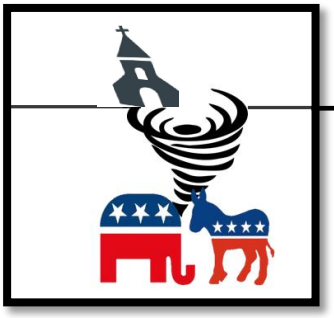


Beware of the Political Vortex

The news, Hollywood, ESPN, the NFL, even the Weather Channel have been sucked into the American political vortex. Everything is politicized. Everything is either liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican, left wing or right wing. Everything feels the pull, even the Church. This is a pull, however, we absolutely must stand against. Why? Keep reading.

Identity Informs Purpose

The *why* can be expressed in one word: *identity*. We have a specific identity, and identity informs purpose. Who we *are* informs what we *do*. The Church *is*, as our Lutheran Confessions teach, "the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is purely preached and the Holy Sacraments are administered according to the Gospel." The Gospel defines us. It is our identity and this Gospel identity informs our purpose and directs our doing.

The Church, specifically the Church gathered in worship, is being what and who God has redeemed it to be. The Church finds its purpose in the preaching of the Gospel and in its personal deliverance to believers through the Sacraments.

This is what makes the Church utterly unique in the world, what sets it apart from every other group. No other assembly has the Gospel. No other gathering offers what the Church offers. The Gospel, the good news of Christ's accomplished salvation for the world through His cross and empty tomb, gives life and changes hearts. And it is proclaimed and shared in the Church.

And despite what the world might think, it is the Gospel that gives the Church its power. What other group offers forgiveness of sins? What other assembly offers an eternal kingdom? What other gathering offers eternal life and the renewal of all things? None.

The world might not know it, but it needs us to be the Church. It needs us to be who we are. It needs the Church to insist on its identity and to resist the world's political vortex. It needs us to preach the Gospel powerfully and unapologetically. Life is found in the Gospel, not politics. Politics are not absolute. Political parties are not immortal. Governments emerge and decay. Countries are born and die. Only the Church will endure forever. If we were to surrender to the political vortex, allowing our pulpits to become political podiums focused more on saving the American way or ensuring the election of certain candidates or parties, we would forfeit the world's only hope of transcending itself, of ever being free from its brokenness and ultimate spiral toward death.

This doesn't mean Christians can't participate in government. Quite the contrary! We need discerning and Biblically-grounded Christians to serve our culture in governmental vocations. We need articulate Christians to take their worldview to work to stand up for life from conception until natural death, to articulate the inherent value and importance of God's created order for marriage and sexuality. We need this more than ever.

What this means is that that the Church in worship needs to be fiercely focused and insistent on hearing and receiving the Gospel. In means that our first loyalty isn't to America, although we rightly honor our country. Our first loyalty is to the Lord of the Nations, Jesus Christ. Our hope is in Him, not politics or politicians. It means we're not focused on preaching a politically relevant message. We're focused on preaching the Gospel message. At all costs we must keep this message from being sucked into the political vortex. – Pastor Conner

Ministry Apps

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

Applying the Gospel to Hearts and Homes—
September CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the Kids

With Jesus we consider and celebrate His children. Sunday school is an important piece of the Christian education program offered by our congregations. Sunday school "Rally Day" will be Sunday, September 10, with a teacher rededication at the worship service, and the transition to new grade levels during the Sunday school hour. Zion's children and families are blessed to have ALL of last year's Sunday school teachers volunteering to assist again this year. Praise God! Parents, please bring your children to church AND Sunday school regularly.

Consider Job

The question, "Have you considered my servant Job?" (Job 1:8) sets the stage for the sufferings Job experiences and for the opportunity to see Job's extraordinary faith. Members, friends, and neighbors are invited to "Consider Job" this fall. A Monday morning Bible study on the book of Job will begin on September 11 at 9:45. Pastor Riggert will lead the six session exploration of the Old Testament book of Wisdom. Sessions will typically conclude by 11 a.m. Other fall Bible studies include Pastor Johnson's Thursday morning LifeLight session. Pastor Conner's Sunday morning class will explore the people and dynamics of the Reformation (500th Anniversary this fall) with a special DVD series entitled, "A Man Called Martin." Be blessed with Biblical and historical study.

Consider Your Vocation

"Whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). As Lutheran Christians we celebrate the priesthood of all believers and the opportunity to be God's people and to share His glory in the vocations of our life—parent, worker, student, citizen.

The Zion Fellowship Club meets monthly (typically the 2nd or 3rd Monday evening) to grow in faith, serve the church at home and at large, and to fellowship together. "Vocation" will be focus of the first topics of this new fellowship year. On Monday, September 18, Dr. Rexanne Struve will be the guest presenter sharing her interesting career as a veterinarian. Learn more about Rexanne as God's person and as a leader in veterinary research. Friends and guests from Zion and Trinity are always welcome.

Consider Your Camp

The Christian Education Committee has again designated OUR camp—Camp Okoboji-- as the recipient of the children's offerings this year. (What a special thrill it is to see our children journey joyfully to the front of the church sharing their gifts.) Camp Okoboji offers facilities for individual, family, or congregational retreats all seasons of the year. Visit www.campokoboji.org for more information. Thanks children for donating almost $600 last year! Your donations helped to build a new Discover Center.

"Hear this, O Job; stop and consider the wondrous works of God" (Job. 37:14).

Consider His Grace!
Pastor Riggert

ON THAT NOTE

Treasuring our Musical Treasure

Why does the church sing? The answer is, no doubt, multifaceted, but surely we sing for reasons higher than mere pleasure or entertainment, as if we were simply trying to make our time in worship more pleasurable. Many in the church rightly take great pleasure in singing, but our reasons for singing what we sing must be bigger than our personal pleasure, lest we reduce worship into another hedonistic experience in a culture drowning in pleasure. At the heart, then, of the singing church is the understanding of music's role in teaching the faith. Music provides a vehicle for God's truth and beauty.

Christian Ludwig Scheidt (1709-1761), the author of our featured hymn for September, *By Grace I'm Saved,* understood this, for he clearly wrote this hymn to teach the import and centrality of God's grace in Christ. Scheidt lived and wrote in the early and mid-1700s, serving as a full-time tutor, professor, and librarian throughout his life. He wrote this hymn to explain the significance and importance of St. Paul's words in Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Let's sit at the feet of this month's teacher and discover the wisdom and truth he has to impart.

By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain.

Our song is about salvation. The fancy theological word is *soteriology,* and it was the issue at the heart of the Reformation. The Lutheran confessors stood in agreement with the Roman Catholic Church on the nature of God (thus both groups confessed the three ecumenical creeds). They differed, and differed greatly, on salvation. Was man saved by grace *alone*, as Scripture taught, or were works necessary, as the pope taught? Was Christ truly our Savior or was He merely our assistant?

This hymn sets out unequivocally to answer this question with the clear Word of God. God's grace alone saves. His grace is free. His grace is boundless. Scripture doesn't lie. It doesn't stutter. It declares that God's grace, and His grace alone, saves. By grace we obtain eternal life. Do our works contribute? The next verse takes up that question.

On That Note

By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.

By God's grace, the song insists, and not by our meritorious works, are we saved. When it comes to salvation, our works have no worth. Our works serve our neighbor and so are to be active in our vocations. There our works have worth, but before God only Christ's work merits salvation. Our works, as the song implies, are tinged with sin, stained through and through. Even our best efforts bear sin's smudge. If not for our Redeemer Jesus, who died to atone for our sins, we would be lost and condemned. Because God is gracious, Christ has made atonement for our sins; therefore, we are saved by grace alone.

By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

By grace Jesus, God's Son, became incarnate, specifically to bear our sin. Because God is gracious He took on our flesh and died to win us for God. Did He do it because we earned it, because we merited it, because we wooed God through exceptional behavior? No. Grace and grace alone brought Christ among us from His heavenly throne, and grace alone moved Christ to die for us.

By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
As long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
Our faith in what our God has done
Depends on grace—grace through His Son.

Again we are directed to God's grace. It is the certain foundation of our salvation. As long as God remains God (a certainty more sure than the sunrise), grace will remain the ground of faith. Further, it is because of God's grace that we have God's inspired Word and His revealed will for us. Even our faith in what God has done for us in Christ depends on grace, the grace God gives through Christ. Salvation from beginning to end is ours because God is gracious.

By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure?

By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

Sin has cursed, cracked, and broken our world. We stand wounded in the shattered shards. Where can we find help? How can we have hope? Help is available from our Heavenly Father, who because He is gracious, opens His heart to us. He, in Christ, has sent help and planted hope in our hearts. His grace is our anchor of certainty in a world of sin-shattered ruins. Because of His grace we have a sure and certain future, one free from sin's reach.

Because of this certainty in God's grace toward us in Christ, we can rest without fear as death approaches. Despite knowing our sinful condition and the severe sentence for transgressing God's laws, we have heard our Savior's voice pronouncing forgiveness from the cross and personally applying it to us through Baptism and Holy Communion. So our hearts rejoice even in the face of death because we are saved, saved by grace alone!

BONUS MATERIAL!
The three verses included below were omitted from our hymnal, but are worth appreciating. The first two (on the left) warn against taking God's grace lightly. We cannot live in sin and presume upon God's grace. So upon hearing the good news of God's grace, we must bid our hypocrisy farewell and live a life of daily repentance.

The final verse waves the flag of bold confidence in God's grace, a flag that waves whether we feel God's grace or not.

By grace! But think not, thou who livest
Securely on in godless ways,
That thou—though all are called—receivest
The promised rest that wakes our praise;
By grace none find in heaven a place
Who live in sin in hope of grace.

By grace! They who have heard this sentence
Must bid hypocrisy farewell;
For only after deep repentance
The soul what grace imports can tell:
To sin while grace a trifle seems,
To faith it bright with glory beams.

By grace! May sin and Satan hearken!
I bear my flag of faith in hand
And pass—for doubts my joy can't darken—
The Red Sea to the Promised Land.
I cling to what my Savior taught
And trust it whether felt or not.

Dump debt, make a financial plan, become money wise.

Nine sessions to change your life!

Sessions begin Sunday, September 17 at 6:00 p.m.
Zion Lutheran Church, Manning
Childcare available

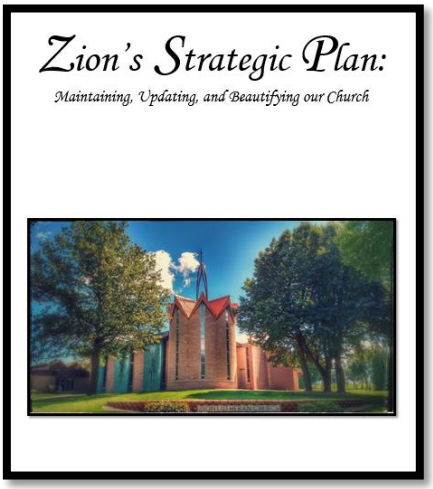
ZION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANNING, IOWA
Celebrating and Sharing Christ's Redeeming Love

FINANCIAL Peace
UNIVERSITY

Call 655-2352 to register and purchase your participant kit!

Junior High Gathering October 21-22, 2017
Cost $150
The Sheraton, West Des Moines
Financial Assistance Available
Go to www.idwyg.org for more!

High School Gathering—November 17-19
Embassy Suites, La Vista, Nebraska
Cost $135 per person, plus lodging
Go to www.ndlcms.org/youth-gathering/ for more!



Zion is blessed to be served by a dedicated council and proactive trustees. With an eye toward Zion's future, they have approved a strategic plan for maintaining, updating, and beautifying our facility and property. A copy of this plan is available at the Resource Center and in the Church Office.

Bible story banners for Children

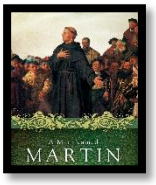
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANNING, IOWA
Celebrating and Sharing Christ's Redeeming Love

Zion's Board of Education is dedicated to sharing God's Word with children through teaching, singing, and now art. You have the opportunity to help. Included in a booklet available at the resource center or in the church office are several beautiful banners depicting significant Biblical events, from creation to the cross and resurrection. Each banner is $100 and can be funded by individuals, groups, or families. To select your banner for Zion's Education Wing, visit with Pastor Conner or Shelly Gruhn (Board of Education Chairperson).

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

September 6 — **Confirmation begins**
Classes begin after school

September 10 — **Rally Day (Zion)**
Sunday School teachers will be installed and classes will begin. Register your child online at www.zionmanning.com. Click on "forms and downloads.



September 10 — **A Man Named Martin (Zion)**
Appreciate how Martin Luther changed history and freed the Gospel from its bondage to false teaching in this incisive DVD and discussion series. Sessions begin during Family Bible Hour on September 10

September 17 — **Financial Peace University (Zion)**
Journey with financial expert Dave Ramsey through nine weeks of fast-paced, information-packed financial counseling that will help you dump debt, make a financial plan, and change your future. Call 655-2352 to register and purchase your participation kit.

October 15 — **Luther Movie at Zion**
Celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation at Zion with this gripping movie about Luther and the Gospel of Jesus he powerfully proclaimed.
Movie begins at 6:30 p.m.

October 28 — **Luther Fest 2017 (Trinity)**
Scram Athletic Park in Manilla
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
See page 10 for more details

November 4 — **Iowa District West Treasurers' Workshop (at Zion)**
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.

What is a Deaconess?

I think that lately you've been hearing an unfamiliar word. The vocab word being *deaconess*. I've really appreciated and enjoyed telling people what exactly it is that a deaconess does, and I want to tackle the question again here.

Of course, there is no simple answer to this, as a deaconess embodies a rich historical background in the church and has such a wide variety of definitions. Historically a deaconess is a called and trained servant of God who administers spiritual care, physical care, and teaching. The deaconess is first and foremost a servant of Christ. Deaconesses are trained in a variety of areas so that we may serve all over the church.

Often, Phoebe from the Bible is considered to be one of the first deaconesses. She's mentioned in Romans 16:1-2. Early deaconesses taught the newly baptized women. They visited women whose husbands were not believers and visited the ill. Later, around 450 AD, the title of *deaconess* became an official office within the church.

By 1836 Pastor Theodore Fliedner started a deaconess training school. In the 1840s Johan Konrad Wilhelm Loehe opened a deaconess training school to raise up deaconesses to work in Christian charities. Around 1849, deaconesses moved to Pittsburgh where they mainly held nursing positions. In 1979 the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod voted to establish a formal deaconess training program and in 2002 Concordia Seminary in St. Louis opened classes for a graduate level deaconess program.

Deaconesses are required to take seminary classes, so I attended Concordia Seminary. I took Biblical classes alongside seminarians, such as *Biblical Theology*, *Psalms and Writings*, and *Synoptic Gospels*. I took doctrine courses too like *Lutheran Mind*, *The Lutheran Confessions*, and *Theological Ethics*. The Deaconess program, however, focuses mainly on practical theology. Practical theology concerns itself with figuring out how one lives theologically. An example of a practical course is *Foundations of Deaconess Ministry and Spiritual Care of Women*.

So where can deaconesses serve within the church? Firstly, we can serve in a congregation in order to alleviate the work pastors have to do. Pastors work very hard and deaconesses can lighten the load of the pastor. So deaconesses can help with hospital visits, nursing home visits, Bible studies, home visits, and counseling.

Secondly, we can serve in a recognized service organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. For instance, one of my classmates served for the comfort dog organization out of Chicago. Another friend works with a maternity home in Florida.

Thirdly deaconesses can serve as missionaries. Another classmate recently returned to her home in Africa to help educate young women about a variety of issues, ranging from sexuality to the Gospel of Jesus.

Fourth, deaconesses help out with youth group programs. They help with confirmation, youth group, and young adult ministries.

So to wrap up everything a deaconess is a called and trained servant of God who administers spiritual care, physical care, and teaches the faith. – Tiffany Johnson.

Luther Fest 2017

October 28, 4-7 pm
@ Schram Athletic Park in Manilla

What?
A special service held in the park and a special rally day to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation as well as launch our new Christian training program.

Why?

- Show Manilla that Trinity loves its city
- Promote our new worship and Christian training time
- Engage the community and remind people of Trinity's presence and care
- Celebrate GOD's faithfulness for the last 500 years

What's needed?
Promotional supplies, prizes, volunteers, smiles, financial support, games, and prayer. If you're interested in helping please talk to Pastor Johnson, and he can fill you in on what's needed in greater detail.

Why should I be involved?
Because it's time to pass down the faith to more people in Manilla.

Please join us in October whether or not you are able to help out.

Zion and Trinity youth enjoy and evening of ultimate Frisbee with Pastor and Tiffany Johnson before gathering for devotions.

Goal: have the fewest beanbags in your milk jug when time ends. Jen Morris (below) also found her milk jug full at the end of each round.

Pastor Conner's opponents in the beanbag-milk jug game. They were too much for him!

Rachel Ramsey, Annabelle (granddaughter of the Christensens, and Carly Arp practice hula hooping (left) while adults and children try to pass the hula-hoop around the circle without dropping arms (bottom right) and the family of Zion enjoys a fantastic picnic feast (bottom left).

Guest Day – Noon Salad Luncheon

Ladies Guild of Zion
August 9, 2017

President Buhr opened the meeting with the recitation of the LWML pledge followed by the singing of the hymn "From All That Dwell below the Skies." Pastor Conner's opening devotion dwelt on the Father's sending of His Son Jesus to rescue a rebellious people. Jesus was obedient to the Father, even suffering the curse of dying on a cross to rescue mankind. He now reigns in heaven preparing a place for his people. "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name" was sung in praise.

Following prayer, President Buhr welcomed the 8 visiting members of Priscilla Guild of Manilla, the Ladies Guild members and their guests, Pastor Conner and family, and Pastor and Diane Riggert.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The treasurers each gave their reports. Sandra Vahl, Carroll Zone president, gave a report on the International LWML convention in Albuquerque. She reminded us that 25% of the mites that we send to the District fund the missions that were chosen for the next two years. The goal is to raise $2,100,000 for these missions. It's exciting that several of the missions chosen benefit missions in Iowa.

There was no old business discussed. New business was an announcement by President Buhr that on August 16th there will be a meeting of approximately 70-75 educators from Iowa District West at the Hausbarn in Manning and Ladies Guild has been asked to provide a lunch. Sandra Vahl will chair the committee and members are asked to sign up to bring salads.

Margaret Backhaus, Christian Life, read a devotional entitled "The Name Above All Names." The name is Jesus, whose name is written on His children's foreheads. At His return every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. The mite basket was passed as we read the mite box prayer. Susie Schilling and Audrey Roe had two games for us to play. Winners won prizes! Names were then drawn in order to award the beautiful table centerpieces. The meeting was closed by saying the Lord's Prayer together.

Sue Puck, secretary

Preschool Praises for August 2017

It is almost time! As I write this we have not started classes yet, but finished home visits and open house at the preschool. I am so excited to get to know these children and see them grow over the next 9 months! A big thank you to Bob Genzen and Dan Behrens for all the work that they have done to help get the room ready. Thank you to all those who helped me to move the furniture back into the preschool room - that really was a big help! Thank you also to anyone else that worked on the preschool room behind the scenes. It is amazing what all goes into getting ready for school.

This last month has been super busy for Mrs. Nemitz and me as we have been getting all of the paperwork together and sorted, re-decorating the room since we had to take EVERYTHING down, and making sure that we have everything set for the kiddos. Just the amount of paperwork for each child is amazing, but our parents have been awesome and have really made our job easier by filling out everything for us on time. Mrs. Borkowski has been a big help as well by helping to pick things up in Carroll, cutting out different pictures and just being willing to jump in and help any way that we may need. We are so blessed by her volunteering at the preschool! And thank you to Kari Ranniger for her work on the Preschool donation tree and to all who were generous and donated to the preschool!

Home visits were fun and it is wonderful to see the kids in their own environment and get to learn more about them one-on-one. Some were shy to start, but quickly warmed up. Others were not shy at all and wanted to show us their rooms right away. All of them enjoyed the little magnetic clothes pin that we made for hanging up their school work on the refrigerator as well as the scratch-and-sniff stickers that we gave them.

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

Please keep us in your prayers as we start a new school year that our children stay healthy, make new friends and share their love for Jesus! I can't wait to get started!
Blessings,
Mrs. Gore

Do you have a plan?

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me…

These famous words from Psalm 23 have been cherished by believers for millennia not only for their beauty, but for the strong comfort they provide in the face of death. We do not face its shadow alone, for Christ is with us. It must be pointed out, though, that King David didn't say, "*If* I walk through the valley of the shadow of death," he said, "Even though…" He knew death was a reality he would one day face, just as it is a reality *you* will one day face. You *will* die.

Because we know this to be true, you need to plan accordingly. If Jesus is important to you, do you want your children and grandchildren to know? Do you own any property or have any assets that you would like individuals, charities, or your church to receive? Do you have questions about power of attorney? Do you know our church can help – for free?

We are blessed to partner with Christian Estate Planning Counselor Jim Schroeder who will come to your house to help you produce a written confession of faith, answer questions on writing or updating your will, help you with questions pertaining to beneficiaries, power of attorney, supporting your favorite ministry, transferring farm land, and much more – for free.

Ready to make your plan? Call Jim directly at 515-490-7371 or email him at jim.schroeder@iowadistrictwest.org. Or, if you have questions, visit with Pastor Conner. I know Jim personally and can assure you that you will be glad you contacted him.

IOWA DISTRICT WEST
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

Lutheran Church Extension Fund
› where investments build ministry

Y.I. Club 3.50% interest rate*

Helps children and teens save for the future and learn about using money as a gift from God.

YICLUB.LCEF.ORG

Extra Credit $25 / a year For good grades

Extra Credit $25 / a year For community service

** Investments up to $1,000, over $1,000 earns 1.00%*
Every third Sunday at Zion provides opportunity for Y.I. Club participation

Other LCEF Offerings and Opportunities:

Scholarships: District scholarship of $1000 – apply online Sep 1 – Jan 31

Signature Sponsorship Series – In exchange for the opportunity to share with the congregation what LCEF offers, LCEF offers dollars to subsidize a special project: Playground? Website? Signage? Scoreboard?

YI Challenge – Youth groups enter their outreach event pictures for a chance to win $1000 per district drawing

Sponsor District/Congregation Events – Sponsor a variety of activities where LCEF can be promoted: coffee at youth gathering, LWML purse exchange for mites, coffee at convention, ice cream socials, etc.

Kaleidoscope Grants – Offered by national LCEF for unique, new outreach efforts; minimum $25,000.

Want to know more?
lcef.org
800-843-5233
carole.white@lcef.org
515-240-2229

!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 8, September 2017

GREETINGS: You will notice a new name in our newsletter. I am Willie Grills, the new pastor at Amigos en Cristo. I am a 2017 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. I am married to Angelica Maria. We have two boys, Gus and Roland. It is an honor to serve the Lord with you in Western Iowa.

BAPTISM IN DENISON Last month we performed the baptism of Yaretzy Hernandez, the granddaughter of our congregational president, Domingo Mendoza. What a joyous way to begin the new ministry at Amigos!

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION On July 16, I was ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry by President Turner and installed as Pastor of Amigos en Cristo Lutheran Church. I now occupy the ministry previously held by Rev. Daniel Vogel who has retired.

PLEASE PRAY: + In thanksgiving for the years of service of Rev. Daniel Vogel. + For Grace Hispanic ministry in Storm Lake as they consider future pastoral Leadership. + For Dario, our newest new member in Denison. + For our summer plans in Denison and Storm Lake. + In thanksgiving for the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who support the Lord's work among Hispanic immigrants.

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:
Pastor Willie Grills
1004 1st Ave. South Denison, Iowa 51442
Church: 712-263-2235 Pastor's Cell: 606-225-2122
pastorgrills@gmail.com

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

Missionaries to Indonesia

Thanks be to God: our LCMS is known all over the world for her faithful teaching. The most common request we receive in any of the Asian countries where we work is for instruction and for teachers. We are often able to fulfull these requests from our own LCMS Asia staff, but sometimes the request calls for bringing over one of the skilled workers who live in the US.

During the month of August, one of these teaching opportunities was fulfilled with the help of Pastor Brent Kuhlman from Murdock, Nebraska. Pastor Kuhlman was given time away from his congregation and his family, spending three weeks in Southeast Asia. He taught in two different places, on two related topics. After his first teaching engagement was completed in a sensitive area of Asia, he was able to spend a whole week with us in Indonesia.

The Indonesian Christian Lutheran Church (GKLI) had requested a time to study Homiletics, or the art of preaching a Lutheran sermon. This was partly due to this year's observance of 500 years since the Reformation began, and partly because they recognized this as an important area where they needed some help. Pastor Kuhlman had been to Indonesia as their teacher before, and they took advantage of his 26 years of congregational service.

The teaching was well-received everywhere Pastor Kuhlman went, and we had many conversations and great questions. The GKLI leadership and pastors spent a full four days together with us, discussing how best to proclaim the Word of God in its proper distinction of Law & Gospel. Many of the GKLI men said they wished they'd had this instruction years ago, and were looking to put it into practice immediately.

SELAMAT

Read more online at:
http://ferrys.asia

As always, the biggest question they had was when they could receive more training like this, and they are very grateful for all the opportunities they're receiving from you. It is only through your gracious support and assistance that we are able to help our church partners in these ways. Thank you for granting your GKLI brothers this wonderful time of strengthening. Because of you, they are going to be better preachers. And because they're better preachers, more will be able to receive the life-giving Word of forgiveness and peace in Christ Jesus.

…

The Ferry kids continue to love life in Indonesia, and we're amazed at how they have learned to accept our everyday circumstances as normal. Just this last weekend we had the chance to attend an ordination of several new GKLI pastors (which we'll describe in a future newsletter). This service was four hours long, and was conducted entirely in the Batak language. But we still sang together and the kids took it all in stride. Momma and I were very proud of them all.

Pastor Ferry's family

Pastor Ferry gives greetings of friendship on your behalf to the GKLI pastors.

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*.

SERVING THE LORD IN

PANAMA

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

August 2017
Vol. 2 Issue VIII

Greetings in Jesus! This month's newsletter will describe the third and final FORO priority in Panamá: theological education. The national church selected this emphasis because they want to answer the following question, "Who will be the next Lutheran pastor for my children and grandchildren?" There are two Panamanian pastors and a Chilean pastor serving here now, but there is no seminary in Panamá, no pre-seminary route in a university setting, no clear understanding of how a person becomes a pastor, and a lack of agreement on what a pastor is.

A confirmation at El Redentor church

I share this with you not as a complaint or a critique, but so that you may understand a bit better the current context and situation of this young church body. So where do you begin? The answer is two-fold: education and education. First, we have reestablished their *consejo pastoral* to begin answering and putting into writing responses to these critical questions about pastors, deaconesses, and theological formation. The national pastors, deacons, and deaconesses meet once a month to study and discuss theological formation and the future of pastoral care in the Lutheran church of Panamá. One of the main motivations for this group/study is to educate and present to the congregations a clear and concise explanation of the office of pastor and deaconess as well as to provide pastoral care and support to congregations.

Second, the route for pastoral and deaconess training will be done through *Seminario Concordia El Reformador y Centro de Misericordia* in the Dominican Republic. Deaconess instructors will travel to Panamá twice a year to offer courses and for women that complete the four year program, they will be consecrated deaconesses for service in the national church. The seminary offers two routes for pastoral formation, a four-year residential program in the DR and an online program much like the SMP program in the United States. Panamá has one man who has started the online program and will complete it in the next 2.5 years. The goal for new candidates would be to have them travel to the DR for residential formation. To find candidates for the ministry, a pre-seminary program has been established and is beginning at the local congregations, but the whole process is lengthy. Realistically, it may be 5-7 years before the next Panamanian pastor is installed at a congregation, but the Lord is faithful and will provide workers for the harvest to share the cross of Christ.

Normally, Amanda writes a bit on what being a mom on the mission field is like, but this month we thought about giving you dad's perspective. I can remember when we were building our network of support around the US, countless people expressed concern for our son, who was a 1 year old at the time. After a full year of life overseas (Dominican Republic & Panamá), I can say confidently, there is nothing to be concerned about. Ezra is thriving. He plays, sings, runs, and explores just like he would in the US, but with children from Brazil, Panamá, Venezuela, Chile, and Colombia. He chatters away in English and Spanish, loves exploring the Lutheran Churches of Panamá, and falls asleep each night talking about his daily adventures. To be completely honest, Ezra has coped with all of the changes far better than we have or could have hoped.

Surely, I still have all the concerns a parent would normally have for his child, but I witnessed him do something the other day that assured me that he would do just fine in Panamá or anywhere else in the world. After Holy Communion this past Sunday, he folded his hands and said, "Dear Jesus, please forgive me for my sins, amen!" There is nothing more I could want from my son than this, that he knows and desires the forgiveness of Jesus. That makes the scrapes, bruises, and sick days bearable. May this be your desire too!

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Choir:
Dr. Tom Ulrickson, director

Children's Choir:
Susie Ulrickson, Jill Arp

August 14, Pastor Heath Curtis, parish pastor and LCMS Director of Stewardship, speaks to over 35 pastors and people about the need to preach the full counsel of God on Christian vocation, to ask people to respond, and then to plan accordingly as a congregation. Zion continues to serve as a leader in Iowa District West, hosting key District events and speakers.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. Lucille Ress
2. Collin Brus
   Cindy Scheuring (T)
3. Graham England
   Bruce Grimm
4. Arlo Dammann
   Brock Kusel
   Alaina Salter
5. Madelyn Dreher
7. Kyle Arp
   Taylor Lapel
   Timothy Rosener
8. Austin Johnson
   Jaide Paska
   Carlys Stribe
   Darlene Vollstedt
   Caleb Lahr (T)
   Mary Lueth (T)
9. Katie Cornelius
   Brice Shrimpton
   Diane Vetter
10. Alison Karsten
11. Ambria Johnson
    Brandi Wiig
    Amy Meggers (T)
    Harold Jurgensen (T)
12. Kristie Borkowski
    Robert Hagedorn
    Christian Birks (T)
13. Dennis Backhaus
    Lyle Rood
    Allen Stribe
14. Dakota Bradley
    Lauren Greving
    Erin Renze
    Lester Schrum (T)
15. Dylon Bauer
16. Brooke Kienast
    Diane Lahr (T)
17. Ben Langel
    Kaien Stoeckel
    Charlie Tibben
18. LeAnn Lorenzen (T)
19. Kora Kusel
    Sue Soll
20. Marlene Jahn (T)
21. Daniel Hilsabeck
    Alexis Karsten
    Daniel Vonnahme
22. Haley Kuchel
    Jason Boell (T)
24. Elizabeth Scheuring (T)
25. Jennifer Grau
26. Tanner Crawford
    Lillian Genzen
    Terri Rosener
27. Don Beck
    Shaun Grau
    Ashley Martins (T)
28. Cassandra Burcham
    Susie Ulrickson
29. Mike Lorenzen (T)
30. Karl Albertsen
    Jason Ehlers
    Judy Irwin (T)

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

Anniversaries

2 Mike & Becky Bruch
3 Bary & Karen Kienast
Frank & Gloria Boeck (T)
Dara & Steve Jorgensen (T)
4 Don & Trisha Beck
Jon & Jill Saunders
6 Gary & Joyce Schroeder
7 Derek & Brenna Hodne
8 Bradley & Heather Kusel
10 Jason & Lori Ferry (T)
11 Rodney & Deanna Frank
14 Scott & Kristine Lingle (T)
15 William & Louise Bruhn
16 Eugene & Susan Mahnke (T)
17 Jessica & Blake Bachman (T)
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 Richard & Sylvia Saunders (T)
27 Jesse & Katie Weitl
28 Conrad & Juanita Kurth
30 Allen & Carlvs Stribe

In Our Prayers

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, Isaac Grabill, Rodney Backhaus, Stephanie Winter, Diane Henkleman, Joyce Schroeder, Pastor Johnson

Official Acts

Baptism: EmmaLynn Mae Salter; Daughter of Matthew and Rebecca (nee: Genzen) Salter; August 12, 2017; Pastor Jonathan Conner

Transferred out (from Zion):
Samantha (nee: Smith) Fertig to Trinity Lutheran, Odebolt

Transferred in (to Zion):
Beth Daniels from Trinity Lutheran, Algona
Kim Wegener from Peace Lutheran, Harlan

Funeral:
Rosalie Macumber, August 14, Pastor Andrew Johnson