



Your Habit Culture: Choose Wisely

Most of us like to imagine ourselves independent minded, unfettered by people's expectations and evaluations. Of course, most of us like to imagine ourselves independently wealthy and unbound by the realities of limited income, too. In reality, both live only in our imaginations. We are not independently wealthy and we are not independent minded; we imitate what we see.

We see it clearly in children, the mini-mimics in our lives mirroring what they see and hear daily. It continues into adulthood. When you're invited to a dinner party or a formal reception or an important company event, what do you typically ask? "What should I wear?" Why do you ask that? Because you don't want to look silly. You, like the rest of us, want to be seen on the bell curve of normal.

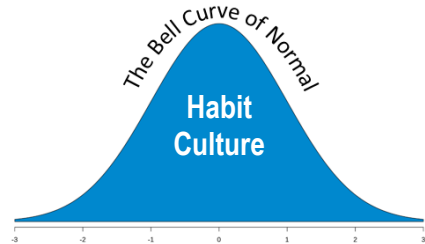
We are mimics.

That "bell curve of normal" exercises great power over us and is one that we must be acutely aware of and choose carefully for our lives because we are mimics. James Clear, author of *Atomic Habits: Tiny Changes Remarkable Results*, rightly observes:

We don't choose our earliest habits, we imitate them. We follow the script handed down by our friends and family, our church or school, our local community and society at large. Each of these cultures and groups comes with its own set of expectations and standards – when and whether to get married, how many children to have, which holidays to celebrate, how much money to spend on your child's birthday party. In many ways, these social norms are the

invisible rules that guide your behavior each day (115).

The "script" handed down to you, that surrounds you every day, is your habit culture and it is hugely influential over you. None of us dare ignore it (not in our lives and not in our children's lives). Mr. Clear writes, "Your culture sets your expectation for what is 'normal'" (117). In other words, your habit culture sets the bell curve of normal, the bell curve in which you desperately want to remain.



Your habit culture defines the bell curve of normal

Acknowledging the presence and power of your habit cultures has the potential to spark deep reflection and consideration. Is your habit culture positive? Is it healthy? Is it Godly? What do your habit cultures place within the bell curve of normal? What do your children's habit cultures place in the bell curve?

Where does your habit culture place worship, generosity, and living the faith on the bell curve of normal? Where does your habit culture place identity, sexual ethics, and marriage on the bell curve of normal? Where does your habit culture place career, leisure, and personal responsibility? These aren't rhetorical questions; they are ones that every confessing Christian – that you – should thoughtfully consider and answer. Your habit culture profoundly shapes you. You must, as much as lies within your power, choose it carefully.

It's true that some aspects of your surrounding culture(s) are beyond your control. You did not choose to be born in 21st century America where the objectifying of women, the normalizing of pornography, the lionizing of sexually deviant behaviors and creationally-divorced identities, and the glorifying of Godless critical race/gender ideologies are placed within the bell curve of normal. And you did not choose to be born into your particular family with their idiosyncrasies, eccentricities, and peculiar peccadillos.

But much, very much, still remains in your control. First, you get to evaluate your habit cultures. Does they align with what God has called good? If so, praise God and live joyfully within them. If not, what can you change, what can you limit, what counterbalance can you provide?

Second, there are many, many habit cultures that you can choose or reject. You get to choose what media you consume (and these are very powerful habit cultures!). You get to choose what media devices are in your house and in your children's hands (and these should be closely monitored!).¹ You get to choose how to structure your time and routines. You get to choose the conversations you have with your children. You get to choose many of the habit cultures in your life.

And that means you should choose carefully and wisely. It also means that you can successfully develop new and desired habits with the help of your chosen habit culture because habit cultures work both ways, establishing negative or positive standards for our lives. Mr. Clear writes,

One of the most effective things you can do to build better habits is to join a culture where your desired behavior is the normal behavior. New habits seem achievable when you see others doing them every day (117).

New habits seem achievable when you see others doing them every day

This insight needs to be appreciated and embraced. To develop new positive, healthy, and Godly habits, you need to see people living them. So, what habits would you like to develop? What areas need addressed in your life?

Do you want to become more physically active? Join a club or group focused on physical fitness or start one. Do you want to grow in your knowledge of Scripture? Join a group studying Scripture or start one. Do you want to revere Jesus in word and deed? Make worship at Zion or Trinity an absolute priority. Be with a group dedicated to confessing Christ. Do you want to strengthen your marriage or family? Join a group dedicated to strong marriages and families or start one.

Intentionally choose the habit cultures that establish the bell curve of normal that aligns with what God has called good in Scripture. Place yourself in a group that encourages, extols, and strives for the good, the right, the beautiful, and the true. And then joyfully and intentionally live within that habit culture. Want to visit more on your habit cultures? Call/email/stop in! – Pastor Conner

¹ For parents concerned about their children having unfettered access to the internet through their smart phones, consider utilizing smart phones specifically designed to protect kids from unwanted content. Check our Gabb and Pinwheel. As they put it: "no ads, no

social media, no gaming, no entertainment, no Internet browser, no app store. There are also no workarounds."



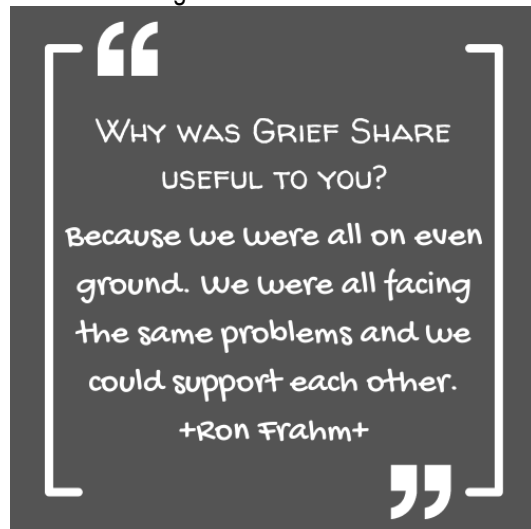
RESPONSES TO GRIEF SHARE

Grief Share is a 13-week program offered at Trinity-Manilla once a year. We just finished our last program with about 7 in attendance. Each week we begin with a 35-45 minute video covering a specific topic related to death, loss, or grief.

TOPICS COVERED IN GRIEF SHARE

- Is This Normal (how I feel)?
- Challenges of Grief
- The Journey of Grief (2 parts)
- Grief and Your Relationships
- Why?
- Guilt and Anger
- Complicating Factors
- Stuck
- Lessons of Grief (2 parts)
- Heaven
- What Do I Live for Now?

Following the video, we discuss what we watched. The incredible thing is, many find it relieving that they're not the only ones who are angry at their spouse for leaving them or sad about why it's difficult to relate with friends you've known for decades. Talking relates people to one another. Our next session will begin again next spring, but if there's a group of people interested in going through the experience we can begin earlier. In the meantime, here are responses from people who went through this last session.



Sandi Gruhn found Grief Share useful: "I had no idea what it was to lose someone who I shared most of my life with (50 years). It was like part of me passed away with my spouse. It helped to know I wasn't the only one who had those feelings."

She also found Grief Share to be helpful when it came to negotiating family and friends as they grieve around you.



**DON'T DO
GRIEF
ALONE**

“

WHY WAS GRIEF SHARE
USEFUL TO YOU?

It was very helpful to visit
with other people week by
week that were going
through the same thing I was.
+Dennis Backhaus+

”

Bob Merriman learned not to “blame yourself” or “beat yourself up for things you did or didn’t do [when it comes to care for your spouse].” Bob went on saying, “Death is inevitable and [we need] to find peace in the Lord.”

Other participants learned how to ask for help. Rather than seeing themselves as burdens, they learned to appreciate the resources and people God has surrounded them with. One participant noted, “Having the company of other people going through this journey with me was so helpful as well.”

If you’d like to be notified when the next Grief Share session will begin, reach out to Pastor Johnson and he’ll get you on the contact list (johnsonan1445@gmail.com or 660-216-8680).



**Register for
Trinity's VBS+S**

**August 4, 5, 6
6–7:30pm
Dinner Provided**

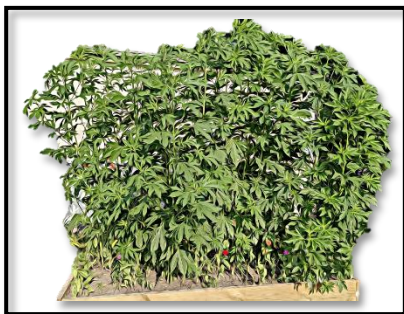
TRINITY'S VBS+S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL + SERVICE EVENT WILL BE AUGUST 4, 5, 6



**Meals
from the
Heartland**
Empowering people to
save starving children

**Adults invited to pack 20,000
meals on Thursday, August 5
6:30-8pm; pizza provided
Don't need to register
Trinity-Manilla Fellowship Hall**

Laugh With (or at) Me, and Learn From My Mistakes



For years, I've wanted a cut flower garden, and this year, I was determined to make it happen. My husband kindly built me a small raised bed where the flowers could get the morning sun, we had a load of dirt dumped to fill it, and I impatiently waited just long enough (or so I thought) after the late spring frosts to sow my zinnia seeds. Picturing the area filled with luscious blooms, I faithfully lugged watering cans across the yard, and was thrilled to see seedlings emerge in due time.

But then I realized that I had a problem: Having never grown zinnias before, I wasn't sure what zinnia seedlings looked like. There were several different kinds of plants sprouting in the bed. Which were the zinnias, and which were weeds? I decided to just keep watering until they got bigger and I could figure it out. Meanwhile, there were a few bare areas, where I surmised that the late frosts had nipped the emerging plants, so I went ahead and planted another variety of zinnia. As I waited for the new seeds to sprout, some of the original sprouts developed into what I recognized as obvious weeds, and I pulled those out.

Then, we went away for a week to spend time with family, and came back to find that the majority group of the first seedlings had become HUGE, while the new zinnia seedlings had emerged straggly and overshadowed...and looking nothing

like the original bunch of sprouts. By this point, I was having some doubts about whether the thriving plants were zinnias at all, but I was totally impressed by how fast they'd grown and how healthy they were...and, after all, the package had said "giant zinnias"....

You already know how this ends, right? It turns out that the load of dirt must have come pre-seeded with weeds, and that my impatience to get the zinnia seeds in the ground meant that most of the first batch I planted was frost-nipped and didn't survive. In their place, the weed seeds had sprouted, and enjoyed my non-discerning watering.

Thankfully, there's no real harm done (except to my pride), but this incident made me think about how important discernment is for the Christian. As I expended a lot of sweaty effort on uprooting my marvelously healthy weeds and replanting the spindly, neglected zinnias, I considered how much easier pulling out the weeds would have been if I had been discerning enough to recognize them right away. Similarly, in our Christian walk—in our personal lives and in our churches—recognizing false teaching (which may initially look really healthy and grow really fast, like my weeds!) right away will save a lot of grief in the long run.

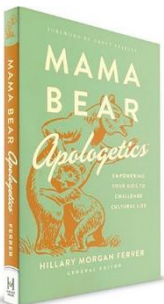
And recognizing the spiritual weeds enables us to be more fruitful—a fact that I contemplated ruefully as I piled up the mountain of weeds and surveyed the pitiful few remaining flowers. If only I had been more discerning early on, the new seedlings could still have had time to flourish. Likewise, with Christian-sounding words and philosophies tossed around indiscriminately in our culture, it's all too easy to end up with a mess of spiritual weeds that choke out true growth and flowering.

Hauling armloads of the weeds to the burn pile, I felt that I was experiencing a vivid illustration of

why Scripture doesn't just *suggest* that we learn to distinguish between truth and falsehood—it *commands* us to! “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God” (1 John 4:1); “always [be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).

Weeds do worse than stunting faith and fruitfulness (as bad as that is!); they can actually choke faith (see the parable of the sower!).

So, how can we defend ourselves, our church, and our children, so that we reap beds of beautiful blooms rather than straggly, stunted, choked-out plants?



Here's a great place to start: A new book called *Mama Bear Apologetics: Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies*. It's a collection of bite-sized essays on critical cultural issues—buzzwords and topics that you'll readily recognize.

These authors are passionate about following the Biblical directive to “see to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition....” (Col. 2:8). Referencing popular culture along the way, and always with a sense of humor, they guide the reader through how to respond when accused of being intolerant or unloving due to standing for Biblical truth; how to sort through “justice” and “equality;” and so much more. All along the way, specific strategies are offered on how to guide children (of all ages!) to be discerning about everything they encounter—which is different than merely classifying it as “good” or “bad.”

Despite the book's subtitle, it's most certainly not just for mamas! The authors, not all of whom have

children, are adamant that this topic is critical for all Christians today. In fact, I know of one Bible study group that has been going through the book together and finding it immensely helpful—and the attendees are all men of grandfather age!

There will soon be a copy of this book in Zion's library. Check it out (or even better, order your own copy so that you can highlight it!), and prepare to be by turns entertained, challenged, and amused by the authors' witty writing.

Women, if you'd like to join an informal conversation on the topic, see the announcement about an opportunity to do so this month! – Rebecca Conner

Book Discussion Opportunity!

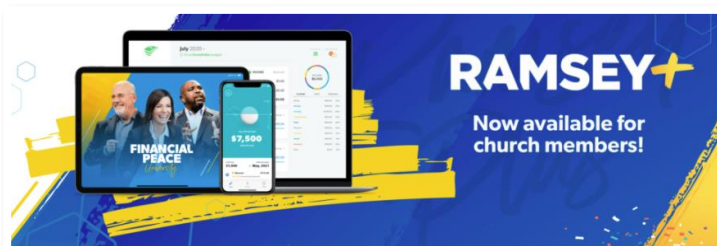
Women—have you enjoyed a few beach books this summer, and are ready for something a little deeper? Are you bewildered or disturbed by some of the trends in our culture? Have you ever found yourself wishing you had better answers for your friends (or your kids, or yourself) when questions of faith arise? Do you enjoy books that are both immensely relevant and occasionally hilarious?

If you answered “yes” to any of the above, you'll almost certainly love the new book *Mama Bear Apologetics: Empowering Your Kids to Challenge Cultural Lies*. (And no, it's not just for mamas...not even just for women.) Even more fun than reading it alone? Getting together with a few other women to discuss it!

We'll gather in Zion's Youth Room on Sunday evenings, **August 15 and 29, at 7 p.m.**, to talk about the first few chapters. And it's perfectly OK if you haven't read the book but want to join the discussion anyway! Questions? Talk to Rebecca Conner.

Big Opportunity Headed Your Way!

Zion, in partnership with Iowa District West, has an incredible opportunity to share with you. An all-access subscription to RAMSEY+ is being offered to those who are associated with Zion, including our preschool families.



Many of you in the congregation may be familiar with Financial Peace University offered by Dave Ramsey. That same company is now offering an electronic subscription to all the classes, tools, and apps in their program and because of support from Iowa District West, it's being offered for only \$25! This subscription will allow you or your household access until February 28, 2022.

What is it?

It is an Electronic, All-in-One Financial Guide

Discover the plan to dump debt for good, save for emergencies, and have confidence for your future. Use the budgeting tool, EveryDollar, to take control of your money. Track your progress and hit your money goals faster with the BabySteps app. Ramsey+ will walk with you every step of the way.

How can I access it?

Drop off your \$25 subscription fee to the church office and provide us with your email address. We will then send you the link to create an account via the Iowa District West's subscription.

The subscription allows participants to take classes such as Financial Peace, Smart Money-Smart Kids, or The Legacy Journey. It also gives access to 3 apps and a multitude of other resources.

Will there be in-person classes?

Yes! We plan to offer several courses in-person at Zion for those people who prefer to do the program in a more traditional way or for those who benefit from brainstorming together in person. Watch for dates and classes to be announced!

I have taken some of the Dave Ramsey classes in the past. Can I download the app to get jump started again?

Absolutely! After you **subscribe** and get the subscription information, download one of the apps to start tracking or planning, plus check out the updated course materials for a refresher.

We will highlight some of the electronic tools included in the subscription in the weeks and months to come. Feel free to contact Jen Morris with any questions!



I've been painting one of the rooms in the parsonage. In the background, I have *The Office* playing. It's a comedy based solely in an office complex. Even though the characters are selling office supply products, it's anything but dull.

Another comedy I remember watching reruns of is *M*A*S*H*. You probably remember this one – all based during the Korean War; the surgeons, played by world class actors such as Alan Alda, navigate the absurdities of army life along with the goriness of the war. Despite the setting, there are a lot of laughs built into this show (even without the laugh track in the background).

Both *M*A*S*H* and *The Office* were highly successful! The *M*A*S*H* series' finale is still on record for receiving the most viewership of any television series ever (120 million watched). It goes without saying, but these comedies have had massive influence over our culture.

With that sort of influence comes positive notes. *M*A*S*H* was less of a critique of the war in Korea and more of a trial over the necessity of the war in Vietnam. *The Office* has a way of redeeming the mundane moments at work; one of the show's main protagonists, Michael Scott (Steve Carell), consistently stresses that *Dunder Mifflin is not about business, it's about the people*.

Despite those positive notes, David Kinnaman argues that we have entered what he has coined Digital Babylon. The Church is in exile; people are dropping out like mad. One of the causes he argues as to why we find ourselves where we do is because of the **weaponization of humor**.

Kinnaman writes in *Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon*: "Another dimension of relational breakdown and mistrust in digital Babylon is the callousness of what we find entertaining or, more specifically, what we laugh at."

"We are being conditioned to exhibit less confidence in others, particularly those in positions of authority." Kinnaman goes on, "We contend that the changing role of humor contributes to a more anxious age in which we find reasons to mistrust one another and respond with sarcasm in the ordinary parts of life."

In the case of *M*A*S*H*, Hawkeye encounters the ridiculousness of the Army often. When the 4077 needs a special machine with the capability of diagnosing diseases quickly, the quartermaster denies the request...however, the hospital can have access to a pizza machine instead (not that helpful for a hospital saving lives). Of course, this isn't the only instance of absurdity. From teaching a fraud how to do surgery to overpaying Hawkeye in Army script, the absurdity abounds (and don't even get me started on Frank Burns). Point being, the show leaves you distrusting military authorities; there's always an angle when it comes to higher-ups, and you would do well to distrust them – be like an enlightened Hawkeye Pierce.

The same thing happens in *The Office*. The corporate office of Dunder Mifflin is on the brink of losing the business throughout the show due to their ineptitude. Michael, an arm of the corporate office, requires sensitivity training. Jan's tough exterior melts away over the course of the show to reveal an impulsive hurricane of a personality. Again, upper management is untrustworthy. They can't even create a functional website for crying out loud!

So why does this all matter? Kinnaman is appropriately cautioning us as we dwell in Digital Babylon. Jesus said, “Hear and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth; this defiles a person.” Jesus goes on, “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.” Content is a concern, *BUT* an even greater concern is our hearts. Our modern comedy relishes in the deconstruction of authority; our hearts feel good when a joke puts authority down. But we need to be careful because behind authority is God Himself. We need to be aware that our hearts will shape us into distrustful beings in our homes and in society.

Digital Babylon is increasingly making us untrustworthy, sarcastic, and hopeless. Our comedies’ protagonists tend to be enlightened. Again, in the case of *M*A*S*H*, Hawkeye, Trapper, and Hunnicutt see the war for what it truly is. You’re drawn to be like them. Even Colonel Potter with his military record of serving in two World Wars does not draw the same level of awe as Hawkeye; you love and respect Potter, but as a viewer you’re not necessarily drawn to be like him.

Similarly, characters like Jim and Pam see the office park for what it is: futile, unimportant, full of gullible people like Dwight or superficial people like Andy. Jim and Pam are *in the know* – and the writers draw you to them; you want to be like them. You don’t want to be a loser like a Michael Scott.

Point being, modern comedies and their weaponization of humor, as Kinnaman terms it, *can* create a generation of untrusting, self-righteous pharisees. Remember the Parable of Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)? The Pharisee prays, “God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.” Do you see what’s

happening? The Pharisee is in the know; he sees life for what it truly is. He’s enlightened over and against the Tax Collector. Sadly though, he’s really just become full of himself; too big for his britches. He believes that the point of life is elevating himself over and against nasty people like a tax collector. But in so doing, he has made his personal enlightenment and performance *THE* reason as to why God should hear his prayer. He has made himself his own functional savior.

The Tax Collector on the other hand, acknowledges his unworthiness to even talk to God. But it’s the Tax Collector that Jesus endorses: “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. **For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.**”

We need to be careful with our modern comedies, only because the protagonists, despite their good qualities, sometimes encourage self-exaltation rather than humiliation – which, I know I don’t have to tell you, is polar opposite of what Jesus is to us. He had the right to exalt Himself, but He ended up on a cross.

I think the way moving forward with modern comedies is to ask ourselves, how is this show making me see others? Am I looking down on others thinking “bless their heart” (which if you’re from Texas, you know that doesn’t mean what it sounds like)? Am I short with some people because they don’t measure up to my expectations at work (in other words, you’re enlightened and you get it – but they don’t)? If our hearts are deteriorating the value of human beings in our families and work, then maybe we need to ask ourselves what is contributing to that deterioration. – Pastor Johnson

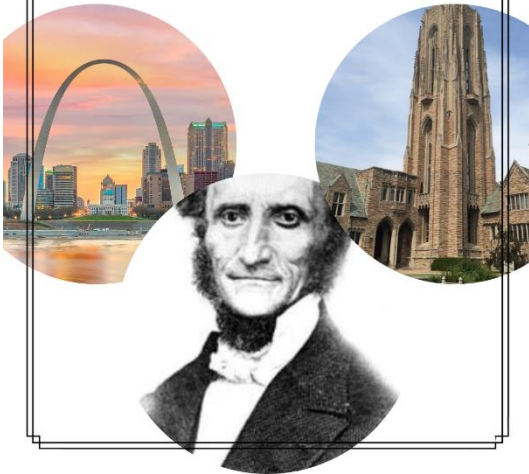
Lutheran Heritage Trip March 31-April 3, 2022

Want to know more about how we came to be? Then join us for a trip to St. Louis, MO next year. We'll be visiting the Arch, Concordia Seminary, the LWML headquarters, among other spots.

Find out more by attending an info meeting.

**Saturday, August 14 @ Trinity-Manilla 5pm
OR**

Thursday, August 19 @ Zion-Manning 7pm



**Sunday, August 15 @ 6pm
@ Trinity-Manilla**

For 9-12 graders (+college kids)

Bring extra change of clothes

P. Johnson will be @ Zion parking lot
from 5:15-5:45pm in case anyone
wants a ride over to Manilla



**Mark your calendars
Friday, October 1
5-7pm
@ Trinity-Manilla
Staley's Chicken Dinner
Supports Trinity's LWML
& Altar Guild
\$12/plate**



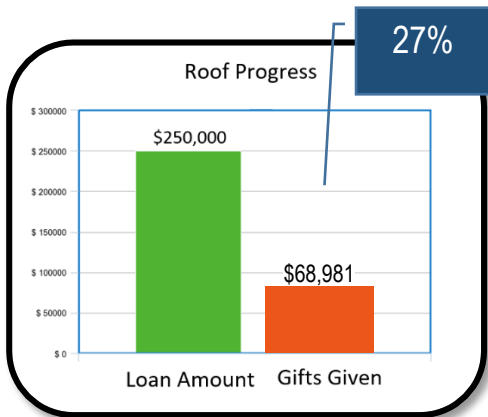
IKM-M Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

Tuesday, August 17

From 7-8:30am

Servers asked to be @ IKM-M
parking lot in Manning no later than
6:30am

This is a great opportunity for our
congregations to show our support
for our teachers



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!

Support and Perpetuate the Mission and Ministry of Zion and Trinity



Love your church?

Did you know Zion and Trinity have established endowments through which you can perpetuate your gift and further the mission and ministry of your church?

Did you know you can support your church (in a tax advantaged way) through your IRA, grain donation, or your estate planning?

Want to learn more? Call, email, or stop in. (Zion: 655-2352, zionmanninglcms@gmail.com / Trinity: 654-3031 johnsonan1445@gmail.com)

Need to talk? Zion, through Lutheran Family Service, is pleased to offer help! Certified counselor, Amy Hull, offers Christian counseling at Zion throughout the month. Call 515-573-3138 to make an appointment.



ALIVE

Equipped to Thrive

3-Part Series for Teenagers & Parents



July 25

Being Who God Made Me

“Our Identity Drives Our Choices”

Sept. 12

Social Media Set Me Free

“Escaping the Social Media Stronghold”

Nov. 7

Normal What's That?

“Understanding What's Normal for Teens”

Navigating teen and family life can be difficult for everyone. It is our hope that these sessions will help strengthen our teens, families, and communities.

When: 5-7pm on July 25, Sept. 12, and Nov. 7

Where: Zion Lutheran Church

Who: All Area teenagers (12-18) and their parents

Cost: Free-will donation

What: 2-hour sessions featuring parallel tracks for teens/parents,
Meal with conversation starters, and an activity



July 25
Event

ALIVE



God has blessed you, chosen you, and predestined you in Jesus. He has secured every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places for you. He has made you holy and blameless through Jesus. He has adopted you, made you an inheritor of His kingdom, and sealed you with His Holy Spirit as a guarantee of your inheritance. This, as Paul details in Ephesians, is who God has made you!

Gathered families spent the first part of our “ALIVE: Equipped to Thrive” evening with Pastor Conner appreciating how this reality not only inoculates us against the lies of the world, but it motivates us to live in a way that reflects who God has made us.

After a family meal together, Jen Morris led us through an interactive activity where families were encouraged to discuss ways to anchor our Christian identity to our daily habits. The next “ALIVE: Equipped to Thrive” family event is set for Sunday, September 12 (see page 12) and will focus on social media safety. Make every effort to attend!

Introducing Zion Lutheran Preschool's New Director/Teacher!

Soul on fire!

Hi my name is Michele Acklin and I am honored to become a part of the long tradition Zion Lutheran Preschool has offered to hundreds of children and families since it was founded in 1985.

I grew up on a farm in Coon Rapids, where at an early age, faith, family, and a strong farm work ethic along with honesty and integrity were instilled upon me and my four siblings from our parents Butch and Bonnie Schroeder. Being the oldest, I was molded into a caregiver's role with 15 years between me and my younger sister. I realized early on that God gifted me by birth order AND his design to LOVE and care for children. I used to watch *Little House on the Prairie* thinking I would find an infant abandoned out in our timber, like Laura did, and that I would get to keep him. LOL! Years later I did become a foster mom to 15 children over 5 years who needed love, care and nurturing.

I have three wonderful children of whom I am very proud: Sheri & Ben Danner of Templeton, Joe & Liz Stitz of Coon Rapids, and Amanda & Michael Crouse of Red Oak. I am beyond blessed to have six grandchildren, the joy of my life!

My childcare and preschool experience started in 1985 and has continued through the years: Group Child Development, Registered and Licensed Centers in Halbur, Carroll, Forest City, Goldfield, Belmond and Coon Rapids. You may have heard of Taylor Made Academy or M Squared Academy- Where learning and fun go hand in hand was our motto.

In my spare time, you might find me cuddling one of my six grandchildren, paying it forward, spending time with family and friends, riding my Harley, kayaking, fishing, boating, camping, hunting, on a walk OR enjoying a nice campfire by my off grid cabin by the river near Coon Rapids. You won't find me watching TV (I haven't had it for over a year) riding a bike (even though I own several) or zip lining- no thank you!

After losing my brother Tony Acklin to melanoma in 2006, I have carried Tony's motto and am a Soul on Fire living "Today Not Tomorrow"! I am full of faith, fun, and adventure and continue to walk with Jesus everyday asking him, "Lord...today is your day, where do you need me most"? And guess what? HE brought ME to YOU. :)

I know through prayer, communication, and love WE will be an awesome team to help educate, inspire, and be Christian role models for our preschoolers.

Blessings Friends,
Michele Acklin
aka Ms. Shelly





Our Director &
Associate
positions have
been filled!

Still accepting Student Registrations!

3 & 4 yr olds

2 Classes Available:

Mon-Thu 8-11 or 12:30 – 3:30

To Register or for more info:
ZionManningPreschool@gmail.com
Zion Office (712) 655-2352

Zion Lutheran Church,
1204 Center St,
Manning, IA 51455



**Preschool starts
Wednesday, August 25!**

Introducing Zion Lutheran Preschool's New Assistant Teacher!



Hi!

My name is Ashley Hinners, wife of Joe, and mom to Amelia, Juniper, and Abel. As a family, we enjoy going to my grandparents' cabin in Lake View, traveling (usually to Colorado), and adventuring around our farm. My personal hobbies include photography, looking for wildlife on our road trips, and planning birthday parties and other fun events.

I graduated from grade school in Manning and received a Bachelor's degree in teaching from the University of Northern Iowa. After college, I spent 9 years teaching special education, from Kindergartners to seniors in high school.

I am so excited to start this journey in the Zion Preschool. Teaching and helping Littles grow is a passion of mine, and I can't wait to share it with our small community.

Pastor Conner read Ephesians 2: 11-20 which talked about the Gentiles as uncircumcised and according to the law separated from Christ but now brought near by the blood of Christ shed on the cross making the Jews and Gentiles one in His church. Following a prayer by Pastor Conner, Cheral Buhr, Christian Life Chairman, spoke to us about the Christian flag symbolizing our freedom from sin's punishment and led us in the pledge to the Christian flag.



President Roe called the business meeting to order in the name of the Triune God and led us in the LWML Pledge. Roll Call was answered by 12 members recalling a favorite summer vacation. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Correspondence included a thank you note from Marilyn Mumm for the quilt she won at Kinderfest, pamphlets from Lutheran Family Service and information from LWML about LWML Sunday. There were no treasurer reports. A donation will be sent to the Kinderfest committee for next year's celebration from the money made from the cookie walk.

Committee reports: Circle #1 served the Joan Noelk funeral. The mite box was passed as the mite box prayer was said. Old business: Trinity, Manilla is packaging meals for the heartland on August 5th. Members were encouraged to help assemble the meals at 6 P.M. Cynthia Genzen moved that we send \$25.00 to help support the project. The motion was seconded and carried.

LWML Sunday will be October 3rd with a NOISY offering collected for mites. LWML Mission Grants Chosen to be gathered for 2021-2023 amount to \$2,150,000.00. One of these grants is the Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch--\$81,680.00. About this mission grant: Matthew 25:40 assures us that whenever we serve the "least of these brothers and sisters" of Christ, we are serving the Lord. The healing ministry of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch creates an eternal, life-giving impact in the lives of children 10-18 who face unimaginable abuse, neglect, and trauma—truly "the least of these". The specialized ministry of a deaconess bridges this gap with the transformational care of Christ, helping both young girls and boys.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer. Hostesses were Audrey Roe and Darlene Vollstedt. The next meeting will be a noon potluck and guest day on August 11th.

Are you a member of Zion LWML?

Yes, you are. All ladies over the age of 18 are members. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is the official women's auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Organized in 1946 Iowa West District includes societies from congregations in the western half of Iowa with a membership of 6,000 women. Nationwide it is nearly 200,000. How do I get involved?

Talk to your group's president Audrey Roe or Pastor Conner. Consider beginning a new group. Also available is your district LWML or the national level. All levels are available to assist women in discovering and using their God given gifts through LWML in thanksgiving and service to our Lord. Our motto: Serve the Lord with gladness. Psalm 100:2 For additional information go to www.lwml.org. LWML Sunday--Watch for it coming soon! "Our Hearts in His Hand".

Addressing Negativity

Has someone ever told you, in response to a negative person, “Stay away from them”? When someone is speaking negatively about you, your employment, or your family, you might tend to avoid that person as his/her attitude may influence your attitude and even bleed into your behaviors. Certain people and situations in life can make us feel badly about ourselves or even engage in destructive behaviors. By identifying those toxic influences in our lives and taking steps to create boundaries, or a possibly a life without them, you can improve your mental and physical health over time.



Some estimate that as many as 80% of Americans have experienced some form of emotional abuse. That's a lot of hurt! This may come from a significant other, boss, family member, or a friend. Emotional abusers often downplay your achievements and find ways to act smarter than you and to make you feel insignificant. This is typically a sign of a person with deep insecurities. Their deep feelings of inadequacy drive them to tear others down so as to maintain their social standing and position of power. Your competency or achievements are a threat to them so they tear you down. This fixation on faults and failures (as protection against being exposed as inadequate or incompetent) leaves emotional abusers blind to the good in life. Being around people like this can make it hard for you to be joyful, confident, and positive.

If the relationship(s) continues, depressive thoughts can move in and intensify. This is not the same thing as clinical depression, so it's a good idea to talk with your pastor, a mature Christian friend, a Lutheran Family Service counselor, or to Senior Life Solutions to sort things out. Depending on the relationship, you may not be able to avoid the negative person, but you can learn healthy boundaries and positive strategies for dealing with the negativity. If you feel like you or someone you know is being influenced by an overly negative person and know that it is not a healthy relationship, consider talking to them and letting them know that you care and that help is available.

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



Project Forward.
Relevant. Resourceful. Revitalized.



SERVING THE LORD

ALL OVER ASIA

NEWS FROM THE FERRY FAMILY



Trinity 2021

Now in the Time of the Church, we are blessed to live life in Taiwan where our Lord has sent us to serve through you, the LCMS. We have been found by the Covid-19 virus which has caused massive shut-downs and restrictions here on the island. Despite all that, we continue to have great joy to see our Lord working His will for all of us. Here are some highlights of life and work from these last few weeks:



Above and Below: Dr. Dicke takes the lead in teaching music to the children and enabling them to use their gifts to the glory of God.



Above and Below: Dr. Dicke and the children make a quick pivot to online presentations when Covid caused massive lockdowns in Taiwan during May and June.



Above: The Ferry Family celebrates the baptism of Caylee Violet at Salvation Lutheran Church in Chiayi, officiated by the church's pastor Rev. Alex Wu.



SERVING THE LORD

ALL OVER ASIA

NEWS FROM THE FERRY FAMILY



Trinity 2021

Birthday Updates from the Ferrys:

May and June were times once again to count our blessings: Chloe (right) turned five years old and officially started school. She's learning her phonograms on the road to reading, and has started her addition facts. Her momma made her a yellow cake with balloons, per her request.



Carissa (left) turned nine years old, much to the astonishment of her father. She has truly mastered the skill of reading lately, and has been actually enjoying her chances to pick up a book. She requested a chocolate cake, and her mother mixed chocolate frosting in order to make stripes on the tiger she wanted to adorn the top.

Of course it was the birthday in April that really shook our family, as Caylee Violet was born in record time upon our arrival at the hospital. We had her in church that very first Sunday in order to bring her to the font, where the Lord Jesus claimed her in the waters of Holy Baptism. In the days since, Caylee has been doing her job: eating, growing, and endearing herself to her big brother and sisters. We are truly blessed as a family, and we look forward to introducing her to you in the days to come.



PLEASE PRAY FOR: • The people of Taiwan as they hear the Word of God. • The new Christians around us: that the Lord would sustain and strengthen them.

GIVE THANKS FOR: • The birth and re-birth of Caylee Violet, safely and in good health. • Cheryl's quick delivery and speedy recovery. • Our healthy and growing children, who love where we live and know they're safe and secure.





Amigos en Cristo

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

August 2021

Pastor Pedro Lopes begins his ministry in Iowa District West:

Following his installation last month Pastor Pedro began visiting and preaching in both Denison and Storm Lake. The highlight of his first weeks included this event where he baptized Alejandra Hernandez in the Sunday worship service on June 27th. Alejandra is the daughter of Adriana and Rafael and she is the 5th baby we have baptized this year in our Denison and Storm Lake ministries. What a blessing that Pastor Lopez was able to be a part of this special day. We look forward to his future ministry in our two Hispanic communities with large and growing mission fields of young bilingual Hispanic families.

Please pray for our new future under Pastor Lopez. We are blessed to have an experienced pastor/missionary to guide our Hispanic ministries. He comes to us with many talents and gifts that we pray will be a blessing to our District and beyond.

Pastor and Paquita Lopez are getting to know western Iowa. In the picture above Pastor Pedro and Paquita are visiting Manning, the Hausbarn and historic Trinity Lutheran Church. Following his installation the Lopezes were able to stay in the area for 2 weeks, getting to know the member families and looking for housing in the Denison area. They plan to permanently move here in August from their home in Virginia. We have enjoyed their time during the past weeks with us and the opportunity to get to know them. They have a unique understanding of the diversity of Hispanic culture in this country and how to apply God's Word to this special mission field. It is a challenging time for ministry among Hispanics, not only nationally but also locally in Iowa, as many from Mexico and Central America continue to move to our communities. May the Lord guide them!

Wednesday Morning Bible Study at Amigos: Our morning Bible Study in Denison has become a popular summer event. Our bilingual Bible Study also includes a class for children taught by my wife Paula. We use the Bible class to focus and to prepare for the scripture lessons and hymns for the coming Sunday worship. It's also a special time of fellowship for a diverse group: of English speakers, first generation Hispanics, of older folks, and children, all eager to hear and learn from God's Word.

PLEASE PRAY: + In thanksgiving for the installation of Pastor Pedro and for the congregation's transition to his new ministry among us. + For Pastor Lopez and Paquita as they move this month from Virginia. + For young mothers, Adriana and Joceyln, who have baptized their little ones in the Christian faith. + In thanksgiving for the mission hearts of the many individuals and congregations of Iowa District West who support the Lord's four Hispanic ministries in Iowa. +++



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Cell: 712-309-1292
Email:
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son.org



Orientation:
August 25 @ 6:30 p.m.

First Class:
September 1 @ 4:00 p.m.

LERT
**LUTHERAN EARLY
RESPONSE TEAM**

TRAINING

**Saturday, August 14
9-12pm + Lunch Provided**

Put on by Ellie Menz from IDW

@ Trinity-Manilla

Let Pastor Johnson know if you're attending
Walk-ins still welcome

Learn how to respond to Disasters

2021 IDW JR YOUTH GATHERING



OCTOBER 23-24

Iowa District West
Jr. Youth Gathering
West Des Moines

Cost - \$ 150

Registration information will be
mailed in August.



Iowa District West
Sr. Youth Gathering
Holiday Inn at the Airport - Des
Moines

Cost - \$235

Registration information will be
mailed in August.

Please Note! All times and events are subject to change



Morning Prayer on summer break (previous sessions available at www.zionmanning.com under the tab "worship/study/pray.")



August 3 Ramsey + Orientation at Zion (7:00 p.m.)



August 4-6 VBS+S at Trinity (6:00-7:30 p.m.)



August 5 Meals from the Heartland at Trinity (6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)



August 14 LERT Training at Trinity in Manilla (9:00 a.m. – Noon)



August 14 Lutheran Heritage Trip Info Meeting at Trinity (5:00 p.m.)



August 15 Water Wars for HS Youth (at Trinity) (6:00 p.m.)



August 17 IKM-Manning Appreciation Breakfast (7:00-8:30 a.m.)



August 18 Zion Sunday School Teacher Orientation (7:00 p.m.)



August 19 Thursday afternoon Communion Service at Zion (1:30 p.m.)



August 19 Lutheran Heritage Trip Info Meeting at Zion (7:00 p.m.)



August 22 Meet and Greet Zion Preschool Teachers (after worship)



August 25 Confirmation Orientation (6:30 – 7:15 p.m.)



ZION & TRINITY

Please Note! All times and events are subject to change



August 26

First Day of Zion Preschool



August 26

Historic Trinity Worship (6:30 p.m.)



August 28

Outdoor worship at Bandshell in Manilla (4:00 p.m.)



September 1

Confirmation Begins (4:00 – 5:30 p.m.)



September 12

Rally Day / First Day of Sunday School / Teachers Installed



September 12

**ALIVE: Equipped to Thrive at Zion (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.)
Equipping workshop for parents and teens
Supper provided**



October 1

Staley's Chicken Dinner at Trinity (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.)



October 10

**Zion Lutheran Preschool Pancake Breakfast (9:00 – Noon)
Worship at Zion at 8:00 a.m.**

Thank you for your ongoing support especially the last 7 months. Your thoughtfulness, time, prayers, and financial support ensured the future of our preschool. God, as always, was faithful in His direction and.....in HIS timing!! Our new staff will be dynamic and our new hours will help support parents with young children. Most importantly, Zion will help introduce Jesus and His amazing love and His story into their lives forever. – Zion Preschool Board

Zion Lutheran:

Camp Okoboji has been serving campers and sharing the love of Jesus for over 80 years! Faithful stewards, such as you, have been sharing their love and gifts in support of camp's ministry over that same time! Your stewardship is an awesome blessing! We praise God for your faith and trust! Thank you so very much! God bless you! - Trusting Jesus our Savior, Kirk Warnke

August Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion &

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

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. David Kusel
2. Asher Bauer
Juniper Hinners
Judy Lingle (T)
Justin Musfeldt
3. Sophia Beck
Jentry Wiig
4. Jade Dawson
Amy Hull
Maddox Weitl
5. Janet Brus
Maddox Vetter (T)
6. Matthew Alexander
Zachary Grove
Morgyn Irlbeck
Alison Peters
Beverly Rix
Donna Rutz
Grace Sextro
7. Kevin Struve
Katie Weitl
8. Haylie Irlbeck
Logan Vonnahme
9. McKenna Benton
John Ferneding
Mackenzie Jorgensen (T)
10. Rhonda Grimm
Kent Vollstedt
11. Scott Dreier
Ashley Ehlers
12. Kelly Ferneding
Luke Jorgensen (T)
Stan Musfeldt
Audrey Roe
14. Elizabeth Alexander
John Blom (T)
Jennifer Bunker
Cole Lingle (T)
Mark Segebart (T)
15. Addalynn Alexander
Emma Reese
EmmaLynn Salter
Rick Spack
16. Cathie Segebart (T)
17. Jill Arp
18. Tyler Bruck
Kason Jacobsen
Carol Schroeder
Paula Wulf
19. Jean Borkowski
Miranda Hansen
Shelby Heaton
Randy Mahnke
20. LeAnn Christensen (T)
21. Tina Miller (T)
Stephany Olson (T)
Jacob Rosener
Mitchell Walters
22. Will Jorgensen (T)
23. Karl Rutz
24. Jasmine Bauer
25. Kristian Woebke (T)
26. Barb Hargens (T)
Kadynce Ketcham
27. Mary Grimm
Dorothy Kusel
Coltan Lesle
Linnet Nissen
Leggy Thomson
Gale Vinke
28. Brian Vetter (T)
29. Justin Weller
30. Abby Bruch
Cash England
31. Margaret Kuchel
Jeremiah Segebart (T)

Anniversaries

1. Scott & Lisa Dreier
3. Nathan & Chelsey Jensen
5. Don & Susan Lamb
6. Pastor Daniel & Paula Vogel
7. Robert & Kari Deal
9. Duane & Melodie Boell (T)
10. Daniel & Taya Vonnahme
12. Bob & Irene Genzen
13. Alan & Jennifer Morris
15. John & Deb Blom (T)
17. Collin & Danielle Brus
18. Robert & Brenda Ehlers
20. Mark & Cathie Segebart (T)
23. Gary & Bonnie Witt
25. Dwight & Jeanne Gruhn
Tim & Joni Kienast
26. John & Sarah Lorenzen
29. Mitch & Natalie Hanson
30. JoAnn and Earl Thomas
31. Michael & Megan Alexander
Daniel & Wendy Stribe

Official Acts

Transferred in to Zion (Accura Resident):

Genevieve Baker, from Zion, Denison, IA, July 21, 2021

In Our Prayers

Louise Kinnan (Darlene Asmus' sister), Justeen Schwieso, Nancy Grimm, Julie Weller, Naomi Adams (Jean Ferneding's mother), Jeanne Gruhn, Ron Schilling, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Natalie Mason (Bruce and Mary Grimm's daughter), John Sonnichsen (Bobby Doyel's Brother in law), Gage Carlson (great grandson of Russ and Virginia Mohr), Joene Bohlmann, Patty Meeves (Laurene's daughter in law), Gene Lohrmann