Death is relentless. Over the last few months, many members have been freshly wounded by this ancient enemy. I've sat with several individuals and families who are beginning the difficult journey of grief and some who have been traveling its rocky road for a while. Time and again I've found myself turning to Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 4 both for his sober realism and his soaring hope.

Paul writes, "We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). The treasure Paul mentions is the gospel, our promised life in Jesus Christ, and he's saying that we have this treasure in jars of clay, i.e. clay-like, breakable bodies.

If you've been alive for more than five minutes, you can appreciate Paul's imagery. Clay jars are brittle. They crack. They break. Our bodies are no different. It seems new cracks show up regularly, new pains, new aches, new fractures. Paul says our ever-fracturing bodies reveal a profound and necessary truth: surpassing power does not belong to us.

The word *surpassing* is the word from which we get *hyperbole* (meaning "above and beyond," "exceedingly," "beyond all measure"). We don't have that power. Our earthen vessels are brittle and breakable. Disease. Injury. Accidents. Crack, snap, facture.

God, however, does have surpassing power. Power beyond all measure belongs to Him. And, as Paul adds, God is going to use that power to accomplish amazing things for His redeemed. He writes: "He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence" (2 Corinthians 4:14).

These are such hope-filled words! Look at what he says: *us, you, raised with Jesus and brought together with our Heavenly Father!* Consider what these words mean: 1) We are going to rise from the dead! Our bodies, these broken and breakable jars of clay, will rise from the dead! Death will lose its grip on us and be forced to release us. That's God's power at work!

2) We will be together again! The great separater, Death, will not separate forever. God is going to bring us together in the resurrection and ban death from ever separating us again!

3) You will be you, I will be me, and your loved ones will be your loved ones. We will retain our identities. Yes, it appears some of the ways we related to one another on earth might change (no giving in marriage, for instance), but the resurrection will not erase our unique identities. In fact, there's every reason to believe the resurrection will make the idiosyncratic and delightful things that make each of us unique individuals more distinct and pronounced as God's glory shines through us and our loved ones for all eternity.

So, for those of us whose hearts are heavy with grief, there is hope; the pain and sorrow will not endure forever. Death has taken its sucker punches and left many of us wounded and wobbling, but Death does not have the last word or the last act; Jesus does. And His word and act are one and the same: Life – resurrected, reunited, deathless, and eternal life. That's hope, real and living hope for grievers. – Pastor Conner

Game Day 2021!
Food, Fellowship, Fun!

The Un-Asked Question: *Who hurt you?*

Good teaching is often characterized by good questions. The same goes for medical care and counseling. Good care is characterized by good questions. Unfortunately, in the name of a radical, woke, sexualized ideology laden with false assumptions and destructive beliefs, these caring questions aren't being asked and people are being hurt and deceived because of it.

I will make my case by highlighting but one simple, piercing, and necessary question: *Who hurt you?* It's a painful reality lurking behind so much of the confused sexual and gender behavior and gender identifying today: people have been hurt, abused, shamed, neglected, and made to feel insignificant, dirty, rejected, and unaccepted in sexual or gender specific ways. So they anchor their hopes for acceptance and love in alternative sexual behavior and/or gender identity.

To be more specific, many (though not all) individuals who identify as transgender or who describe same-sex attraction have experienced some sort of trauma (whether physical or psychological) in very sex-specific ways. They were specifically rejected or abused as a male or female (made to feel ashamed to be male or female) to the point that they began to fantasize about escaping their body, about transitioning to another body/gender to escape the pain. Or, they didn't receive appropriate affection and they began to fantasize (fantasies that turned sexual in puberty) about receiving it from their same sex.

Genuine care requires us to ask, "Who hurt you?"

Genuine care requires us to ask, "*Who hurt you?"* Genuine care requires us to hear their pain, to listen to their stories, to grieve and hurt with them over what they've experienced and then to help them find acceptance as the male or female they are and to help them receive appropriate (non-sexualized) affection from same-sex peers and friends, even as they are embraced and welcomed in Christ's Church.

But a radical, sexual ideology that rejects the body's connection to identity refuses to ask this question.

But a radical, sexual ideology that rejects the body's connection to identity refuses to ask this question. A radical, sexual ideology that has deified desires (making desires God) and blamed the body for being out of line with desires, has bypassed compassion in its headlong pursuit of cutting edge of cultural wokeness.[1]

And people are being hurt because of it. Space prevents detailing case after case. If you really want to dig into this, read Walt Heyer's story (www.waltheyer.com). He lived for eight years as a transgender woman (a biological man who identifies as a woman) before returning to his biological identity. Read his story of feeling

[1] *Woke* is a buzzword that has to do with being "woke up" to the sexualized agenda of the sexual revolution. In other words, if you want to be loved by the world, you need to be "woke." As Christ's Church, our goal is not be loved by the world, but to love the world in Christ's name.

rejected as a male to the point that he believed becoming female would bring acceptance.

Or read Jennifer Roback Morse's book *The Sexual State* in which she tells the stories of survivors of the sexual revolution and the cultural elite's drive to silence them and to force the sexual revolution forward through well-funded propaganda.

Or read Nancy Pearcey's *Love Thy Body* in which she records the firsthand accounts of people who were never asked who hurt them; they were only told to reject their bodies and to embrace a new gender identity or to find acceptance in sexualized same-sex relationships.

Or read Chad Thompson's book *Loving Homosexuals* in which he tells his personal story of painful exclusion as a male and his search for inclusion through same-sex encounters and his journey out of the same-sex lifestyle into appropriate non-sexual acceptance and affirmation from his same-sex peers.

Or read Ryan Anderson's *When Harry Became Sally*[2] in which he lets de-transitioners (those reaffirming their biological identity) tell their stories of feeling pressured and led into transitioning and feeling as if their underlying psychological struggles were never addressed. Nobody ever asked them *Who hurt you?*

So many voices expressing so much pain and nobody even asked them about it.

So many voices expressing so much pain and nobody even asked them about it. So many stories of sexual abuse, sexual shaming, exclusion, rejection, and confusion and nobody asked them *Who hurt you?* Instead, they were told, "We can fix you by changing your body." Or "Escape your pain by embracing your desires." In essence, "Live at odds with your body."

This is not good care because the pain hasn't originated from a problem with their body. Changing it, therefore, won't alleviate the pain. The pain came from something outside their body and it left them with deep, emotional and psychological bruises. Or, the pain came from false beliefs about the body. Either way, the pain didn't come from the body, so blaming the body or changing the body isn't the answer.

But the pain is real and we should validate their pain by asking good questions, by asking who hurt them, by asking how they've been shamed, abused, ostracized, shunned, and belittled. The first step isn't offering hormonal or surgical solutions or to look for affirmation in sexualized

[2] Toward the middle of February, Amazon banned the sale of this book, apparently believing it needed to be censored. You can buy Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, *The Anarchist's Cookbook* (in which you can learn how to make bombs), and *Adult-Child Sex: A Philosophical Defense* (in which some acts of pedophilia are defended), and worse, but not Dr. Anderson's book which makes the case that the body is good and that biology informs identity. Dr. Anderson puts it plainly: "Biology is not bigotry." He adds, "The most helpful therapies do not try to remake the body to conform with thoughts and feelings – which is impossible – but rather to help people find healthy ways to manage the tension and move toward accepting the reality of their bodily selves" (5). This was deemed objectionable and worthy of censor by Amazon.

This is nothing new for Amazon. They also banned Abigail Shrier's book, *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters* and *Health Hazards of Homosexuality* (a compilation of collected research on the effects of homosexual acts).

same-sex relationships; the first step is hearing their pain and we accomplish this by asking good questions.

Sadly, this is precisely the sort of care that is increasingly being censored and censured (read the footnote for a few recent examples of Big Tech's attempt to silence such caring voices). And, if the deceptively named "Equality Act" is passed in Congress (it has passed the House), the forceful silencing of this sort of care will precipitously escalate.[3] This is why the Church, more than ever, must learn to ask good, caring questions even as we reaffirm our commitment to God's good creation as not only good in and of itself, but as good for us.

Have questions? Want to talk more about this? Need help talking to your children/grandchildren about this? Call/email/text/stop in! Zion is your partner in life. – Pastor Conner

In February, the 3rd – 4th grade Sunday school class wrote and mailed valentine cards to several members and friends of Zion. Below is one thank you received.

Just wanted to let you know that you made my day. This awesome Valentine Card from the 3rd and 4th Grade is priceless. I'm sending a check for the church, donated by the 3rd and 4th Grade Sunday school class. Please make sure they get the credit

- Non-member, Laborer for Christ from our Generations Campaign

Trinity Basement Project

Trinity-Manilla was the recipient of a matching grant from Iowa District West to help reequip the basement space for our community. In the 80s the space was added for Sunday School. While we don't need as much space for Sunday School now, we have determined new community needs for which our basement can be beneficial.

We are increasing our focus on community service. One of the ways we're doing that is throughout LERT initiative (Lutheran Early Response Team – Disaster Response). This new room, which was storage before, is now designated for response planning along with Bible study and Book Club.

[3] For more on "The Equality Act," log onto www.zionmanning.com and click on "blog." Then scroll down to the article "Beware Equality (Falsely So Called)."

Our first LERT storage room is equipped with medicine, food, toiletries, phone chargers, hammers, cones, coolers, and flood buckets. The buckets contain rags, cleaner, and other supplies that can be passed out in the case of a flood (and the buckets, in a *SERIOUS* emergency, can be used as toilets).

Our youth study room has already been utilized by students, especially when kids had Wednesday class from home along with college kids when most classes were online. We use the space for Sunday Youth Group. It's equipped with phone chargers, wifi, a chalkboard, and a printer.

The Basement Hallway was repainted and is now being equipped with informational posters. On one side there is an Old Testament story or theme and on the other side of the hallway, there is a corresponding theme about Jesus related back to the OT side of the hall. The Learning Hallway is designed for all types of learners, but it will especially be helpful once we move our new Sunday School downstairs.

Finally, the last major update was just completed on our basement bathrooms. Sinks were updated (we're unsure as to when that happened last). We also turned one bathroom into a shower room. The thought behind that is if we have a family affected by a disaster they can utilize the space temporarily (we're also putting bunks in one of the rooms). Or, if fellow LERT workers are passing through they have a place to stay and shower free of charge.

Jacob was a small cat. His whiskers were still growing. He loved to play with the Old Lady's ball of yarn. He bounced around the Old Lady's home.

The fireplace made the house warm, and the Old Lady swept the floors so it was clean. And every night, Jacob crawled up to the Old Lady's lap while she sat next to the fire in her rocking chair, and he fell asleep.

Every morning, the Old Lady went outside to bring wood for the fire. She opened a large red door. Jacob thought to himself, "I wonder what is out there? Maybe there are tables of fish for me to eat. Or maybe there is an even larger fire to keep me warm. I must find out and see."

But every time Jacob tried to leave the house, the Old Lady pushed him away from the door. "You mustn't leave the home, my Kitten," the Old Lady warned, "the winds will curl your fur and the dogs will bite. You must stay inside, my Dear."

Jacob did not like that answer. He pointed his tail in the air and marched away like a stiff soldier. As he trotted away, he schemed, "Tomorrow I'll show her. Tomorrow I will be free!"

When the sun rose, the Old Lady walked towards the door. Jacob hid under the table where she could not see him. As she turned the doorknob and pulled the door, Jacob sprinted towards the crack. "I'm free! I'm free!" he meowed.

He ran towards a grove of trees as fast as his little kitten legs would shift. In the distance his sharp little cat ears heard, "I'll be right here for you, Jacob."

The branches of the tree hid the sun which made Jacob's paws tingle. The white flour he slushed through in the forest was colder than the flour he had run through from the Old Lady's home. He held one paw in the air to keep it from the cold, but then his other paws began to freeze too. He alternated his paws from touching the powder so that he looked like he was doing a funny dance.

When all of a sudden, a whoosh swatted him in the rear. It made Jacob jump. "What was that?" Jacob questioned.

"I'm the wind, of course," a voice echoed through the trees, "I swish back and forth you silly little thing. Why are you here all alone?"

"I wanted to see the world and find myself. That Old Lady kept me locked up in her house," Jacob hissed.

"So, you left the warmth of her home to come out and meet me, boy you are a silly little thing!"

"Who are you?" Jacob demanded an answer.

"I'm the Wind," it replied.

"Why have I never met you before?"
"The Old Lady's home protects you from me. I'm not mean spirited. I just go where I go, but my journeys make big things and small things very, very cold. Boy, you are a silly little thing."

Jacob hissed. "I don't like you very much."

"That is fine," the Wind replied, "I have no feeling towards you whatsoever. I sting where I sting, all I know is that I think you're a very silly thing for leaving the Lady's house."

Then the Wind blew away through the trees. Jacob danced deeper into the forest. He found a hollowed-out tree. He wiggled his body into the dead trunk. He felt through his body all of his pain. "I'm tired. My paws are wet. My tummy is gurgling." He was happy that the tree protected him from the

Wind, but he smelled dead, rotting moss. He tried to riggle his body away from the smell, but a sliver slipped into his back paw. “Ouch!” he meowed, and that’s when he began to cry.

But Jacob wasn’t the only one making noise. There was a howl and a bark. “Who’s there in that tree?” something outside growled.

“I’m Jacob. I wanted to see what I was missing outside the Old Lady’s home.”

“Are you any happier that you left her side?”

“I am not. I’m cold. I’m hungry. I’m all alone, and now I have a sliver.”

“I hate to ruin your day,” began the voice, “but your day is about to get worse. My name is Hound and I have no home. I will have to eat you for my dinner because I want to stay alive.”

The hairs on Jacob’s back stood up on end. “Please don’t! I’m a scrawny little thing,” Jacob pleaded.

“It’s nothing personal my little Treat,” Hound consoled, “But either you're happy and I starve, or I’m satisfied and you’re not. That’s the way of the forest. One’s happiness is another’s sadness.”

“Please let me go, Hound,” Jacob began to cry.

With that, Hound scratched at the tree. He barked, “Come here!” Jacob meowed at the top of his lungs, “Help me! Save me!”

Then Jacob heard a thud and a whimper from Hound. Then Hound barked and bit. Jacob from the middle of the hollowed-out tree heard the loveliest sound, “Ouch.” It was the Old Lady’s voice. “Leave my Jacob alone!” And again, Jacob heard another thud, and Hound whimpering away.

“Jacob my cat. Come here.”

Jacob scooted his body out of the tree. Dark red blood dripped from just below the Old Lady’s knee. “Come here my boy, we need to get you home.”

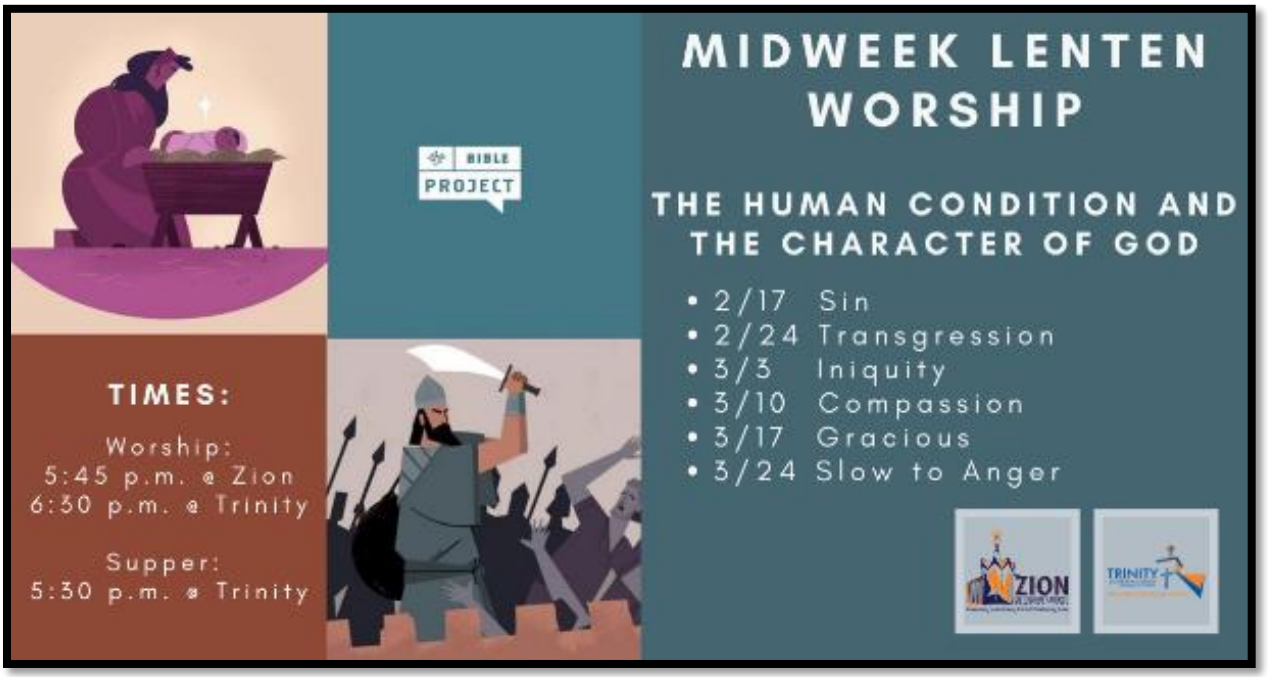
Jacob sprinted quicker than when he’d first left the house, and he launched himself into the Old Lady’s arms.

As the Old Lady turned the knob to the big red door, she placed the wooden broom next to the kitchen table. The blood stopped flowing, but she did not consider her wound. She carried Jacob to the rocking chair in front of the fire. The Old Lady noticed that Jacob favored one of his paws. She looked closely and noticed the splinter. With a quick tug, she pulled out the last reminder of the forest and she threw it into the nearby fire.

Jacob melted into her lap. He had never felt so warm before. “In the morning, I will get you an extra saucer of milk,” the Old Lady began, “but for now I want you to sleep. The Wind and the Hound are outside where they cannot hurt you. I know it’s hard to believe, my Kitten, but you are freer in here than out there. I love you, my Dear.”

And with that, Jacob yawned, his eyes were heavy so he fell asleep. – Pastor Johnson

Our modern view of freedom is we can do whatever so long as we don’t hurt anyone in the process; constraints and pressures are unacceptable. So, the thought of a God claiming that you need to live in such-and-such a way feels oppressive – the opposite of freedom. But we have to appreciate the fact that a goldfish is freer in a small fish bowl of water than it is outside in an open-air playground. Jacob the Cat was safer in the confines of the Old Lady’s house. The Bible challenges our view of what true freedom is, but if we are willing to accept the biblical picture of freedom we will experience the comfort of a warm fire in the presence of our Ultimate Father.



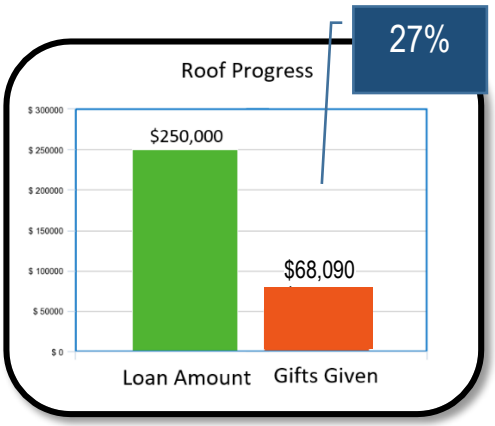
Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services:
April 1 and 2 @ 7:00 p.m.

A second service is being planned, contingent on whether a group steps forward to host a breakfast. If you are willing to help plan a breakfast for Easter, please contact the church office (6552352) (zionmanninglcms@gmail.com).

Orphan Grain Training Clothing Collection

Thinking of cleaning out closets? Orphan Grain Train (OGT) ministries is the perfect destination for your clothing items that you no longer use. Donations of good, clean used clothing (all sizes and seasons, men, women, children) can be brought to the Fellowship Hall (east side quilting room). Please bring all donations by Sunday, March 7. Share this mission opportunity with friends and neighbors. Donated items will be delivered to the Ida Grove warehouse for distribution around the world.

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN
Relief for Human Need Worldwide



Please consider making a special gift to the roof or to other ongoing and upcoming mission and ministry expenses at Zion, including technology and facility needs. Ask in the office for a detailed list of giving opportunities. Thank you for your partnership!

Dear Zion,

Our preschool board has several very important decisions to make and we are coming to you. We need to hire a new teacher and associate. We have had some fine associate interviews. We are also researching the idea of expanding the teacher position and possibly preschool times to accommodate parents' needs. The staff require a lot of training and certifications especially if covering the director position. A lot of paperwork is required for the entities that license us and fund many of our families. Much of this paperwork has been done on a volunteer basis which we feel should be paid time.

Our preschool basically funds itself. Expanding the teacher position with health insurance may not cash flow. So, first we would appreciate your prayers for God to bring the people to this job according to His plan. Second, as a church, what is Zion's vision for this preschool, how it serves children, the community, and do we need and want a Christian school? Would we like to serve beyond 2 to 3 ½ days a week and what does this look like and cost?

Thank you for your prayers & consideration.

In Him,
Janet Smith Zion preschool board chairman.

The notes below are from members and a non-member expressing gratitude for Zion's ministry. The mission and ministry of Zion wouldn't happen without your participation and support. Thank you!

I was wondering if there would be any copies of "Responding to the Transgender Issue: Parent Resource Guide" left? I would like to get one if possible. This subject is just one of so many things going on now that challenges our Christian faith and belief. I really enjoy all the topics you and Pastor Johnson talk about every morning at 7:30 that helps give Biblical guidance to these issues.

- Member

Thank you for preparing such timely and pertinent topics for AM devotions last week. In particular, the topic discussions on gender identity, religious liberty, and the particular legislation and ideas proposed were incredibly insightful. The thought provoking discussion is incredibly helpful in guiding and supporting us, especially as parents to help sift through the mixed messages we receive from "the world" and anchor our minds and parenting on the truth of the Bible. These are issues my kids are asking questions about from school and conversation topics among coworkers at work. I can imagine it takes a lot of time in researching and preparing, so please know how valuable it is to us!

- Member

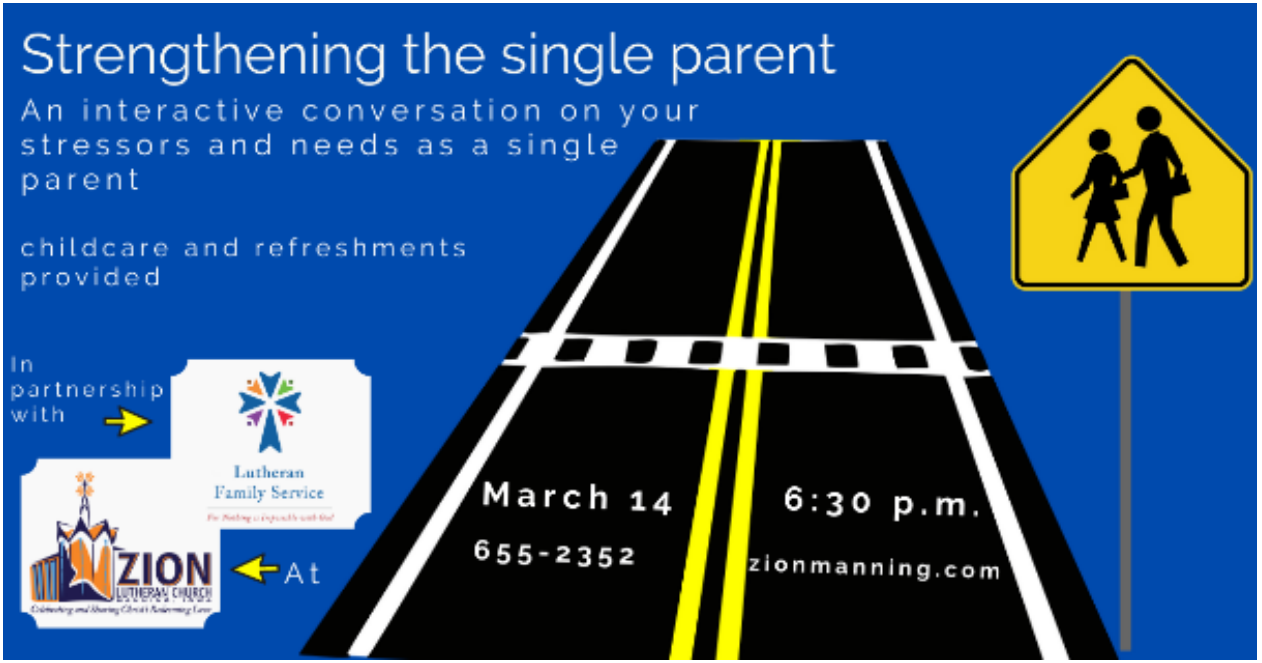
I have enjoyed your devotions this past week about our gifts and us being stewards of all that God has given us. I hope and pray that you spreading, watering and fertilizing of that seed (message) will reap a bountiful harvest for Zion and Gods ministry. It is so important to continue to bring this message into the light and openly discuss the connection we have with our Faith and Finances.

- Member

Thank you for writing your October 8 blog entitled, BEWARE OF EQUALITY (FALSELY SO CALLED). Your bold stand for defending the truth and exposing this false information is very much appreciated. More Christians like you need to speak up before we lose more of our religious freedoms and our Biblical principals.

- Non-member

Excellent opportunities for you! Community invited!

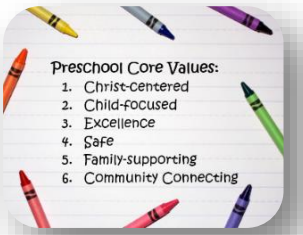


Preschool Praises for February 2021

February is always a fun month in preschool! Valentine's Day and unpredictable weather keeps us on our toes!

The first week in February we continued our study on the 5 senses by focusing on the sense of smell. One of my favorite children's books is Mr. Blewitt's Nose by Alastair Taylor. It is a great book for the sense of smell and also uses many great descriptive words to help expand the children's vocabulary. We played a game where we put different foods into covered cups and had the children guess what was in them. Ketchup, onion, peanut butter and an orange were their choices. Everyone loved this game and many played several times. The letter N is for nose and the children got to choose some scratch and sniff stickers to put on their paper. To reinforce shapes, we played a game with circles, squares and triangles. We worked on number recognition by playing a snowflake counting game. For Jesus Time and at chapel time I and Pastor Conner told the children about the paralyzed man who came through the ceiling to see Jesus when he was teaching in a crowded house. Jesus showed that he had the power to forgive sins by also healing this man so that he could walk!

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



The second week was all about Valentine's Day and we worked on making a present for the children's parents by taking a cute picture of each of them, making a thumbprint on a seperate piece of paper, then using both to make a keychain for the children to give to their parents. The children decorated their Valentine boxes and used marbles to paint hearts that we later cut out and wrote what they love on. I then took pictures of them holding the hearts and posted them on Facebook for parents to enjoy. Some examples of what the children love are: mom and dad, playing with brother or sister, combines and ninjas! Our study of the 5 senses continued with the sense of touch and the children had to guess what was inside of deflated balloons by using their sense of touch. It could be marbles, rice, water, beans or salt. We recorded a video of the children singing "Jesus' Love is a Bubblin' Over" and had a great time exchanging Valentine's. During Jesus Time we talked about when Jesus calmed the storm with only his word! Why wouldn't the wind obey He who created it? Jesus still speaks to us through His word in the Bible. Pastor spoke to the children in Chapel Time about the transfiguration of Jesus. Jesus was shown to some of his disciples in all his Glory - he shown whiter than anything- and was conversing with Moses and Elijah. Jesus revealed his divinity and that he was the fulfillment of the Old Testament as the Messiah.

We concluded our study of the 5 senses the third week of February by studying the sense of taste. I always love when we do the study of taste, because we become scientists and make a chart of what we do and don't like. The children use their sense of taste to explore different foods that I offer including: salt, baking cocoa, sugar, lemon and lemon dipped in sugar. It is so much fun to watch their reactions and get great pictures! Another great book is *Gregory the Terrible Eater* by Mitchell Sharmat. During Jesus Time I read about when Jesus' disciples were on a boat crossing a sea and Jesus came walking on the water to meet them. At first, the disciples were terrified thinking that Jesus was a ghost. Jesus said, "Take heart! It is I. Do not be afraid." Then Peter, one of Jesus' disciples said, "If it is really you, Lord, let me come out on the water to you." Jesus told him to come. At first, Peter walked on the water out to Jesus, but then he became afraid and started to sink into the water. He cried out for Jesus to save him, and he did. Pastor spoke about the temptation of Jesus after his baptism. Unlike Adam, Jesus resisted the devil's every temptation and remained sinless so that he could be the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

The last week of February we studied weather and practiced our scissor skills and learned about patterns. We enjoyed watching a short video about the 5 senses and weather through the Scholastic website. The children also put their thinking caps on to match up pictures of animals to their shadows and used fine motor skills to draw lines between the two. I had begun doing evaluations of the students at the beginning of the month and continued to do so this week as much as possible as we have Parent/Teacher Conferences coming up next month. During Jesus Time we studied when Jesus healed a blind man and that a miracle is something that only God can do. Jesus was able to do the miracle of healing the blind man because he is God!

We had Preschool Registration on the 23rd and had a great turn out! We do still have openings for the Fall of 2021, so if you know anyone who has a child that is 3 or going to be 3 by September 15th, please send them our way! Spaces fill up fast! We have begun the interview process for the Preschool Assistant and Teacher/Director positions. If you or someone you know is interested in applying or getting more information, please contact the church office 655-2352.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers!
Mrs. Gore & Mrs. Nemitz

See more pictures on page 15!

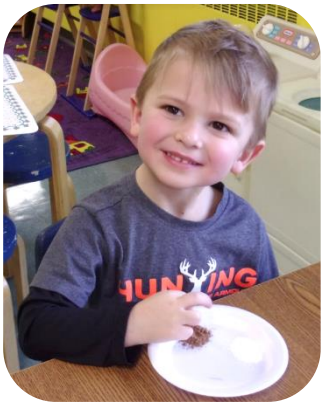
Remember the Preschool Endowment

Zion Lutheran Preschool of Manning is currently accepting applications for two positions for the 2021-2022 school year: a Preschool Director/Lead Teacher and a Preschool Associate Teacher. These energetic servant leaders will have the opportunity to interact compassionately and creatively with children and families in the name of Jesus.

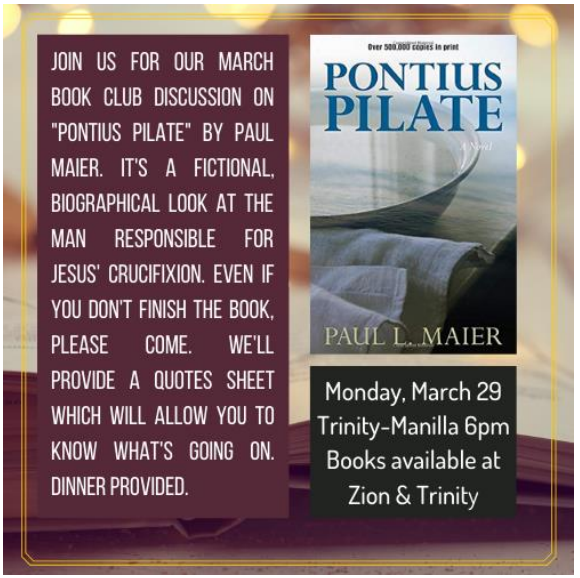
Position descriptions and applications are available at Zion Lutheran Church, 1204 Center Street, Manning, Iowa 51455 (712-655-2352).

Preschool Director/Lead Teacher:
This position involves administration of the preschool as well as teaching the 3 and 4 year-old classes. Applicants must meet standards developed by the Department of Human Services. The position involves 29 hours per week during the school calendar year. Salary will be based on experience.

Preschool Associate Teacher/ParaEducator:
This position involves assisting the Lead Teacher with classroom operations in the 3 and 4 year-old classes and 25 hours per week during the school calendar year. Salary will be based on experience.



Zion Church and Preschool love children!



CONFIRMATION

KID HANGOUT NIGHT

Friday, March 26 + 6-8:30pm
@ Trinity-Manilla

Confirmation students are invited over to Manilla for reflection on the Crucifixion and what that event means for our lives, trivia, dinner, and games.

Coming soon to Zion!

What is Ramsey+? It's your go-to hub for all your needs when it comes to slaying debt, saving like you mean it, investing for the future, giving generously, and experiencing financial peace. And it's coming to Zion soon. Watch for it. Learn more here: https://www.daveramsey.com/blog/what-is-ramsey-plus!

GRIEF SHARE

A comprehensive experience which explores grief. Begin with a video, end with meaningful conversation.

Join us @ Trinity-Manilla
3rd Ave
(we're by the Water Tower)

PLEASE DON'T DO GRIEF ALONE

Session 1
Is This Normal

Session 2
Challenges of Grief

Session 3
Journey of Grief P1

Session 4
Journey of Grief P2

Session 5
Grief & Your Relationships

Session 6
Why?

Session 7
Guilt & Anger

Session 8
Complicating Factors

Session 9
Stuck

Session 10
Lessons of Grief P1

Session 11
Lessons of Grief P2

Session 12
Heaven

Session 13
What Do I Live for Now?

Begins Thursday, April 8
@ 9:30am or 6:30pm

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

What's the Difference?

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word mental? Do you picture a person that is sad, does not smile or socialize with others? Does your picture change when you add the word health or illness after the word mental? What's the difference?

Zion Cares

Mental health is a term that focuses on the positive side of mental wellbeing and highlight happiness and self-esteem through exercise, mindfulness or mediation.

Mental illness centers on a clinical condition that impacts a person such as depression, PTSD, or bipolar. A mental illness is diagnosed by a licensed provider utilizing criteria based on the symptoms that are being exhibited.

It is important to look for ways to increase positive mental health for everyone, not just those with some form of illness or mental disorder. Here are 10 things proven to boost mental health:

1. Exercise regularly – not only does exercise play a role in our physical health, but it also promotes mental health by releasing endorphins, which play a big role in feeling positive about our lives.
2. Protect your time – keep a regular schedule, spend time with loved ones or friends add stability in our lives.
3. Celebrate success – when something good happens, take the time to appreciate the job well done.
4. Volunteer – as allowed within the current restrictions, helping other people forces us to set aside our own worries and fears as we come to the assistance of those with greater needs.
5. Sleep – getting the right amount of sleep for you helps you to feel alert and rested each day.
6. Be your own best friend – it is easy to get down on yourself; be mindful of how you perceive and speak to yourself.
7. Give compliments – let people know what you like about them; making others feel good about themselves pays off with returns of their appreciation.
8. Accept kindness – when someone is kind to you, appreciate and receive it rather than push it away.
9. Be grateful – keep a list of things, people or events that you are grateful you have in your life. If you are feeling down, focus on those positive items.
10. Ask for help – if your situation seems overwhelming, you may need to talk to your medical provider for guidance. Another person's point of view might be just the answer.

By reaching out and seeking help, you are protecting your long-term mental health.

Janet Brus, RN
Psychiatric Medical Care
Manning Regional Healthcare Center
Program Director – Senior Life Solutions

Senior Life Solutions®

Stephen, Maggie, Ginny, Gary, Isaac

中華信義神學院 China Lutheran Seminary

Winter 2021

I became Director of Graduate Studies for our Graduate School in Luther Studies on January 1. Thank you for your prayers and counsel as I sought God's guidance about this! This means that I'm in the seminary leadership as administrator for our advanced master's degree in Luther studies, which can be referred to as a Master in Theology (MTh). This research degree has two tracks, one in Systematic/Historical theology and the other in Biblical studies. So it combines the three mission passions in my heart: 1. Chinese, 2. Bible, and 3. Lutheran theology. As Chinese Christianity moves forward in Christian leadership, mission and influence, I feel the urgent mission to spread and root into Chinese Christianity the rich Reformation Biblical theology with its vibrant evangelical heart of Justification & Salvation by Grace through Faith Alone. See my website on this, which has Chinese & English articles I've written about these treasures: https://lutherstudies.wordpress.com/

Some may ask: "Luther and Reformation theology?! Why emphasize or study this 16th Century stuff when we should just study the Bible and also other periods of Christian history?"

Here's why: the consensus is that there are no two periods of history which have such rich and multifaceted development of Christian theology like the first century (John the Baptist to Revelation, approximately 70 years from the years 30-100 when the New Testament was written) and the sixteenth century (The 60 years of the Reformation from the 95 Theses to the Formula of Concord, 1517-1577), and the Reformation was a rich digging back into the New Testament after over 1,000 years of Medieval tangents in all sorts of unfortunate directions away from the Gospel. It's God's blessing of grace to me to be an ardent student of both of these, and with the Chinese world and church rising in influence, I'm struck ever so strongly with this mission since the negatives in history so often repeat themselves with people following fallen human nature & the larger culture into streams of thought and ways that are contrary to God's Word of Salvation.

Pray for me! I need your prayers in this burden and vision because I am so unworthy and as I consider those who have gone before, I fear that I may serve unworthily in this evangelical mission of God's grace!

Continued on next page.

The China Evangelical Lutheran Church held its annual meeting on January 25-26 at the nicely refurbished headquarters office in Taipei. Ten CELC churches in Taiwan are listed and the main administrative person told me that total attendance at these 10 churches is probably around 450 people. Let us thank God for the reviving of the CELC!

LCMS Mission Regional Director, Reverend Charles Ferry, presents the Asia mission vision to our CELC partner church pastors as Missionary Michael Paul (with mask) translates.

Gary caught a shrimp and he enjoys eating a grilled squid!

SERVING: Teaching Greek class and lecturing on responding to homosexuality at a Taipei church this last semester are some of the common ways I serve.

Family Advent Devotions

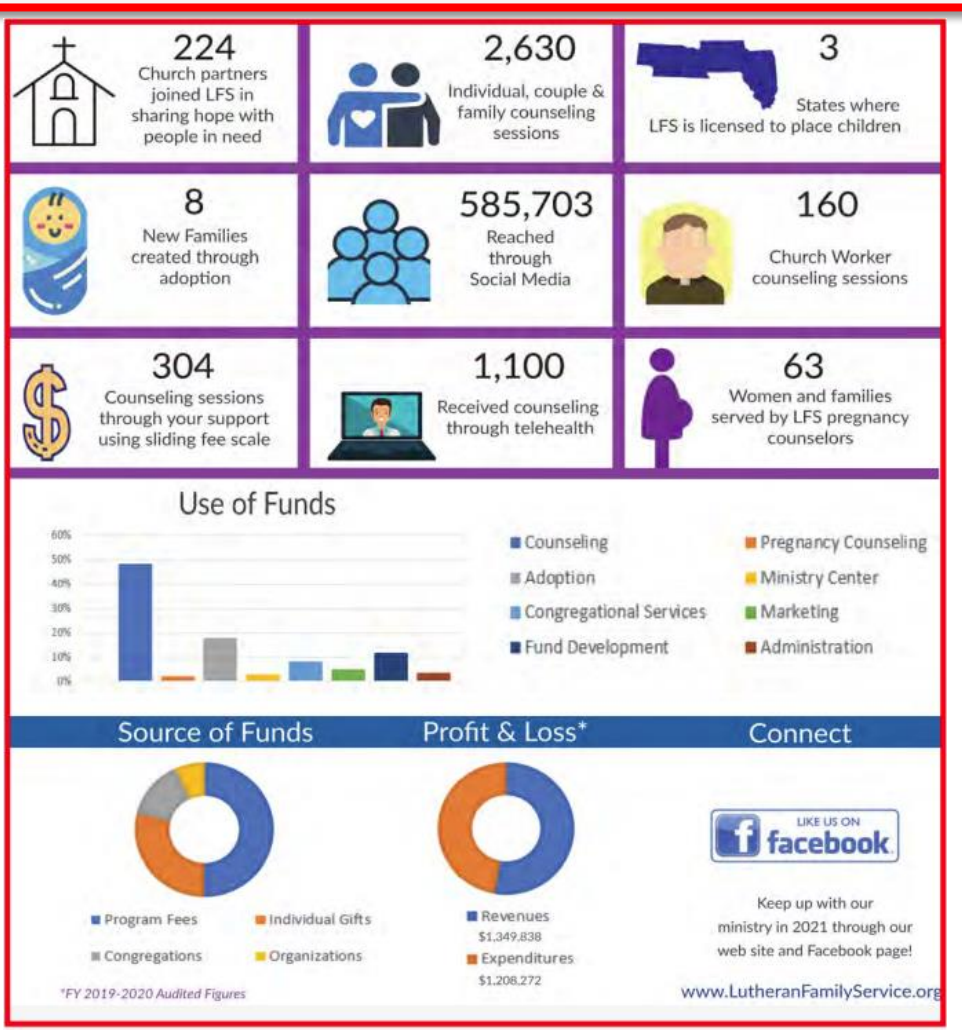
Lutheran Family Service

For Nothing is Impossible with God

Lutheran Family Service
Administrative Office
409 Kenyon Road, Suite C
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515-573-3138

Iowa District West, together, we are making a difference for many!

For the **119th consecutive year**, LCMS men, women, teens, children, couples, families, congregations, districts, LWML groups, youth groups, Bible study groups, fellowship clubs, Sunday schools, pastors, teachers, counselors, social workers, volunteers, and many other partners worked together to share the love of Jesus with many thousands through the ministry of **Lutheran Family Service**. On behalf of each one whose life was saved or changed for good through your partnership—**thank you!** Alone, we can do some things, but **together** we can accomplish so much more! We're trusting **God** to lead us to serve many more according to His good and perfect will in the **New Year** ahead!



Amigos en Cristo

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

March 2021

Pray for Pastor Pedro Lopez, Called to serve Amigos and Grace.

Our Hispanic ministry in Denison and Storm Lake has been vacant for the past year. We have been blessed to partner together with Iowa District West. Last month, the IDW Board of Directors extended a Call to Pastor Pedro Lopez to serve as Hispanic pastor for western Iowa. The members of Amigos en Cristo in Denison and some Hispanic members of Grace in Storm Lake assisted in the call process. In December, they visited with Pastor Lopez and his wife Paquita in a conference call Zoom meeting. Following this meeting, it was decided to personally interview Pastor Lopez and he was invited to come to Iowa with his wife. Pastor Lopez currently serves as pastor of "Nueva Vida" (New Life) Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Virginia. He is an experienced pastor having served for more than 25 years in Hispanic ministries in Texas, Wisconsin and the past 11 years in Virginia. His wife, Francesca (Paquita) works for the Southeast District of the LCMS as a secretary. They have 4 adult children and 6 grandchildren who all live in Wisconsin. Both are originally from Mexico and are fluent in both English and Spanish.

Pastor Lopez and Paquita met with staff at the Iowa District West office on December 9, 2020. We are so grateful for the mission support of District staff. In January, the Amigos en Cristo voters and the IDW Missions Committee recommended to the Board of Directors to Call Pastor Lopez to serve in this special ministry. The final step in this process took place on February 16 when the Board of the Directors voted to Call Pastor Lopez to Iowa. Please pray for Pastor Pedro and Paquita as they deliberate the call to our District. Rev. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President, has provided great leadership in the search process.

Rev. Daniel Vogel, 32678 Aspen Ave., Manning, IA, 51455
Home: 712-653-2354 / Cell: 712-309-1292
Email: daniel.vogel@ziondenison.org

Pastor Lopez and Paquita at Amigos en Cristo: We had a special visit with Pastor Lopez and Paquita at Zion, Denison where our Amigos en Cristo congregation meets. The picture above is a glimpse of some of those present to meet the Lopezes and to visit with them, both informally and through a questions and answer session. In addition to members present from Amigos, three pastors of the area participated: Pastor Joshua Keinath of Zion-Denison; Pastor Chad Trunkhill of Our Savior-Denison; and Pastor Merle Mahnken of Immanuel-Schleswig. All of them have taken an active role in the support of our ministry with their congregations and we so much appreciate their support.

UPCOMING EVENTS @ ZION & TRINITY

Please Note! All times and events are subject to change

Morning Prayer (M-F) via Facebook Live at 7:30 a.m. (viewable anytime)

TRIZION TriZion Youth Group: Sundays at 6:00 p.m. Trinity Manilla Basement

March 1	**LERT (Disaster Response Team) Meeting (6:30 p.m.) Trinity Manilla basement**
March 18	**Thursday afternoon Communion Service at Zion (1:30 p.m.)**
March 3, 10, 17, 24	**Midweek Lenten Service 5:45 Zion 6:30 Trinity (5:30 meal)**
March 7	**Strengthening Marriage (6:30 p.m.) @ Zion**
March 14	**Strengthening the Single Parent (6:30 p.m.) @ Zion**
March 28	**Palm Sunday**
March 29	**Book Discussion Club (6:00 p.m.) Trinity Manilla Basement**
April 1	**Maundy Thursday 6:30 p.m. @ Trinity 7:00 p.m. @ Zion**
April 2	**Good Friday 6:30 p.m. @ Trinity 7:00 p.m. @ Zion**
April 4	**Easter Sunday 7:00 Breakfast / 8:00 Easter Egg Hunt / 9:00 Service @ Trinity 7:00 Service @ Zion (Breakfast TBD) Second Service time TBD**

March Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

2. Jennifer Behrens
   Kaleal Hass
   LeAnne Haubrich (T)
   Curtis Lingle (T)
   Marge Schnoor (T)
3. Lori Genzen
   LeeAnn Musfeldt (T)
4. Katelyn Crawford
   Marion Ream
   Rebecca Vollstedt (T)
5. Jessie Blackford
   William Lueth (T)
   Oliver Saunders (T)
6. Camden Alexander
   Maureen Bunker
   Josiah Conner
   Matthew Gore
   Paige Hinners
7. Zachary Lorenzen (T)
   Errol Wegner
8. Lenus Borkowski
   Beverly Bruhn
   Bonnie Lorenzen (T)
9. Bentley Kropf (T)
   Lynna Miller
   Craig Musfeldt
10. Stan Baack
    Randahl Peters
11. Cynthia Grau
    Curtis Grimm
    Jeff Hargens
13. Shannon Walters
14. Ronald Brus
    Justice Cornelius
15. Dean Grau
    Kora Potthoff
    Kelly Rutherford (T)
    Tyler Saunders
16. Julie Lamp
    Chad Morrow
    Kam Nelson
    Kelly Nissen
17. Nancy Grimm
    Laurie North (T)
    Katherine Vogel
19. Julianna Stribe
    Anna Belle Wegner
20. Barbara Grove
    Cynthia Karsten
    Virgene Kroeger
    Abby Lapel
    Chloe Otto
21. Dustin Petersen
    Russell Ranniger
23. Robert Nissen
    Linda Vinke
24. Travis Borkowski
    Nathanael Conner
    Claire Gore
    Alix Puck
25. Carla Backhaus
    Danielle Hargens
    Ember Jensen
26. Marjorie Jurgensen (T)
    Ginger Thorn
27. Noah Gore
    Dwight Gruhn
    Cade Jensen
    Ashley Lage
    Aaron Rutz
    David Tibben
28. Michael Alexander
    Rebecca Conner
    Loren Ferry (T)
    Rachel Stoberl
29. Beth Booth
    Judy Borkowski
    Brenda Ehlers
    Robert Lueth (T)
30. Beckett Bruck
    Lacey Hinners
31. Sharon Fast (T)
    Joelle Puck

Anniversaries

4. Thomas & Susie Ulrickson
8. Nels & Stephany Olson (T)
   William & Shona Weitl
29. Chad & Kelli Morrow
    Kenneth & Joelle Puck
31. Lorrell & Judy Borkowski

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

Offering for Ferry family

Official Acts

Funeral:
Edna Velma Nissen, Died February 7, 2021, funeral February 13, 2021, Pastor Jonathan Conner

Margaret Backhaus, Died February 26, 2021, funeral March 1, 2021, Pastor Jonathan Conner and Pastor Bob Riggert

Baptism:
Chase Gaskill, son of Corey and Jennifer Gaskill, February 7, 2021; Pastor Andrew Johnson

In Our Prayers

Prayers Needed: Naomi Adams (Jean Ferneding's mother), Alan Grimm, Carolyn Werner, Jeanne Gruhn, Ron Schilling, Ron Brus, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Natalie Mason (Bruce and Mary Grimm's daughter), Leonard Damman, John Sonnichsen (Bobby Doyel's Brother in law), Gage Carlson (great grandson of Russ and Virginia Mohr), Maridee Bohlmann (David & Joene Bohlmann's daughter-in-law), Patty Meeves (Laurene's daughter in law)