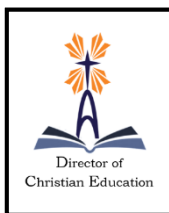


Pastor, what do you think about calling a DCE?



Over the past month, many of you have asked me the above question. It is a question I know many of you would like to have answered. So, I'll offer my thoughts here. First, though, allow me to answer a more foundational question: *Where did the idea for a DCE come from?* This may surprise you, but it didn't come from me. It came from you. It came from multiple members who were noticing the number of youth, children, and families we have at Zion and thought it was time to talk about adding a staff member to minister to them. So, Zion's council listened and started the conversation.

My thoughts regarding the question can be answered in two words: *sober enthusiasm*. Now, let me explain.

Sober

Scripture is clear: "The laborer deserves his wages" (1 Timothy 5:18). Having served on our District's Stewardship Committee and Compensation Committee, I am well acquainted with our recommended compensation guidelines. A called worker (or any staff member) should be compensated fairly and that compensation should be approved and embraced by the whole congregation.

Please allow me to add one insight on the nature of ministry that relates. Ministry is demanding. People's expectations are expansive and their opinions can be charged. Church workers feel those expectations and hear those opinions. Our lives are lived under a microscope. I share this to correct the notion that church workers should have their compensation suppressed because "they're

doing ministry." The laborer deserves his wages. In other words, if we call a DCE, we should not ask ourselves, "What's the cheapest way to do this?" We should ask, "What's the most loving way to do this?"

Now, having said that, please know that, while I have felt the sting from some with sharp opinions and an ongoing disapproval of me, I feel loved and exceedingly well supported at Zion. I LOVE BEING YOUR PASTOR. I have received numerous inquiries from other congregations and multiple calls, but not one has tempted me because I love Zion and I know Zion loves me and my family.

Returning to the DCE question, the good news is that we are very close to being able to afford a DCE at our current giving levels. The sobering news is that "close" is not how we do budgets. The last thing we want is to call a person we can't adequately compensate.

This is a good time to offer a brief snapshot of Zion's giving reality. We have approximately 150 active mission and ministry supporting partners (a husband and wife would be counted as one partner in this situation). This is out of an approximate potential of 300 supporting partners. In other words, roughly 50% of Zion members contribute to Zion each year (so 50% give nothing). In 2021, 155 giving partners gave right at \$300,000 toward our budgetary needs (this excludes special gifts to the roof and our endowments). This averages out to \$37 per week per active giving partner (so, not counting the non-giving units).

Now, let me show you how easily we could reach a giving level to support a DCE for years to come. If these 155 giving partners were able to give an additional \$10 per week (over the course of 52 weeks), our budgetary giving would rise to

\$378,820. That would fund a DCE. This \$10 is an average. So, some may discover that they can give more than an additional \$10. Some may not be able to reach that level. But, some of our non-active givers may discover that they can begin to give at the \$10 level per week (and we can help you set up automatic giving to make it easier for you to be consistent).

But let me add that my higher goal for Zion givers would be to aim for the tithe (10% of income given to the local congregation to fund the mission and ministry of God). I know that may seem scary for some (and it may be too small for others!), but I truly believe Jesus is telling the truth when He says that our hearts follow our treasure (Matthew 6:19-21). And, as a tither, I can personally say that it is doable and meaningful. Tithing is about more than money; it's about hearts, hearts meaningfully invested and engaged in the kingdom of God. In other words, what Jesus is saying is that we lead our hearts with our treasure. We put our treasure where we want our hearts to be and then we run to catch up!

Returning, though, to the DCE question, I want to add this: if we vote to call a DCE, we must also tie our financial commitment to our vote. In other words, we should not vote for an idea or an ideal; we should vote for a commitment to fund the mission and ministry of God at Zion. Speaking directly, but lovingly, if you are not willing to support a DCE with your giving, you should not vote to call one. I don't say this to be crass or uncaring; I say this to ensure we tie our commitment to our vote specifically because I care deeply about the mission and ministry of Zion. I don't want us to vote for a position we can't/won't support. Your vote not only directs this mission and ministry, but it communicates your support of it.

If you have further questions on this, feel free to ask! Feel free to ask for a financial report. Our financial team does an outstanding job of accounting for every penny that is given to Zion. This is why Zion's council is giving you over a month to consider the DCE question, to talk about it, to ask questions, and to consider how you might support it.

Enthusiasm

When I see the children and families at Zion, I see a great need for ministry and I see the great potential for an additional ministry staff position. I see potential for a DCE in our Sunday School to bless and equip our Board of Education, to build relationships with our Sunday School kids, and to assist in Sunday School openings. I see potential for a DCE in our Christmas program, partnering with Zion members to lead it and blessing children with the astonishing news of Christ's incarnation.

I see potential for a DCE to partner with Pastor Johnson, Tiffany, and me in our confirmation program, incorporating music into our Christian education. I see potential for a DCE to partner with the Johnsons in youth ministry. I see potential for a DCE to assist with volunteer coordination at Zion. I see potential for a DCE to help with communication, in telling Zion (and Trinity's) story. I see potential for a DCE to partner with Zion members to coordinate VBS.

When I see this potential, I get excited. It fills my heart with enthusiastic joy. This enthusiasm, though, is tempered with a sober realism for the regular expenses Zion faces and the new expenses Zion would take on if we called a DCE. So, please, ask questions. Please, talk about it. Please, look at your giving and ask if you're willing and able to support a DCE. And, then, come ready to talk about it and vote on it on Sunday, August 21. – Pastor Conner



Wed., Aug. 31
6:30 p.m.



Wed., Sept. 7
4:00 p.m.



Teachers installed
Sunday School begins

Sun., Sept. 11
Worship: 9:00;
Sunday School:
10:15

Now Is a Great Time to Open a Y.I. StewardAccount®

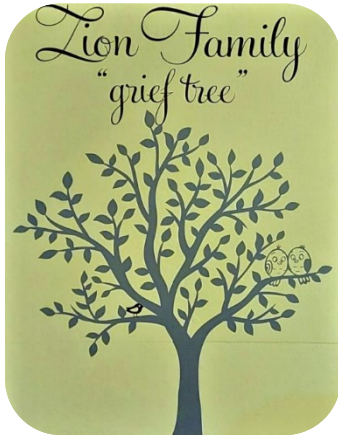
It's reassuring knowing your child is God's child. But did you know your child's savings can help others experience God's love through the sharing of the Gospel? With a Young Investors (Y.I.) StewardAccount from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), those savings become investments that support Lutheran Church —Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries — without forfeiting competitive rates.

For more details, visit lcef.org/young-investors-club or call 800-843-5233. Or, speak to Warren Puck or Pastor Conner.



LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a.

The Zion Family Grief Tree



Sometimes life hurts. People we love get sick. People close to us die. Friends move away. A child moves out. A spouse leaves. A job ends. Health changes. A child dies in the womb. A family member gets in trouble. A boss or coworker makes a job unbearable. Someone we trust betrays us.

These experiences leave us feeling like we're walking on a broken and unstable bridge. The path ahead is scary, uncertain, and unstable, but we have to walk on it. This is grief. And we will all walk (even stumble) across the grief bridge at some point in our lives, probably at multiple points in our lives.

Even Jesus knew grief. He wept tears of grief at Lazarus' tomb (John 11:35). As He approached Jerusalem (on His way to die), Jesus wept over a people who had rejected Him (Luke 19:41). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus, greatly troubled over His coming crucifixion, said, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to the point of death..." (Matthew 26:38). Isaiah prophetically referred to Jesus as "a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3). In fact, Jesus is never described as laughing in Scripture. It's not that He didn't laugh,

but Scripture never depicts Jesus doing so. The late 19th, early 20th century English author F.W. Boreham reflects,

A tearless Saviour would have repelled the very souls that Jesus came to save; but One over whose crushed spirit all the waves of grief have surged must be the natural refuge of all penitent and contrite hearts so long as time shall last." (F.W. Boreham, *The Luggage of Life*, 145-146).

In other words, Jesus, the man of sorrows, who as Isaiah says, "has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows" (Isaiah 53:4), is our refuge in grief. In His love for us, Jesus has gathered us into His church where we can find refuge in Him and support and consolation in one another. Unfortunately, we often choose to walk in grief alone. But Scripture says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15) and "If one member [of the Body of Christ] suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (1 Corinthians 12:26). Grief is to be borne together.

It may be tempting to hide our pain – because being open about it is hard! It makes us feel weak, incompetent, and small (and this is exacerbated in a culture that lionizes self-reliance and self-sufficiency). But ask yourself, "Do I believe grief is best handled in isolation? Do I believe people do best when they lock their thoughts in the secret cellars of their mind and never acknowledge them out loud?" If God, in His Word, is encouraging us to weep with those who weep and to suffer with those who suffer, who might be luring us to isolate? The spiritual realm is real and Satan knows that isolated people are vulnerable people.

It's true that being open about our grief, being honest about our struggles, might make us feel

vulnerable, but it might also open doors for help and healing as God works through the Body of Christ. Specifically, being open with a mature member of the Body of Christ will turn us outward to God, “our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

It's also true that it can be difficult to hear someone's struggles and grief because we are confronted with our finitude and powerlessness. We cannot take their pain away. We cannot fix what is broken. But who said that was our job? Some pain is bigger than us. Some pain moves us to look beyond us for hope. Indeed, this is what Scripture says. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians,

We were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).

Our calling, then, is not necessarily to take the pain away, but to point one another to the God who raises the dead, to the God who is sovereign over life and death, to the God who will make all things right and whole in the age to come. Until then, we are to comfort one another with the comfort we have received from God and in His promises. Paul writes,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

Another word for *comfort* is *compassion*. We may not have the power to fix what is broken, but we

can show compassion to one another in our brokenness. Compassion calls us to enter into another's suffering, to take action by moving into their pain, sitting with them, listening to them, weeping with them, helping them as it lies in our power to help, and praying with and for them.

Starting this month, Zion's Friendship Committee is inviting the family of Zion to begin a conversation on grief with the hope of opening opportunities for comfort and compassion. A “Zion Family Grief Tree” is in the fellowship hall and you are invited to share your grief in a visual way. Small wooden ornaments are available next to the tree. You can write out your grief in words. You can draw your grief. You can attach a picture of the source of your grief. You can take the ornaments home and bring them back. You are invited, then, to pin your grief to the tree (you can include your name or keep it anonymous).

As you consider the grief you are experiencing in your life, remember, as mentioned earlier, grief is not limited to the death of a loved one. Grief may involve the death of a dream, the death of a job, the death of health, and so on. We invite you, then, to ask how grief, pain, and suffering has touched your life? What does your grief look like?

On All Saints' Day (November 6) our collected griefs will be acknowledged in worship. Then, in a special service on Wednesday, November 9, we will bring these griefs before the Lord in prayer, asking Him to bring healing, help, and hope. For more information, visit with Pastor Conner or talk to Carlys Stribe. – Pastor Conner

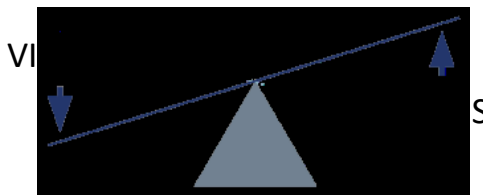
Want Lower Taxes? Practice Virtue

Study the chart on the right. It's an inverse relationship. We may be used to seeing this in economic contexts: when interest rates go up, consumers' willingness to spend goes down; when unemployment goes up, disposable income and consumer spending go down. Those make sense to us, but did you know that virtue and taxes also exist in an inverse relationship? To put it succinctly: as virtue decreases, taxes increase.

Economist David Bahnsen¹ explains:

There is a directly inverse relationship between man's self-government and the size of state government. The stronger our self-government, the more noble our virtue, the more robust our families, churches, and communities, the less need we have for a behemoth federal government. The higher the need for behemoth federal government, the more tax and regulation that comes therewith.²

We might not be accustomed to thinking this way, but what Mr. Bahnsen says is true and deeply insightful. How we live is not a private matter and this is especially important to understand in a culture enamored with "the right to privacy." Our choices aren't really private. Yes, they may be made in private, but they really don't stay private. For example, you may, in private, choose to throw a rock into a lake, but the ripples from that rock will impact other people (especially if it's a big rock!).



The same goes for our choices, especially our moral choices. We may make our choices in private, but moral choices ripple and their ripples impact other people. The person, therefore, who says, "It's nobody's business how I live" isn't echoing truth. How we live is everybody's business. Everyone doesn't need to know our personal calendars, but how we live impacts them in real ways. Our moral choices impact our communities.

So, getting married, having children, investing in the virtuous formation of those children (i.e. teaching the fear of God), and staying married are moral choices that impact our communities. Having children without marriage, failing to make a budget, irresponsibly outspending income so that you have to rely on government aid, and/or spending more time gaming online than raising virtuous children, are also moral choices. And they both impact our communities, especially our communities' taxes and economy. These poor choices, often times, require government agencies to step in, providing assistance (through entitlement programs), settling domestic disputes (through law enforcement), rendering legal decisions (through the courts), and the list goes on and on. This requires more tax revenue to fund such services.

As society secularizes, i.e. as people stray further from God and His commandments, expect taxes

¹ David is the founder, Managing Partner, and Chief Investment Officer of The Bahnsen Group, a bi-coastal wealth management firm managing over \$3 billion in client capital. And, he's a committed Christian.

² David Bahnsen, *There's No Free Lunch: 250 Economic Truths*, 193. This is a fantastic, easily

accessible book. Even if the thought of an economics book makes you want to run screaming, this book will keep you thinking and turning pages. Each truth is expressed on one page.

to go up. Expect to spend more to preserve a civil society. As people become more world-like and less Christ-like, expect government to expand and expect to pay for it. This may sound harsh, but it's a harsh truth we need to acknowledge. If people won't control themselves through virtuous, self-denying choices, then they will need to be controlled by the state. Apart from this control, we will experience anarchy.

But some object: "You don't need God to be good! Secular people can be good people." True, indeed. Godless people can be wonderful people who live virtuous lives. What godless people can't do is justify their virtue. In other words, they can't tell you *why* their virtue is virtuous. They can't tell you *why* it's good and why anyone should live according to their virtue. Godless people may choose to live peaceable and kind lives, but they could equally choose to live obnoxious and morally depraved lives, marked by sexual depravity, relational infidelity, financial dishonesty, and parental irresponsibility, and no choice would be morally better or worse than the other. It would merely be the one they preferred.

Without God, why be sexually pure? Without God, why be people of integrity? Without God, why be faithful in marriage? Why marry at all? Why limit marriage to a man and a woman? Why sacrifice for children? Why put anyone before yourself? Why? This is what godless people cannot answer. And this is what our society is facing.

Unless we (re)learn the fear of God.

How can we expect to live in a just society if we don't fear the God of justice? How can we hope to live in a truth-telling society if we don't fear the God of truth? How can we expect to find order in our community if we don't fear the God of order? If virtue is a free for all, we can expect the state to burgeon in size and influence. If we desire an

orderly society, it can be no other way. Order must come from somewhere. If it does not come from the fear of God, it will come from the fear of the state. And the state doesn't work for free. They are funded by our taxes.

So, what can you do? Fear the Lord. Confess Jesus as Lord and reinforce that confession in action. Jesus calls us to believing loyalty in and to Him. And His Word is not only true, but also liberating. It is a liberty that is, paradoxically, found in service to Him and others. We often speak of human flourishing and that most certainly applies here. So, husbands and wives who make a habit of honoring Christ as Lord in their marriage by dying daily to selfishness and giving themselves fully to one another, experience happier marriages. Parents who honor Christ as Lord by dying to themselves for the sake of their children (i.e., paying more attention to their children than to their screens, worshiping with their children, actively engaging in their children's education and virtue formation) have better relationships with their children. Employees who honor Christ as Lord by being people of integrity and selflessness have more meaningful work experiences and better relationships with coworkers. Human flourishing requires us to ask, "What does my neighbor need from me?" And this is a very Christ-like question!

But fearing the Lord is also economically liberating because it cultivates Godly virtue. And when people practice Godly virtue, less is needed from the state. And a state that is needed less, is smaller. And a smaller state is less expensive. And that means fewer taxes! So: more fear of God, less need for the state; more fear of God, less tax burden on us to fund the state. And that is the inverse relationship between taxes and virtue. May we work to increase virtue and witness the decrease of taxes. – Pastor Conner



Absalom, the son of David, terrorized his father. He forced David to flee Jerusalem. Family conflict propelled Absalom to take the throne from his father. But when David's leading general killed Absalom, David did not respond with a sigh of relief. Instead, he wept. So much so that he wished that he had died rather than his son.

One of the overarching themes of the Old Testament is Israel abandoning God. The kings of Israel, and by extension, the people, worship the gods of their neighbors. The name *Israel* means something like *wrestles with God*. You might say the Old Testament features the ongoing fight between God, the parent, and His children.

Right now, our lectionary readings for Saturdays and Sundays primarily feature Luke's biographical look at Jesus. Of course, one of the most memorable accounts from Luke is the parable of the prodigal son. But you'll recall the father figure in the parable temporarily loses the younger son, but we're left wondering by the end of the parable whether or not the older son is lost too.

Point being, the Bible depicts the painful struggle between parents and children as well as the

ultimate struggle between God the Father and us. One of the greatest struggles we might face, however, is the one where our kids walk away from God. This pain is only intensified when we did everything we could – you got them to church regularly, and reinforced the faith through devotions at home, but now they've veered away.

So, what can we do when our kids walk away from God?

Pray – The first and maybe the most profound thing we can do is pray for our kids. Paul writes, "The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Rather than marinating in anxiety, we can request Divine Intervention. The situation requires God's transformation anyhow. You might be thinking though, "I've been praying for years, but I haven't seen any change." The Israelites prayed for four centuries to leave Egypt and Paul wrote to the Philippians 2,000ish years ago that "The Lord is at hand." Sometimes we're forced to wait, but there's no reason to believe that God is neglecting our prayers for our kids just because we see no results. Rather, He invites those prayers to be prayed.

Listen – Jesus doesn't seem to fear questions. Some of His most moving teachings are prompted by a question. However, the Church has at times given the impression that questions test the structural integrity of the Christian faith. One of the best things we can do for our kids is allow them to ask questions concerning Jesus. Maybe we don't have an answer to the questions our kids are asking, but that doesn't mean we can't retrieve a response. "I don't know, but I'll do some digging," is an appropriate response. Failing to listen to our kid's questions or claims, however, will perpetuate the stereotype that the Church and the Faith is a

delicate house of cards ready to fall. Maybe now is the time to prompt your child with “What’s keeping you from Church?” Then open your ears to their response. Your listening, whether you feel like anything was accomplished or not, will be a gift to your kid.

Hope – When we don’t see positive results, it can be very easy to become discouraged. When it comes to our kids and their relationship to the Christian Faith (or lack thereof), that discouragement is very real and painful. But as much as our kids may be done with God, that does not mean that God is done with them. We believe in divine monergism; God is the one responsible for transformation in our kid’s heart. And this God has revealed that He searches high and low for the lost. The parable of the one lost sheep comes to mind. This God portrays Himself as one who leaves the 99 in order to find the 1 lost sheep (He doesn’t cut His losses – He’s concerned about each and every sheep). You are invited to open your imagination and see your child reembrace (or maybe embrace for the first time) Jesus. – Pastor Johnson



Deaconess Johnson assembled a crew to throw out t-shirts during the 4th of July parade in Manilla

If you'd like to sponsor breakfast for one of the sessions, sign up on the Entry Way Bulletin Board at Trinity. Plan a breakfast food or snack plus a beverage for 15 kids.



Sunday School begins...

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21
K-4TH GRADE**



What was the most faith strengthening thing about the gathering?

Seeing all of the people with the same faith as me worshipping our God.

One the most faith strengthening things for me was just hearing how Christ is real and he helps out and hearing stories of how people have found new life in Christ helped.

If you are on the fence about going...GO! It was a life changing experience and I'm looking forward to going in 3 years!

It's a fun out of this world experience. You learn so much more about who God is and what he does for you.

I would tell the younger youth that this is definitely something you don't want to miss, you make all these new friends and learn a lot about Christ.

What would you say to young youth about the gathering?

It's not the middle words that matter; it's the final words that matter:

- Sin is a middle word; grace is a final word.
- Anxiety is a middle word; peace is a final word.
- Loneliness is a middle word; belonging is a final word.
- Death is a middle word; life is a final word.
- Satan is a middle word; Jesus is a final word.

Being a part of the mass events... with 20,000 people from all around the U.S... We all sang together to praise God and know that He is with us in all things good and bad.

Thank you so much for giving all of us the opportunity and it was something I will never forget.

Zion, thank you for our support and making it possible for so many youth to attend the gathering.

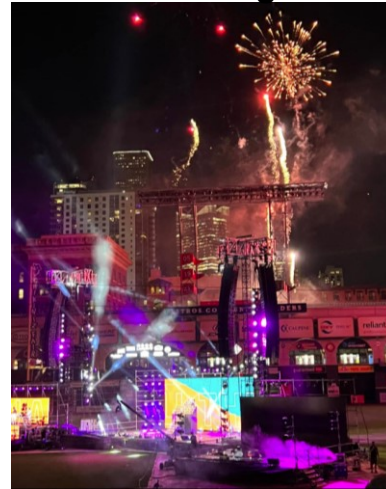


Thank you, Zion, and all the members who helped support funds for this trip. I personally and most people on the trip can guarantee you that this was one of the best places to be this summer!

It was really such a blessing that we were given this opportunity to strengthen our faith in such an amazing way. We never could have done it without all of your donations and volunteers. Thank you!

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to learn and worship about Christ.

Is there anything you'd like to say to Zion for supporting you?



LCMS National Youth Gathering 2022!

Preschool Praises for August

Zion Preschool is ready for a new year, new teachers, and a newly painted classroom! The classroom has had a remodel from the bright yellow to a soft white and blue. The classroom will be open to view on August 21st after fellowship! The Preschool currently has 25 enrolled students! We are almost FULL!



Introduction of the Zion Preschool Teacher:

Amy Blackwell will be the Director/Lead Teacher upcoming school year! She is looking forward to a great first year! Amy is a wife and a mom to 3, Brynli (12), Hayden (8), & Harvey (1). Manning is her home and we share our house with our 2 cats, Ozzy and Nugget. This will be Amy's first year of teaching and she is fulfilling a dream she has had since she was a child. She has multiple years of experience and a passion for working with children.

Introduction of Zion Teaching Assistant:

Melanie Enebach will be the Assistant Teacher. She is also excited about the upcoming school year! Melanie is a wife and a mom to 3, Bradon, Lydia, and Dylan. They live on an acreage outside of Manning with their dogs, cats, chickens, goats, and rabbits. She is excited to help the kids grow socially and academically while having lots of fun!

Important Dates to remember:

August 15/16 - 1:1 appointments with the teacher, parent/guardian, and child!

August 18th - 6:00-7:30 open house

August 21st - Fellowship and introduction of Amy and Melanie

August 26th - Farmer Market Fundraiser from 4:00-6:00 (Any donations for treats will be accepted! Please contact Chelsey Jensen at 402-980-3778 or email zionmanningpreschool@gmail.com if you want to donate!)

October 16th - Pancake breakfast



MEET THE TEACHER

My hobbies: crafting, teaching spin class and spending time with my kids



Hello My Name Is
Miss Amy

A little bit about me: My husband Matt and I have 3 children (Brynli, Hayden and Harvey). We have 2 cats (Ozzy and Nugget). We love camping, traveling and watching America's Got Talent!

Why I am excited to be at Zion: I have always had a passion for working with children and I am excited to get to do it every day! I am looking forward to helping the children grow spiritually and academically.

12



MEET THE ASSISTANT TEACHER

My hobbies: crafting, being outside and spending time with family



Hello My Name Is
Miss Melanie

A little bit about me: My husband Josh and I have 3 children (Brandon, Lydia and Dylan). We live on an acreage outside of Manning with our dog, cats, chickens, goats and rabbits.

Why I am excited to be at Zion: I am excited to help the kids grow socially, spiritually, and academically while having lots of fun along the way!

Mind-full Meditation

What do you picture when you hear the word *meditation*? Do you picture someone on a mat in the middle of their living room, legs folded and arms resting on their legs? For most of us, if we got down on the floor, it would be hard to get back up! Fortunately, you don't have to contort your body to practice mind-full meditation. Perhaps you're wondering about the word *mind-full*. It's intentionally hyphenated to emphasize the Bible's teaching on meditation. Whereas the world often portrays meditation as a journey within or as a mind-emptying endeavor, the Bible emphasizes the filling of the mind with God and His Word and the outward turn toward God. Consider a few passages:

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)



I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways. (Psalm 119:15)

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (Philippians 4:8)

Clearly there are no empty minds involved (and you don't have to contort your body into any certain position)! In fact, you don't need anything special to meditate. It does not have to take up a lot of your time, either. If possible, dedicate a regular space for mind-full meditation, preferably some place quiet and free from distractions. You may want to set a timer for several minutes so you do not have to focus on a clock. You may also find it helpful to calm your body through deep breathing so that you can mark the upcoming moments as meaningful and deserving of focus. Again, this is not about emptying the mind of journeying within. It's about calming the mind and preparing it to focus and to be filled.

Then, put God's Word in front of you. Open to Psalm 23 or John 10 or Colossians 1 or 1 Corinthians 15 or another favorite section of Scripture. Consider a section of the text and then meditate on it. You don't need to bite off huge sections of text. Chew on the images, the metaphors, the phrases, the stories. Then take your reflections heavenward. Turn them into praise and thanksgiving, confession and supplication. Fill your mind with God and His Word.

In addition to the spiritual benefits of mind-full meditation (a mind filled with the Word and truth of God), there are mental and physical benefits as meditation has been shown to boost our immune system, control pain, improve sleep, increase our attention span, lower blood pressure, and reduce stress and anxiety as well as stabilize memory. So, take a few moments and appreciate the benefits of mind-full meditation.

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





*Rev. Mark and Megan Mantey
Serving in Uganda*



A Manner Worthy of God

Last month, we listened as our friend and colleague, Rev. Peter Maganda, read to us from 3 John. As he shared, verses 5-8 especially resonated with us. It states, “Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth (3 John 5-8).”

As Rev. Peter shared these verses, they held significant meaning for us. The day before, our Regional Director had shared with the Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU) we accepted new positions within the LCMS Africa region. These new roles are Mark - Associate Regional Business Manager, and Megan - Regional Coordinator of Care and Development. Mark’s work aligns with ensuring accountability and transparency in all of LCMS’ work in Africa. Megan will work with continuing education opportunities with church bodies and continue building care ministries for missionary families throughout Africa.

We are thankful for the opportunity to expand the Lord’s work through our hands and grieve the ministry we shared with the LCU in Uganda. The people in the LCU have helped shape who we are as missionaries. They have taught, mentored, and guided us as we serve overseas. We are grateful for their friendship and our life together with them. The LCU graciously acknowledged that just as it says in 3 John, they will “support us” and “send us on our journey in a manner worthy of God.” We came as missionaries to serve but are grateful for the LCU who has also served us.





*Rev. Mark and Megan Mantey
Serving in Uganda*

Continued from page ____



Life and Ministry Update

What comes next?

We continue to work alongside the LCU during our transition to our regional roles. We purposefully wanted to live here through February 2023, so we can work alongside the LCU, even as changes occur. We also wanted time to guide and serve alongside our Alliance Missionary colleagues. Megan's work will continue to bring her to Uganda to help alongside our brothers in Christ through education opportunities.

Starting in September, we will attend the LCU partners' conference in St. Louis and begin our home service. We will reach out to many of you for opportunities to connect while in the United States. Early next year, we will move to Nairobi, Kenya, where our field office is located.

Thank you for keeping our LCU colleagues and us in your prayers during this time. We know we will continue to serve alongside the LCU in our different roles as we move forward.

Installation of Lutheran Church of Uganda (LTCU) Vicars

One of our favorite times of the school year is when the LCU installs new vicars (interns) to serve at their home congregations. During the next school year, four students will spend their third year in seminary preaching, teaching, training, and learning in their communities. It is hands-on learning!

It is also an opportunity for the Lutheran Church of Uganda to train their men and mentor them as they learn more about daily ministry. Please keep these four men in your prayers as they eagerly and faithfully serve those in their communities.



The four vicars who were installed at the LTCU at the end of the 2nd semester

Please Pray for:

- The LCU as they continue to serve nationwide in sharing the Gospel
- LTCU students as they enjoy another completed school year and rest until August
- Four new vicars (interns) from the LTCU who were installed at the end of the semester in early June
- The Manteyes and LCU during a time of transition
- Health and safety as we serve



Amigos en Cristo

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

August 2022

Hola a todos! It is my pleasure to write about the great things happening with Hispanic Ministry in our beloved IDW. Last month, we were able to share at the LWML Convention lots of information and possibilities of working together in extending the outreach to our Hispanic sisters (and brothers), even to the possibility of organizing our first LWML Hispanic group! Thanks to our past and present presidents and Judy from LWML and the amazing women! We also were chosen to be one of their grant recipients to enhance the outreach to our Latino brothers and sisters, gracias! At our IDW Convention we had a chance to share about our efforts to keep it going! I was blessed to lead one of our devotionals and even praised the Lord with some of our Hispanic rhythm hymns. What a blessing!

As I write to you, our second annual rummage sale is happening at Zion Lutheran Church in Denison. Thanks to the churches and people that donated so many great items to sell. The money raised will provide scholarships for our families to send their kids to our parochial school in Zion and will provide financial support for families to participate in some of the events happening around our District and the Synod.



Please pray for the group that will be going to their first Hispanic Convention happening in Orlando, Florida from August 2-5, 2022. Eight of us will be going to this event! Our Camp Okoboji Retreat is coming soon (August 5-7) with a bilingual service at 10 am for all campers and surrounding communities. Please come and join us.

Again, gracias to the many amigos and organizations that are making the Hispanic Outreach a reality. Keep us in your prayers and please join us if you can at any of the events mentioned. I can come to any of your events to share about the challenge and privilege of ministering to our ever-growing Hispanic Community, bendiciones a todos!



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

SERVING THE LORD IN

Taiwan and All Over Asia

NEWS FROM THE FERRY FAMILY



Summer 2022

Once again All Over Asia!

What a joy to once again be able to visit the Asia mission fields after so long being locked out due to Covid-19 restrictions. In May and June, I was able to make visits to Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India to visit missionaries and partners. I transited through Singapore and got stuck there for two extra weeks thanks to catching Covid and being denied permission to return to Taiwan. Once that cleared, I was able to return home to Taiwan, endure my three days in quarantine, and be back with family. Enjoy some pictures below from that trip, doing the work that you, the congregations of the church, have given me to do.



Above Left: Holding the official draft of the new Indonesian hymnal, nearly ready for printing



Above Right: Together with Pr. Devanesan (Sri Lanka) before Sunday Service



Left: with IELC Indian pastors and LCMS visitors at the Nagercoil seminary



Left of three: Our dear Chloe turned six years old in May, one birthday Daddy missed while he was traveling. Chloe's cake was a church, complete with stained glass windows. Center of three: Carissa turned double digits with her tenth birthday in June, another special day Daddy missed. Her cake had an elephant, currently her favorite animal. Right of three: The Ferry girls made a banner and pictures to send to Daddy on his birthday and Father's Day. We may have been in separate countries, but the love and care were clear

Life isn't always easy, but we are confident that we are where we are supposed to be in our vocations. Thank you for your trust, care, prayers and your continued support. – Pastor Ferry

Pastor Charles Ferry serves the LCMS as the Regional Director for Asia. In this role, he is responsible for all of the LCMS Asia missionaries and mission work in this part of the world. He often represents the congregations and people of the LCMS before our partner churches as we work together toward common goals.



Snapshots of Zion



Zion members continue to appreciate our monthly Thursday afternoon Communion Service. Join us Thursday, August 18 @ 1:30 p.m.!

Carole White of Lutheran Church Extension Fund joined Zion on July 17 to share exciting ways LCEF can help us invest while funding the mission of the Church.



25 youth and five chaperones journeyed to Houston from Zion for the 2022 LCMS National Youth Gathering. Read some of their reflections on page 8.



Gary Schroeder, on July 10, blessed the Lord through His accordion playing.

Brooklyn Riesberg, on July 17, blessed the Lord by singing the offertory.



Please Note! All times and events are subject to change



**Sunday
Mornings**

Zion Family Bible Class (after worship)



August 18

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



August 25

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



August 21

**Director of Christian Education Information Meeting
After worship at Zion**



August 31

**Confirmation Orientation
6:30 p.m. at Zion**



September 7

**Confirmation Begins
4:00 p.m.**



September 11

**Rally Sunday at Zion
Teachers installed; Sunday School begins**



September 18

Mission Door Offering at Zion for Mantey's



September 25

**Zion Friends & Family Hayride
4:30-6:30 p.m. in Zion's field**



October 16

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

August Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. David Kusel
2. Asher Bauer
Juniper Hinners
Judy Lingle (T)
Justin Musfeldt
3. Sophia Beck
Jentry Wiig
4. Jade Dawson
Amy Hull
Maddox Weilt
5. Janet Brus
Kai Butler
Jocelyn Griesman
Maddox Vetter (T)
6. Matthew Alexander
Zachary Grove
Morgyn Irlbeck
Alison Peters
Beverly Rix
Donna Rutz
Grace Sextro
7. Kevin Struve
Katie Weilt
8. Haylie Irlbeck
Logan Vonnahme
9. McKenna Benton
John Ferneding
Mackenzie Karsten (T)
10. Rhonda Grimm
Kent Vollstedt
11. Scott Dreier
Ashley Ehlers
12. Kelly Ferneding
Luke Jorgensen (T)
Stan Musfeldt
Audrey Roe
13. Zoey Schumann (T)
14. Elizabeth Alexander
John Blom (T)
Jennifer Bunker
Cole Lingle (T)
Mark Segebart (T)

15. Addalynn Alexander
Emma Reese
EmmaLynn Salter
Rick Spack
16. Cathie Segebart (T)
17. Jill Arp
18. Tyler Bruck
Kason Jacobsen
Carol Schroeder
Paula Wulf
19. Jean Borkowski
Miranda Hansen
Shelby Heaton
Randy Mahnke
20. LeAnn Christensen (T)
21. Tina Miller (T)
Stephany Olson (T)
Jacob Rosener
Mitchell Walters
22. Will Jorgensen (T)
23. Karl Rutz
24. Jasmine Bauer
25. Kristian Woebke (T)
26. Barb Hargens (T)
Kadynce Ketcham
27. Mary Grimm
Coltan Lesle
Linnet Nissen
Leggy Thomson
Gale Vinke
28. Brian Vetter (T)
29. Justin Weller
30. Abby Bruch
Cash England
31. Margaret Kuchel
Jeremiah Segebart (T)

Anniversaries

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

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

Official Acts

Transferred In (to Zion):

Leesa Christensen, Kai and Max Butler, from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Charter Oak, IA, June 29, 2022

Shelley Helmich, July 2022

Funerals:

Genevieve Katherine (nee: Christiansen) Baker; Died June 30, 2022; Funeral July 5, 2022 @ Ohde Funeral home; Pastor Jonathan Conner

In Our Prayers

Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Lyle Mundt, Pastor Johnson, Paxton Bierl, Stan Baack, Justeen Schwieso, Nancy Grimm, Jeanne Gruhn, Sherri Steffes, Tawnya Jacobsen (Kristin Backhaus sister), Rhonda Sandison (Laurene Meeves' daughter), Bev Rix