



On Guard! Protect Yourself and Your Family Online

Let's start with something we know to be true, but do our best to forget: the internet is not safe. It's not that the internet is bad, any more than a rock or a baseball bat is bad; it's that, like rocks and bats, it has inherent danger. And we must guard ourselves and our families against that danger. So let's begin by reminding ourselves of the real and present danger.

- **You and your family are being searched.**

You may think that you are searching the internet, but Google is really searching you. Google knows what you've searched for, what websites you've visited, what videos you've watched, what ads you've clicked on, your location, your device information, and your IP address and cookie data. Don't believe me? Go to www.myactivity.google.com. It's there. You are being searched.

- **Children are being exposed to pornography.**

Research shows that the average age of a child's first exposure to pornography is between nine and eleven! Most stumble upon it accidentally, but let's be honest about the accident. The child may not have seen it coming, but the porn provider saw the child coming.

Due to the proliferation of internet-enabled devices, kids have ready access to the internet and they are turning to it, rather than to parents, pastors, or trusted adults, to learn

about relationships and sex, and their searches are pulling them into porn.

The wildly popular and nearly universally used kid-attracting app TikTok was recently exposed for its "endless stream" of sex and drug related content targeted at children. *The Wall Street Journal* broke the story after creating several automated TikTok accounts (called "bots"). The bots were registered as young teenagers and directed by the app to its "For You Feed" that promises a never-ending stream of highly personalized video content. *The Journal* reported that these personalized selections directed its young users to hundreds of drug-related videos (ranging from videos on addiction to videos on acquiring drug products and more) and hundreds of videos recommending paid porn sites and sex shops.

- **Social media is affecting our mental health.**

The Wall Street Journal also recently released a series of reports on Facebook (which also owns Instagram) that revealed the social media giant's knowledge of its deleterious effects on users, especially teenage users. Facebook and Instagram know that their platform exacerbates body image issues, anxiety and depression, and negatively impacts the overall mental health of its users.

John Stonestreet, president of the Colson Center for Christian Worldview, was recently interviewed on this issue on *The World and Everything in It*, and he deserves to be quoted at length:

"We know that technology like this rewires the brain. We know that a generation that is raised even on internet technology, like

Google, fail to develop the kind of thinking that connects causes and effects or you know, things and their consequences.

“We know the body image stuff is just the latest thing. There’s all kinds of ways that experiencing life in this way distracts us from the people that are around us, you know, stunts our growth, perpetuates bad stereotypes.

“It also delivers a group of influencers.¹ I mean, the very fact, by the way, that we have a group of people that are called influencers, and that’s a thing, tells you everything you need to know. But then it delivers them into an intimacy—or false intimacy, a one-way intimacy—with our sons and daughters like nothing else could...

“It’s significant because the influence here is truly outsized... Embedded in all this, too, is a false definition of what it means to be successful. A culture that worships celebrity is a culture that chooses style over substance. It’s a culture that chooses posturing over loving and caring...

“That’s the message coming out of all these mediums, you’re not good enough, you’re not smart enough, you’re always being left out. And to have a life of significance, you have to be noticed, and you have to be liked. And not liked in any sort of real sense. Not liked despite who you are, but you actually have to have a little thumbs up clicked on some image or something that you have, otherwise, the devastating potential is that you don’t matter. What a terrible, terrible message.”

- **You are easy to find.**

The pictures you take and post online not only often have easily identifiable landmarks, school names, house address numbers, etc. in the background, but they have GPS coordinates built in. Anyone with a little bit of internet savvy (or the ability to type in a simple Google search for how to do it!) can pinpoint your photo’s location.

Snapchat’s Snap Map makes it possible for users to share their location with “friends,” but that’s the problem. Young users aren’t always clear on what constitutes a friend and even on the identity of the people with whom they may be sharing their location. Further, if a user posts to the “Our Story” page on Snapchat, that story and location information becomes visible to the world.

And even though users’ snaps vanish after 10 seconds, they don’t really disappear. Web savvy individuals have uncovered them buried in the phone’s photo app. And anyone viewing a snap can easily take a screenshot and keep whatever image he or she wishes.

- **Secrecy and lies are encouraged.**

Vault apps allow users to hide secret content. What looks like a calculator app may, in fact, be a vault concealing sexualized pictures. Instagram allows users to have secret accounts and the content discussed in these threads heavily feature drugs and suicide.

- **Human trafficking is happening.**

The Department of Homeland Security defines human trafficking as follows: “Human

¹ As Abigail Shrier extensively details the prevalence of these influencers in her book *Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters*. She

points out how they are intentionally luring children into deviant and unhealthy sexualized identities.

trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.” And it’s happening. Even in Iowa. And the primary way people are lured into being trafficked is through social media and online gaming. Traffickers spend months, sometimes years, grooming potential victims, gaining information, building relationships, showering with affection, offering attention, and then exercising control in a trafficking relationship.

Returning to our opening point: the internet is not safe. You need to take steps to protect yourself and your family. But what steps should you take? We’ll discuss that question below and continue the conversation next month.

Step One: Strengthen Identity in the Family

Strengthening identity in the family cannot be a slogan; it has to be a mission. Cultivating identity, worth, purpose, and belonging *in the family* must be our mission. Adding to that, we must ground that familial identity in God’s family, the Church.

Returning to Mr. Stonestreet’s interview on *The World and Everything in It*, he spoke about social media and identity and starkly explained,

We get sold a multitude of identities. And if we’re left out, we’re irrelevant in a social media defined world. And if we are shared, then we’re relevant. And that just kind of feeds into our understanding of who we are as human beings... It’s actually a way of selling identity itself.

To guard against this, we need to cultivate identity in the family. We’ll expand upon this next month, but let’s offer a few practical starting points here:

- Put your phone down and talk as a family.
- Turn off the TV and play games as a family.
- Eat supper as a family.

- Read books and talk about them as a family.
- Worship as a family.
- Discuss the sermon as a family.
- Pray as a family.

Do these things. Make them your mission.

Step Two: Protect Your Family

We’ll expand upon this next month, but here are a few places to start:

- www.canopy.us
Blocks porn and prevents sexting on multiple devices.
- Gabb and Pinwheel
Smartphones that enable parents to establish what’s accessible and what isn’t.
- Firewalla
A device that plugs into your router that provides cybersecurity, parental controls, ad blocking, and more.
- *The Tech-Wise Family* by Andy Crouch
Helps families make wise choices regarding their usage of tech as a family.

Have questions? Know of other great resources? Have something that’s working in your family? I’d love to hear from you! This is a conversation we must have because, as we’ve emphasized, the internet is not safe and the family, specifically the Christ-centered, church-connected family, is our mission. – Pastor Conner



**Family & Friends Hayride!
9-19-21**

Many thanks to Zion's Board of Education for hosting the 2021 family and friends hayride!



And many thanks to the Gruhn family for providing the wagons and the roasting pits and to Ron Christensen for driving the tractor!





The best books, television series, and movies become “the best” because they reflect the best story ever told and lived in real-life history: namely, the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth for the sake of unworthy people. The last film we reviewed was *1917*, and, again, I’d like to consider a war film, but we’re going back in time a bit.

1989’s *Glory* dramatizes the real-life account of the 54th Massachusetts, an all-black regiment organized near the middle of the American Civil War. The film tripled its budget from box office earnings throughout the world. While the film did not win Best Picture, it received the Best Supporting Actor Oscar (Denzel Washington) along with Oscars for Cinematography and Sound. It was a contender in its day that was lauded by the NAACP.

Glory depicts Robert Gould Shaw (Matthew Broderick) an up-and-coming colonel tasked with forming an all-black Union regiment. Shaw grew up in industrialized Boston. Well educated, Shaw initially comes off as “soft.” He’s well read in famous poets like Emerson, but he seems unqualified to raise a regiment; he’s equally naïve

to the plight of former slaves who make up the bulk of his regiment. This naivete comes to light when a deserter – Private Trip (Denzel Washington) – leaves the camp in order to find new shoes.

The film tracks the development of the regiment as well as Shaw. The regiment transforms from being a token black unit designed to assuage northern abolitionists into a unit utilized only for manual labor to finally becoming a fighting force dedicated to the destruction of Confederate forces stationed at Ft. Wagner. Further, the final credits reveal that the 54th Massachusetts inspired nearly 200,000 African Americans to fight for the Union Army.

Shaw learns of the hardships his compatriots have faced as former slaves; a background that is in stark contrast to his *safe* Bostonian upbringing. He grows a backbone, standing up to the Union quartermaster in order to requisition shoes, uniforms, and weapons for his lacking soldiers who are clearly on the receiving end of racism within the Union army. Finally, Shaw makes the ultimate sacrifice by finding what seems like a suicidal opportunity - to charge a well-entrenched fort - and by giving his life in the attack of said fort.

So, Where’s Jesus in this Film?

In many ways, Shaw looks a lot like Moses. He’s American, but he’s white, which prevents him from experiencing that which his soldiers faced growing up as American slaves. While an Israelite, Moses lives a sheltered life growing up in the house of the Egyptian Pharaoh since he was taken in from the Nile River. However, both Shaw and Moses will come to experience humiliation in that they place their heritage and comforts aside in order to rescue their respective people. Shaw forfeits his pay since his troops weren’t paid the amount promised by the Federal government (the pay inequality is racial in nature), and Shaw lays aside

his paycheck, which hadn't been manipulated, to show solidarity with his men. Moses, of course, exits the safety of his new home of Midian and his new career as a shepherd after his calling from the fiery shrub. He returned to Egypt to be with his people.

Like Moses and Shaw, Jesus grew up alongside His people, but He did so His whole life. He was on the receiving end of oppression from racist Romans; and He learned the oppressive religious burdens Pharisees and religious leaders placed upon the people. Jesus experienced oppression, but as the Son of God He also serves as the liberator – like Moses and Shaw.

What Glory?

The title of the film begs the question: what glory? The 54th Massachusetts has to put up with racial bigotry from fellow Union soldiers, clear forests, and unjustly abide by ethically questionable commands from Union commanders. To top it all off, when the unit finally has the opportunity to be a part of a major military engagement, the regiment is utterly slaughtered. So, where's the glory in their service to the cause of abolition when they just end up dead on the beach?

Again, the end of the film is the key. The glory occurs when corporal Thomas (Andre Braugher) grows a backbone. We could call him the *doubting* Thomas. Having grown up with Shaw and living a privileged, Bostonian life, which is drastically different from the other African Americans in the film, he lacks grit. In the beginning, he believes that the glory resides in the mere fact that an all-black regiment exists. But Shaw pushes him, believing that true glory will be captured once the unit actually engages in combat. Because of this, Shaw propels his friend Thomas into brutal training (or what we might call discipleship). Since Shaw and Thomas are different ranks – the former

an officer, the latter a private – Shaw looks past their former friendship in Boston in order to properly train Thomas. Underneath Shaw's coldness, however, is a desire on the part of Shaw to groom Thomas into a hardened soldier so that he can experience true glory. While Thomas doubts his friend's intentions, by the end of the film Thomas volunteers to retrieve the regimental flag should it fall in the course of the battle. It's a moving moment where we see that Shaw's harshness and training has paid off. Thomas desires a fuller glory than just marching and showing off in parades as *the* all-black regiment.

At times, Jesus comes off as harsh. He called a gentile woman a "dog" (Matthew 15). He classified His Disciples and the scribes as a "faithless generation" (Mark 9). Jesus challenged His Disciple, Thomas, to view His post-crucifixion wounds. Why? He pushed His followers to a fuller sense of glory. The Disciples anticipated the downfall of Rome – that was one of their many glories. But Jesus said by His responses and teachings that that glory wasn't full enough. They needed to go deeper. In the case of the gentile woman, Jesus tested the object of her faith (i.e. Himself) and clarified the expansiveness of God's mission (i.e. it's not just about saving Jewish people, but Gentiles too). To His Disciples' aspirations, He predicted and fulfilled what was truly glorious – that is, not the destruction of the Romans (that's not glorious enough), but the destruction and the resurrection of the Son of God for the sake of undeserving people (now that's glorious).

But the regiment's glory comes to light at the end because Denzel Washington's character is buried on top of Shaw; a black man buried alongside a white man. It's beautiful! Meant as a slight on the

part of the Confederate gravediggers, the scene demonstrates the unity between white officers and black soldiers; a unity that did not exist in the beginning of the film. Again, rather than just looking politically correct, the unit has actually established racial unity among one another. Politicians in Washington simply wanted to extend an olive branch to abolitionists like Frederick Douglas by creating this special black unit. The glory, from their perspective, lied in the fact that the unit merely existed. But that's somewhat superficial. The true quality resides in the fact that this unit fought in a meaningful campaign for the sake of the Union and the cause of liberty for slaves; plus, the officers and soldiers bonded to one another in a way that seemed impossible in the 1860s cultural landscape.

Similarly, the true glory of Christ is that He died alongside *with* and *for* sinners. God died as a sinner in that sin was placed on Him (1 Peter 2:24). Gods don't typically die for things less than themselves, but this God revealed in Jesus of Nazareth dies next to criminals and He's placed in a tomb meant for another person (i.e. God doesn't even have His own grave). The fact that He would share in our experience and die for us when it's not beneficial to Him makes little sense...but it is glorious.

Lastly, the epic assault inspired other African Americans in the north to volunteer for the Union cause. Because of efforts of the 54th Massachusetts, nearly 10% of the Union army was made up of African Americans. The unit's bravery inspired a new segment of volunteers. While Lincoln disapproved of black soldier recruitment at the beginning of the war – since he feared losing border states – there is evidence to suggest that his tune changed by the end of the

conflict; these men were viewed as vital to the war effort.

Rodney Stark has a page-turner called *The Rise of Christianity: How the Obscure, Marginal Jesus Movement Became the Dominant Religious Force in the Western World in a Few Centuries* (it's a mouthful of a title, but very approachable in terms of reading). Stark wonders how exactly a small movement of disciples multiplied so quickly across the Roman Empire. I mean, these disciples' leader died. Where's the glory? Stark, a journalist, wonders if Christianity spread so rapidly because it was in fact true; namely, the dead Jesus actually rose from the dead. This historical event inspired people in Jerusalem and beyond.

One of the glories of Christ is that He has inspired billions of followers over the course of 2,000 years. A leader killed unjustly. This leader rose from the dead. This historical reality has radically shaped the world for the better and will continue to do so. The death and resurrection of Christ proves that sometimes there's more than meets the eye; there is more than meets the eye than just a bunch of dead soldiers on the beach. Their sacrifice was deadly but also revolutionary.

The Music

Angels appear at significant moments in Jesus' life: birth in Bethlehem; post-temptation in the wilderness; in the Garden. To Jesus, they minister. But to the people in Jesus' vicinity, they announce. So, they gave the message of God's incarnation to the shepherds out in the field. Gabriel visited John the Baptist's father and Mary in order to announce their respective sons' births. Their announcements and singing proclaim the presence and work of God. We might say their presence brings heaven to earth.

Throughout the film we hear the Harlem Boys choir. If you haven't heard the music, think special, professional church choirs; or, think angels singing to shepherds out in a field. The choir is angelic, which is fitting due to the moving sacrifice of the unit.

The unit has been functionally destroyed at Ft. Wagner for the sake of succeeding generations of African American children. The soldiers gave their lives for generations of nameless black children they would never meet. The boys choir accentuates this Christ-like sacrifice with heavenly music.

The best movies, TV series, books, and video games tap into the best story of sacrifice ever told and experienced. *Glory* is no exception. – Pastor Johnson

*Please note – this film is rated R for depicting Civil War violence and racial slurs typical of the time and day in the 1860s. Please watch the film cautiously and with the appropriate audience. If you'd like more information related to the rating of the film visit [imdb.com](https://www.imdb.com) → search for *Glory* → once you're at the page dedicated to the film, look for Parent Guide.



Trinity Basement Update

Throughout 2021, we've been working to update Trinity's basement space. In the 80's the space was designed for Sunday School. We're at a point where we don't need quite so many rooms for SS, but we do have other needs for the space! 3 rooms have been converted into Emergency Preparedness spaces for our Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT), 2 rooms are for meetings and teaching, 1 youth room, and 2 SS rooms.

This project was made possible with the help of Iowa District West and above-and-beyond givers. We thank you for your support!

An open house for showing off the space is set for December 4 (same day as Trinity's cookie walk).



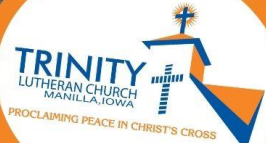
WHY FUNERALS?

CONFIRMATION FAMILY
DISCIPLING NIGHT &
MEMBER ENRICHMENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13
6PM@ ZION-MANNING
DINNER PROVIDED



HOSTED HERE



ALL INVITED

Confirmation families & members are invited to our first Family Discipling Night. We will discuss why Christian funerals matter as well as how you can prepare for these major life moments.

Habit Furniture



Imagine two different scenarios: in the first scenario you are sleeping in your bed and the power goes out. You're thirsty and want to get to the kitchen to get a drink of water. Could you do it? In all likelihood you could fairly easily find your way to the kitchen sink because, even in the dark, you have a pretty good idea where the furniture is.

In the second scenario you are sleeping in a rented Airbnb. You've never been in the house before and the power goes out during the night. You want to get a drink from the kitchen, but you don't have the layout of the house or the furniture arrangement memorized. Could you do it? How confidently would you set out?

Now reflect on the two scenarios, specifically the activity level in your mind. Which scenario makes your mind work harder? Which scenario is more stressful? In which scenario do you feel freer? Obviously, the first. Why? Because in the first scenario the familiar floor layout and known furniture arrangement free your mind to focus on the one unknown element, the darkness. In the second, pretty much everything is unknown and your mind is having to work especially hard to process it all.

Now, think of the fixed furniture and floor layout as the habits of your life. They provide predictable,

fixed points in your day/week that free your mind to process the multiple unknowns that life regularly presents. James Clear writes in *Atomic Habits*, to which we've been referring over the past few months, "Habits reduce cognitive load and free up mental capacity, so you can allocate your attention to other tasks" (46).

This is such an important insight! Disciplining ourselves with healthy habits is actually liberating. To put it another way: establishing certain limitations or restrictions on our behavior frees our mind to think about other things. So arranging our habits like furniture and leaving them in place liberates us to think about other pressing issues.

For example, planning your breakfast the night before, even setting out your dishes, frees your mind to think about other things in the morning, like what you need to accomplish during the day. Or, planning your exercise time the night before, helps you both ensure it happens and frees you to think about other things and not about when and if you're going to exercise.

So, by fixing certain points in your day, by limiting your behavior in certain prescribed ways, you free your mind to address other important matters. As Mr. Clear explains, "Habits do not restrict freedom. They create it. In fact, the people who don't have their habits handled are often the ones with the least amount of freedom" (46). He adds, "It's only by making the fundamentals of life easier that you can create the mental space needed for free thinking and creativity" (47).

This is particularly true for children, which is why parents must work especially hard to establish certain fixed patterns in the family's life. Spontaneity can be fun and exhilarating, but can be especially stressful for young minds. Bed times, meal routines, worship patterns, devotional

practices, homework time, etc. – the more regular and predictable these are, the better it is for children. Mr. Clear explains,

When you have your habits dialed in and the basics of life are handled and done, your mind is free to focus on new challenges and master the next set of problems. Building habits in the present allows you to do more of what you want in the future (47).

When children aren't worrying about when or if supper will happen or when they might be home to do homework or practice their instrument or what time they'll go to bed or where they'll sleep that night, their minds are free to imagine and problem solve and make sense of the world. And this is exceedingly helpful for children's mental, physical, and even spiritual health.

And, if truth be told, the same holds true for adults! Adults who lack healthy, fixed habits are less healthy, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Getting your habits established gets the furniture in your life in place and that is mentally freeing for everyone. The freest people are the most disciplined. Just like in our earlier scenarios, the freest person was the one who knew where the furniture was.

So maybe you would benefit from a careful consideration of the habit furniture in your life. What furniture is set in place and what furniture keeps moving? For example, how's your worship furniture? In other words, do you have it set in place or does it move every week? How important is a regular worship pattern for you? Do you think a more regular worship pattern could make a positive difference in your life and in the life of your family? (Nod your head yes.)

If so, what does Saturday morning or Saturday evening look like for you? If worship is going to happen, if you're going to get that piece of habit furniture in place, you're probably going to have to reimagine the rest of the room. So, if you put the kitchen table in the middle of the room, then you need to adjust everything else accordingly. If worship is going to happen consistently, the other pieces in your life need to be arranged around it. And doing so will actually be liberating. You won't live with a big question mark over worship anymore and with that piece in place, you'll begin to find yourself freer to deal with other issues in your life, and more equipped to do so because of the time spent in worship and in hearing God's Word.

Or maybe you need to consider your giving furniture. Do you have it set in place or is it constantly moving? In other words, is your giving planned and fixed or does it change like the Iowa wind? Do you know how much you give to Zion or Trinity, to charities? What would it take to get your giving set in place? (Hint: a budget.) Establishing your budget, far from being limiting, is liberating because you know where every dollar is and where every dollar is going! Living without a budget is like living with furniture that moves every night. Imagine what that would do to you! The budget is fixed habit furniture that frees your heart and mind to deal with the dozens of other pressing needs of life.

Life is full of enough surprises, and getting our habit furniture in place is one step we can take to put ourselves in a better position to handle them. Want to talk more about getting your habit furniture in place? I welcome the conversation! – Pastor Conner

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

Celebrating Sunday School at Zion!

Sunday School classes began September 12th with Rally Sunday and installation of teachers, with 65 children ages 3 through high school attending! Attendance September 19th was 59 and September 26th was 61. Last year we averaged 30-40, so we are off to a great start with lots of energy, a love for Jesus and an eagerness to learn more. In October we will start learning some of our Christmas program music.



Children are invited to start Sunday School at age three and currently our three and four year old class (aka Nursery) list includes 17 children, wow! We are thankful for our children of all ages and as you see in Zion worship, we are blessed with many children!

We appreciate our teachers and staff committing to serve and are thankful for them:

- Nursery - Teacher, Irene Genzen, assisted by, Joni Kienast
- Kindergarten - teacher, Kari Ranniger, assisted by Courtney Grabill and Taylor Potthoff
- Jill Arp leads music for Nursery & Kindergarten
- First & Second grade teachers - Bobby Doyel, Beth Booth and Mary Greving
- Third & Fourth grade teachers - Jessie Blackford and Shannon Walters
- Holly Borkowski - craft designer for Nursery - Fourth grades
- Fifth & Sixth grade teacher - Mike Gore
- Seventh & Eighth grade teachers: Jen Morris & Wendy Stribe
- First - Eighth grade music director - Susie Ulrickson
- High School teachers: Jodi Ramsey
- Superintendents: Shelly Gruhn, assisted by Robin Heaton

If you are interested in helping with Sunday School or would be interested in being on a substitute teacher call list, please contact Joni, Shelly or Robin.

Our Family and Friends Hayride on September 19th was enjoyed by over 80 people! Thanks to Ron Christensen for providing and driving the tractor and all others who helped make this possible. Over 100 hot dogs and marshmallows were roasted over the campfire. This has become a fun tradition for our families and friends!

As recommended by the Safety and Security Committee, we had a fire drill on September 19th. Reminder, parents, please return your emergency contact information and transportation sheets.

Celebrating Jesus' love with you! – Joni Kienast, Chairperson of Zion's Board of Christian Education

Hello Friends!

September was a fun, very busy month for us! We visited Pastor Conner four different times and learned all about how powerful God's word is. We went on walks while the weather was nice, practiced fire and tornado drills, started reading nursery rhymes, made crafts, and have been learning how to identify our names, letters, shapes, and colors. So far, our favorite part of the week is chapel with Pastor Conner and favorite part of the day seems to be snack and outdoor recess.

In September we had school pictures taken, and all the preschoolers smiled so beautifully. We invited our moms to school for an eventful Mom's Night! On Mom's Night we had pizza and juice, read *The Kissing Hand* and gave our moms a special Kissing Hand gift. We also decorated picture frames and designed a scrapbook page with pictures of our families. It was so much fun!

The preschoolers have been working really hard on the songs they get to share with our congregation on October 10th before our preschool pancake breakfast. Remember that the church service is at 8 AM that day. We really hope you can come watch us sing and join us after for some yummy food! The pancake breakfast is a free will donation and is our only Preschool Fundraiser for the year.

We thank you for your ongoing support of Zion Preschool and for giving us the opportunity to share the love of Jesus in word and deed with children and families! Thank you to all our parents for sharing your children with us here at Zion, to the congregation for your very generous monetary and supply donations from our Wish Wall. Special thanks to Marlene Borkowski (Mrs. B) for volunteering hours of her week to help with our very busy morning class. The preschoolers really enjoy playing with her, and the teachers really appreciate the extra hands!

Shelly and Ashley feel incredibly blessed with full classes this year. We ended up with 15 morning students and 11 afternoon students. We enjoy each of the students' unique personalities they bring to our groups.

Enjoy the pictures of their smiling faces! You make this possible!

Blessings,
Shelly and Ashley





9/21/21

President Musfeldt called the meeting to order in the name of the Triune God. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1,136.62. After deposits and bills being paid, including from sewing money, the balance today is \$1,064.52 with a sewing money balance of \$72.10. The replacement fund balance is \$1,021.41.



COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were approximately 50 served for Marge Schnoor's funeral. There were so many leftovers that they were used for Henry Brus's funeral where approximately 60 people were served.

CORRESPONDENCE: LAMP sent a request letter which was tabled until Christmas. Owen Christensen also sent a request for relief funds for Haiti, which was also tabled until Christmas. We received a thankyou from the Marge Schnoor family. Pastor offered a thankyou from Tiffany and himself for her grandmother's memorial which will be used for projects for the youth program.

OLD BUSINESS: We discussed the Staley's chicken supper. We need a meeting with the Weavers. Wednesday 9/29 at 6 p.m. was suggested. Pastor also updated us on the ad campaign. We decided we need 5 tables for brownies, a table/space for bagging buns and butter, a coleslaw table and a table for heating up corn which will probably be along one side by outlets for the roasters. Pastor will order the silverware packets from Sam's. Gloria Boeck will buy bags for brownies. Several members offered to bake 2 pans of brownies. This was extended to asking as many as can to bake 2 pans of brownies. The coleslaw comes in 11lb. tubs and will be scooped into ½ cup containers. We will use foam cups for in-house eating instead of washing any dishes. Sylvia Badow is taking care of getting cash, we think. It was also suggested to have brownie mixes on hand in case of a shortage. The elders will do traffic control. We will start packing at 4:30. There may be an invitation to eat in. Cathie Segebart gave a fall rally wrap-up from Deloit. There were 41 there. The ingathering for retreat is underwear, new men's, women's and children's. Chelsea Irwin will be there from the Cindy Wrucke presentation. Registration begins at 9:00 and the retreat runs from 9:30 to 3:00. Only 100 attendees will be allowed due to social distancing. Upcoming events are the Hour of Prayer March 1, 2022, at Bethlehem Lutheran in Dow City. The spring Board meeting is March 17, 2022, at Zion Lutheran in Denison. The spring rally will be hosted by the Zion Evening Guild on April 21, 2022. We are still saving stamps, pill bottles, eyeglasses cases etc.

NEW BUSINESS: Our noisy offering will be 10/2. The quilts will also be dedicated that night. Bonnie Lorenzen gave a Christian life devotion on compassion for daily life. We receive reassurance and compassion from God daily. This comes from Him to others through us. The acts may be large or small. We can give those acts if we notice others in need of love, attention, help or encouragement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next meeting is scheduled for October 19. This is the election of officers so please be thinking of serving. Carol Lile is the Chairperson and Marjorie Jurgenson is Co-Chairperson. Cathie Segebart and Gloria Boeck volunteered to serve as hostesses. The LWML Zone Board is working on updating the schedule. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the table prayer.
Susan Mahnke, Secretary

Pastor Conner opened the meeting with prayer and then had us consider words taken from Philipians chapter 3. Our citizenship is with God and that is our forever home. However, we wait for our Savior to come from heaven and transform our lowly bodies and make them like His glorious body as he renews the earth.



Christian Life Chairman, Cheral Buhr, urged us to be happy, and not to worry. She read from Matthew where Jesus tells us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, for our Heavenly Father knows our needs and cares for us.

President Roe called the meeting to order in the name of our Triune God and led us in the League Pledge. Roll call was answered with a story we recalled about our school years. There were 14 in attendance. There were no minutes taken at guest day in August, but there were 12 members present as well as the Conner family and 10 guests. Correspondence included a thank you note from the Gordon Schmarzo family as well as leaflets on Orphan Grain Train and Lutheran Family Service. The treasurer's report was handed out. Balance on hand is \$1,547.85. Kitchen treasurer Darlene Vollstedt reported a balance as of August 31st of \$3,635.52.

Committee reports: Human care has 40 quilts ready to be delivered to Orphan Grain Train. Two quilts were donated for the Hausbarn auction. They will be concentrating on making toddler quilts for a while. Circle #2 served for the Ron Schilling funeral. Circle #1 will serve Judy Wagner's funeral. New member Sheryl Zinke has been added to Circle #1. The mite box prayer was said as the mite box was passed

New Business: A report on the fall zone board meeting held on August 28th was passed out to each member. The fall rally will be held on Saturday, September 11th at Lidderdale. The speaker will be a woman from Iowa State who works with foreign students there. Manning will host the spring rally with the date and speaker yet to be determined. LWML Sunday is scheduled for October 3rd. We will be taking a "noisy" offering during the service to add to our monthly mite collections.

It was decided that the two ladies circles would take turns serving fellowship coffees on the first Sundays of the month. Circle #2 will begin in October and Circle #1 will serve in November. Advent by candlelight was discussed. Cynthia Genzen moved that we reserve December 5th on the calendar for Advent by Candlelight. The motion was seconded and carried.

Election of officers, Secretary and Treasurer will be held in November. The meeting was adjourned with the table prayer. Laurene Meeves and Cindy Leslie served as hostesses.
Sue Puck, secretary

Mission Grant: Lutheran Heritage Foundation--\$100.00.00

Lutheran Heritage Foundation continues its work of translating, publishing, distributing and introducing Lutheran materials throughout Africa where the population is more than 1.216 billion people. Sadly over half of those souls are still waiting to be introduced to the one true Savior, Jesus Christ. Islam has made huge inroads in the continent. But thanks be to God, Christian missionaries have been spreading the Light of the Gospel also. Economic and political conditions may force missionaries to leave the country, but the Lutheran books they leave behind stay—and teach—for generations. This grant will fund the printing and distribution of 129,500 engaging, colorful books which will introduce children to Jesus in their Lutheran schools, Sunday Schools, and orphanages.



LUTHERAN
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

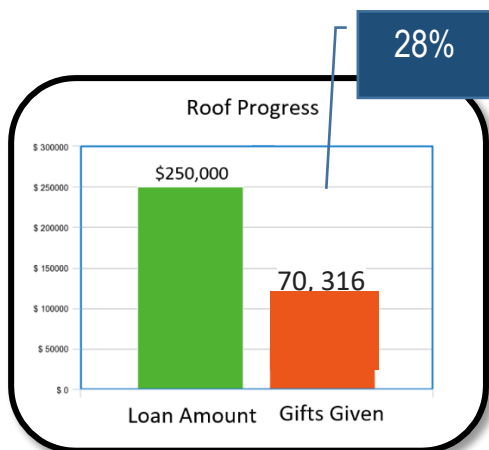
Preschool Pancake Breakfast @ Zion!

October 10th from 9:00 – Noon

Worship at 8:00 a.m.

Preschool sings!

Freewill offering.



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!

Supporting Others. Supporting Yourself

Our close relationships are an important part of our lives. We don't often realize just how important these relationships are for our health and well-being. Many of us may already know what not to do in a relationship, but sometimes it is more difficult to know what we should be doing.



While 1 in 5 people will go through a mental health condition (clinical depression, anxiety) in their lifetime, 5 out of 5 people will go through a challenging time that affects their mental health. A strong support system will improve your overall mental health outcomes and the ability to bounce back from a stressful situation. It is important for all of us to know the best ways to support our close relationships. People who know that others will be there to support them have better outcomes in terms of both mental and physical health.

The following are ways to help support your friend or family member:

- * Practice active listening – it is more than just hearing what a person is saying. Active listening is giving your complete attention and asking questions to clarify and better understand what they are saying.
- * Don't compare – if the person is going through a tough time and comes to you for support, it may be tempting to tell them about something that happened to you. While it is okay to share a similar experience, be careful not to compare their pain to your pain that you experienced.
- * Ask what you can do – while we may guess at what we believe would benefit the person, it is important to ask them what they need from you.
- * Keep your word – if you have offered your support to someone and told them you would do something, keep your word. If you absolutely cannot meet your obligation, make a sincere apology and reschedule the plans.
- * Don't hastily condemn – to be fully supportive, you need to be humble and compassionate. They may be struggling because of a poor choice and rushing to condemn may prove detrimental to their wellbeing.
- * Offer to join them – if a friend is feeling overwhelmed, offer to help by taking over seemingly small chores, such as walking the dog or making a meal. This may just be the thing for the friend to feel like they are accomplishing something in their day.
- * Know when more serious help is needed –



Sometimes the support that you can offer is not enough. If you noticed your friend continuing to struggle weeks or months after the event, this may be a sign that the person needs to seek professional help. Don't be afraid to encourage your friend to seek help from their clergy, primary care provider or a mental health professional.

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



Project Forward.
Relevant. Resourceful. Revitalized.



*Rev. Mark and Megan Mantey
Serving in Uganda*



What Happens Now?

Starting in June, Uganda experienced another Covid-19 related lockdown. Shops, schools, and churches closed to comply with the government regulations for keeping people safe. Two weeks away from finishing the semester, seminary classes were not able to be completed on campus. Students went home. Pastors and congregations could not gather for worship.

Doesn't that seem discouraging? We were discouraged. Yet, let us share some good news! The Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU) pastors met with congregational and national church leaders to develop plans. This was not the first Covid-19 related lockdown, so pastors had experience on how to best share the Word of God and hope of Jesus Christ under these circumstances.



Photo: Rev. James Odoo Rev. James Odoo (far right) and seminary graduate Ojok Isaac (far left) work with a local leader to translate materials to Lango

Pastors in the southwest and eastern side of the country share the Gospel via the radio. Each Sunday, they connect with people in their heart language through worship and study on the radio. In the eastern and northern regions, pastors and seminary students translate materials into the local languages. The translation assists the pastors in sharing the Gospel in worship and evangelism activities. In the midwestern and eastern regions, they are building a permanent church structure for several congregations. All areas continue to deploy pastors, seminarians, and evangelists to meet with congregants and community members one-on-one through door-to-door visits.

Why were we even discouraged? The Lord has a mighty plan to continue the growth of His church. Even with the challenges, the Lord provides for his people. We thank God for continuing the work of his church in Uganda through the hands of the LCU.



*Rev. Mark and Megan Mantey
Serving in Uganda*



Life & Ministry Update

Since the end of July, we have been in the United States since we had some scheduled medical appointments.

During this time, we have been able to connect with congregations in Colorado and Iowa. Mark traveled to Charter Oak, Iowa, with Mr. Gary Thies from Mission Central to share about the Lord's work in Uganda at Immanuel Lutheran and St. John Lutheran. Megan flew to Colorado to meet with one of our Together in Ministry partners, Trinity Lutheran in Franktown. Even though it is challenging not to be in Uganda this summer, we are thankful we get the opportunity to visit with congregations that have steadily walked with us through prayer and financial support these past five years.

Encouraging One Another

In August, we had the opportunity to travel to the LCMS International Center in St. Louis for a Service of Thanksgiving. The service recognized missionaries retiring from the mission field and sent out new missionaries preparing to deploy to different regions. Three missionary families were retiring from the Africa field, so we were grateful to worship together and support them as they end their term.

Please keep them in prayer as the three families transition back to the United States to lead as God calls them. It is a time of transition as the families reacclimatize to life in the United States. Moving back to the US often involves joy in anticipation of what's to come and grieving relationships and ministry from their country of service.

In Christ Alone,
Mark and Megan

Please Pray for:

- The people of Uganda as they are currently in another COVID-19 related lockdown
- The LCU as they minister to people one-on-one during the lockdown
- God's timing regarding re-opening the seminary
- Health and safety as we serve
- For those suffering from COVID-19, especially where the numbers continue to grow

Mark Mantey

Project Manager – Uganda / LCMS International
Mission / The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
mark.mantey@lcms.org / <http://www.lcms.org>



Amigos en Cristo

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

October 2021

Since my arrival in this part of the Kingdom of God, serving our Hispanic brothers, sisters and others, everything has been great! Meeting amazing people, both in the Hispanic Community and our Anglo brothers and sisters, everybody is so ready to help and be part of the new phase of our Hispanic outreach! We thank God for the many pastors and their families who were here before us, for the great service they provided, guided by God; for the many volunteers, congregations, organizations and the District that have supported the ministry throughout the years. Our future looks very promising, with our focus on working how to revive the outreach elements, tools, opportunities to meet the needs and the future members and leaders of our ministries here in Denison, Storm Lake and beyond!

Future mission opportunities include:

- ESL classes for the newcomers and immigrants
- Citizenship classes for those future citizens of our great country
- Our annual Thanksgiving in Odebolt, in a joint, bilingual worship service
- Christmas posadas
- A retreat at Camp Okoboji



We had a joint meeting with the elders at Grace (Storm Lake). During this meeting, we talked about how to be more visible and spiritually strong in our community. We decided to plan a Cross-cultural Worship Service on October 17, 2021 starting at 9:00am.

We are inviting the entire community of Storm Lake and surrounding towns to come and meet me in this bilingual event. We will celebrate starting the day with a breakfast featuring Hispanic dishes and culture. Please put it on your calendars to join us for worship and to celebrate God and our joining together as a family of God.

It just sounds incredible! We are already working in putting all those events together, inviting all those able to help us to make it happen. Please keep all these events, outreach opportunities in your prayers, and please be part of it! We began our new schedule to better serve our members by offering a new Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at Storm Lake and a Bible Study after our Worship Service on Sundays!

In Denison, we celebrated our Memorial weekend with a wonderful community picnic in Yellow Smoke State Park. We had great food and time together celebrating our heroes and our community.



Rev. Pedro Lopez Assistant to the President Missionary at Large
pedro@iowadistrictwest.org
571-606-7600 (cell)



Please Note! All times and events are subject to change



Morning Prayer coming soon!

TRIZION

Sunday Evenings TriZion Youth Group @ Zion (6:00 – 8:00 p.m.)



October 1

Staley's Chicken Dinner at Trinity (5:00 – 7:00 p.m.) (\$12)



October 2

LWML Saturday at Trinity (wear purple)



October 3

LWML Sunday at Zion



**October 3, 10,
17, 24, 31**

Financial Peace University at Zion at 6:15 p.m. (9 weeks)



October 28

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



October 10

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



October 13

Family Discipling Event at Zion (6:00 – 7:30): Why Funerals?



October 17

Bibles for 3rd Graders at Zion

ALIVE

November 7

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

October Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

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

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Eric Rosener | 17 Pamela Garvis |
| 2 Norah Vetter (T) | Haven Reese |
| Ferdonna Zimmerman (T) | 18 Kate Greving |
| 3 Marcus Borkowski | Don Lamb |
| Alan Morris | 19 Gloria Ewoldt |
| 4 Robert Ehlers | Sonia Kuchel |
| Chelsey Jensen | Julie Weller |
| Camden Morris | 20 Steve Borkowski |
| 5 Brian Birks (T) | Andrea Nulle |
| Bennett Riesberg | Natalie Hanson |
| Katelynn Wittala | 21 Rodney Borkowski |
| 6 Haleigh Alexander | Pam Kusel |
| Benjamin Ramsey | Nancy Walters |
| Richard Zinke | 22 Luella Borkowski |
| 8 Marlene Borkowski | Cynthia Genzen |
| Juanita Kurth | 23 Kyle French |
| 9 Vivian Blackford | 24 Diana Eddy |
| Susan Mahnke (T) | Wyatt Grabill |
| Richard Mundt | Jill Mohr |
| Lindsey Schumann (T) | 25 Trevor Booth |
| Amelia Vetter (T) | Nathan Janssen |
| Bonnie Witt | 26 Bret Saunders (T) |
| 11 Houston Alexander | 27 Brody Blom (T) |
| Kimber Arp | Bobby Doyel |
| Drew Doyel | Randy Dreher |
| Lynn Kruse | Kinley Kobus |
| Skyler Sandage | Amos Olson (T) |
| 12 Justeen Schwieso | Daniel Tibben |
| Weston Stribe | 29 Christopher Dreher |
| 14 Wendy Ahrendsen | Louis Dreher |
| Lance Gruhn | Ashley Lorenzen |
| 15 Barbara Doyel | 30 Claire Behrens |
| Lori Lenz | Mallory Dreier |
| Kaylyn Nelson | Justin Segebart (T) |
| Jodi Ramsey | Geraldine Stripling |
| Betty Schroeder | 31 Abel Hinners |
| Sandra Sextro | Dean Hoffmann |
| David Weller | Callan Stribe |
| 16 Miranda Benton | |
| Mya Gaskill (T) | |

Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Robin & Jenny Bunker | 13 Howard & Audrey Roe |
| 9 Ryan & Bobby Doyel | 14 David & Julie Weller |
| 10 Neil & Shala Hass | 16 Dale & Karen Reinke |
| Duane & Kay Otto | 26 Neil & Lindsey Schumann (T) |
| 12 Gerald & Rita Beck | |

Official Acts

Funerals:

Judith Kay Wegner; Died September 3, 2021; Funeral September 9, 2021; Pastor Jonathan Conner

August 26 - Margie Schnoor Funeral (Pastor Johnson-Manilla)

August 27 - Henry Brus Funeral (Pastor Johnson-Manilla)

Baptisms:

September 26 - Baptism for Aleesha Hoppens (Pastor Johnson-Manilla)

Marriages:

Nicholas Backhaus and Jami Davidson; September 18, 2021; Pastor Robert Riggert

In Our Prayers

Louise Kinnan (Darlene Asmus' sister), Justeen Schwieso, Nancy Grimm, Julie Weller, Jeanne Gruhn, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, 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, Bob Hagedorn, Leggy Thomson, Brody Chapman, Linda Lasher (Joyce Schroeder's sister), Virgene Kroeger