

## WITNESSES TO CHRIST

## Midweek Lenten Worship at Trinity

*Services Begin: 3.2.22  
5:30 meal  
6:30 worship*

Strengthen your faith with the witness of those who were present as part of Jesus' journey to the cross.



During His earthly ministry a variety of people were privileged to be witnesses of Jesus' earthly ministry, His passion, and His resurrection. Imagine disciples, criminals, a Roman governor, and friends being called to a witness stand. We will hear their witness statements and actions during the Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter worship. "Witnesses to Christ" prepares us for our own witness opportunities. Join us each Wednesday at 6:30 (with a fellowship meal preceding the Midweek service). Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to hear the witnesses. Theme devotional booklets and Lenten Family Calendars are available at Trinity.

"We preach Christ crucified," the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. For 2,000 years the Church has echoed this preaching in proclamation, poetry, art, and prayer. Join the family and friends of Zion for our midweek Lenten series in which we will contemplate the crucified Christ through the above mentioned mediums. Each week will include a take-home reflection on a historic depiction of Christ crucified, a poem, and a prayer.



## Contemplating the Crucified Christ

Midweek Lenten Worship at Zion

*Begins: 3.2.22  
5:45 worship  
Meal following*

*Considering the crucified Christ through art, poetry, and prayer.*





## Why Ashes?

On March 2<sup>nd</sup> Lent begins. It's a 40 day season (excluding Sundays) of penitence and prayer with a concentrated focus on discipleship to Jesus. Although it has taken various forms and spanned different numbers of days, its origins are ancient, emerging in incipient form already in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. The church largely settled on the 40 day season to mirror Christ's 40 day trek through the wilderness and subsequent stand against the Satan's temptations.

Rewinding these 40 days from Easter brings us to a Wednesday, which the church has deemed "Ash Wednesday." The distinguishing feature of this day and service is the ancient tradition (reaching at least as far back as the 900s A.D.) of the imposition of ashes.

If you've attended this service before, you've seen and heard the pastor and his assistant speak these words to worshippers – *Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.* – as they trace a cross in ashes on their foreheads (or wrists). This statement and the accompanying ashes have deep roots in Scripture. Consider the following verses:

- for you are dust, and to dust you shall return (Genesis 3:19).
- Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes (Genesis 18:27).
- I despise myself,  
and repent in dust and ashes (Job 42:6).

- [Jonah] called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes (Jonah 3:4-6).
- Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes (Daniel 9:3)
- For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust (Psalm 103:14).
- "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes (Luke 10:13).

These words inform our practice. To be direct: the words of Scripture shape and drive our practice. As such, the ashes that we receive remind us of at least three things. First, ashes are dirty and they remind us of our sinfulness. Sin is dirty. It stains our life and pollutes our minds and our relationships. So, these dirty ashes help us hear the call to repent, confess our sins, and turn to God to receive His cleansing and forgiveness in Jesus.

Second, ashes are a stark reminder of our mortality. Not only do we hear God's Word spoken over us ("Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," which is a direct echo of God's word to Adam and Eve after they sinned and brought death upon themselves and the world),

but we see the ashes staining the worshippers around us, reminding us that the curse of death remains on all of us.

This is a powerful moment. Every year I am struck anew by this reality as I speak these words, not only over the people for whom I so deeply care at Zion (and Pastors Johnson, Riggert, and Vogel could say the same at Trinity), but as I speak them over my wife and children, tracing the ashen cross on their foreheads. They, like me, and like you, will die. We are mortal. There are no exceptions. Some of us will die young. Some of us will die old. But we will all die. And this moment in the Ash Wednesday service brings this Scriptural reality home in a poignant and visible way.

Some may see this as morbid, but such is not the intent; the intent is to be sober about our mortality. Scripture says repeatedly:

As for man, his days are like grass;  
he flourishes like a flower of the field;  
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more (Psalm 103:15-16).

And

Teach us to number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom (Psalm 90:12).

Wisdom dictates that we own our mortality and the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday help us to do it in a meaningful and memorable way.

Before we get to the third thing of which ashes remind us, it's important to clarify that the ashes in the Ash Wednesday service are not sacramental. We have no command from Jesus to use them and no promise of His grace attached to them. The

same goes, for instance, for palms on Palm Sunday and lilies and flags on Easter Sunday. In fact, the same goes for the services themselves. Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and even Easter Sunday are not commanded in Scripture. While they are obviously deeply rooted and Scripture and clearly communicate the Biblical story, the church is not commanded by God to hold services named Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and Easter Sunday. We hold these services, though, because they communicate the Biblical story and connect us to the events narrated therein. When it comes to ashes, therefore, worshippers are free to receive them and free not to receive them.

These ashes, then, not only remind us of our sin and of our mortality, but there in the very midst of our sin and mortality, we see the sign of the cross on our foreheads and that cross gives us hope because it is on the cross that Jesus forgives our sins, and in His resurrection, secures our life. This victory is graciously given to us in the cleansing waters of Baptism. Here Christ washes away the dirt of our sin and purifies us from all unrighteousness. Further, He promises us that we will rise bodily from the dust of death. Therefore, when worshippers wash their foreheads before bed, they are reminded of the forgiveness which they received in Baptism and the life in Christ that it brings.

Sin and repentance, mortality and death, forgiveness and life, that's what we're communicating on Ash Wednesday. Be a part of it. – Pastor Conner

3.6.22

# BENEFIT FOR PASTOR JOHNSON

MEMORIAL HALL,  
MANILLA

MEAL 11:00-2:00

SILENT AUCTION, THEN  
LIVE AUCTION AT 1:00



Let us not love in word or  
talk but in deed and in truth.  
*1 John 3:18*

## Living in LIGHT--Fellowship Club Updates

Nate and Jessica Blackford and their children (**two** daughters and a son) are relatively new members of the Zion family. Zion is blessed with their active worship and service: Nate serves as an elder; Jesse is a Sunday school teacher. They moved to the community after Nate's military retirement in 2019. Major Nate Blackford served six overseas tours and five combat deployments. He was an Apache attack helicopter pilot throughout his career. The western Nebraska ranch boy is now part of the western central Iowa family farm operation. Hear about Nate's journey at the Fellowship Club meeting (Monday, March 14 at 1:30). Guests are welcome!

Thanks for the clothing donations to Orphan Grain Train. The delivery to Ida Grove was made on February 10. A Fellowship Club work crew will go back to the Ida Grove warehouse on Tuesday, March 8. We will meet at Zion at 8:00 a.m. to car pool to Ida Grove. Additional volunteers are invited to join the group. Clothing donations can again be brought to Zion (quilting room) for the March 8 delivery.

The Fellowship Club is planning a "field trip" to the national Orphan Grain Train headquarters in Norfolk, Nebraska on Monday, April 4. Contact Denny Backhaus or Pastor Riggert if you are interested in making the trip with the group.







Four men carried a paralyzed man, presumably their friend, to Jesus. Three biographies of Jesus – Matthew, Mark, and Luke – record that Jesus “saw their faith” and He responded; first, by forgiving the paralytic’s sins and then by healing him. This event served as one of the reasons as to why the religious leaders hated Jesus, but we’ll save that aspect for another time.

What’s striking is how little we know about the men who carried the paralyzed man to Jesus. We know there were four of them. They stole Jesus’ attention by breaking in through the roof of the home in which Jesus taught. But we don’t know their names. We don’t know what happened to them following this encounter. Mark just uses the pronoun “they” to indicate their contributions in the story; “they” is the closest thing these four men get to a name.

Such is the vocation of a caregiver. I realize that Matthew, Mark, and Luke did not record these events to necessarily speak to what caregivers experience, but there are some striking similarities. We don’t know the four men’s names. Caregivers can easily go unnoticed as they care

for their loved ones. The four men exerted a lot of effort to get an appointment with Jesus. They had to haul dead weight up to the roof of the home Jesus preached in, and then they had to remove said roof to lower their friend (remember, they’re doing all of this in Middle Eastern heat).

There are no shortages of obstacles that stand before caregivers today. Scheduling doctors’ appointments; transporting the patient; prepping meals; paying bills; cleaning; and, depending on the situation, maybe they have to help with bathing or administering medication. It’s often a full time gig, without full time pay.

I’ve personally had fantastic caregivers in my life. Tiffany, obviously, has kept me going, and she has done a tremendous job. She is unmatched. My parents first took care of me with my initial diagnosis in college, and they carried me in such a way that I was able to still graduate in four years. And then there’s you, who may be reading this, who have given care to me through gifts, meals, prayers, and so on.

There are also those reading this who took care of your spouse near the end (or maybe even for *years* leading up to the end). You handled the catheters or you still visited your spouse even when it was difficult because they were no longer able to recognize who you were. You took care of your kids who weren’t able to fly the coop at 18. You stood by the mental disabilities. You cared for a bunch of disabilities that I’m not even aware of or able to acknowledge in this brief article. You never received recognition. You were a “they.”

To past caregivers and to current caregivers, your labor was holy...your labor is holy. You never received the recognition you deserved...yet. Jesus witnessed the faith of the “they”s, and He responded. Perhaps, Jesus does not respond in

the same way today as He did when the four men brought the paralyzed before Him. But there is still a pattern. Jesus witnesses creatures caring for the Father's Creation – namely, you caring for your loved ones sacrificially. He sees people following through on the 5th Commandment; not the murder part, but, as Luther describes, we keep the Commandment when we “help support [our neighbor] in every physical need.” Jesus witnesses and then responds.

When it comes to Jesus' response, I can't help but think about the Parable of the Talents. In the parable, 2 out of 3 invest and expand their Master's investments, while the third servant just buries the money. The third received condemnation, while the other two received the commendation of their Master: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master.”

While your non-stop investment of caregiving may not impress the world, you do receive a response from Jesus, the Son of God; namely, His commendation that what you're doing is good and holy. It mirrors His holy work on the cross which was designed by the religious rulers and Romans to humiliate Jesus. Nobody was patting Jesus on the back while He hung on the cross. And if we're being honest with ourselves, we still fail on a regular basis to appreciate the caregiving He gave to us from the cross. But the Father commended His Son's work: “God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name....” And now the Son sees faith lived out in caregiving, among other vocations, and He responds with approval.

Caregivers, while you may feel like a nameless “they,” your Lord sees you. Thank you for your care.

## LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING July 9-13 in Houston

**ZION WILL SEND A HISTORICALLY  
LARGE GROUP**

**30 KIDS & CHAPERONES!**

WOULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING  
\$1/ATTENDEE TO SUPPORT THIS  
HISTORIC ENDEAVOR TO DEVELOP  
OUR KIDS? GIFTS CAN BE GIVEN TO  
BARY KIENAST OR JODI RAMSEY.



**\$30**



**CHALLENGE**

2021 CHOICE DOLLARS  
EXPIRE March 31. You may  
have received 4th quarter  
dollars in January. Call 800-  
847-4836 or log onto your  
site. Call Janet Smith if  
needing assistance





## **Medical Update on Pastor Johnson**

As always, thank you for the ongoing prayer and financial support! Thank you also for the benefit – those behind-the-scenes and those in attendance. This ordeal is challenging in and of itself, but it's a true comfort to not have to worry when it comes to some of the logistical details. You've helped us tackle medical bills which is a relieved burden! Plus, you've supported us with Casey's cards which has helped tremendously. It's about a \$100 round trip when it comes to gas – so thank you for alleviating another logistical burden. It all helps and allows us to focus on healing.

I'm also thankful for all those who've helped with the worship and teaching pieces. For Pastors Conner, Riggert, and Vogel in leading Trinity up to this point as well as into Lent and Easter. I'm also thankful for Debbie Musfeldt, Mike Lorenzen, Mike Gore, and Bob Genzen who are helping lead and oversee confirmation while we're away. You've all stepped out of your comfort areas and I hope you know your sacrifice is appreciated. And then of course, there are the joint councils and leaders who have encouraged me to focus on getting well. Then there are the cats and the dog who are staying at two different Camp Lorenzens.

Assuming we're on schedule, by the time you're reading this, my stem cells have been collected intravenously for two transplants. I've had a central line surgically installed in order to receive chemo, have blood drawn on a daily basis, and, above all else, re-receive my stem cells. I've also most likely begun the first of two 3-day chemo transfusions. Soon enough, my immune system will functionally be non-existent.

I was able to teach confirmation once before leaving for Rochester and one of my students asked, "is this heartbreaking?" My response was something like there are hard days and good days. It's like a roller coaster to which one of the students said, "It makes you want to throw up." Which if you know anything about chemo, was kind of a funny response because that was truer than they knew (it's OK to laugh at that – I did).

I have a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd nearby. It's helping me focus on the here and now (i.e. one day at a time). The Shepherd will give me what I need to do in a particular day. He pens me in accordingly. I don't need to worry about tomorrow or next week. It's comforting to think that my Lord knows me so intricately that He knows what I need to do and can do. I see that sort of care in modern farmers; you know your animals well. So, that sort of knowledge is enhanced in my mind by the fact that Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God is my Shepherd.

We're living at the Transplant House in Rochester. The facility is several blocks away from the Hospital. During this time of immune suppression, we would discourage in-person visits at this time. But if you'd like to Skype or send mail, we can correspond that way (you're also welcome to email/facebook us too: johnsonan1445@gmail.com):.

**Attn: Andrew Johnson  
Edward and Jayne Pompeian Home at 705  
2nd St. SW. Rochester, MN 55901**

Please do not send flowers because they can introduce mold to an environment.



# ver·i·sim·i·l·i·tude

/ˌvɛrəˈsɪmɪləˌt(y)o͞od/

noun

the appearance of being true or real.  
"the detail gives the novel some verisimilitude"



You're sitting next to your cousin at a family reunion or visiting with a coworker over lunch and he says, "You go to church, don't you? I suspect that means you trust the Bible? Why?" What do you say? Let me offer you a word (and its explanation) that you may find helpful: *verisimilitude*. You can see from the definition above that it has to do with having the appearance of being true. In other words, if something has the ring of truth, it has verisimilitude. What does this have to do with the Bible? Read on.

Let's pretend we were going to write a novel set in 18<sup>th</sup> century France. What would we need to do? A lot of studying! We'd need to become familiar with the geography, the weather, the botany, the names in use in that era, the customs, and so much more. In other words, if we wanted our novel to have verisimilitude, we'd need to do a lot of research so that we could become an expert on that time and place. If we didn't, if our novel had characters named Noah and Emma who communicated via text messages on their cell phones, for instance, our novel wouldn't be believable.

This is the case, for instance, with *The Book of Mormon*. It details ancient Native Americans who supposedly lived on the continent from 2200 B.C. to the 400s A.D. It describes elephants, compasses, window panes, chariots, barley and wheat, and many, many more such things that didn't show up until many years later. It's precisely the sort of things you'd expect in a document written by someone from a different time and place making up a story about people from a different culture and time. In short, *The Book of Mormon*

lacks verisimilitude. Truth is, archaeologists have never found one shred of evidence that the tribes mentioned in *The Book of Mormon* existed. So when it comes to verisimilitude, *The Book of Mormon* is an epic fail.

How does the Bible do? Let's consider a few examples. Peter Williams, in his helpful book *Can We Trust the Gospels?*, details the numerous lines of verisimilitude in the Gospels. Consider their vast and specific geographic knowledge. Mr. Williams writes,

1. All writers display a knowledge of a range of localities from well known, through lesser known, to obscure.
2. No Gospel writer gains all his knowledge from the other Gospels, since each contains unique information.
3. All writers show a variety of types of geographical information (54).

They also know how the topography and towns relate to one another. For example, Mr. Williams writes,

The Gospels... know that Bethsaida and Capernaum are towns located by the Sea of Galilee... Matthew and Mark know that one can go from the Sea of Galilee directly into the hill country. Matthew, Mark, and Luke know that there is a Judean desert near the Jordan (58).

And

Luke and John both show knowledge that there are two routes between Judaea and Galilee: the hilly route via Samaria and the indirect route avoiding Samaritan areas via the Jordan valley (60).



The geographical verisimilitude is so strong that Mr. Williams writes, “the Gospels are not merely accurate in their geography when compared with other sources; they are themselves valuable geographical sources” (62). In other words, historians consult the Bible to learn about the geography of first century Palestine. That’s impressive verisimilitude.

In addition to geography, the Bible displays verisimilitude when it comes the names of the people it details. It’s no surprise to learn that people had different naming patterns throughout the Roman Empire, but it may be surprising to discover that even Jewish groups throughout the empire had different naming patterns. In other words, it wouldn’t be enough to know a bunch of Jewish names; if you were going to make up a history set in first century Palestine, you would need to know the naming patterns of the Jews in that specific region. And the Bible does.

Even more, as is the case today, some names are more common than others. We have last names to distinguish people with the same first names. There were no last names in Bible times, but the authors of Scripture display knowledge of the most common names by disambiguating them with additional descriptors. In other words, the Bible doesn’t just get the names and the frequency of those names right, its authors even know which names were super common and would need to be distinguished with additional qualifiers. So we see these sorts of clarifications: Simon *Peter*, Simon *the Zealot*, Simon *the Leper*, Simon *the Cyrenian* (67).

Mr. Williams shares the implications of such knowledge for the Gospels:

It is quite unlikely that any of the writers, if living outside the land, would have been able to

research the local naming patterns and thereby write a plausible narrative. It is beyond improbable to think that *four* authors might have been able to do this, as each contains names not in the other three (76).

The Gospels also display intimate knowledge of the local botany. Luke, for instance, mentions that Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree, which didn’t grow in other regions throughout the Mediterranean. The Gospels demonstrate familiarity with local tax practices, too. Matthew and Mark describe tax collectors in Capernaum, which was a strategic location for collecting customs on what crossed into the territory of Herod Antipas and Luke knows that tax collectors (like Zacchaeus) would have been in Jericho because it was also a major border town (82).

And Dr. Craig Evans, a renown Biblical scholar, adds in his book *Can We Trust the Bible on the Historical Jesus?*, “We find linguistic verisimilitude, and by this I mean Hebrew and Aramaic traces in what are otherwise Greek writings” (45). In other words, there is evidence in the Greek New Testament that they originated in the spoken Hebrew and Aramaic. Languages have unique ways of expressing thoughts and those unique ways are noticeable in the Greek. So, it’s exceedingly unlikely that someone inventing a story about Jesus would phrase their telling like the New Testament does.

What does it all mean? It certainly doesn’t answer every question about the Bible, but these details certainly establish the verisimilitude of the Bible. It has the ring of truth, communicating names and places and details that would be exceedingly hard for someone to make up. Therefore, it’s far more likely that the Bible is recording events that actually happened. And that’s worth sharing with your family member or coworker. – Pastor Conner

## Preschool Praises for February

Hello Friends!

February was such a fun month! Our imaginative place center was turned into a flower shop and a post office to send Valentines. The preschoolers practiced new songs and sang in church on February 13th. We feel grateful to have had so many friends and family members join us in celebrating our children and listening to them sing! Miss Shelley and Miss Ashley often hear the preschoolers sing the songs they learn during work and play times.



On February 14th we celebrated Valentine's Day by reading stories, talking about how much Jesus loves us, painting hearts on our cheeks, listening to music, exchanging cards, gifts, and candies. We also had fun decorating cereal boxes to put our candies and cards in!

On Wednesdays, we visited Pastor Conner for chapel. Pastor Conner continues to teach us about how POWERFUL God's words are. We learned about how Jesus healed the paralyzed man, calmed the sea, and healed the blind.

This month, we focused on identifying and writing the letters P, V, Y, and X. Our units included Valentine's Day, healthy eating, and teeth care. The students have worked hard on identifying their names since the beginning of the school year, and many of our students can write their name now with a model or independently. We continued practicing counting, identifying numbers through 10, and shapes. It is so fun to watch the preschoolers grow physically, spiritually, socially, and academically!

Some things we are most looking forward to in March are chapel days with Pastor Conner, a visit from the dental office in town to teach us about teeth care, learn new songs to sing at our graduation, Dad's Night, and warmer weather for more outdoor recess time.

The Zion Preschool thanks you for your ongoing support of our program 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, and to the congregation for your prayers and donations. We are all so blessed to have such a strong Christian, youth program here at Zion.

Enjoy the pictures from our month together!

Blessings,  
Miss Shelly and Miss Ashley





Your loving support  
allows us to share  
Jesus with every one  
of these children and  
their families!









IOWA  
DISTRICT  
WEST



IOWA  
DISTRICT  
EAST  
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

LCMS Pastors' Day on the Hill  
2.8.22



Coordinated by Lutheran Family Service

## Know Your Legislators!

**Representative: Brian Best**

Email: [brian.best@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:brian.best@legis.iowa.gov)

Capitol Phone: 515-281-3221



**Senator: Craig Williams**

Home phone: 712-790-8927

Home address: 11886 320<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Manning, IA, 51455

Email: [craig.williams@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:craig.williams@legis.iowa.gov)

Capitol Phone: 515-281-3371



"I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way" (1 Timothy 2:1-2). On February 8, I, along with over 60 LCMS pastors from Iowa District West and East, had the privilege to pray in person for our Iowa elected representatives. President Turner (Iowa District West) prayed for Governor Reynolds in person, with all of us present. I had the opportunity both to encourage our representatives (Brian Best and Craig Williams) to continue being a strong voice for life and to lay my hands on them and pray for them.

We started the morning by hearing from Kim Laube and Jim Lamb, of Lutheran Family Service. They brought us up to speed on legislation affecting the most vulnerable in our society (the unborn and the aged and ill). Thanks to many pro-life legislators, Iowa is keeping Physician Directed Suicide bills at bay. So keep electing pro-life representatives! Iowa is also battling to protect the unborn. As you may know, in 2018 an activist judge ruled that abortion was a constitutional right in Iowa, essentially eliminating all protections for the unborn. Lutheran Family Service, along with many partners, has and continues to support The Life Amendment, which would clarify that abortion is not a constitutional right in Iowa. This requires pro-life legislators to pass the motion in two consecutive legislative sessions (it has passed in this session and must be passed again in the next session, which begins in 2023) and then be brought before Iowans for a vote (see page 7 for more). So continue electing pro-life legislators!

This is especially important since over 4,000 babies were aborted in Iowa in 2020! We must also advocate for the elimination of chemical abortions (the deadly medication is increasingly being prescribed via telehealth appointments) which have risen precipitously in the last few years. As I shared with Senator Williams, we support telehealth; what we do not and cannot support is *teledeath*, which is what is happening in chemical abortions achieved through current "telehealth" visits. If we don't speak up for the unborn, who will?

See above for contact information for your Iowa legislators.



# 6 FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT IOWA'S PROTECT LIFE AMENDMENT



## 1 WHAT IS THE PROTECT LIFE AMENDMENT?

An amendment to our state constitution proposed by Iowans who believe babies in the womb are worth protecting from abortion.

## 2 WHY IS IT NEEDED?

In 2018, five judges on the Iowa Supreme Court declared abortion a “fundamental right,” making it nearly impossible for Iowa’s laws to protect preborn children.

## 3 WHAT WILL THE AMENDMENT DO?

It will give Iowans the opportunity to debate abortion and perhaps even pass laws protecting preborn children.

## 4 WHAT IF IT DOESN'T PASS?

Iowans would be nearly helpless to stop lawsuits from making abortion legal through all 9 months of pregnancy and potentially leading to taxpayers funding elective abortions.

## 5 WHAT IF THE U.S. SUPREME COURT OVERTURNS ROE v WADE?

Without the Protect Life Amendment, it won't make a difference in Iowa. In fact, women from other states would likely travel to Iowa to have abortions.

## 6 WHAT'S NEEDED NEXT?

Before the Protect Life Amendment can go to a vote of the people, it must pass the State Legislature again in 2023 or 2024. It is crucial for Iowans to elect leaders in 2022 who will defend the sanctity of human life and support the Protect Life Amendment.



Lutheran  
Family Service

*For Nothing is Impossible with God*

“ *That little child in her mother's womb?  
She's a baby, and she deserves a birth-day.* ”

Get involved today at [LutheranFamilyService.org](https://LutheranFamilyService.org) or [ShesABaby.com](https://ShesABaby.com)

# Be a Voice for Life

**Contact Your Representative Today**  
In Support of These Bills



Lutheran  
Family Service

*Bill names/info current as of February 22, 2022*

## **HF2389**

Medical Abortion Pill  
RU486 - No mail and  
yes to telling patient  
about abortion  
reversal option



## **HF2420**

Safe Haven Baby Age -  
Increase maximum age  
from 14 up to 30



## **MOMS ACT SSB3145**

Pregnancy Counseling Clinics  
& Resource Centers -  
Reimburse clinics and centers  
for counseling and material  
items given to women facing  
unplanned pregnancies



## **HF2372**

Non-Consensual  
Termination of  
Pregnancy from Class C  
felony to Class D felony



With the beginning of 2022 comes the 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly here in Iowa. Below are some of the pieces of legislation that are related to our life advocacy efforts. Life advocacy is an important part of the Lutheran Family Service ministry as God calls us to defend the value of life in all stages, ages, and conditions from fertilization to natural death. And, it is our goal to help you do the same in your congregation, community, and voting booth.

### **1. HF2389 - Medical Abortion Pill RU486**

This past week at the legislature, the judiciary full committee passed HF2119 with the full language of HF383 amended into it so they pass together. These two bills together are designed to do two things. First, they would not allow the medical abortion pill, RU486 to be mailed. Second, they would not allow RU486 to be distributed without telling the patient about the possibility of an abortion reversal as an option if they change their mind after they have taken the RU486 pills. HF2389 is the newly named bill with combined goals. You can read more about this bill HERE: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGI/89/HF2389.pdf>

## 2. HF2420 - Safe Haven Baby Age

This bill proposes an extension in age of a newborn baby that can be brought into a safe haven location. Currently, a baby can be brought into a safe haven location if they are 14 days old or younger. This bill would extend the age to a baby that is 30 days old or younger. This bill has passed the subcommittee with bipartisan support. You can read more about this bill [HERE](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGI/89/HF2267.pdf):

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGI/89/HF2267.pdf>

## 3. MOMS ACT, Bill SSB3145 - Pregnancy Counseling Clinics & Resource Centers

This is a bill that appropriates 2 million dollars for reimbursing Iowa Pregnancy Counseling Clinics / Resource centers for non-medical procedures. For example, providing pregnancy counseling and material items (diapers, wipes, clothing, car seats, cribs) to women facing unplanned pregnancies. We anticipate it will go through the Senate Human Resources Committee on Thursday, prior to funnel week ending. You can read more about this bill [HERE](https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SSB3145&ga=89):

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislation/BillBook?ba=SSB3145&ga=89>

## 4. HF2372 – Non-Consensual Termination of Pregnancy

This is another bill that Lutheran Family Service has been following that is up for debate on the House floor calendar for Wed, Feb 23. This bill states that a person who intentionally attempts to commit an abortion without the knowledge and voluntary consent of the pregnant woman is guilty of a “Class D” felony; previously a “Class C” felony. This primarily occurs when someone gives a pregnant woman RU486 medical abortion pills without her knowledge and kills her baby through chemical abortion. A man may slip his pregnant girlfriend the pills without her knowledge if he doesn’t want her to have the baby. And, more commonly, a pimp slipping the pills without knowledge to one of his pregnant sex workers.

Lutheran Family Service has made its official declaration in favor of these bills as they are all working towards the goal of defending God's truth for and value of life. While there are many other worthy efforts and bills, ending abortion and stopping physician assisted suicide remain our top priorities.

### What can you do?

**1. Contact your representative today** and express your opinion in favor of these bills. You can find contact information for your representative online (listed on page 10 of this newsletter). We recommend using the "City Name" tab for best results. Find your representative <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>

**2. Share** the information about these four bills!

Together we stand, and together we fight for God's truth for LIF

Onward for His glory,

Kim Laube  
Director of Life Ministries



**Lutheran  
Family Service**

*For Nothing is Impossible with God*

## Zion Ladies Guild February Secretary Report

The regular meeting was held on February 9th, 2022@1pm. Pastor Conner opened with devotion, prayer.

Christian Life: Cheral Buhr- Compassion in daily Life. There were no birthdays, or anniversaries to announce. President Roe called the meeting to order with 16 members present. Those present were asked to say how they feel they contribute to promoting religion to others.



February 9, 2022

*Ladies Guild*

The secretary notes were read. Several thank you notes were received and read to the group. Mite box offering and prayer were done. The Treasurer's report was given by Cheryl Zinke. Kitchen treasurer report balance was given by Darlene Vollstedt. A \$500.00 donation was received from the Velda Lamp Estate. Committee reports: Myra Asmus funeral was served by Circle # 1. 90 people were fed. Circle #1 served the Fellowship coffee this past Sunday.

Old Business: Audrey presented the toddler blanket for Pastor Johnson Benefit. A laundry basket will hold the blanket, and any donated children's items that people bring in to fill the basket. There is a sign-up sheet in the hall to make bars for the benefit. Orphan Grain train delivery is Feb. 9, 2022.

New Business: April 23, 2022-Spring Rally Luncheon will be at 10 am, with Amy Hull as speaker. Lunch will be served following the meeting. In June the convention will be in Okoboji, and in July there will be a quilt auction at Okoboji. Meeting was adjourned with the table Prayer and Lord's Prayer Lunch was served by: Cindy Leslie and Margret Kuchel. The next meeting will be the meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Hostesses will be Becki Ehler and Gloria Ewoldt. The Meeting was adjourned.

Gloria Ewoldt, Secretary

### **Youth Gatherings Make a Difference!**

National and District youth gatherings involve significant expense, counselor commitment, and sacrificial choices on the part of youth and family. Is it all worth it? Terry Dammann (baptized at Zion in 1973 and confirmed in 1987) loved the opportunities to attend youth gatherings and also youth events at Camp Okoboji. These events were one of the Spirit's means to nourish Terry's faith and keep him connected to the church. Shortly before his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday Terry died suddenly from a heart attack. In memory of Terry and in appreciation for the influence of Zion youth ministry on Terry's life, Carol Dammann is presenting a generous memorial gift to Zion youth to be used toward this summer's "In All Things" national gathering. We thank Carol and pray that this gathering too will make an eternal difference in the lives of the attending youth. Thank you Zion and Trinity for your commitment to youth! Thank you youth leaders for your time and talent sacrifices.



# March to Mental Health

The terms 'mental health' and 'mental illness' tend to be used interchangeably in our society, however, they are still very different. A person can exhibit poor mental health and still not be diagnosed with a mental illness. At the same time, a person with a diagnosis of a mental illness will most likely demonstrate long periods of positive mental health.



Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of our lives.

If you experience mental health problems, your thinking, mood, and behavior could be affected. Other factors that contribute to your overall mental health include your genes or brain chemistry, life experiences including trauma or abuse, and family history of mental illness.

Your overall mental health is important to your overall physical health. Depression and anxiety can increase the risk for many types of physical health problems, such as heart disease or stroke, over a long period of time. The opposite may also happen – the presence of long term illness may cause an increase in mental illness.

Your mental health may change over time depending on what is going on in your life. When the demands on your life increase and exceed your coping abilities, your mental health may also deteriorate. For example, if someone is working long hours, caring for dependent family members, experience economic hardship, or experience the loss of a loved one, this may just be the time that your mental health is mostly affected.

So, how do you avoid that possibility of losing your mental health? First, acknowledge reality. Know what you can do and what you have to let go. Do you have to ask another family member to help care for the dependent family member? Look for resources within your community that may help. If you are experiencing economic hardship, seek assistance from food assistance programs or other public assistance. It is important to cope with the stresses of life in a positive manner. Turning to non-healthy ways to cope, such as substance use, will not change what is going on. It may just add to the stress of what is going on.

It is important to maintain the positive mental health in your life to continue to be the best that you can be. This may mean getting professional help and connecting with others that may experience the same things that you are going through. If you feel that you need that extra support, don't be afraid to reach out for that support, this may be through your medical provider or Pastor. You may also contact us at Senior Life Solutions. You are not alone. Just remember, it is what you are going through, it is not who you are.

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





## *Amigos en Cristo*

News from **La Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Amigos en Cristo:**

*Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**Pastor Pedro Lopez**, Denison, Iowa

March 2022

Hola / Hello to everybody! Like always, it is great to write to you about the blessings we are receiving here in our Hispanic Ministry around our beloved District. We continue to have our new schedule for worship services in Denison. On Wednesdays, we meet from 10:30 am to 11:30 am and Sundays from 2:30 pm to 5:00 pm with fellowship time.



At Storm Lake, we meet every Wednesday from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm with fellowship time and on Sundays from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm with Bible study after the worship service. We have a family of 7 taking the confirmation class. It is a blessing to have Cristina show up with all her kids coming to hear and learn about our Savior Jesus.

Our efforts in Carroll County continue. We have developed several points of contact and are having informal doctrine talks with several new friends and hoping to start meeting in an intentional Bible study. In Denison, we celebrated the presentation of our Lord Jesus with great Mexican food like tamales and atole de maiz. It was a great time together with our families. I love the opportunities to enjoy fellowship with my new spiritual family here in Iowa.



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



I was privileged to participate in the "Pastors Day on the Hill," an event at which I was able to meet several speakers and pastors at a prolife conference. We went to the Capitol in Des Moines and met our Governor, several senators, congressmen, and congresswomen. It was a great opportunity to pray for them and remind them to keep on defending the unborn and our Christian values.

Again, I want to thank all those congregations, organizations, and individuals that have donated their money, time, and prayers for the success of our Hispanic Ministry. Please be ready in the next few months, as we will be asking for donations of goods to have our yearly rummage sale. This year we will use these funds for our yearly outing to Camp Okoboji in August. We are thinking that the donations will be collected near the end of May. We will keep you informed. We ask that you please keep us in your prayers as we continue to be your speakers among our Hispanic people, your brothers and sisters in Christ.





7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders assist with after-worship fellowship.



## Snapshots of Zion



Accura residents gather for Zion's Wednesday worship service.



Faithful Fellowship Club volunteers prepare to deliver donated clothes to Orphan Grain Train in Ida Grove and then assist with sorting received donations.



Confirmants tie blankets for Pastor Johnson's Benefit



Young and young at heart play bells before worship.



February 22, 2022

*I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now (Philippians 1:3-5 ESV).*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The theme for the 41<sup>st</sup> Convention of Iowa District West is “Partners in the Gospel.” It is based on Philippians 1:3-5.



Paul begins his letter to the church at Philippi by thanking them for their partnership with him in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I follow the pattern of St. Paul and thank you for partnering with the other 165 congregations in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to our world.

Your offerings during the past year support the work of world and district missions, our colleges and seminaries, and all the things we do together as a District and the Synod. More importantly, they show that the grace of God is at work in you. The Holy Spirit has called you to believe that your Lord loves you and has given Himself for you. He has moved you to first give yourselves to the Lord, now your offerings flow from your faith.

We are partners in sharing Christ's Love! I believe congregations throughout Iowa District West are sensing that they can fulfill their God-given mission *better together* than separately. We promise to be good stewards of the offerings that you have entrusted to us as we do our work on the District level.

Always in Grace,

Rev. Dr. Steven Turner

Thank you again for your partnership.

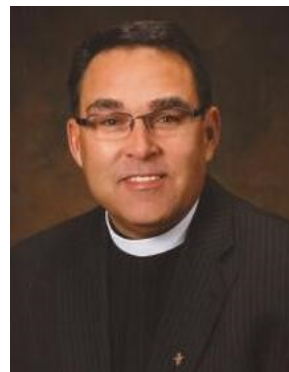
Always in grace,

**Rev. Dr. Steven D. Turner**

President, Iowa District West

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Office 515-576-7666—Cell 515-341-3602







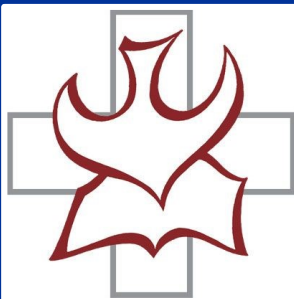
Laughter echoed in Zion's Fellowship Hall as family and friends gathered for our annual Game Day (2/27).



Many thanks to Zion's Board of Education for sponsoring the event! What a joy to be together as friends in Jesus!







Zion and Trinity are blessed with willing and capable servants eager to teach the faith to our confirmands (over 40 of them!). We give thanks for volunteers Debbie Musfeldt, Mike Lorenzen, Mike Gore, Bob Genzen, and Shannon Walters who faithfully assist each Wednesday!



***Please Note! All times and events are subject to change***



**Sunday  
Mornings**

**How Did We Get the Bible? and Can We Trust It?  
Zion Family Bible Class (after worship)**



**March 2**

**Ash Wednesday  
5:45 service w/ Holy Communion at Zion (meal follows)  
6:30 service w/ Holy Communion at Trinity**



**Wednesdays  
In March**

**Midweek Lenten Services  
5:45 service then meal at Zion  
5:30 meal, 6:30 service at Trinity**



**March 17**

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



**April 10**

**Palm Sunday**



**April 14**

**Maundy Thursday  
Trinity: 6:30 pm  
Zion: 7:00 pm**



**April 15**

**Good Friday  
Trinity: 6:30 pm  
Zion: 7:00 pm**



**April 17**

**Easter Sunday  
Trinity: Breakfast 7:30 am  
Worship: 9:00 am  
Zion: Worship: 8:00 a.m.  
Breakfast: after worship**



**April 20**

**Witness Night at Zion (6:30 pm)**



**April 24**

**Confirmation Sunday**

# March Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

## *Birthdays* (T = Trinity)

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

## *Anniversaries*

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

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

## *Official Acts*

### **Funeral:**

Myra Emelia (nee: Willesen) Asmus; Died February 2, 2022; Funeral February 7, 2022; Pastor Jonathan Conner



**VBS  
IS COMING!**

**JUNE 6-10**

*And we need a director (or codirectors)!*

*Please consider volunteering.*



## *In Our Prayers*

Joene Bohlmann, Justeen Schwieso, Nancy Grimm, Julie Weller, Jeanne Gruhn, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, John Sonnichsen (Bobby Doyel's Brother in law), David Bohlmann, Patty Meeves (Laurene's daughter in law), Leggy Thomson, Janet Smith, Gene Mahnke, Nina Pratt, Janice Monson, Annette Hilsabeck, Amy Benton, Pastor Johnson, Jay Coon (Karl Rutz's brother in law), Paxton Bierl