enough time to study the Bible, so the seminary requires students to take six special Bible classes: *Exodus and the Torah* (first five books in the Bible); *Psalms and Writings* (the wisdom books like Ecclesiastes and Proverbs); *Isaiah and the Prophets*; *The Synoptic Gospels* (Matthew, Mark, and Luke); *The Pauline Epistles* (e.g. Romans or 1 Corinthians); *John and the Catholic Epistles* (so the Gospel of John and the other *Catholic* letters -- Catholic here just means the worldwide Church in this context).



Finally, students receive a great deal of practical experience and wisdom. Classes focus on teaching the basics of the Faith, preaching, and counseling. On top of the education in the classroom, I was assigned to a congregation in St. Louis where I taught Bible study, preached, and observed congregational events and meetings.

Students also observe an institutional ministry as well as experience being in a cross-cultural

environment. The institution I observed was one of St. Louis' Lutheran nursing homes. For my cross-cultural experience, I had the opportunity to travel to New York City for two weeks. Being a Midwesterner through and through, that was a humbling, eye-opening time.

Pastor Johnson's class in New York



Pastor Johnson



Again seminary takes 4 years. Students spend three of those years on campus, but their third, or junior year, is dedicated to a special experience called vicarage. Vicarage is a yearlong internship where students move away from the seminary to a congregation located *anywhere* in the United States.

For our internships Tiffany and I were sent to St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo, Florida.

St. Luke's



St. Luke's was a tremendous blessing! I was able to teach confirmation, preach, and mentor students at the congregation's elementary school. St. Luke's also works extensively with its next door neighbor, Lutheran Haven. The Haven serves retired Lutheran pastors, teachers, and laymen. There are cottages available to those who are just seeking a space to retire in Florida, as well as assisted living. The Haven provided me the opportunity to make frequent care visits. On top of that, the retirees passed on years of experience and knowledge to me.

St. Luke's Youth



After vicarage, seminarians return for one final year of study. It is during that last year that students begin the process of interviewing with congregations for placement. The final year ultimately offers students one final opportunity to ask questions -- especially questions about particular parts of ministry that came to light during vicarage.

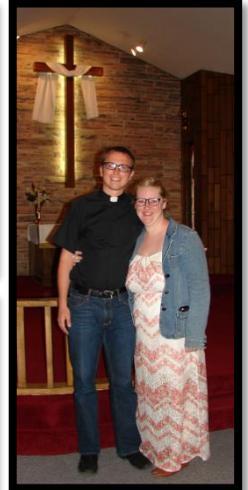
Then seminarians graduate in May. Graduation from seminary is a culmination of eight years of study (four years of college and four years of seminary). Seminary formation is truly impactful and memorable! And God has blessed the LC-MS with two of some of the greatest seminaries in the world.

Pastor-Elect Andrew Johnson



**Welcome
Pastor
Andrew and
Tiffany
Johnson!**

**Pictures from
their visit May
26-28**



Pantry Shower for Pastor and Tiffany Johnson

Trinity: (by first letter of last name)

- A-D: Fruit (fresh or canned)
- E-I: Vegetables (fresh or canned)
- K-L: Meat (fresh or frozen)
- M-R: Dairy (milk, cheese), eggs
- S-Z: Pasta, cereal, bread, crackers

- Bring items to Trinity or Zion June 17/18 or 24/25.
- Gift cards welcome.
- For fresh/frozen items call Cathie Segebart (712-677-5547) or Darlene Vollstedt (712-655-3950).

Zion:

- Paper products (paper towels, TP, paper plates, cups, etc.)
- Soaps (dishwasher, dish, hand, laundry, etc.)
- Beverages (coffee, tea, juice, soda, etc.)



ON THAT NOTE

Treasuring our Musical Treasure



This month we feature one of the ancient hymns in our hymnal, “Father, We Praise Thee.” Due to its ancient origins, its author is uncertain, although it has been attributed to Gregory I who lived from 540 – 604. Gregory I was known for many things, among which was his great learning. Being born into a family of great wealth and influence, Gregory was the administrator of his city by age 30. But he was dissatisfied with his life, and when his father died, he used his great (inherited) wealth to convert his house and numerous properties into monasteries.

Pope Benedict I appointed Gregory to be one of Rome’s seven deacons, and when Benedict’s successor, Pelagius, fell ill due to plague, Gregory was elected pope (albeit against his will). Throughout his life Gregory witnessed plague, famine, floods, slavery, and corruption. Gregory is known for championing the divinity of Christ against a persistent Arian heresy, as well as the resurrection of the body against a false teaching that was spiritualizing it. He also had a great passion for bringing the gospel of Jesus to England. Despite these positives, Gregory endorsed the re-sacrifice of Christ in the Mass (Holy Communion) and promulgated the false teaching of purgatory. Yet the hymn attributed to him beautifully confesses the tri-unity of God. As such, the church has preserved it for 1400 years. We will sing “Father, We Praise Thee” on Trinity Sunday, June 11.



Father, we praise Thee, now the night is over,
Active and watchful, stand we all before Thee;
Singing, we offer prayer and meditation:
Thus we adore Thee.

Our hymn begins with the freshness of morning in mind. As our eyes greet the dawn’s morning light, our mouths are moved to praise our Heavenly Father who, throughout the night, has neither slumbered nor slept, but has been active and watchful on our behalf. As such, we stand active and watchful in expectant faith for the coming of His kingdom among us. In this active and watchful faith, we join in song as we unite in prayer to our Father and meditation on His Word. In this way we rightly worship and adore our Heavenly Father.



Monarch of all things, fit us for Thy
mansions;
Banish our weakness, health and wholeness
sending;
Bring us to heaven, where Thy saints united
Joy without ending.

Verse two begins by confessing God's universal kingship. He is monarch over all things. It then transitions into a prayer for our Heavenly Monarch to act with kingly kindness toward us in fitting us for residence in His presence. The prayer for *mansions* isn't asking for a room in a heavenly, palatial estate, but it carries the older meaning of the word, *dwelling place*. As such, it is a humble prayer for God to work His refining work in our lives so as to fit us for residence in His presence.

So the prayer continues by asking God both to banish our weakness, a weakness that often succumbs to sin, and to send us health and wholeness, not just to our bodies, but to our spirits so that we will rightly pursue what is good, beautiful, and true. Finally, the hymn invites us to pray for God to welcome us into His presence and into the presence of the saints who are united before Him in unending joy.

Verse three confesses the Tri-unity of God. Father, Son, and Spirit are holy. Father, Son, and Spirit are equal. This succinctly summarizes the church's ancient Trinitarian creedal confession recorded in the Athanasian Creed which reads:

The catholic (universal Christian) faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance... the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.

It is to this Triune God that this hymn moves us to pray for salvation. And, as the hymn confesses in a final doxology, it is this Triune God whose glory gleams and resounds throughout all creation. This God is our God. And on Trinity Sunday we'll sing this song and joyfully worship The Trinity in Unity and the Unity in Trinity.



All-holy Father, Son, and equal Spirit,
Trinity blessèd, send us Thy salvation;
Thine is the glory, gleaming and resounding
Through all creation.

God is looking for ordinary women empowered by Him to do ordinary things

Pastor Conner began by reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3. He reminded us that the Corinthian Christians had “messed up stuff” in their lives just as we have in ours. He went on to explain how the Apostle Paul taught that we are sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be saints. Seeing ourselves this way should make us live our lives more in keeping with what God has called us.



President Buhr then led us through the LWML hymn, “Lutheran Women One and All.” Margaret Backhaus followed with a reading entitled “What God can do with 57 cents.” Just as Jesus fed 5,000 men with 5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish, a young girl’s donation of 57 cents encouraged others to give toward more church space and a hospital. The mite box was passed as the mite box prayer was offered.

President Buhr called the business meeting to order in the name of our Triune God. Roll call was answered by 14 members with their favorite job or volunteer experience. The secretary’s minutes were read and approved. Correspondence included thank you notes from Dorothy Struve’s family and missionary Ferry and family. Treasurer Mary Grimm gave her report. Darlene Vollstedt gave the kitchen treasury report. Committee reports included Human Care Chairman Audrey Roe tallying what was gathered and delivered to Sac City for World Relief. There were 99 personal care kits, 128 quilts, and 14 pounds of soap. Sunshine Chairman Becki Ehlers had sent 3 cards last month. Circle #2 served Luella Mahnke’s funeral luncheon. Circle #3 is next in rotation.

Old Business: President Buhr reported on our visit to Manilla’s Priscilla Guild meeting and on the Spring Rally in Arcadia. It was moved by Bev Grundmeier that we send a \$50.00 gift card with Zone President Sandra Vahl to the National LWML Convention for the ingathering. It was seconded by Joene Bohmann. The motion carried. Guild collection items no longer being sought are pill bottles and Campbell soup labels. We continue to collect postage stamps, box tops for education, soap, computer ink cartridges and cell phones.

New Business: The graduate breakfast will be May 21st. Sandra Vahl will serve as chairman. The graduates will be given a bookmark with their confirmation verse penned on the back. A sheet was passed asking for donations of food. Kinderfest will be on June 17th. Joni Kienast will chair the cookie walk. Cookies and snacks will be gathered from the congregation. Plastic bags and paper plates will be provided in the church kitchen for packaging. Advent by Candlelight will be held on December 3rd. It was moved by Darlene Vollstedt that tickets should remain at \$5.00 apiece. It was seconded by Carol Kahl and the motion passed. Camp Okoboji’s quilt auction is scheduled for June 24th. Plaza bingo on May 26th will be chaired by Mary Grimm, with Darlene Vollstedt, Susan Schilling and Carol Kahl as helpers. The next guild meeting will be on June 14th. Hostesses will be JoAnn Thomas and Mary Grimm.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer and the Table Prayer. Lunch was served by Darlene Vollstedt and Wilma Bogatzke.

Sue Puck, secretary



Volunteers Needed!

**Pastor Johnson’s ordination celebration meal
July 8th after the 4:00 p.m. service**

Contact Cathie Segebart: 712-677-5547

Or

Cheral Buhr: 712-655-3824

Preschool Praises for May 2017

May was a wonderful month full of fun and new activities! The first week of May we spoke about bugs and the letter "Z." The children got to make their own butterflies by putting drops of paint on a piece of paper and then folding it. It was pretty neat to see the different beautiful pictures they made. We also spoke about God's gift of the Holy Spirit and how the Spirit allowed the apostles to speak to many different people who spoke many different languages. The children enjoyed hearing Mrs. Nemitz speak in German and I spoke (very limited) Spanish to them to show that what the Holy Spirit did was so amazing.

The second week of May we had a field trip where we walked to the Manning Plaza and sang for them. What a blessing it was to see all those smiling faces, young and old! After singing at the plaza, we walked to the park and played with our friends and enjoyed snack and a story until it was time to go home. I'm sure all the children slept well that night! We also worked on special Mother's Day gifts which included a white carnation that we put in colored water to see what would happen. We spoke about Saul and how Jesus chose a man who hated Christians to spread his message. The last week of the year went quickly as we wrapped up the end of the year. It was fun to see how much the children had grown and how different their self-portraits from the beginning of the year differed from the end of the year. On the last day they practiced to be ready for the closing ceremony then enjoyed playing with bubbles outside.

The children did a wonderful job during the closing ceremony and I am so proud of them! The end of the year is bitter sweet since it is the end of the preschool year and the children will be moving on, but I am glad that I will see some of the same faces next year and I will get to watch many of them grow up as I see them in the community.

I was very blessed this year to have such a wonderful support system and I especially want to thank Mrs. Nemitz for all her help and guidance, Mrs. Borkowski for her faithful volunteering, the preschool board for all their help this year and Pastor Conner for being so involved with the preschool. I also thank the community for their support, all the people who gave of their time to the preschool and sharing with the children. The parents of the wonderful children also need a big thank you as they were our partners this year and entrusted their children's safety and education to us.

I look forward to the coming years!
Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz





Ladies Guild will again sponsor the Cookie Walk at Kinderfest in the Manning City Park on Saturday, June 17. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for workers to help throughout the day, or call Joni Kienast. Donations of cookies, bars or other snacks, 6-8 on a medium size plate, would be greatly appreciated. They can be dropped off at the church before 9:00 a.m. or taken to the booth in the park after 11:00. There are plates and baggies available in the Church kitchen. This is wonderful way for our church to a part of this community celebration.



!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 13, Issue 6, June 2017

Our new pastor is coming to Denison On April 25, Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana announced the assignment of Pastor Willie Grills to Amigos en Cristo Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denison. Pastor Willie is married to Angelica and they have a 3 year old son, Agustin. Rev. Willie is from Kentucky and Angelica is from the country of Panama. They are expecting their second child in early June. They will join us after they are ready to travel. Pastor Willie did his vicarage (student pastor internship) in Peru and also in Cedar Falls, Iowa. He will assume my work here in Denison as the sole pastor. We look forward to working with him and helping him continue this important work of sharing the Gospel with the Hispanic community in Denison. This will be a very big step for our Hispanic congregation to adjust to a new pastor and ministry. Please keep our church in your support and prayers.



Baptism in Denison: Last month I performed the baptism of Nazareth Elena Mendijar at Amigos en Cristo in Denison. Parents Antonio and Wendy Mendijar are a new family in our church. They first came to our church at the beginning of the school year out of curiosity about the church where their son Jacob goes to school. They came to ask about how to baptize their daughter, Nazareth. Jacob is in the Zion Lutheran Preschool and enjoys his first year of school. Antonio works building pallets in Manning and Wendy works at the Farmland plant in Denison. They are a young bilingual couple as Wendy speaks both languages and Antonio is stronger in Spanish. They are the type of young family that we seek to serve as they are the future of our churches and our communities. And yet while they are becoming more “Americanized,” they continue to use Spanish as their first language.



Easter Blessings: The banner says “Es Verdad, Cristo ha Resucitado.” In English it means: “It’s True, Christ has Risen.” The joyful theme of the Easter banner dominated our Easter worship, our fellowship afterwards and it now hangs in front of the church to share the joy with the Denison community.

With trumpet music, song and prayer, with Easter eggs and tamales, with Jesus alive among us, we celebrated this special day together with our families. With happy children and families gathered together in faith we gathered in church, gym and fellowship hall to share the Good News. Another special Easter season has begun!

Please Pray: + In thanksgiving for the assignment of Pastor Willie Grills to Amigos en Cristo and prayers for his transition. + For the Grace Hispanic church in Storm Lake as they review new options to call a bilingual pastor. + For babies Nazareth and Julian baptized recently. + For Rosa in Storm Lake and Dario in Denison as they study for adult membership. + For our summer transition plans in Denison and Storm Lake. + For Unity in our nation. + In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who support the Lord’s work among Hispanic immigrants in Denison and in our other two missions in Sioux City and Des Moines.

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:
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E-mail: daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org

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

Missionaries to Indonesia



Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! That cry rang out in different places in Southeast Asia on Easter Sunday, just like it did in your church. For us, it rang out in different languages in Indonesia, Singapore, Cambodia, and all the places where our Lord Jesus has called people by the Gospel, enlightened them with His gifts, sanctified and kept them in the true faith (Small Catechism).

For some of our Indonesian friends in particular, this was a meaningful Easter celebration. We've been teaching them for several years now at their request. The teaching has covered a wide variety of topics, including worship, Scripture, and Sacraments. This has led them to want to proclaim even more clearly the wonderful comfort that Christ is really present in His Word and His Sacraments. They came to realize through this teaching that it was a better confession of the Truth that the church uses a proper chalice for the Lord's Supper rather than the simple cup they'd been using. What a joy to have your partnership and be able to provide Indonesian congregations with a real chalice for the first time so they can confess and teach that the Lord is truly present with them in His Body and Blood!

In other news...

The Asia Region of the LCMS has been without a Regional Director for a year-and-a-half. The Regional Director's role is one of coordination and supervision for all the work that the LCMS is doing in every Asian country. He is the primary interface between workers on the ground in Asia and our leadership and support in the US, and serves as the chief advocate for the workers with the staff and leadership in St. Louis. We have missed having someone in this crucial role, despite the faithful service of others in the interim!

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



SELAMAT

Read more online at:

<http://ferrys.asia>

To my great surprise, the LCMS has asked me to fill this responsibility, serving our entire LCMS Asia team. After much conversation and deliberation by the entire family, we have been led to accept the position which begins on July 1st.

This means that in addition to serving the people of Indonesia and Southeast Asia, we have the opportunity to continue our partnership and serve people all over the Asia Region, which includes India, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Papua New Guinea, and Japan, among other places. We will need your prayers and support now more than ever as our family makes this transition, and as I begin serving people in a much larger area.

Our family is going to remain living in Indonesia, as we have come to love this place and its people. But our partnership with you expands to encompass more than half the world's population, and the chances to reach out and serve them increase exponentially. We'll be working together to support the work going on everywhere in Asia, bringing them the Word and gifts of Christ, reaching out to them in love, service, and proclamation. We pray you'll continue to be our partners in this work: living in Indonesia, serving all over Asia. We believe by the grace of our Lord Jesus, the best times are yet to come!



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

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

China Lutheran Seminary Our Missionary in Taiwan Dr. Stephen Oliver



中華信義神學院
China Lutheran Seminary

The Olivers: Isaac (9), Ginny (5),
Maggie, Gary (7), Stephen.



Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Australia and America are some of the places from which our international students come. Myanmar, Germany, Finland, America and South Africa are some of the homelands of our international teachers. England, Norway, Hong Kong and America are locations of the schools in which our teachers-in preparation study. One of the recent positive developments at China Lutheran Seminary is the growing international reach of our influence.

A portion of our international students are overseas Chinese and will go back to their country of residence to serve in their Chinese churches or as missionaries to other overseas Chinese. However, we also have non-Chinese Koreans and Vietnamese who have been learning Mandarin and sense their mission to be reaching out to Chinese with the Gospel. This is a special delight to me as a non-Chinese missionary to Chinese. And all of this makes for a very interesting mix and richness of God's gifts at China Lutheran Seminary.



China Lutheran Seminary professors with graduating students, including Vietnamese, Malaysian, and Indonesian students. Pray for them as they reach out with the Gospel in Taiwan and abroad to Chinese to reconcile them with their Creator who loves them and to give them eternal life through faith in Christ Jesus. Pray for them as they shepherd and serve His flock!

You have the opportunity to support Professor Oliver after worship on Sunday, June 25th in our second quarterly door offering!

Professor Oliver will be speaking at Mission Central on July 15 at 1:00 p.m.! Get a carload and hear what God is doing in Taiwan!



SERVING THE LORD IN

PANAMA

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY



May 2017
Vol. 2 Issue IV

At the beginning of May, Panamá hosted its third FORO meeting. The FORO (the Spanish word for 'forum') went wonderfully as national pastors from the five congregations, missionaries from the regional office, and partners from two congregations in the US gathered together for worship, fellowship, learning, a tour of various ministries and projects, and opportunities to discuss ministry and strategies for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Panamá (IELPA).

The idea behind the FORO is for missionaries, churches, service organizations, national churches, etc. to come together twice a year to talk, fellowship, participate in worship, and work towards a common goal in the ministry of the Gospel.

The three goals of the FORO are: 1. Growth for the church (catechesis), 2. Church planting, 3. Theological education. My call as theological educator focuses on goal #3. A concern of IELPA leadership is where and how the second generation of pastors and deaconesses will be trained to serve the church in Panamá. I will write articles on these three goals in more detail in the coming months.

The FORO provides the opportunity to discuss human resources, strategy, and finances to help accomplish these goals. This also gives partner congregations from the US a chance to be hands-on in the day-to-day mission work. If you are interested in learning more about the FORO in Panamá or how your congregation can help, please contact me. The next FORO will be November 10-12 in Panamá City. To God be the glory!

Update from Amanda Greetings from Panamá! The rainy season has begun which means we get daily storms. While this has changed how we approach the day with respect to playing outside, the landscape has gone through a much more dramatic change. When we arrived in January, the trees were more empty, the ground dry with cracks, and the grass brown. In just a few weeks everything has turned to a vibrant green.

Ezra loves exploring this new world. In our free time we enjoy hiking in the park just down the road (Parque Metropolitano) or in the national park (Soberanía Parque Nacional) which serves as the watershed for the Panamá Canal. We have seen an amazing number of beautiful birds, three types of monkeys, sloths, a white-nosed coati, anteaters, ñeques, and a variety of ant and butterfly species.

Ezra celebrated his 2nd birthday at the end of April! We had a fun celebration with Brian's parents and at church on Sunday. In his first two years of life he has visited 26 states of the United States and lived in 3 countries. He is growing so much and can now say his numbers and colors in both English and Spanish. We had a special time with Brian's parents and Ezra loved getting lots of extra love from his grandparents.

The FORO was a wonderful success. It was great to see fellow missionaries from the Dominican Republic and friends from US churches who are helping to support the work in Panamá. We enjoyed the fellowship and the opportunity to share about the work being done here. I am so excited to see how the Lord works through the FORO to bring the gospel. Please pray for us as we work to apply for residency. We believe we have all the proper documentation, it is now just a matter of waiting.

In Christ, Pastor Brian, Amanda, and Ezra

June Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

- 
1. McKensie Bess
Monica Christensen
Jonathan Conner
 2. Janice Ress
Autumn Winter
Sylvia Saunders (T)
 3. Dara Jorgensen (T)
 4. Kelli Grimm
Alexander Lingle (T)
 5. Warren Puck
 6. Angela Albertsen
Brandon Ranniger
Nyle Gruhn (T)
 7. Jarod Gruhn
Wyatt Badow (T)
 8. Jacob Ewoldt
Jett Sellner
David Vetter
 9. Kristine Bunker
Jon Saunders
Debra Blom (T)
 10. Amy Bradley
Luke Doyel
Deanna Hagedorn
Judy Jacobsen
Steve Page
 11. Ron Bunker
Luke Ramsey
Nolan Ramsey
Jerry Brus (T)
 12. Janet Plumb
Andrew Ferry (T)
 13. Nick Backhaus
Travis Neumann
 14. Jessica Winter
Jessica Bachman (T)
Richard Irwin (T)
 15. Ann Ranniger
JoAnn Wittrock
Dwight Brus (T)
 16. Michael Gore
Ashley Hinners
Greg Peters
 17. Lily Doyel
Lucille Ranniger
Dale Reinke
Paul Boell (T)
 18. Dan Kerkhoff
 19. Wilma Bogatzke
Daniel Vogel
 20. Aubrey Alexander
Lorrell Borkowski
Vera Mesenbrink (T)
 21. Rodney Kurth
Mason Vonnahme
 22. Duncan Hilsabeck
John Blom (T)
 23. Brooklynn Booth
Mary Grimm
Matthew Vogel
 24. Holly Borkowski
Inez Mahnke
Lana Georgius (T)
Dale Holmes (T)
Kristine Lingle (T)
 25. Jared Rosener
Tanner Hanson (T)
 26. Shirley Ahrendsen
Russell Bruhn
 28. Jordynne Bauer
Yvonne Klindt (T)
 29. Hannah Willison
Lynn Schroeder (T)

Anniversaries

- 
1. Gordon & Donna Schmarzo
 2. Duane & Janice Monson
 5. Roger & Heather Rasmussen (T)
 6. Ken & Gerry Stripling
 7. Floyd & Donna Forman
 8. Bill & Sheila Simonsen (T)
 10. Stan & Nancy Baack
Ron & Kristine Bunker
Ryan & Heidi Crawford
Brian & Deb Birks (T)
 11. Lyle & Arlene Bald
 12. Stan & Joleen Spies (T)
 14. James & Ferdonna Zimmerman (T)
 15. Lynn & Sonia Nulle
Dan & Lois Peters
 16. Loren & Jeanette Ferry (T)
 24. Jeff & Amy Bradley
Curt & Debra Janssen
 25. John & Barb Anderson
 26. Mike & Robin Heaton
Alan & Bonnie Lorenzen (T)
 27. Jerry & Carla Backhaus
 29. Craig & Luann Langel
Larry & Adella Farley (T)
 30. Albert & Sandra Vahl
- If we missed or misspelled your name, please inform the church office.*

In Our Prayers

Zion: Walt Noelck, Dave Grundmeier, Heather Kusel, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Gabriel Albers (Pastor and Rebecca's nephew), Eric Lage, Justeen Schwieso, Athena Bess, JoAnn Wittrock, Arlo Damman, Inez Mahnke, Virgil Rosonke, Donna Forman

Trinity: Betty & Fred Huffman (parents of Sherri Lingle), Cheryl Lahr, Rosalie Macumber, Ladelle Hanson, Ruth Crouch, Dale Holmes, Josephine Lingle, Vera Mesenbrink, Marge Schnoor, and Cheryl Boell, Alan Lorenzen