



## Why Mention the Ascension?

40 days after Easter we come to St. Luke's words in Luke 24, "Then [Jesus] led [the disciples] out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While

he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven" (50-51). In Acts 1 Luke renders this event with these words, "as they were looking on, [Jesus] was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven'" (9-11).

Short of a grand finale to Jesus' life, why mention the ascension? Most Christians overlook the account and even more fail to celebrate the holiday. Our circuit hosts an Ascension service every year, but few attend. Why bother with such an insignificant event?

But what if the ascension means more than most understand? What if it's more than a neat and tidy resolution to the Jesus story?

Consider this: In His incarnation Jesus clothed Himself with human flesh. So, before His incarnation, Jesus was flesh-less. He has existed for eternity, but in Mary's womb He wore our humanity. In His ascension, therefore, Jesus returned to "the right hand of [God]" (Eph. 1:20-23), which is the highest degree of glory and authority possible, but this time, He took our human flesh with Him! Never before had our human flesh been elevated to this point. Our human flesh has been elevated to the highest position of glory imaginable – the right hand of God! That's higher even than the angels!

The hymn "See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph" soars with enthusiasm over Christ's ascension: "He has raised our human nature on the clouds to God's right hand; There we sit in heav'nly places, There with Him in glory stand. Jesus reigns, adored by angels; Man with God is on the throne. By our mighty Lord's ascension we by faith behold our own" (*LSB* 494). The incarnation and especially the ascension of Christ show us how highly God esteems our human nature! Christ's ascension shows us God's intentions for us in the resurrection!

The doctrine of the ascension isn't some stale doctrine with no practical importance – our human nature has been elevated to the highest position of glory next to God! And from that position Jesus is actively involved in our lives. Scripture tells that Jesus is our prophet, priest, and king. He retains these titles and continues serving in these capacities from the right hand of God.

He remains our prophet – He continues to teach us and lead us through His Word. He remains our priest – the work of atonement is done, but He continues to intercede for us. Because of Jesus we can go directly to God; we don't have to have a priest approach Him for us. And He's still the King of the Universe. He commands the heavenly armies and reigns over every nation, tribe, and people and we give homage to Him.

The hymn "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build" captures our ascension joy: "On Christ's ascension I now build The hope of my ascension; This hope alone has always stilled All doubt and apprehension; For where the Head is, there as well I know His members are to dwell When Christ will come and call them" (*LSB* 492). Celebrate the ascension with great joy. It is the promises of our future glory!

Join our circuit in celebration at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at Historic Trinity in Manning.** **Guest Preacher: Keith Haney, IDW Assistant to the President for Missions, Human Care, & Stewardship.**



## greatest (True) Story Told

ht (4/12/22) my family crowded into our tent as the tornado whirled and sounded. Looking for something to do as we waited for the storm to pass, we started flipping through old photo albums (some of which we found ourselves marveling over these strange things called “negatives” from the pre-digital age). In those albums we re-discovered pieces of our story that we had largely forgotten, scenes from the drama of our life.

The Christian faith, like our individual families, has a dramatic story filled with twists and surprises that make it a truly gripping tale, one that we have the privilege of telling and re-telling throughout the year. Over the next few paragraphs, I'm going to share several excerpted reflections of the 20<sup>th</sup> century author and Christian apologist, Dorothy Sayers, on the great drama of the Christian story. Take a few minutes to appreciate her words and the words of the Biblical story to which she points you.<sup>1</sup>

“Official Christianity... has been having what is known as a bad press. We are constantly assured that the churches are empty because preachers insist too much upon doctrine – dull dogma as people call it. The fact is the precise opposite. It is the neglect of dogma that makes for dullness. The Christian faith is the most exciting drama that ever

staggered the imagination of man – and the dogma is the drama.

“That drama is summarized quite clearly in the creeds of the Church, and if we think it dull it is because we either have never really read those amazing documents or have recited them so often and mechanically as to have lost all sense of their meaning. The plot pivots upon a single character, and the whole action is the answer to a single central problem: *What think ye of Christ?*

...

“The Church's answer is categorical and uncompromising, and it is this: That Jesus Bar-Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth, was in fact and in truth, and in the most exact and literal sense of the words, the God ‘by whom all things were made.’ His body and brain were those of a common man; his personality was the personality of God, so far as that personality could be expressed in human terms. He was not a kind of demon pretending to be human; he was in every respect a genuine living man. He was not merely a man so good as to be ‘like God’ – he was God.

“Now, this is not just a pious commonplace; it is not a commonplace at all. For what it means is this, among other things: that for whatever reason God chose to make man as he is – limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death – he [God] had the honesty and the courage to take his own medicine. Whatever game he is playing, with his creation, he has kept his own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that he has not exacted from himself. He has himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the

---

<sup>1</sup> Her entire essay can be found in *The Whimsical Christian*: “The Greatest Drama Ever Staged.” This brief essay, along with the others included in her book,

are well worth hunting down and reading and re-reading.

trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death. When he was a man, he played the man. He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worthwhile.

...

"Possibly we might prefer not to take this tale too seriously – there are disquieting points about it. Here we had a man of divine character walking and talking among us – and what did we find to do with him? The common people, indeed, 'heard him gladly'; but our leading authorities in Church and State considered that he talked too much and uttered too many disquieting truths. So we bribed one of His friends to hand Him over quietly to the police, and we tried Him on a rather vague charge of creating a disturbance, and had Him publicly flogged and hanged on the common gallows, 'thanking God we were rid of a knave.' All this is not very creditable to us, even if he was (as many people thought and think) only a harmless crazy preacher. But if the Church is right about Him, it was more discreditable still; for the man we hanged was God Almighty.

"So that is the outline of the official story the tale of the time when God was the under-dog and got beaten, when He submitted to the conditions He had laid down and became a man like the men He had made, and the men He had made broke Him and killed Him. This is the dogma we find so dull the terrifying drama of which God is the victim and hero.

"If this is dull, then what, in Heaven's name, is worthy to be called exciting? The people who hanged Christ never, to do them justice, accused him of being a bore—on the contrary, they thought him too dynamic to be safe. It has been left for

later generations to muffle up that shattering personality and surround him with an atmosphere of tedium. We have very efficiently pared the claws of the Lion of Judah, certified him "meek and mild," and recommended him as a fitting household pet for pale curates and pious old ladies.

"To those who knew him, however, he in no way suggests a milk-and-water person; they objected to him as a dangerous firebrand. True, he was tender to the unfortunate, patient with honest inquirers, and humble before heaven; but he insulted respectable clergymen by calling them hypocrites. He referred to King Herod as "that fox"; he went to parties in disreputable company and was looked upon as a "gluttonous man and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners"; he assaulted indignant tradesmen and threw them and their belongings out of the temple; he drove a coach-and-horses through a number of sacrosanct and hoary regulations; he cured diseases by any means that came handy, with a shocking casualness in the matter of other people's pigs and property; he showed no proper deference for wealth or social position; when confronted with neat dialectical traps, he displayed a paradoxical humor that affronted serious-minded people, and he retorted by asking disagreeably searching questions that could not be answered by rule of thumb.

"He was emphatically not a dull man in his human lifetime, and if he was God, there can be nothing dull about God either. But he had 'a daily beauty in his life that made us ugly,' and officialdom felt that the established order of things would be more secure without him. So they did away with God in the name of peace and quietness."

*“And the third day he rose again.” ... Those who saw the risen Christ remained persuaded that life was worth living and death a triviality...*

“Now, we may call that doctrine [the resurrection] exhilarating, or we may call it devastating; we may call it revelation, or we may call it rubbish; but if we call it dull, then words have no meaning at all. That God should play the tyrant over man is a dismal story of unrelieved oppression; that man should play the tyrant over man is the usual dreary record of human futility; but that man should play the tyrant over God and find him a better man than himself is an astonishing drama indeed. Any journalist, hearing of it for the first time, would recognize it as news; those who did hear it for the first time actually called it news, and good news at that; though we are likely to forget that the word *Gospel* ever meant anything so sensational.

“Perhaps the drama is played out now, and Jesus is safely dead and buried. Perhaps. It is ironical and entertaining to consider that at least once in the world’s history those words might have been spoken with complete conviction, and that was upon the eve of the Resurrection.”

- From “The Greatest Drama Ever Staged”

Sayers’ words are worth reading and rereading because they remind us of the great (true) story, the great (good) news recorded in Scripture that we are privileged to hear and tell in Christ’s Church. This story needs to be celebrated in all its dramatic splendor in preaching, liturgy, music, art, conversation, and song. What we cannot do, as we sadly too often do, is relegate this astonishing story to a basement bookshelf. So, celebrate it! Celebrate it in your family. Celebrate it with your church. Hear it; tell it. It’s the greatest (true) story ever told! – Pastor Conner



Jesus told a parable once in which a man, presumably a Jewish man, was beat up by crooks. You probably know the parable by heart. The story takes a shocking turn when religious leaders pass by the injured man. You would think that the pious leaders would demonstrate some form of hospitality, but they fail to love their neighbor. Finally, a Samaritan, a cultural enemy to the Jewish people, demonstrates care. The Samaritan saves the man by:

- Performing first-aid (Luke 15:34)
- Transporting the injured man (Luke 15:34)
- Paying for room and board (Luke 15:35)

The parables reveal many different aspects of Jesus’ Kingdom; how He rules and acts over His world. If the Samaritan in the account is Jesus, then like a Samaritan caring for his enemy, a Jewish man, the Son of God cares for the Father’s enemies – you and me – by giving His life. Jesus pays dearly like the Samaritan. He performs first-aid by giving His blood for ours. He transports us from darkness to light. In Jesus’ Kingdom, then, He pays dearly for the sake of His enemy.

The reason why Jesus told the parable in the first place was because a lawyer prompted Jesus to clarify as to whom constitutes a neighbor according to God. Jesus is clear that in His Kingdom a Christian's neighbor is equally the person you love wholeheartedly...it's also your enemies. The people you hate. The people who hate you. Your neighbor in Jesus' Kingdom is anyone and everyone with a pulse.

+++

If we take Jesus' claims seriously – all people are our neighbors; and, we have a calling to love our neighbors (whether we like them or not) – those claims have major implications in the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine. It means that we not only pray for Ukraine but we also pray for Russia; we should want the best for Ukraine as well as for Russia.

Christianity is radical. Jesus said, "If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them." Our love ought to reflect, as pale as that reflection may be, our Lord's love. Our love extends to the friend along with the foe. If we fail to love Russia in this historical moment, we fail to embrace the love which was extended historically from the Cross to us outside of Jerusalem two millenniums ago, and we end up resembling religious leaders passing by the beat-up man on the road.

+++

But this all begs the question, what does it look like to love Russia in this moment? Obviously, loving Russia as our neighbor prevents us from allowing the Federation from infiltrating Ukraine. If your kid wants to touch a flaming red stove, you'd shout, "Stop it!" Why? Because you love them.

Sometimes love requires boundaries and interference; sometimes love is tough. But preventative, interfering love, as restrictive as it may be is no less loving.

Love in this moment seeks justice for Ukraine as well as the restoration of the Russian Federation to the world stage. No easy task for sure, but Germany as well as Japan serve as examples of how former enemies can be restored.

Point being, while there may be hatred towards the current invasion the Russian Federation has undertaken (i.e. hatred for actions like stealing and murder), hatred towards Russians or Vladimir Putin seems inconsistent with the radical Christian perspective Christ offered in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

We pray for Ukraine and we pray for Russia.

*These thoughts were developed from my reading of **Just War as Christian Discipleship: Recentering the Tradition in the Church rather than the State** by Daniel Bell Jr. many years ago.*  
– Pastor Johnson

---

## In the Pen

The hymn goes: "I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am." *Why the gladness?* "For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well provides me."

The challenge of getting up in the morning now is not giving into the temptation to despair. *I'm a goner; I'm done professionally; God is absent.* As a sheep, I have an overwhelming desire to jump the pen in which I've been placed. Despair is hypnotic. I know logically that it's not where I

should go, but every morning it calls me. “You’re done.” “You’re dying.” “Give up.”

This is where Jesus as Shepherd is powerful. Despair is not the only voice calling me. Jesus proclaimed, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”



My inner despair claims to know me and my future well. It would convince me to jump the current parameters constructed by God for my life in order to give into the certain hopelessness that is my future. But the Resurrection of Jesus prevents me from jumping. That is, who knows me better? Myself and the nightmare scenarios I conjure up? Or the One who rose from the dead? Again, Jesus said, “and I know them....” He “knows my need and well provides me.” He knows my past, my present, my future. The fact that Jesus rose from the dead validates my listening to His voice over and against the voices of despair I hear most mornings.

This risen Shepherd is keenly aware of what I’m capable of doing and incapable of doing. He pens me in appropriately. He’s aware that most days the most I have to give is a lot of doubt and cowardice. I’m the speckled sheep with a limp, but He *knows*.

+++

My despair would like to transport me into the future at the expense of missing the present. It’s

not that the nightmare scenarios won’t come true – they might – but my despair would like to transport me into a hopeless way of life. Despair would like me to believe that my happiness hinges on the positivity of my circumstances – so when nothing positive is going on, no happiness.

The Good Shepherd has responded, I’ve come to believe, with other sheep. Truthful sheep; comforting sheep. It’s Tiffany and her encouragement. It’s you and the countless cards I’ve received. It’s my Elders and volunteers and pastors. It’s the now dead apostles and their writings along with songs from present and past hymnwriters. You all keep me in the pen laid out by Christ. A pen in which truth is spoken: positive circumstances are a lousy metric for life. Rather, the measure of our lives rest on shoulders of our risen Shepherd. Our happiness isn’t chance. Our happiness is a Person. Rallied together by this Holy Shepherd, we keep one another grounded. The Apostle Paul called this unity a body. Sometimes we call it a Church. But it’s equally a sheepfold in which each sheep vitally supports one another under the watchful care of the Good Shepherd.

+++

It’s afternoon now. The despair has dissipated. But when it returns, I hope to remember the hymn again: “When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me; When I thirst, He bids me go

Where the quiet waters flow.” I’m not done. As I read recently, there’s nothing a little resurrection can’t solve. The God revealed in history and Holy Scripture is not negligent. He’s penned me in, and I’m where I need to be. Near Him and nourished by Him. – Pastor Johnson





## Zion Fellowship Club Supports Orphan Grain Train

The numbers are impressive (2021 statistics): 250 shipping containers of donated relief supplies and food shipped in the U.S. and internationally; 130 full semi-loads distributed to domestic locations; 23 different countries receive donations; almost \$38 million worth of donated humanitarian aid, food, and disaster relief assistance; 107,000 volunteers hours; more than 5 million Mercy Meals, Kids Against Hunger meals, and Manna Packs shipped worldwide; 29 regional OGT locations from California to Connecticut collecting and distributing food and reusable goods. However, OGT leaders emphasize that it's not about the numbers. OGT exists to bring "Christ's name and character to needy people far and near." What began in 1992 from Norfolk, Nebraska with Pastor Wilke's desire to respond to needs in Latvia, has grown into a ministry, making a difference daily around the world.

Nine members of the Zion Fellowship Club toured the Norfolk, Nebraska international center and warehouse on April 4. The tour affirmed our local support of this ministry and generated the response, "We have to do more to be part of this phenomenal ministry."

Recently OGT has been generously responding to the needs in the Ukraine and surrounding areas. 272,000 meals have been sent to Feed My Starving Children to refugee camps in Romania.

Other recent unique OGT efforts have large bales of hay to drought areas of Montana; fencing to wild fire pastures of Kansas; furniture to areas in Kentucky hit by tornados; bicycles to Africa; medical equipment to Asia. Thanks for your local donations and financial support to OGT. The Zion group will continue to take clothing donations to the Ida Grove warehouse and assist with sorting.

The Fellowship Club will not meet in May. The June meeting will include a Fellowship Club "picnic" in the fellowship hall at noon on **Monday, June 13**. Meat will be provided. The program will include an informative video on OGT. Watch for more information in the June newsletter.



## Preschool Praises for April

Teaching the children about Jesus' resurrection was the best part of April! They learned the story so well and were very eager to keep learning. We were all really looking forward to getting outside more this month, but unfortunately the weather has not been ideal for much outdoor play.



We started off the month learning numbers 5 & 6. We studied plants and ponds, did a bean study, and each student decorated their own little planters and planted a wildflower seed. We also made a picture of the parts of a flower using many different media, and the children really enjoyed that activity. The children learned the lifecycle of a frog, and Miss Shelley is going to bring in tadpoles for the children to look at when it warms up a little.

During chapel, Pastor Conner explained to the children why we celebrate Easter and that Holy Week is the most important week of the year. He said that on the day of the Resurrection, Jesus joined a couple of his disciples on the road while they walked to Emmaus. They did not realize it was Jesus as they explained to him why they were so upset as the man they believed to be Christ had died by crucifixion. Jesus then went on to explain the scriptures to them and how it all was about Jesus. Then, that evening as he joined them for supper, God allowed them to see Jesus as he broke the bread and he instantly disappeared! The disciples were so amazed that they ran all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples what had happened. The children learned in chapel and during Jesus Time in the classroom that Jesus wasn't just a man, he was God and his promises will always come true. One day we will live with him in our resurrected bodies on the New Earth!

The first week of April was Week of the Young Child. We celebrated with many hands-on and fun activities. We listened and participated in finger plays, listened to books on tape, danced, and made crafts. During Jesus Time we talked about how Jesus visited the disciples the day of his resurrection as they huddled scared in a locked room. Thomas, one of the disciples, was not there when Jesus visited and wouldn't believe that he was alive. When Jesus returned a week later, Thomas finally believed.

The third week of April, our theme was Easter celebrations. We boiled eggs for the children, and they decorated Easter eggs. They used watercolor to paint eggs for our bulletin board upstairs. We hope everyone had a chance to stop by our preschool bulletin in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy the childrens' art! Miss Shelley and Ms. Ashley assembled Easter baskets for each child and hid Easter eggs upstairs in the Fellowship Hall for an Easter egg hunt. We wished we could have held the Easter egg hunt outside, but it was too cold and windy.

The fourth week of April we learned the numbers 7 & 8 and our theme was bugs! The preschool has a really great collection of fiction and nonfiction bug and garden related books, and the children really enjoyed reading those, especially with Mrs. B. The nonfiction photos in the books were captivating to many of the children. During Jesus Time we talked about Jesus' bodily ascension into heaven and the promise that he will return and then we will be able to join Him bodily in heaven with God the Father and the Holy Spirit! Pastor Conner spoke to the children about how Jesus was no longer in the tomb, because he had risen! He taught the children the word "Hallelujah!" and sang Jesus Christ is Risen Today with them.



## Preschool Praises for April

The children continue to do a great job saying The Lord's Prayer. We are working on our songs to sing for our preschool graduation on May 19th, and the children are really excited to share the songs with their family and friends.



Exciting news! The preschool has purchased more outdoor play equipment with donated funds. We purchased 4 tricycles and 4 helmets, an outdoor xylophone for the children to play music on, and a basketball hoop. These items will be enjoyed by our current preschoolers and with many future preschoolers. THANK YOU to all who made it possible for our preschool to purchase these items.

In April we also received a toy donation from Jed Riesselman's family in honor of Jed's 5th birthday. Jed was a student at Zion Preschool last year. We really appreciate the donation from Jed's family!

Zion Preschool has received many Choice Dollars from Thrivent members, and we appreciate the monetary donations! We try our best to always send out a written thank you, and I hope we don't miss anyone. If we do, we want you to know how truly appreciative we are for your continued donations to the preschool and for the continued prayers.

Thank you to our parents who have chosen to bring their students to Zion Lutheran Preschool. We love sharing Jesus' word with our children, and we truly love watching them grow spiritually, intellectually, and socially. Shelley and Ashley feel very blessed to have such a supportive community, congregation, and families. We still have spaces for our afternoon class for the 2022-2023 school year. Please help us by sharing about our preschool program here at Zion. We pray we are able to fill more afternoon spots next year.

Blessings,  
Miss Shelley and Ms. Ashley



DATE: 4/19/22

The meeting was called to order in the name of the Triune God by President Cathie Segebart. Pastor Johnson gave a devotion on the different images of Jesus that He spoke of, including the Good Shepherd, and how the LWML celebrates this. Roll call was answered by 10 members and Pastor Johnson. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as corrected.



The treasurer's report was given showing a checking account balance of \$1,182.62. After bills and deposits the balance was \$1,082.62 minus the sewing money of \$72.10, leaving a balance of \$1,010.52. We received a thank you from Tina Miller with a generous gift. The replacement fund balance is \$1,021.56. We discussed the love offering for the spring rally. It was decided to continue giving an offering of \$25.00, similar to what's been done in the past.

COMMITTEES: Pastor gave us a health update. The Easter packets were about the right number for Easter Sunday. There was discussion from Pastor about the possibility of changing the time of worship during the summer from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. to accommodate farmers and field work. That will be decided in the next week or two after a survey at church Saturday. There were 2 funerals, Arlene Jahn and Dale Holmes. Susan Mahnke reported on the Arlene Jahn funeral and Bonnie Lorenzen reported on the Dale Holmes funeral.

Cathie Segebart went to the Board meeting at Zion in Denison. Trinity will host the Fall Rally in 2023. There will be a Rally for Life at Zion in Denison on 4/28/22 at 7 p.m. sponsored by Lutherans for Life. We are to continue saving pill bottles, glasses and cases and stamps per Jane Gronau, Human Care. The convention is at Okoboji from 6/6 through 6/8. Registration is due by May 1. We could use another delegate. If anyone wants to attend, they should complete registration. They also need to bring a uniquely wrapped gift that could be useful to the recipient, small enough to fit in a small box or gift bag. Also, please bring something purple for the next meeting. At Mission Central Cindy Wrucke was there and gave a report.

NEW BUSINESS: Judy has Jean Christensen's address. We will clean the church in June or July. A list of LWML projects for the Iowa District West convention was handed out. We are to look over that list and give our preferences at the next meeting. We should consider about 10 projects.

We usually give to Child in Haiti in March but we have not heard from Spencer, so we will wait until we hear from him to give. We will keep the Staley's chicken supper in mind. The Weavers are meeting next Tuesday so we will find out if they are still interested, and if we can schedule it for approximately the same time, around the first of October. We don't have a school calendar so we don't know what activities are going on then.

Bonnie Lorenzen gave Christian growth on the women of Jesus' time and their emotions of sadness and fear, and then joy in His resurrection. We see the cross far later and can share in their joy and fear of sharing this joy. We need to see the joy and forget the fear.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sylvia Saunders is hostess for the May 17 meeting. Chairperson for the Work Committee is Sylvia Saunders and Co-Chairperson is Sharon Fast. We closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer.

Susan Mahnke, Secretary



## Mark your calendar—MEMORIAL DAY Brunch at Zion; May 30, 2022

Invite your family, friends, neighbors, out-of-town visitors to Zion Fellowship Hall. Serving will begin immediately after the Manning Cemetery ceremonies and continue to 1 p.m. The meal will be held even if weather conditions cancel the cemetery ceremony.

The menu will again include: sloppy joes, hot dogs (with chili, cheese, and condiments), potato salad, chips, desserts (cookies and bars), and beverages. Free will donations will be accepted. Donations support the Zion VBS program. We are thankful for the Thrivent Action cards supporting the grocery and supply purchases.

Community members and visitors enjoy the opportunity for a holiday meal and to visit with friends and neighbors. Carry out meals will be available as well as in town delivery for those unable to attend in person. Those desiring this special service can call the church (655-2352) the day of the luncheon.

Sign-up sheets will be in the Fellowship Hall (by May 15) to provide bars or cookies or to volunteer for set-up, serving, or clean-up. The luncheon will again be a special church and community event. See you Memorial Day!

THURSDAY, MAY 26

# ASCENSION WORSHIP

Historic-Trinity, Manning  
@ 6:30pm

Special Guest Preacher  
Rev. Keith Haney  
Iowa-District West



## SENIOR ORGAN RECITAL & GRADUATION CELEBRATION

**TIMOTHY CONNER**

**Sunday, May 22 at 3:30**

Zion Lutheran Church, Manning  
Open House Reception Follows  
until 6:30

### Program:

- St. Anne's Prelude by J.S. Bach
- Partita on Ebenezer "Thy Strong Word" by John A. Behnke
- Hymn: Thy Strong Word
- Carillon De Westminster by Louis Vierne



## Zion Ladies Guild April Secretary Report

The regular meeting was held on April 13 @ 1pm. Pastor Conner opened with prayer and welcomed guest speaker Amanda Arneson, MRHC OT. She presented on fall prevention. President Roe called the meeting to order in Name of the Triune God. League Pledge read, 15 members present and 4 guest. Roll call was answered by a fall related experience.



April 13, 2022  
*Ladies Guild*

Birthdays: Connie Ahrendsen, Sue Puck, Joenne Bohlman, Nancy Opperman and Dorothy Knutsen. The secretary notes were read and approved. Thank you notes were received and read to the group from Pastor Johnson benefit Committee, Mark and Megan Mantey in Uganda, as well as correspondence from Uganda and LAMP. Mite box offering and prayer were read.

The Treasurer's report was given by Cheryl Zinke. Kitchen treasurer report balance was given by Darlene Vollstedt. Kitchen supplies as well as 2 new coffee makers were purchased this past month.

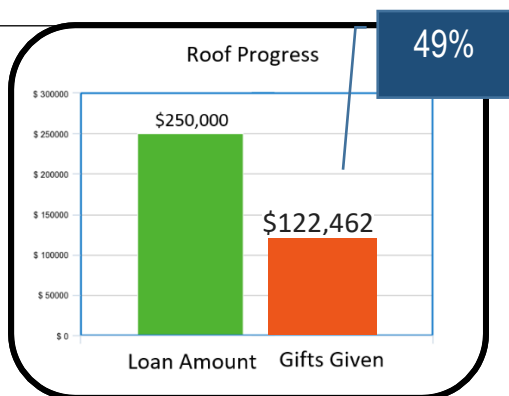
### Old Business:

Circle 1 has the next funeral for serving. April 23, 2022-Spring Rally Luncheon will be at 10 am, with Amy Hull as speaker. LWML Iowa District West met the 2020-2022 mite goal.

### New Business:

In June the convention will be in Okoboji. We are looking at a delegate and alternate for this convention. In May we will serve the Zion HS Senior Breakfast. Meeting was adjourned with the table Prayer and Lord's Prayer. Lunch was served by: Connie and Sheryl. May servers will be Darlene and Laurene. The next meeting will be on May 11. The Meeting was adjourned. Meeting notes are from Mary Grimm, in absence of secretary

Gloria Ewoldt.



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!

中華信義神學院  
China Lutheran Seminary

Mission Door Offering  
for Professor Oliver

Serving: China Lutheran Seminary in  
Taiwan

Sunday, May 8

Thank you for your generous  
support!



## When Well Seems Far Away

The month of May is most commonly thought of the emergence of spring – flowers, birds, and outside activities. Mental health may seem to be the farthest thing from our minds because, after all, the dreary days of winter are behind us.



May is also known as Mental Health Month, which was established in 1949 to increase awareness of the importance of mental health and wellness in Americans' lives, and to celebrate recovery from mental illness. Mental health is essential for a person's overall health. Prevention works, treatment is effective, and people can recover from mental disorders and live full and productive lives.

At some point in our lives, most of us will face times that are extra stressful. During those times, we rely on our coping strategies to help us get through. We often go back to the coping strategies that have been useful to us in the past. These coping strategies are different for each of us. Some examples may be going for a walk, painting/crafts, stretching, or calling a friend. You should avoid using alcohol or illegal drugs as a way to deal with a difficult situation as this may continue to further problems.

The basic coping strategies tend to relate to three areas of our lives – exercise/physical health, spiritual health, and emotional health. If you are dealing with a stressful situation, don't stew in self-pity or waste your energy pointing blame at someone else.

It may help to write down the problem to get it all out on paper, instead of the thoughts swirling around in your head. Then, list as many possible solutions as possible. You can prioritize the options and cross out what will not be an option for you at that time. Just because you tried one option and it did not work, it does not mean that you failed. Chose another option and try again.

It may also be beneficial to shift your thinking as well. How you think about a problem affects both how much it upsets you and how well you tackle it. If possible, shift your mind away from the negative thoughts or excessive worries. Ask yourself how realistic your worry is. Focus on the good aspects of your life and look at the tough times as an opportunity to learn and grow.

Sometimes basic help can make all the difference. If you are overextended, try asking for someone to lend a hand. If you are able, you can reciprocate at a quieter time. It is okay to ask for advice. No one knows everything, so make sure you filter the advice to use what is helpful to you. Most of all get emotional support. Crying, sharing your frustrations and venting can release tension, relieve stress, and help you to move on. You may need to consider getting professional help for those times that are overwhelming. After all, happiness and contentment are right over there, not so far away.

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





What a joy to celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry on Palm Sunday with the family and friends of Zion!







Many thanks to the 100+ volunteers and 300+ worshipers who made Zion's Easter celebration possible and joy-filled! Christ is risen! Alleluia!



*Easter Sunday*  
2022





We celebrate with our 2022 confirmands (names on next page)! Thank you to Pastor Johnson, Tiffany, Pastor Riggert, Debbie Musfeldt, Mike Lorenzen, Mike Gore, Susie Ulrickson, Bob Genzen, Shannon Walters, and Pastor Conner for celebrating and sharing Christ's redeeming love with these children! And thank you to Zion (and Trinity) for modeling the faith by your faithfulness in worship and in hearing and learning the Word!

# Confirmation 2022



## Zion's 2022 Confirmands

### **Camden William Alexander**

Born: 3/6/08 Baptized: 12/23/09

Son of Michael & Megan Alexander

Sponsors: Kris Bunker, Erica Bunker

*Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Rev. 2:10*

### **Karlee Genelle Arp**

Born: 5/20/08 Baptized: 6/29/08

Daughter of Kyle & Jill Arp

Sponsors: Jessica Kucik, Jason Kienast, Stacy Arp, Ryan Arp

*Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. Is. 12:2*

### **McKenna Lane Benton**

Born: 8/9/07 Baptismal Date: 4/13/08

Daughter of Amy Benton and Brad Benton

Sponsors: Beth Vitiritto, Sherryl Osborn

*I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Ps. 16:8*

### **Nathanael Robert Conner**

Born: 3/24/08 Baptized: 3/24/08

Son of Pastor Jonathan & Rebecca Conner

Sponsors: Jeremy and Katie Albers

*For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Rom. 8:38-39*

### **Samantha Rochelle Doyel**

Born: 11/7/07 Baptized: 3/15/08

Daughter of Ryan & Bobby Doyel

Sponsors: Trisha Beck, Anna Neumann

*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Ps. 103:1-5*

### **Haylie Ann Irlbeck**

Born: 8/8/07 Baptized: 9/22/07

Daughter of Ericka Irlbeck and Alan Irlbeck

Sponsors: Andrea Ehlers, Angela Brockmeyer

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. Is. 43:2*

### **Hayden Mattaya Miller**

Born: 4/9/08 Baptized: 7/08

Daughter of Shawn & Angie Miller

Sponsors: Shane & Julie Miller, Amy Andersen  
*Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths; Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation, for you I wait all the day long. Ps. 25:4-5*

### **Camden Alan Morris**

Born: 10/4/07 Baptized: 11/17/07

Son of Alan & Jennifer Morris

Sponsors: Scott Stribe, Steve & Sheila Reitan  
*"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jn. 8:12*

### **Benjamin Eric Ramsey**

Born: 10/6/07 Baptized: 11/22/07

Son of Eric & Jodi Ramsey

Sponsors: Vicki Ramsey, Ronald & Kayla Ramsey

*And Jesus said to him, "If you can't! All things are possible for one who believes." Mk. 9:23*

### **Jack Rylan Sanford**

Born: 11/17/08 Baptismal Date: 5/08

Son of Brett & Kasie Sanford

Sponsors: John & Sarah Lorenzen

*Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12*

## **Zion's 2022 Seniors**



### **Timothy David Conner**

Baptized: 6.6.04, Confirmed: 4.29.18

*Son of Pastor and Rebecca Conner*

*Sponsors: Jeremy and Katie Albers*

Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. Isaiah 12:2

### **Tanner Ryan Crawford**

Baptized: 10.26.03, Confirmed: 4.29.18

*Son of Ryan and Heidi Crawford*

*Sponsors: Regina Henscher, David Bald, and  
Jeremy Crawford*

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

### **Macie Jean Doyel**

Baptized: April 18, 2004 Confirmed: 4.29.18

*Daughter of Ryan and Bobby Doyel*

*Sponsors: Sean and Melissa Clines*

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

### **Luke Robert Ramsey**

Baptized: August 9, 2003 Confirmed: 4.29.18

*Son of Eric and Jodi Ramsey*

*Sponsors: Jen Drees and Jeanna Clayburg*

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

### **Nolan Dennis Ramsey**

Baptized: August 9, 2003 Confirmed: 4.29.18

*Son of Eric and Jodi Ramsey*

*Sponsors: Julie Hergenrader and Ryan Mohr*

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10

### **Emma Rose Reese**

Baptized: September 28, 2003

Confirmed: 4.29.18

*Daughter of Glen and Shaunda Martin*

*Sponsors: Michael Krajicek Jr, Barbara Plagge  
Krajicek, Rose Mitchell, Ty and Natalie Rosburg*

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. Psalm 46:5





# Amigos en Cristo

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

*Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**Pastor Pedro Lopez**, Denison, Iowa

May 2022

re to write to you again, I am so glad I have a chance to share some amazing moments that have taken place around our Iowa District West Hispanic outreach. April was a great month, and as we celebrated Holy Week, we remembered how our Savior Jesus prepared for the ultimate act of love for humanity. We, in response to this undeserved divine favor, shared with many, this love, forgiveness and promise of eternal life the Lord Jesus won for us. Our Good Friday worship service was together with our sisters and brothers from Zion in Denison in a bilingual service.

I was privileged to meet with Missionary Gary Thies at Mission Central and sign a covenant of partnership to fundraise for the future of our Hispanic ministry. He is amazing and a great teacher, ready to support all of us in the Mission field. Something that came across in this meeting was the reality that Mission work happens in our back yard! We think of Mission work in faraway lands but it is happening around us every day. God is sending too many people to our great country, many that don't know Jesus as the only way of salvation and reconciliation with God! By the grace of God and with Missionary Gary's help and prayers, we are hoping to secure your prayers and financial support to enhance the new phase of this Hispanic Ministry, gracias brother Gary and Mission Central organization!

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 have a house blessing, together with a Bible study for one of our young members of Storm Lake. It was a great way to praise God, thank God for His blessings, and it gave us a chance to meet some new people. We also enjoyed some delicious food this family offered after the blessing. These opened discussions of possible home Bible studies in this area in the near future.

# Appreciation for Worship at Zion

My reason for writing you today is just to say how profound Maundy Thursday was for me. The whole of Lenten services really... I have all the cards, they were amazingly well done... The sermon too had me spellbound. It struck every chord with me and in perfect timing. To say I enjoyed it might not be the right word. It was convicting. But I knew throughout that this was one of those "listen up!" moments.

- Zion Member

I appreciated the very meaningful Lenten series on "Contemplating the Crucified Christ" on Wednesday nights. I have had all the artworks cards in view and reflected on them during Lent. I think they have made my faith fuller. Thank you.

- Zion Member

Dear Pastor, just wanted to tell you how much I appreciated the Easter service yesterday at church. It was so uplifting and moving and exciting... It was so exciting to see so many children waving flags, bringing in Easter lilies, and the music. All the music was just fantastic. We sang so many wonderful hymns. Thank you so much.

- Zion Member

Whenever we have the opportunity to gather around God's Word, confess our sins and profess our faith and when we invite and give the Holy Spirit liberty to work in and through us, it matters. Our worship services may vary in who reads, in music, who collects the offering, etc. but we never compromise the content or importance of preaching Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. I appreciated seeing the way more people were helping and participating in the service.

This Lenten season the use of artwork each week was something else that I appreciated. The handout card was a visible reminder that what Jesus did for us was real, his pain and persecution were real, those who loved Jesus and were watching suffered tremendous grief that was real. Because HE who knew no sin died anyway for us and our sins that is very real, and like the song says, "HE IS Worthy!"

- Zion Member

Good morning Pastor

He is Risen! I always like to be home for Easter! It just is so great to see the full church and all the energy from ALL the kids! There are so many positives for the day! The message, the music, the instruments, the organ and the breakfast. As I get to travel and experience other services I can say I always want to be home for Easter. Thank you for all the efforts and making this service so special!

- Zion Member



## *Susie Ulrickson Honored*

On Sunday, April 3, Zion honored Jesus' faithful servant, Susie Ulrickson. For over 30 years Susie has directed and organized Zion's children's Christmas programs, VBS music, Sunday School openings, humbly working to ensure that Jesus has been glorified in song. One of those songs, sung by many Zion (and Trinity!) kids, aptly captures Susie's heart: "More of you Jesus and so much less of me. More of you Jesus till you are all they see. I'll spread your love and kindness to everyone I meet. I want the world to see you reign in me." And in Susie Ulrickson that is precisely what we've seen: Jesus reigning. Thank you to Susie for her years of faithful, Christ-magnifying service. Susie will continue to serve with our Praise Team and choir and in arranging special musical ensembles on Sunday mornings.



### A Note from Susie:

I was totally caught off-guard and so very humbled by Zion's lovely tribute to me last Sunday during worship and the reception following. Thank you so very much for your kindnesses. The bouquet of flowers, appreciation plaque, special reception with the beautifully decorated cake, kind words, gifts, notes and letters were so very thoughtful. I cried as I read each card with such gracious words. I have absolutely loved doing music with Zion's children over the years, so it is really hard to admit that this season needs to come to a close for me. Also know, though, that the children's music that has been done at Zion has been a result of wonderful material and many, many people working together as a team to make it all happen. It has truly been an example of the Body of Christ coming together, as Romans 12 describes. Because of this, I know wonderful children's music will continue in new and exciting ways going forward.

Thank you for your loving support, commitment, and constant encouragement, not only to me, but to your children, to use their gifts to honor Him in whichever way He has uniquely designed them. They are and have been precious, and a huge blessing to our congregation and community. May they continue to sing His Word through music that will make an impact, not only on them, but also transform all of our hearts as we listen and meditate on the Gospel message.

With heartfelt thanksgiving and appreciation,  
Susie



## Snapshots of Zion



Elders place the black veil on the cross in preparation for Good Friday.



The LWML Fall Rally welcomes Amy Hull as their guest speaker (above).

The Ladies Guild welcomes Amanda Arneson (MRHC Occupational Therapist) to discuss fall prevention (left).

Tyler and Morgan Bruck celebrate Bridger's baptism (below).

Confirmants participate in Witness night.



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



**Sunday  
Mornings**

**Resurrection Reality: Defending the Historicity of Jesus'  
Resurrection - Zion Family Bible Class (after worship)**



**May 8**

**Mission Door Offering for Professor Oliver**



**May 19**

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



**May 19**

**Preschool Closing Ceremony (6:30 p.m.)**



**May 22**

**Graduation Celebration and Senior Organ Recital at Zion  
(Timothy Conner) at 3:30**



**May 26**

**Ascension Service at Historic Trinity (Manning)  
6:30 p.m.**



**May 30**

**Memorial Day Lunch  
After cemetery service until 1:00 p.m.**



**June 6-10**

**Zion VBS  
(8:45 – 11:45 a.m.)  
Register: [zionmanningvbs.myanswers.com/zoomerang](http://zionmanningvbs.myanswers.com/zoomerang)**



# May Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

## *Birthdays* (T = Trinity)

1. Becky Bruch  
Jayden Bunker  
Lynn Nulle  
Stan Spies (T)
2. Rita Beck  
Evelyn Gore  
Lee Klindt (T)
3. Kendra Arp  
Naomi Blackford
4. Isaiah Conner  
Russell Hansen  
Bristol Stoberl
6. Emily Albertsen  
Andrew Dreier  
Dustin Karsten  
Greg Sextro
7. Catherine Conner  
Beau Diersen  
Lane Sams
8. Nate Blackford  
Ryan Sandage
9. Daniel Dawson
10. Randy Kurth  
Rachel Ramsey
11. Braellee Diersen  
Art Joens (T)  
Aubri Kucik  
Robert Merriman  
Riley Willison
12. Nathan Bauer  
Jaime England
13. Lucy Borkowski  
John Ehrichs Jr.  
Kari Ranniger  
Richard Saunders (T)  
Jarod Segebart (T)  
Todd Winter  
Nathan Peters
14. Rodney Backhaus  
Irene Genzen  
Lincoln Hodne (T)  
Caelix Jahn (T)
15. Jan Henkelman  
Ella Langel  
JoAnn Thomas
16. Timothy Conner  
Nicholas Grimm  
Brogan Lorenzen
17. Emily Ceminsky  
Jessica Kucik  
Kay Otto
18. Brad Kusel  
Gina Vollstedt
19. Brennen Morris
20. Karlee Arp
21. Kamaya Jacobsen  
Harper Morris  
Kelli Morrow  
Garry Puck  
Dereck Trimpe
22. Ty Greving  
Todd Ketcham  
Alexis Lesle  
Mya Sandage  
Lisa Steffes
23. Briar Lorenzen  
Taya Vonnahme
24. Bryndon Rosener
25. Lance Hanson (T)
26. Alan Grimm  
Zenley Schumann (T)
27. Dennis Grimm  
Gene Lohrmann
28. Jessica Sellner
29. Heidi Crawford
30. Robbie Bandow (T)
31. Megan Alexander  
Stephanie Smith

## *Anniversaries*

6. Michael & Bridget Gore
10. Steve & Barb Page
13. Dan & Jennifer Behrens
21. Nicholas & Dena Diersen
25. Russell & Cynthia Ranniger
27. Scott & Cheryl Lahr (T)
28. Ben & McKensie Bess  
Isaac & Courtney Grabill  
Mark & Jessica Kucik

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

## *Official Acts*

### **Marriage**

Jamie & Randy Berg – 3.29.22 (Trinity)  
Lucas Schultes & Kelli Grimm; 4.23.22; Pastor Bob Riggert

### **Funeral**

Dale Holmes – 4.1.22 (Trinity)

### **Baptism**

Ada Hinners - parents Drew Hinners & Leanne Lingle –  
4.2.22 (Trinity)  
Bridger Douglas Bruck, son of Tyler and Morgan Bruck;  
4.3.22; Pastor Jonathan Conner

### **Youth Confirmation:**

4.24.22, by Pastor Jonathan Conner  
Camden William Alexander, Karlee Genelle Arp, McKenna  
Lane Benton, Nathanael Robert Conner, Samantha  
Rochelle Doyel, Haylie Ann Irlbeck, Hayden Mattaya Miller,  
Camden Alan Morris, Benjamin Eric Ramsey, Jack Rylan  
Sanford

## *In Our Prayers*

Janice Monson, Amy Benton, Pastor Johnson, Jay Coon  
(Karl Rutz's brother in law), Paxton Bierl, Stan Baack, Joene  
Bohlmann, Justeen Schwieso, Nancy Grimm, Julie Weller,  
Jeanne Gruhn, Sherri Steffes, Jim Deevers, Rick Spack,  
Patty Meeves (Laurene's daughter in law), Gene Mahnke,  
Lyle Mundt, Tawnya Jacobsen (Kristin Backhaus sister)