

Dear Readers,

As you are aware, since Pastor Johnson died, Pastor Riggert, Pastor Vogel, and Pastor Conner have been providing vacancy pastoral care for Zion's partner congregation, Trinity in Manilla. This is a time of grief, a time of hope, and a time of transition. Part of that transition includes the deaconess staff position at Trinity. Trinity (and Zion) are appreciative of the service Deaconess Tiffany has provided and the lives she has touched. In August, Tiffany will begin a master's degree program in Christian counseling. Trinity will, at this time, begin the transition process of seeking a new pastor as they bless Tiffany into this new chapter of her life and prepare the ground for their new pastor. As such, the deaconess staff position will be eliminated on August 31st.

Pastor Conner will continue to serve as the overseer and administrator of the partnership. As before, this includes youth ministry and the confirmation program. Moving forward, he will work with DCE Kathryn and Zion and Trinity volunteers to carry out these aspects of ministry. During this time of transition we ask that you fervently pray for Trinity, Zion, and Tiffany. Pray for a smooth transition for Trinity as they seek a new pastor and for Tiffany as she begins a new chapter in her life. Pray for a strengthened partnership between Zion and Trinity. Pray for wisdom among the leadership and the clear proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Should you have questions, we encourage you to speak with Pastor Conner, with Zion chairman, Jeff Hargens, or with Trinity chairman, Jason Ferry. Together we will move forward in faith with the joyful confession of Christ on our lips.

Celebrating our partnership in the Gospel,

Jeff Hargens, Jason Ferry, and Pastor Conner

TRANSITIONS



VBS 2023



Dear Zion Family,

Astonished. Overjoyed. Grateful. Humbled. Thankful. I run out of words to express my gratitude for the many, many, many people who made Vacation Bible School possible. Because of you, almost 190 children heard about the kingdom of God. Because of over 80 volunteers, these children felt God's love in Jesus. Because you prayed, because you gave, because you helped, these children and their families heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Thank you!

Thank you to our snack and kitchen helpers! Thank you to our snack providers! Thank you to our recreation leaders and helpers! Thank you to our craft leaders and assistants! Thank you to our decorators and craft preparers! Thank you to our tech assistants! Thank you to our middle and high school youth! Thank you to our custodians! Thank you to the many parents who brought their kids and their friends' kids! Thank you for supporting the Memorial Day Lunch (over 170 meals were served and over \$1700 was donated toward VBS)! Thank you to Thrivent partners whose "Choice" cards covered all costs for food and paper products. Thank you to whomever I forgot!

And a huge thank you to our VBS coordinators: Kathryn Schneider, Kimber Opperman, and Shannon Walters! These ladies are all stars. Find them and shower them in thanks. God worked through them in amazing ways. Shannon worked tirelessly behind the scenes, often staying late into the evening, managing registration and logistics. Kimber gave hours and hours of time assembling materials and teaching our pre-k through 1st graders and welcoming children. Kathryn did hero's work coordinating volunteers, preparing a

drawbridge and themed wall hanging, leading our large group times, singing the songs with the children and doing the actions, loving children, and building meaningful relationships. Zion, you are blessed to have these ladies representing you!

Finally, thank you to the generous givers who raised over \$2000 in our VBS offering war (the highest giving group won the total amount for their local charity)! The Carroll Cancer Center won and the kids decided to split those dollars evenly between the cancer center and a local family who has a mom battling cancer. I add the word *amazing* to my list above.

Truly, the week moved me back and forth from tears of joy to goosebumps of gratitude. I know God was glorified and children and families were blessed *because of you*. Thank you!

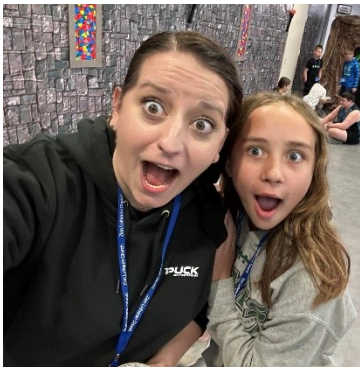
Celebrating and sharing the redeeming love of Jesus with you!

- Pastor Conner

See pictures on page 3!



You enabled us to share Jesus with all of these children and their families! Thank you!



Understanding the Synodical
Convention

 **WE PREACH**
CHRIST CRUCIFIED 1 COR. 1:18-25
FOR ALL PEOPLE

Special section



68TH REGULAR CONVENTION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH— MISSOURI SYNOD

July 29–August 3
Baird Center, downtown Milwaukee



Pastor Conner and Mark Segebart (member of
Trinity) are our delegates from the Carroll
Circuit to the National Convention.

To learn more:
lcms.org/convention/national

"Synod" means "walking together." A "synod" is an association of self-governing congregations that work together in accordance with a common confession of faith to further the mission of the church.

What does "synod"
mean?

What does a synodical
convention do?

The national convention of the Synod shall afford an opportunity for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information. It is the principal legislative assembly, which amends the Constitution and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate appeals. It establishes general positions and policies of the Synod, provides overall program direction and priorities, and evaluates all such positions, programs, policies, directions, and priorities in order to provide responsible service for and on behalf of its members. Only a national convention of the Synod shall authorize affiliation or association and the discontinuance of such affiliation or association of the Synod with other church bodies, synods, or federations. - Synodical Bylaws 3.1.1



The report below is excerpted from President Harrison's full report. The full report is available upon request.

"We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor. 1:23–24)

"We ..." Thus Paul begins his famous assertion, "We preach Christ crucified" (1 Cor. 1:23). Who is this "we"? Is Paul referring to himself and a co-author? Is he using some kind of "royal" apostolic "we," referencing just himself? Hardly. In the early chapters, he refers to himself in the singular "me" and "I" repeatedly. Is Paul referring to the apostles? Or even all pastors and preachers?

These verses, which provide our convention theme, come after Paul chastises the Corinthians for their divisions, their "I" talk:

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Cor. 1:10–13).

"We" is the pronoun Paul sets against individualism, against doctrinal disunity in the church, against personal animus and divisions. The church is one, Christ's mystical body. It has one absolutely authoritative text, the sacred Scriptures. It has one body of doctrine. It has one confession (Rom. 10:9–10; Heb. 10:23). So nearly every article of the Augsburg Confession begins,

“Our churches teach with great unanimity...”¹ It lives by one Gospel (Gal. 1:6–9). Within this church, each individual “I” is precious and known by God (Isaiah 43:1), with each name written in heaven, each brought to faith, each baptized, each hearing the proclamation of Christ, each taking part in one bread, one cup, one Christ in the Supper. And the blessed result is each “I” is forgiven and brought into the “we” of the Body of Christ.

When Paul says “we preach Christ crucified,” he reminds the Corinthians and all believers in Christ that what unites us, defines us, and truly matters is what God has done to save us. In saving “me,” He has placed us all into “we.” We are those who are in Christ Jesus, who receive from God forgiveness and eternal life because of what God has done in Christ crucified.

“We PREACH.” The blessed traits of an apostle are extraordinary, and while the office of apostle is a one-time gift, a very important trait continues in the apostolic church. An apostle is a messenger sent by Jesus, His plenipotentiary ambassador, His authoritative witness in who speaks the very words of Christ.

An apostle is one who is sent, like Isaiah. “I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send...?’ Then I said, ‘Here am I! Send me.’ And he said, ‘Go, and say to this people ...’” (Isaiah 6:8–9). The sent one in Hebrew is called the shaliach, who represented his lord/master such that he could contract agreements, business dealings and even marriages in the stead of his lord, as if the lord himself were present. History records a man whose shaliach stood in to marry, and that lord later argued for divorce on the

grounds that he himself was not present for the event. The court disallowed his argument. In fact, when the New Testament was translated into semitic languages, “shaliach” was used for “apostle.”

Today, called pastors preach authoritatively in the stead of Christ and in the stead of the congregation, the great priesthood of the baptized, and by virtue of call and ordination, which recognizes the universal validity of the call. Like the apostles, the pastor stands in the stead of Christ when he speaks Christ’s words and does Christ’s deeds. Luther states, “This is a great thing, that every pastor’s mouth is Christ’s mouth;”² pastors preach in “nomine omnium,” “in the name of all of us,”³ the whole church, by which he means the spiritual priesthood, the baptized.

The church, as His Body, stands in the stead of Christ, including every believer who has a sacred call and duty to speak Christ and His forgiveness in the context of his/her vocations, or as St. Peter says:

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession [Exod. 19:6], that you may proclaim [exangelaitē; Luther: verkündigen; see Matt. 3:1, John the Baptizer; Matt. 4:17, Jesus; Mark 5:20, the demoniac (keryssein); Mark 16:15; Luke 4:19; Luke 9:6, the twelve; Acts 26:23; 1 Cor. 9:14; Eph. 6:19, Paul; 1 John 1:3, John the apostle; Rom. 16:15; 1 Tim. 5:17, pastors/preachers; Rev. 14:6, Luther] the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9).

Preaching and proclaiming Christ and His Gospel was for St. Paul an apostolic compulsion. “For if I

¹ “Ecclesiae mago consensus apud nos docent...” (Augsburg Confession I 1).

² Martin Luther, *Luthers Werke*, Weimarer Ausgabe (WA), 37:381.13. Author’s translation.

³ WA 12:189.22.

preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16, emphasis added; 2 Cor. 5:14). All the apostles shared this compulsion. "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20). It is Christ's mandate to the church until He returns. "Go" (Matt. 28:19). "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:15–16). We are the church of the apostles, the church of the true apostolic succession, that is, of the handing down of the apostles' divine doctrine. This preaching and proclamation of the Gospel must be our compulsion if we are indeed the "apostolic church."

"We preach CHRIST." The entire prophetic and apostolic Scriptures bear witness to Christ, the eternal Word made flesh (John 1:14). "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). Christ is God. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament proclaim Christ crucified. "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me" (John 5:39). "Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled'" (Luke 24:44). "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31–32).

Christ is known in His Word, the forever authoritative, apostolic, inerrant Word of Scripture, and in preaching and teaching that conforms to this Word—and nowhere else. Seek Christ outside of His Word and no matter how illustrious or marvelous the appearance, it's of the devil. Christ in His very Word elicits a confession, one provided

by God Himself: "Who do you say that I am?" ... 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'" (Matt. 16:15–16).

In a word, enthusiasm dwells in Adam and his children from the beginning to the end of the world. Its venom has been implanted and infused into them by the old serpent. It is the origin, power, and strength of all heresy, especially of that of the papacy and Muhammad. Therefore we must constantly maintain this point: God does not want to deal with us in any other way than through the spoken Word and the Sacraments. Whatever is praised as from the Spirit—without the Word and Sacraments—is the devil himself. (Smalcald Articles III VIII 9)

"We preach Christ CRUCIFIED." Peter confessed that Jesus is the "Son of the living God." But contrary to the many prophetic passages of the Old Testament (Isaiah 53; Psalm 22), and contrary to Jesus' own words, he wanted a Christ who did not suffer and die. Jesus rebuked Peter's crossless view: "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man" (Mark 8:33). Like Peter, we want the glory, not the cross; we want our words, not the Word; and in so doing, we lose Christ, His Word, His cross and glory.

In 1 Corinthians 1:23, Paul uses the perfect tense to describe Jesus' crucifixion, essentially saying "the One who was crucified in the past remains forever the crucified One." Christ's glory while on earth was hidden, even snuffed out. "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted" (Isaiah 53:4). "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ... 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" (Matt. 27:46). Christ's glory was purposefully hidden, even taken in His death. He was "delivered up for our

trespasses and raised for our justification” (Rom. 4:25). The Son of God’s divine blood—shed in gruesome and torturous capital punishment for sins He did not commit—“cleanses us from all sin” (1 John 1:7; Acts 20:28). Christ Himself called His crucifixion—according to the upside down theology of the cross—His lifting up, His glorification and the glorification of the Father (John 12:32; 13:31).

We know our crucified Christ was raised. “And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching [kerygma] is in vain and your faith is in vain” (1 Cor. 15:14). In His days on earth, the Lord’s glory flashed forth now and again: at His birth, in His miracles and finally in His resurrection. But it was mostly hidden under His chosen humiliation. At the hands of those whom He came to save, He suffered hatred, ignorance, misunderstanding, contempt, doubt, suffering, betrayal and death. “The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected” (Luke 9:22). So also His apostles. “For I will show him [Paul] how much he must suffer for the sake of my name” (Acts 9:16). So it goes with the church, including you and me. We are “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him” (Rom. 8:17).

So, let’s be bold in the truth, Christ’s Word. Let’s confess forthrightly. Let’s live this upside-down glory of the cross. Let’s be wise and winsome, but let’s be courageously Christian in our congregations, schools, universities, and families, even if we must suffer for our proclamation of the Gospel. The LCMS does not exist to straighten out America; we are not here to eliminate the social and economic ills of the world. We are not here to prop up traditional values. We are not on a social crusade or here to fight a culture war. A Christian citizen may be involved in left-hand kingdom matters and causes, but he or she should be very careful not to confuse such things with the

church’s mission. We as the LCMS are here to preach repentance and forgiveness. “... We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Cor. 1:23–24). As we live in the confession of His name, let us join the apostles, “... rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name” (Acts 5:41). We are not here to advance or oppose wokeism, Marxism, socialism, capitalism, modernism, post modernism, fascism, moralism, or any other -ism. We are here to bear witness to the truth of Christ as it cuts against every human philosophy. “... Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life” (John 6:68). Whatever “ism” is opposed by Christ and His Word must find no quarter among us. We live this truth as families, as individuals, as congregations, as neighbors, as friends, even as a Synod.

My dear friends, despite our plethora of weaknesses, the LCMS stands as a bulwark for Christ against the tide of sin, death, devil, confusion, and defection from Christ and His Word. People often express to me, “Thank God for the Missouri Synod!” I’ve heard it from Roman Catholics, from conservative Anglicans, from men in other American Lutheran synods, from pro-life leaders, from leaders of international church bodies (both large and small), from lonely men inside the once grand state Lutheran churches of Europe, from our many partners in Central and South America, from men in Australia fighting the dissolution of biblical and confessional fidelity in their church, from Ukraine, from Finland, from India, from churches throughout Africa and Asia, and from many believing Christians in denominations in the United States. It is our sacred ecumenical duty and task to stand firm on Scripture, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper. We stand against every heresy, including the false

teaching of our age, the denial of the creation of man and woman, which is—and make no mistake about it—a denial of Yahweh, a denial of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Creator God. We hold fast to the Words our Lord has spoken clearly, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female” (Matt. 19:4). The world is dying; people are lost, confused, and being hurt by the empty philosophy of racial animus and sexual confusion. Some naively thought the United States Supreme Court’s Obergefell decision would settle the homosexual issues. Instead, it was followed by the trans sexual avalanche, which has inundated Western discourse and life. The long and unrelenting consequences of Darwinism have worked to dethrone Christ the Savior and God the Creator. Neither has the god of natural law in our nation’s founding documents emerged unscathed. In so doing, natural law and the Ten Commandments have been denied by the very institutions born to preserve them for the well-being of mankind: the family, the state, the courts, the military, academia and even many churches.

The loud and often delirious screaming at mob events, the social shaming and our society’s continual lust for more fleshly pleasure evince people’s efforts to drown out their consciences, the law written on their hearts (Rom. 2:15), which know something is terribly wrong. We live in an era of mass delusion with millions upon millions—mostly young people—whose consciences have been sacrificed on the altar of self-idolatry, with torn, tattered, depressed, and forlorn lives behind and ahead of them.

Let’s join St. Paul and proclaim, “... I will show you a still more excellent way” (1 Cor. 12:31). Let us join the whole church and pray, “Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy, upon us sinners!” The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the remedy for the bad conscience. “Let us draw near with a

true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water” (Heb. 10:22). The church is Christ’s own Body, those He redeemed. We are sinners, but also the people of bad consciences set free. We are the people of forgiveness—received from God and freely given to all (Eph. 2:1–9; 1 John 2:1–2). We are sinners all, justified by grace, through faith 41 in Christ. And so we proclaim Christ crucified to this world and invite all to repent and “come join us sinners!”

Participate in the National Offering

Nous prêchons Christ crucifié pour tous les gens.

ما ميسح مصلوب شده را برای تمام انسان ها اعلام می‌کنیم

Tunamhubiri Kristo aliyesulubiwa kwa ajili ya watu wote.

Nosotros predicamos a Cristo crucificado para todas las personas.

我們宣講為萬人釘十字架的基督

We preach Christ crucified for all people.

This triennium, support the translation and production of meaningful Lutheran resources in languages other than English through the LCMS National Offering.





The theme verse guiding Iowa District West (IDW) for the next triennium is Philippians 1:3–5: “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

It is an honor to bring this report to the 2023 Synod convention as president of IDW. Our congregations are faithfully proclaiming God’s Word and administering His Sacraments. Pastors are present with their people as they faithfully visit the sick and shut-ins of their congregations. Teachers, deaconesses, directors of Christian education, and other church professionals are forming and informing the next generation of Christians. Church members are volunteering to serve in their congregations and communities. We are blessed!

Who would have guessed at the 2019 Synod convention that COVID-19 would attack us and those we love? The impact on our society, our communities, our churches, our families, and each of us as individuals will not be fully known for years to come. At first, we didn’t know what we were dealing with, and so society virtually shut down. All the schools in the state ended in-person education from the middle of March until the end of the school year in 2020. Many of our churches suspended in-person activities, including public worship services, at least for a few Sundays. Our pastors and leaders did the best they could in determining when and how to conduct worship services, how to deal with the issue of masks and social distancing, and how to care for church members in their time of distress and loss. It was a challenge for us all.

Not everyone was happy with the decisions that were made. I am sure mistakes were made and unkind words may have been exchanged. This is why the proclamation of the Gospel is so very important. We hear again and again the sweet words of the love and mercy of Christ for us. When

your pastor says following your confession, I as a called and ordained servant of Christ forgive you, know for certain it is true! Forgiveness is not based on what you did or did not do during this pandemic, it is based on the life, death, and resurrection of God's one and only Son, Jesus Christ. With the word of absolution, we don't have to be caught up in the decisions we have made in the past. We preach Christ crucified. The blood of Jesus makes us bold to continue, as frail, flawed, and imperfect people, to share this Good News of God's love for us.

This past year, Iowa and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod both celebrated 175th anniversaries. The partnership we share with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a blessing. The seminaries and the colleges are providing pastors, commissioned ministers, and lay leaders for now and the next generation. In the last four years, the congregations of IDW have provided \$2,693,850 for our work together with the LCMS. We are blessed! Mission Central is a unique partnership between IDW, the Nebraska District, and LCMS International Mission. This year, people from all over the world partnered through Mission Central and sponsored nearly 100 missionary families. Our partnership with missionary Gary has made Mission Central the single largest missionary supporting ministry in the Synod.

This partnership in the Gospel is lived out every day in the congregations of IDW. Our urban centers have more people and a diverse demographic. Our rural communities may be getting smaller, but they also have a more varied population. Long-time members remember when the church was packed most Sundays and enjoyed an active ministry. They look at declining attendance, facilities in need of repairs, an aging congregation, and wonder why this is happening

to their congregation. COVID-19 has not helped with these fears.

There is no easy or simple answer to these challenges. I believe congregations who wish to thrive into the future need to be preparing today. Partnerships will prove to be helpful in serving these changing communities. Pastors and congregations need to know what the mission of God is in their communities. This begins with an intentional and intensive study of God's Word. This is a time of reflection on God's will and God's promises. God invites us in difficult times to call on Him in prayer.

I was recently visiting with a congregation going through the call process and was asked the question, When should we be looking for a partner congregation to work with us in calling a pastor? That is a great question and I wish I had a great answer! It depends on a variety of circumstances and one answer does not fit all situations.

One blessing of being in Iowa West is that our communities are close together. Congregations have opportunities to work together to care for members and to engage the unchurched population in their respective communities. This is the time for congregations to consider how they can partner together for God's Mission. New models (beyond just dual parishes) are being developed to be able to care for the growing number of small congregations. There needs to be a desire to pool resources for efforts to engage communities. Dialogue between pastors and lay leaders of congregations is necessary to consider the needs of their respective flocks and to explore mission opportunities.

God is sending us the opportunity to share this Gospel with the world, right here in Iowa. Who would have thought 40 years ago we would have waves of immigrants coming to our state? In 2021,

your congregation partnered with other congregations in Iowa West to call a full-time missionary to the Spanish speaking people of Iowa. Pastor Pedro Lopez is now serving Christ and bringing the love of Jesus to our communities. God is sending African refugees to cities and small towns in Iowa. These brothers and sisters in Christ with their own Christian pastors are coming to us and asking us to help them become Lutherans.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic recession have negatively affected many people's mental health and created new barriers for people already suffering from mental illness and substance use disorders. During the pandemic, about 4 in 10 adults in the U.S. have reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder, up from 1 in 10 adults who reported these symptoms from January to June 2019. Compassion fatigue is a term that describes the physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological impact of helping others—often through experiences of stress or trauma.

IDW has a long history of partnership with Lutheran Family Service (LFS). Their professional counselors have consulted with our pastors and commissioned church workers, assisting them in ways they care for members of their congregations. Our church workers themselves have turned to the counselors at LFS during these dark days.

I value these and all the other partnerships we have in the Gospel. I join my words with the words of St. Paul, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:3–5).

Your Partner in the Gospel, Steven D. Turner,
President

National Offering Collection Opportunities at Zion

If you wish to give through Zion to the national offering, make your check payable to Zion with "For the 2023 National Offering" on the memo line. Also, watch for opportunities to give during fellowship time on Sunday mornings.

If you wish to give directly to the Synod, make your check payable to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, write "2023 National Offering" on the memo line, and include a note clearly identifying Zion or Trinity by name and the mailing address. Address your envelope to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod PO Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861.



Participate
in
the
National
Offering!

Good Pictures Bad Pictures



We live in an increasingly digital world. There are so many good, beneficial things we have gained through all this technology. It changes constantly and as parents and grandparents it may seem hard to “keep up with the times.” As a digital native, navigating new technologies comes rather quickly to me. I’ve been an early adapter for a lot of newer platforms, technologies, etc. Yet, I’ve also been one of the first to walk away from some of the newer platforms or technologies as I didn’t like how they affected my life. I found I was easily addicted and wasting time scrolling on Instagram, spending way too much time on Snapchat, and simply quit participating in some of our ever-changing technology because I felt too lost in my phone and not present with family and friends. So, for me, I choose to opt out.

Technology can be great! It allows me to Facetime family and friends across the country, send photos and videos of our boys to their grandparents, send photos directly to family member’s skylight photo frames, document the milestones of my little ones as they learn to walk, run, talk and so much more! Yet with so many good photos and videos flying around our world we need to also be aware of the bad photos that are flying around as well.

As a children and youth worker, as a parent, as a currently alive person in our world, I don’t think I can ever totally opt out of our digital world. While I might choose for myself not to fully engage in

every available app out there, I need to stay educated on these technologies. I need to stay on top of what is being used, developed and created as my kiddos will be using them.

One of those things I’ve been trying to learn more about was how to talk to our kids about pornography. You read that right. Yes, pornography. One of the downfalls of our modern technology is that pornography and pornographic images are more prevalent and readily available than ever before in history. In fact, according to an article from the BBC published this past May, most children will be exposed by 12-13 years of age, and some even as young as 8. These images come up on Snapchat, Instagram, twitter, and yes even the kids’ YouTube site as they wiggle their way through algorithm guards.

We can’t quarantine and live in a bubble, so how do we protect our children? How do we educate them? And what if they come to you having seen something, or maybe even struggle with wanting to see more? How old should my child be when I begin warning them about pornography? The right age is when your child has ANY ACCESS to the internet. And I have two great books to help you with all these questions!!!

I came across two books that I believe to be an invaluable resource. *Good Picture Bad Picture* by Kristen A. Jenson, MA (for age 8 & up) and *Good Picture Bad Picture Jr.* by Kristen A. Jenson, MA (for age 3-7). I highly recommend you purchase these for your own personal library but if you’d like to check them out first I have a copy of both in my office!

The books use gentle, age-appropriate messages and beautiful illustrations that empower children to learn what to do when they come across pornographic images. It’s also chock-full of

parental tips for what to do/say when they come to you saying they saw something bad, or are struggling. It gives pointers for how to talk about these things, and also in the book gives you free downloaded resources. Let me share with you their tips for parents on how to respond, taken from the Jr. edition (so for the youngest kiddos).

"It's normal to feel upset that your child was exposed and happy that your child did the right thing by coming to tell you. I encourage you to put a big smile on your face and give your child a hug when this happens! Assure them by saying, "Thank you for telling me. You did the right thing!"

"Then, when you are calm, follow up with a few gentle questions:

- *Tell me what happened?*
- *What did you see?*
- *How did it make you feel?*

"Depending on the type of pornography they see, kids will have a variety of reactions. Some are shocked, others are sickened, and still there are intrigued and want to see more. Some kids are confused because they experience all three reactions at the same time. (If your child has seen something particularly traumatic, you may want to engage professional counseling for additional support.)

"The most important part of this is to listen, acknowledge your child's feelings and don't shame them in any way! You may want to follow up with some phrases like these:

- *I'm sorry you had to see this.*
- *Kids shouldn't have to see bad pictures.*
- *I'm happy you told me! That was a good decision."*

Pornography addiction is real, and affects more of the population than most people realize. And with social media and modern technology it can creep into our lives and our children's lives more often and younger than we might think. So being prepared and equipped is key. And these two books are an excellent place to start!

For more tools to protect kids!

Visit DefendYoungMinds.Com

- Up-to-date information on prevention strategies and new threats.
- Free downloadable resources and articles
- Help from experts.... And much much more

Visit BrainDefense.org

- Video-based curriculum to keep kids 8-12 safe from cyber-bullying, pornography and internet addiction.
- Arms kids with healthy technology habits.

Good Pictures Bad Pictures by Kristen A. Jenson, MA

Good Pictures Bad Pictures Jr. by Kristen A. Jenson, MA

Good Pictures Bad Pictures Guidebook for Counseling Kids: Therapeutic Interventions to Address Pornography Issues using Artistic, Didactic, and Kinesthetic Applications by Kristen A. Jenson, MA

Children's commissioner: Pornography affecting 8-year-olds' behaviour - BBC May 9, 2023

- DCE Kathryn Schneider

God's Grace and God's

Trinity Worship

"God's Amazing Grace" continues as the summer worship emphasis. Do you have recreational or family commitments on Sunday? Join us on SATURDAY at 5 p.m.!



Trinity Christian Education

"Making Waves" is the theme of the August 9-11 evening VBS (6-7:30 p.m.). Weather permitting the activities will be held at the Manilla WATER TOWER. Thrivent "Action" cards are needed. Volunteers are needed. Donations are needed. An orientation meeting will be held on Saturday, July 8 at 6 p.m. (after worship). Contact Education Committee co-chair LeAnn Christensen or Stephany Olson for more information. A sign-up sheet is located in the church entry area.

Word on Wednesday continues on July 5 and 12. Watch the church bulletin and newsletter for fall Bible study opportunities.

Trinity Stewardship

Your support of the "Church is Cool" initiative to fund the replacement of the air-conditioning/furnace unit for the sanctuary is appreciated! Approximately \$13,000 is needed for this emergency expense. Thanks to the many generous donors who supported the replacements for the fellowship area.

At the recent Voters' meeting, Endowment chairperson, Mark Segebart, reported an Endowment Fund balance of \$180,000. Praise God for all who support the mission and ministry of Trinity now and into the future.

Trinity Leadership

At the June 10 special voters' meeting the following officers were elected: Jason Ferry, president; Scott Lingel, vice-president; Mike Lorenzen, Jerry Brus, Nels Olson, Marty Bornhoft, and Ian Bornhoft, elders; Bricy Lorenzen, treasurer; Lori Ferry, secretary; Stephany Olsen and LeeAnn Christiansen, board of education co-chairpersons; Debbie Birks, stewardship; and Rob Lueth, trustee. Installation of officers will be part of the worship service on July 1. The election procedure outlined in the by-laws will be resumed in the fall. Thanks to all who share their time and talents at Trinity.

Trinity Pastoral Care

Pastor Conner continues as the pastoral overseer of the Zion/Trinity partnership. He can be reached at the Zion office 655-2352. Pastor Riggert handles many of the worship preparations and logistical details and has office hours most Wednesday mornings from 9 – 11 a.m. at Trinity. He can be reached at 515-570-5137. Pastor Vogel provides occasional worship assistance.

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



The Parables of Jesus

- **June 22:**
The Weeds among the Wheat,
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
(Pastor Bob Riggert)
- **July 27:**
The Sower, Matthew 13:1-23
(Pastor Merlene Ostebee)
- **August 24:**
The Growing Seed, Mark 4:26-29
(Pastor Alan Miller)





**Thank
you!**



Zion Members

for your generous donations: volunteer hours, bars, potato salad.

Manning Community and Friends


for your participation and donations (\$1700 to Zion's VBS!).

Thrivent Members

for your Action Cards (they bought the supplies and allowed funds to support VBS!).

Future Coordinators

for perpetuating this tradition that Pastor Bob and Diane Riggert having faithfully led the last five years (if willing to serve, please speak with Joni Keinast).



Memorial Lunch Reflections

The Olivers are coming to Zion!

Sunday, July 16

Professor Oliver (our missionary in Taiwan) will preach and present in Bible class and his family will join us for a potluck afterward.

Come and hear what God is doing in Taiwan and throughout Asia through Professor Oliver and how your support is enabling it to happen.

Everyone is invited!



Zion Ladies Guild June 2023 Secretary Report

The regular meeting was held on June 14, 2023 @1pm. DCE Kathryn Schneider gave the devotion today from Psalm 34. President Ehlers called the meeting to order with Name of the Triune God. League Pledge. Roll call was answered with "what was your favorite game as a child" with 15 answering roll call.

Birthdays: Monica Christensen, Mary Grimm. Anniversaries: Duane and Janice Monson, Rich and Cheryl Zinke.



The secretary's notes were read and approved. Thank You notes from Pastor Johnson and Pastor Ferry were passed for those present to look at. Mite box passed and prayer read. The Treasurer's report was handed out for reference, in the absence of Karen Reinke. Kitchen report given by Darlene Vollstedt.

OLD BUSINESS:

The reverse Osmosis unit has been replaced with a 9-gallon water system, as the 3 gallon was not going to be big enough for our use. Circle 2 had 2 funeral luncheons and June fellowship. \$100.00 donation was received from the Derner family. 1 quilt has been made and donated for the cookie walk at Kinderfest. Becky reminded us to bring our cookies for the walk by Saturday AM.

NEW BUSINESS: none.

The meeting was adjourned. Lunch was served by Sue Puck and Paula Vogle

Gloria Ewoldt, Secretary

Priscilla Guild: 6/20/2023: The meeting was called to order in the name of the Triune God by President Cathie Segebart. Pastor Riggert gave a devotion on the book of Ruth, God's grace in a changing family, for our changing family. He also reminded us of the summer services at Historic Trinity and VBS in August at Trinity.

Roll call was answered by 9 members and Pastor Riggert. The minutes of the previous meeting approved as corrected. The treasurer's report was approved. We received requests from Lutheran Family Service and Orphan Grain Train which were tabled until Christmas. We discussed the constitution and the bylaws. Marjorie Jurgenson proposed a motion to add to the bylaws under Article II, item c., to list the Vice-President as the substitute for the President as needed. The motion carried unanimously. As to the donation to the Haitian child, Cathie Segebart will check with Spenser Owen to find out how much the donation is and Gloria will send that as soon as she finds out. In discussion of the Rally menu, it was suggested to add a salad, possibly coleslaw. The date for the Rally is 9/21/2023 at Trinity. We will receive \$5.00 per person to offset the expense of the food. The Staley's chicken supper is two weeks after the rally. We would like to set up a planning meeting for the Staley's chicken supper with the Weavers at a future date. The Milwaukee Convention will livestream at lwmlivestream.com for those who are not attending in person but wish to see the actions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The chairperson/hostess for July is Deb Birks. The next meeting will be July 18. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and the Table Prayer.

Susan Mahnke, Secretary



Can You Feel That Emotional Connection

Have you ever felt that you could not connect with someone? There might not have been something that you could put your finger on; after all, you might be a people person, but just did not feel comfortable around them.



What does it mean if you feel like you cannot connect with people? There are a number of factors that might be at work, ranging from problems with social skills to poor past experiences with relationships. Knowing how to connect with people is important for mental health and well-being. Connecting with others allows you to develop relationships and helps prevent feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Connecting with other people can have a variety of meanings. It might refer to being able to form an emotional connection to another person, which involves a variety of feelings that help form a bond between two people. Just like children, adults need to feel a secure attachment to another adult. That means it is important for us to know that someone will be consistently available, especially in time of physical and emotional needs.

Emotional connections are those that are positive, supportive and healthy. They make you feel a closeness to another person, help you feel good about yourself, and allow you to open up and share parts of yourself with others.

There may be a number of factors that contribute to feeling unable to connect with others. The person may lack social or communication skills. They may have experienced past trauma that affects their ability to talk to people. Excessive social media contributes to a person not being able to connect with others. By using social media, a person does not have to engage in a conversation with others as it is all digital conversation. Therefore they do not have the skills to hold a conversation with another person.

When you do have a connection with another person, you will be able to identify it as you will truly care about their needs and they will care about yours. You will also be able to share openly with each other by sharing your values, beliefs, and dreams with each other so you can support each other.

With a good emotional connection, you won't just hear what they have to say, but you will really listen. This means that you stop what you are doing, and focus on the person. You will also be interested in each other's hobbies, even if you don't "get" it. This means that you agree to go to a concert with a friend, even if that is not your favorite band. And most of all, the emotional connection is a judgement free zone. You may not be able to fix each other's problems, but just being there and listening, might be all you need to do, to connect.

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



**The National Suicide Prevention Hotline
is now: 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**





Amigos en Cristo

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

Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Pastor Pedro Lopez, Denison, Iowa

July 2023

We finished our ESL (English as a Second Language) programs around IDW. We had a great time celebrating with graduates and sharing lots of food! By God's grace, several of our students are now worshiping with us either in the English worship services or our Spanish worship services. Some were confirmed as members of our congregations. Thanks be to God, His kingdom is growing!

We are ready to take on Fort Dodge's Hispanic community. A group of us participated in the Fort Dodge parade on June 3. It was a great opportunity to meet new friends of all races. We will be participating in St. Paul's Vacation Bible School, July 19- 23, planning to engage in meeting volunteers and Hispanic for our future Hispanic Ministry there.

Our LWML Hispanic branch had their third meeting and made plans to send some ladies to the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in July. Please pray for them.

We are preparing to serve several hundred people during the RAGBRAI bicycle riders event as they will be passing through Carroll. The congregation of St. Paul and other volunteers from different churches are helping us as we prepare to serve the most delicious Mexican tacos on July 24. This is a fundraising opportunity and, in advance, we thank all the people who will volunteer. Please be ready to send your financial donations to Amigos en Cristo or to volunteer July 22-24. We will need people to cut tomatoes, lettuce, onions, and prepare everything at the church in Carroll. If you can donate a case or cases of water, please let us know. Everything has to be delivered to St. Paul in Carroll by the 23rd. Thanks in advance for your prayers and support!

Gracias and bendiciones, Pastor Lopez

At Amigos en Cristo we celebrated the farewell for the Mendoza Family, Doming and Marbella, as they retired and are moving to Mexico. Doming was our congregation President for many years and served in many roles helping several Pastors during his tenure here. Gracias Domingo and Marbella, we will miss you.



We thank God for Noel. Noel is a new member and is already taking responsibilities within the Hispanic Ministry. He will be taking the SMP classes to prepare to become a Pastor in our IDW very soon. We have several women preparing to enroll in the Deaconess program. God's will is happening, we are preparing new workers to go into the harvest!

Rev. Pedro Lopez, Asst. to the President
Missionary at Large, pedro@iowadistrictwest.org,
571-606-7600



Sign up to volunteer at Trinity or Zion (or call/text LeeAnn).

Watch for opportunities to donate cookies and craft supplies.

Volunteer meeting July 8th after worship at Trinity.

SAVE THE DATE



VBS @ TRINITY



Aug. 9-11 / 6-8 pm

pre-k - 5th

Register/volunteer at Trinity or Zion
or call/text: LeeAnn:
(712) 490-5862

2023 IDW Youth Gatherings

Iowa District West Junior Youth Gathering
October 21-22, 2023



Iowa District West Senior Youth Gathering





Snapshots of Zion



Henry S. enjoys his first ever VBS!

DCE Kathryn masterfully leads large group time during VBS.



Over 170 kids cram themselves in the front of Zion's nave to enthusiastically sing their VBS songs for parents and grandparents.

DCE Kathryn leads 3rd – 5th graders at Cubs Week at Camp Okoboji.



Children enjoy Zion's Cookie Walk at Kinderfest. Thank you to all who volunteered and donated!



Appreciative worshipers gather for Zion's Afternoon Communion Service.



DCE Kathryn and John Schneider share a song for Zion's worship.



Please Note! All times and events are subject to change



**Sunday
Morning**

**Zion Family Bible Class (after worship)
Sunday School at Trinity**



June-August

Bible Reading Challenge



June - August

Cold-Case Christianity Bible Study at Zion (after worship)



June – August

Pilates and Prayer at Zion (Noon-12:45, Mon – Thurs)



July 8

VBS Volunteer Meeting at Trinity (after worship)



July 9

**Zion Sunday School Teacher Meeting (during Bible class) in
conference room**



July 20

Zion Afternoon Communion Service (1:30 p.m.)



July 27

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



August 9-11

VBS at Trinity (6:00-8:00 p.m.)

COLD - CASE CHRISTIANITY

A HOMICIDE DETECTIVE INVESTIGATES
THE CLAIMS OF THE GOSPELS

**J. WARNER
WALLACE**

*A new Bible
study at Zion!
Everyone
invited!*

4.5%

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CLICK HERE

Carole White
District Vice-President | Iowa-East and West
515-240-2220 | Carole.White@lcef.org

July Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

Birthdays (T = Trinity)

1. Heather Adams
Nathan Jensen
Judith Lee
Keely Long
2. Becki Ehlers
Rylan Hass
Brenna Hodne
3. Jace Kucik
Landry Wiig
4. Mallory Weilt
5. Chelsea Page
6. Janet Smith
7. Leonard Dammann
Lisa Drier
Taylor Potthoff
8. Matthew Weilt
9. Brynli Blackwell
Reid Neumann
11. Olivia Beck
Jax Greving
Jason Kienast
Jessica Kurth
Hallie Steckelberg (T)
Jordan Weller
12. Tisha Hugeback
Casey Karsten (T)
Clark Tibben
13. Arlene Bald
Jason Ferry (T)
Emma Martin (T)
14. Stephanie Ahrenholtz
Gregory Conner
Bary Kienast
Duane Monson
15. Bill Bruhn
Owen Kropf (T)
Ben Lorenzen
Jesse Weilt
16. Dean Genzen
Beckett Lorenzen
17. Brock Jensen
Dacia Stoeckel
18. Joni Kienast
19. Bob Genzen
Brad Otto
20. Morgan Bruck
Shala Hass
21. Louise Bruhn
Kaylee Martin
Kenny Steckelburg (T)
22. James Karsten
Axsol Olson (T)
Christopher Smith
Alle Stoeckel
23. Denise Christensen
Jill Saunders
24. Sophie Alexander
25. Nancy Goodwin
Nick Woebke (T)
26. Grant Lahr (T)
Sharon Mohr
Susan Schilling
27. Kevin Brus
28. Bricy Lorenzen (T)
Rita Saunders
30. Karsyn Lorenzen
Howard Roe
31. Markus Neumann
Lyle Ranniger

Anniversaries

1. Randy & Crystal Dreher
3. Warren & Sue Puck
Martin & Nancy Wanninger
4. Nate & Jessie Blackford
5. Dennis & Michaela Chapman
6. Luke & Taylor Potthoff
8. Brian & Kathy Lage
9. Dan & Cheryl Kerkoff
12. Craig & Debbie Musfeldt
16. Doug & Kate Greving
Todd & Shelly Gruhn
24. Gale & Linda Vinke
25. Pastor Robert & Diane Riggert
Ron & Sue Soll
27. Nick & Kristin Woebke (T)
29. Pastor Jonathan & Rebecca
Conner
Eric & Jodi Ramsey
31. Steve & Holly Borkowski
Chris & Mary Greving

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

Official Acts

Baptism:

Jackson Robert Ehlers and Carter Allen Ehlers, sons of Jason & Ambria Ehlers; June 24, 2023, Pastor Jonathan Conner

Marriage:

Austin Corbin and Kamaya Jacobsen; June 3, 2023; Pastor Jonathan Conner

In Our Prayers

Lyle Mundt, Tawnya Jacobsen (Kristin Backhaus' sister), John Bexten (father of Beth Alexander and Amy Blackwell), Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Justeen Schwieso, Sherri Steffes, Cory Ahrendsen (Larry & Connie's son), Tom Wegner, Susan Lamb, Juanita Kurth, Kristin Webb, Lenus Borkowski, Bob Christensen