



# YOUR ONE THING

BUILDING SOUL-SHAPING HABITS

ZION'S MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES

5:45 P.M., SUPPER FOLLOWING  
BEGINS FEB. 14



## Guided to the Cross

Trinity's Midweek Lenten Series

Suppers at 5:30

Services at 6:30

Begins Feb. 14

Journey to Calvary to live in  
forgiveness, hope, love, peace,  
trust, and perseverance.

# Holy Week at Zion & Trinity

## 3.24 PALM SUNDAY

Zion (9:00 am)

Children process and sing, palm offering

Trinity (9:00 am)



## 3.28 MAUNDY THURSDAY

Zion (7:00 pm)

Holy Communion, stripping the altar

Trinity (6:30 pm)

Holy Communion, stripping the altar



## 3.29 GOOD FRIDAY

Zion (7:00 pm)

Bidding Prayer, Tenebrae service

Trinity (6:30 pm)

Tenebrae service



## 3.31 EASTER SUNDAY

Zion (7:00 am)

Children process w/ lilies & flags,

Holy Communion, breakfast following

Trinity (9:00 am)

Breakfast at 7:30, Holy Communion





## Believing and Speaking the Resurrection into Our Suffering

Tucked into Paul's second letter to the Corinthians are two verses of profound significance for Christians journeying through affliction and suffering. They're worth memorizing. Paul writes,

Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence (2 Corinthians 4:13-14).

Paul begins by anchoring his confession (and the confession of his co-confessors of Christ) in the faith of God's Old Testament people (notice the quotation marks, Paul is quoting Psalm 116:10). As we'll see, this is hugely significant. I have included verses 10 and 11 below to give a fuller sense of what the psalmist is saying:

I believed; therefore I spoke, but I was brought very low.

I, I said in my alarm, 'Every person is a liar.'<sup>1</sup>

Now, let me flesh it out a bit (bringing the fuller context of the psalm to bear). He's saying, "I believed (in the goodness and mercy of God to deliver me) even in the midst of my affliction and suffering. I didn't abandon my faith in God. In fact, I spoke confidently of my Lord. I despaired of man – they're liars! – but I kept my trust in the Lord."

The Apostle Paul reaches back into this text and pulls it into his present context (thereby showing us how to lasso Scripture and bring it into our

contexts). Paul had experienced great affliction (see the verses referenced below) and he found solace and solidarity in the confessed faith of the saints who had gone before him. What's happening here is really important to appreciate. Paul is showing us that Christ-confessors (i.e. Christians) share the same faith as the Old Testament saints. We worship the same God. We confess the same Lord. We celebrate the same promises. The only difference is that the Old Testament saints looked forward to the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ. We look back to them (even as we too look forward to those yet to be fulfilled in the Last Day resurrection).

Paul begins his letter to the Corinthians by sharing the severity of the suffering he and his companions had endured:

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For 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 (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).

It was so bad that they despaired of life. Maybe you've been there. Maybe you've gone through deep affliction or dark suffering. Maybe you're going through it now – a betrayal, a diagnosis, a tragedy, a financial blow, a mental break. What do you do when the darkness comes? That's the question Paul is answering.

So he writes, "Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, 'I believed, and so I spoke,' we also believe, and so we also speak..." In other words, because we share the same faith as God's Old Testament saints, we make the same bold confession of confidence in our Lord. What is Paul's confession?

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<sup>1</sup> Paul quotes from the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint.

[We know] that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.

Paul is shining the blazing light of God's gospel promise in Jesus into his darkest moments and encouraging us to do likewise. He's saying, "Here, friend, bring this light into your shadowy sorrows. It will give you hope." So he confidently asserts, "We know..." He doesn't say, "We hope, we wish, we think this might be the case." He says, "We know." Just like the psalmist, Paul is speaking confidently of God's goodness and of his certainty in God's saving actions. And Paul sees those saving actions clearly displayed in the resurrection of Jesus and its implications for us.

Paul is confident that the same God who raised Jesus will raise believers in Jesus too. In fact, Paul saw how God used his suffering (and how He uses ours) to point us to this reality. Just after Paul finished sharing how he thought he and his companions had received the sentence of death (see verses referenced above), Paul asserted, "But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead" (2 Corinthians 1:9). So here in chapter 4, he reiterates this certainty: *We know that the God who raised Jesus is going to raise us too!* This is a tremendously powerful confession.

But look what Paul adds to it. He is confident that when God raises him and the Corinthian Christians (and us), that God is going to "bring us with you into his presence." There's so much hope packed into this! In addition to being raised in imperishable, glorified, powerful, and Holy Spirit empowered bodies (see 1 Corinthians 15:42-44), Paul is confident that God is going to bring believers together. In other words, there's a great reunion coming! Those who have confessed Christ and have been separated by death are going to be reunited. Parents, children, spouses,

siblings, friends – we are going to be reunited – and Jesus is going to be there with us. Having been at Zion 14 years, I have stood at the graveside and wept with many of you. We have grieved our dead together, but think about what Paul is saying: In the resurrection we will be able to celebrate our reunion together! Doesn't this make your heart soar with hope?

But there's another promise baked into Paul's confident confession of Christ. Look at his pronouns: *us* and *you*. Paul has specific people in mind, people he knew personally and cared about. Here's why that's important: God isn't going to raise generic, identity-less people. He's going to raise specific people who have confessed Christ, people you know, people for whom you care deeply.

Here's the point: Paul is assuming our identities are retained in the resurrection. You are going to be you forever. Your loved ones are going to be your loved ones forever. The things that make you unique and beautiful and the things that make your loved ones unique and beautiful will be redeemed and be shot through with the glory of God. In the resurrection we won't lose our identities – we will lose our sin nature! – but our identities will be retained even as they are glorified and made more beautiful by Christ.

This is the promise Paul is exhorting us to lasso into our present darkness. He knows exactly how deep the darkness can get – he was there! – but he also knows that because Jesus has risen from the dead and is coming back to raise us too, the darkness is not eternal. Life and light in Christ are. This is why Easter means so much to us. It is God's emphatic declaration and promise that He has and will banish the darkness and bless us with life and light forever. Believe and speak this into your suffering. – Pastor Conner





I prayed for you! (Growing in the  
Spiritual Discipline of Prayer.)  
—DCE Kathryn Schneider

*Season also, since the day we heard of  
it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask  
that you may be filled with the knowledge of His  
will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,”  
Colossians 1:9*

*“We give thanks to God always for all of you,  
making mention of you in our prayers;” 1  
Thessalonians 1:2*

I prayed for you! Such sweet words. To pray for someone, to intercede for them to God is one of the greatest gifts we can give someone, and it is one of the greatest Christians virtues we can aspire to grow in. We have all been there when we have asked friends and family members for prayer. Maybe in times of our deepest needs or our hardest hurts.

Who in your life is a prayer warrior for you? Who prays for you without ceasing? Is there someone? Maybe over the years it was a grandma or grandpa. Maybe a mother or father. Or maybe a co-worker or fellow Bible study member. Who in your life have you been a prayer warrior for? Who have you prayed for without ceasing, always remembering their name in your prayers? Your sister, child, God-child, neighbor, friend who doesn't believe? Do you enter the throne room of God praying for others often? Or is that a discipline that needs to grow?

As Christians it is clear that we are called to pray without ceasing, yet, at times we can feel discouraged from God's answers of “no”, or “not yet.” There are times it is literal years of praying the same thing for the same person over and over. Lord, bring this person to faith in Christ Jesus. Yet,

it hasn't happened? Lord, heal this servant in Christ Jesus? Yet the healing never comes.

And so we tire and fatigue. We go weary and heavy laden. And still we take it to the Lord in prayer. Because there is power in prayer, and we are called to pray. To follow Christ's example in prayer.

So, how do we remain steadfast in prayer? How do we grow this spiritual skill? Why even bother? First let me give you a few tricks and tips I've learned over the years by watching some of my faith fathers and mothers pray and how I've increased in my own prayer habits and then let me give you a few personal stories of how prayer has affected my life.

#1 Make prayer a daily habit: I've learned to make it a daily habit. Upon awakening before grabbing my phone I thank God for three things. It's not always the same three things but it's three things nonetheless. On days where I remember to do this it helps set my mood and trajectory for the day. I also close the day in prayer. And this was a habit instilled in me by my parents. They taught me to pray before meals and before bed. For years my bedtime prayers were the same, the prayer they taught me. Now my bedtime prayers are not just me by myself but they include praying with my boys, and with my husband John. It's a time to pray together and thank God for each other, our family and all our blessings.

In years past I would use my commute to pray. This worked better in the big city where your commute time isn't just 5 mins across Manning. But finding time in your day to add prayer, while you drive, shower, get ready, or like Martin Luther, every time you wash your face you remember your baptism and thank God for faith in Christ Jesus. Adding prayer into your daily already routine tasks makes it simpler to remember and easier to pray without ceasing.

#2 Prayer Journaling. Another trick I've learned over the years is prayer journaling. I started this after receiving my first purple diary with a beautiful gold lock and tiny key in elementary school. I remember writing a "Dear Diary" in my first few entries and thinking how silly to write to a diary when I could write to God who actually would hear me. So I changed from "Dear Diary" to "Dear God". And thus began my years of prayer journaling.

This discipline has come and gone with life's hectic pace, but I love going back over past prayer journals and rereading what past Kathryn prayed for and seeing the fingerprints of God answering those prayers in ways I never even noticed at the time.

#3 Prayer Prompts or Books on Prayer. I have friends who keep lists of people to pray for, and prayer prompts to help them pray over their children, spouse and family. It means the world to receive a text from one of my prayer warriors telling me her exact prayer for me that day! And it's amazing how most days it's exactly what I need. For example, one day she was praying for God to help me be a great mom with patience and virtue to raise my boys, etc. etc. And I literally was struggling that morning with patience and my own emotional regulation and her prayers were just what I needed. God is good! A few of the books my friend uses to help her pray that have been on my to get list are, *Praying for Your Adult Children*, *Praying for your Husband*, *The Power of the Praying Wife*, and *Today's Light (from CPH publishing)*.

#4 Praying Scripture. Praying through the scriptures. Praying through the psalms or while you read your daily Bible, is truly eye opening. Using the Lord's Prayer to pray for someone specifically. Using scripture to meditate and pray throughout the day. Start with your favorite Bible verse or Psalm.

#5 Sharing with others your answered prayers. One last way I think we can grow in prayer as a spiritual discipline is to be quick to share with others all the ways we have seen God answer prayer in our lives. The yeses, noes or not yet's. Being quick to tell others how prayer has changed us, shaped us and grown us in Christian virtue. Encouraging one another!

So, let me leave you with two stories of encouragement of how God has answered prayers in my life. Because there is power in prayer! Because we are called to pray without ceasing. Because our God is a God who hears. His ways are not our ways, His answers are not our answers. But God is still God! He is always good! And He is faithful! So, we pray.

So, I pray for that friend who does not have faith. I pray day after day, year after year that God would bring her to faith in Christ Jesus. That her heart would not be hardened like Pharaoh's. That God would bring back His prodigal daughter. This friend told me as I was going into ministry that she no longer believed in God. As you can imagine that made our friendship a bit strained over the years and we both respectively pulled away and the miles apart helped the process. Yet, I prayed for her. I would pray that I could be the light in her life of Christ when I would come back to visit. That she would believe. But also that God would send someone like her, a scientist, to show her the evidence for Christ. To refute what other worldviews had taken away. I figured it couldn't be me, and I'm not perfect, as you may know, so my prayers got a bit snarky at times and I prayed that God would send someone into her lab everyday simply to bring up the topic of God. I asked that she wouldn't be able to go one day without Jesus being brought up. And I prayed for that for a long time. Well, one Christmas while I was back we were driving together and she told me how there was this super annoying TA who was in her lab

every day and would talk to her about God and misquote scripture so she'd have to correct him. I literally laughed out loud and just let her keep telling her story. But inwardly I prayed thanking God he answered my prayers! It wasn't the big prayer of bringing her back to faith but it was seeds being sown. I still pray for God to do whatever it takes to bring his prodigal daughter to faith in Christ Jesus and I firmly believe one day I will get to celebrate that He has! For now, it's not yet. Yet, he still is active in bringing about redemption!

Lastly, it's not prayers I have prayed but prayers from a grandmother. My grandmother. As many of you know I was born with two heart defects and had open heart surgery at 10 months old. During that time my parents, grandparents, and so many others prayed for me. But it wasn't until 25 years later that I truly understood that they prayed... I mean prayed for me! The year I left to go into ministry I went to visit both grandparents to say goodbye. That day I learned the following. One grandma had her church do a 24 hour prayer vigil for me the day/night I had open heart surgery! I learned this while attending church with them and she asked her church to pray for me that day after reminding them how they had once prayed for me in the past. And they did, they prayed over me as I went off to go back to school to become a DCE. While visiting the other set of grandparents my other grandma walked into the kitchen that morning carrying a stack of very yellowed legal paper. She had written me the most beautiful poem as she prayed for me that summer I was born. She was in a writing class and wrote the poem for that class.

To this day I am in awe that we have a God who hears our prayers. That there is power in prayer. That God answered my grandma's prayers, my other grandma and her church's prayers, and my family's prayers with an astounding yes I will heal her! That my dad could say in the midst of my

heart failure that He trusted God wasn't done with me yet, and that God had big things for my life. It appears my dad wasn't wrong as 37 years ago this March 3<sup>rd</sup> I will celebrate what my family calls Happy Heart Day! The day God used the hands of physicians to heal my heart, I don't know if the medical team were believers. But I know that they were utterly covered in prayer the day they worked on me. And I thank God! So I leave you with the prayer poem of my Grandmother Maurine to me. May it encourage you in your own prayer life to grow in spiritual discipline, to journal, to pray every day without ceasing, to intercede for others because we have a God who hears our prayers! Thanks be to God!

*"This was written for my granddaughter Kathryn. I'll give it to her when she is older. It took me all afternoon to write it and all evening to polish it."*

*I Prayed for You  
Kathryn Marie, I prayed for you.  
The news of your birth on May 9th  
Came to me as I finished noon duty.  
You were only a couple hours old  
When I learned you weighed 7lbs 11 oz.  
And Mom was so proud of your long dark hair.  
The next day was Saturday so  
Grandma & Grandpa drove to Mason City.  
We visited with Mom, Dad and Jennifer.  
"Do you want to see my sister?"  
Jennifer bounced down the hall  
Climbed up the viewing steps  
And announced to all  
"There's Baby Kathryn!"  
I, too, climbed the steps  
And knelt beside Jennifer  
And gazed in awe.  
Such beautiful long dark hair.  
"See my picture?" Jennifer asked.  
Her photo was taped to your bassinet.  
The hospital "Sibling Class" had planned ahead  
so you and Jennifer could become close friends.*

*Then Dad told me of a slight heart murmur.  
Tests were scheduled for the morrow.*

*Kathryn Marie, I prayed for you.  
Dad called Sunday evening after consultation  
No hole in the heart or meningitis  
Pneumonia was the diagnosis.  
Your respiration and pulse were high,  
Medication and tubes were prescribed.  
Mom came home Thursday, very sad,  
You had to stay a few more days.  
And Jennifer went home with Grandma Hight.  
Mom and Dad were all alone.*

*Kathryn Marie, I prayed for you.  
The following Sunday, the news was worse.  
You were flying by helicopter to Iowa City, Your  
pulse and respiration hovered at 200.  
No one knew if you'd survive the flight  
For possible heart surgery on Monday.  
Mom and Dad drove to Iowa City.  
They met Pastor Bailey, Aunt Larie's minister,  
who baptized you into Christ's family.*

*Kathryn Marie, I prayed for you.  
Larie and I drove for hours.  
I could not teach Monday if you were having  
heart surgery.  
It was a tearful reunion at the hospital  
Then on to Larie's apartment  
Where phone calls were made  
To all concerned at home.  
"Kathryn had survived the flight  
Heart catheterization was scheduled for morning."*

*Kathryn Marie, I prayed for you.  
At 6:30 a.m. we were visiting you.  
This was my first chance to touch you.  
"Please, Lord, don't let it be my last!"  
Tears flowed as I snapped pictures  
Of you with Mom and Dad.  
The nurse wheeled you out  
In your self-contained unit.  
Oh, so many monitors and tubes*

*On such a tiny baby.  
But then I glanced at 25 other babies  
You were bigger by far.*

*Kathryn Marie, I prayed for you.  
We waited an eternity –  
For long hours  
IN a very tiny waiting room.  
WE thumbed through magazines,  
Read bulletin board notices,  
Compassionate Friends 515-424-7211.  
"Please, Jesus, don't let us need that number."  
Finally the doctors arrived.  
We studied their faces  
And prayed for good news.  
"Her heart valve is bicuspid  
Instead of tricuspid,  
But is functioning fine.  
No surgery is needed for that.  
She does have coarctation of the aorta  
And that will need surgery."  
The doctors prescribed medication  
And advised no surgery until age 3 or 4.*

*Kathryn Marie, I prayed for you.  
What a beautiful service on June 15th.  
Your parents, Jennifer, and grandparents  
witnessed  
Your rededication on Father's Day,  
When you were 37 days old.  
Your Mom and Aunt Brenda sang a duet.  
It was called "For Baby,"  
And was very tender and loving.  
The whole congregation prayed for you.*

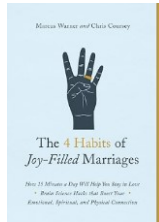
*When you are an adult  
And read this poem  
You will know that everyday  
Kathryn Marie, I prayed for you.*



## Resources:

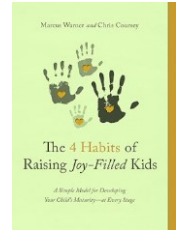
This month I have two tiny books to recommend! I want you to note that they're tiny but they are chocked full of great tips and information.

The first is entitled "The 4 Habits of Raising Joy-Filled Kids: A Simple Model for Developing Your Child's Maturity—at Every Stage" by Marcus Warner & Chris Coursey. This tiny book is a quick read and what I love most about it is its easy application. The premise of the book is equipping parents with a tool box of skills that you can use with your kids to maturity and greater joy. Written for parents from infant through the teenage years it gives tips for helping regulate emotions, forming stable identity that doesn't change with each new emotion, learning to rebound or bounce back from difficulties, discovery values and virtues and not living to please other people, developing disciplines relationally, and correcting your kids with care. There are four basic habits they teach which is ABCD. Attune, Build Bounce, Correct with Care, and Develop Disciplines relationally. "Attunement is the art of reading your child's body language so you can recognize their emotional state and meet them there." It is learning to listen for their emotions rather than listening to fix their problems. Next is "Build Bounce" and this is helping your kids learn the skills to recover from upsetting emotions or experiences. Third is Correct with Care. This where they help parents learn how to correct behavior in a way that keeps the relationship bigger than the problem. Wow, is that much easier said than done. And last but not least, is Developing Disciplines Relationally. The premise here is to help your kids reach their full potential by helping them learn important life skills. This is yes practical like learning to spell but also it's teaching them how to navigate failure, celebrate



successes, and that they're not alone in hard times. It's a quick little read and I highly recommend it as a book you come back to and brush off the dust on from time to time over the years of raising kiddos.

The second little book by the same guys is, "The 4 habits of Joy-Filled Marriages: How 15 Minutes a Day Will Help You Stay in Love, Brain Science Hacks that Boost Your Emotional, Spiritual and Physical Connection." The description from Amazon is great so allow me to quote part of it. "What separates happy marriages from miserable ones? Surprisingly, it's not healthy communication. It's not conflict resolution skills. It's actually the size of the marriage's joy gap. Joy gap is the length of time between moments of shared joy. When the joy gap gets bigger, problems are more likely to overwhelm you, resentment creeps in, and you start to feel distant and alone in your marriage. When the joy gap is smaller, you regularly feel connected and happy, problems feel manageable, and your marriage becomes a reliable source of joy. But how do you ensure that you're experiencing joy regularly?" The authors of the book studied relationships and neuroscience and discovered 4 habits. Each chapter concludes with 15-minute exercises to boost joy and retrain your brain to make joy your default setting. The 4 habits are play together, listen for emotion, appreciate daily, and nurture a rhythm. I love the brain science behind joy portion of this book and found both these tiny books quick reads but ones I will come back to for refresher courses. Because I don't want a life lived on auto pilot. I don't want to raise good kids, or have a good marriage. I want to raise great kids and have a great marriage filled with joy, laughter, and the ability to know that we are on this journey of life and sanctification together! - DCE Kathryn



## Preschool Praises for February

February was a month of sharing our love. Throughout the month we celebrated community helpers. We read the story that Jesus told about the Good Samaritan and discussed how we should always remember to help others. God made us to be helpers and we appreciate all of our helpers throughout our own community. The preschoolers really enjoyed all the visits and had a lot of fun learning about different ways they could be helpers.



Brian Behrens started out our visits. He came in for the afternoon class and told the preschoolers how he takes care of cows, showed them what they feed them, and even brought a baby calf for the kids to see, pet, and help feed.

Emily Albertsen and Ben Ramsey, lifeguards at the Manning Rec Center, visited both classes to teach the kids about water safety and how they keep people safe while they are swimming. They showed them what they keep in the packs they wear and what they had to do to become a lifeguard. We appreciate them keeping everyone safe while swimming at our local Rec Center.

Jeremey Puck, owner of Puck and Level B, came to both classes to tell them about all the employees at Puck and Level B being community helpers and all the different jobs there. We found out that they even make fire hose for other community helpers, fire fighters! He also passed around little replicas of the equipment they build. They enjoyed seeing all he brought.

Emily Drees, a dental hygienist from Audubon Dental Center, visited our morning class and Kristin & Jordyn, dental hygienists from Manning Dental, visited our afternoon class. They taught the kids how to keep their teeth healthy and what they do at the dental office to help you take care of your teeth. Of course they were all able to take a new toothbrush home! We thank them for being community helpers as well!

Jean Stadlander came into both classes to share about being a volunteer and how to keep the community clean. The students watched her toss pieces of trash onto the floor and she explained that if we didn't throw away our trash, how dirty it could get. They all joined in to help clean it up and discussed different ways they could help the community too! We appreciate all the time Jean spends volunteering in our community and keeping it clean!

One of our students was able to have both of his parents come into the morning class to share about their jobs and how they help others. Matt Scheuring, owner of Scheuring Diesel & Repair and Hannah Scheuring, a cosmetologist from Promesing Image, took the time to spend with us at Zion and we really enjoyed our time! Matt and Joe brought a work truck, a tractor, and some tools they use. They loved seeing everything close up. They even got to take a toy tractor or truck home with them! Hannah showed them some real tools she uses in the salon and some toy versions along with braiding and styling some hair. Matt makes sure to keep all those tractors and trucks running and Hannah helps us look and feel our best!

## Preschool Praises for February

Zion Preschoolers watched as the ambulance pulled into the parking lot and Neeka and Mikasia Jacobsen rolled in the stretcher and some other equipment they use. The kids had so much fun sitting on the stretcher and seeing how it rises up and lowers back down, saw some of the machines they use, and helped push the stretcher back out of the room. The students then headed over to the window to watch the ambulance leave with lights and sirens. We are thankful that they work for the Manning EMS and are there to help anyone in need!

Cassey Neumann is another important community helper that came in to see the afternoon class. Cassey is a nurse at Audubon County Memorial Hospital. She read a couple books to the class and told them a little about what a nurse does and each student had the chance to check out her stethoscope and listen to each other's heartbeat or practice wrapping bandages.

We will finish out the month with visits from Bre Mennough, a nurse from Manning Regional Healthcare Center, and Amanda Miller, a veterinarian from AMVC. We are all very excited to see what they will share with us.

Not only did we have a busy month of community helper visitors, they also got to share the day with their grandparents. Seeing how many grandparents were there to enjoy time with their grandkids, it was very evident that God has surely blessed them. They sang a few songs they had been practicing with Miss Kathryn, enjoyed a craft and snack together, and ended it by showing them the classroom. This is one of my favorite events we have and I think everyone enjoyed themselves!

We visited Pastor Conner for chapel and he even made it down to our classroom a couple times to share with us as well. We heard about the Transfiguration of Jesus, Temptation of Jesus, and how Jesus healed Simon's Mother-in-law and the paralyzed man. One of the Bible stories he told was the temptation of Jesus where the Devil came to him after he had not eaten in 40 days and told him to make the rocks into bread. Jesus knew this was not the will of God so he told him no. We discussed this more in our classroom. We reiterated how Jesus was not tempted to do something that was not coming from the words of God. We played a little game during circle time to see what temptation was. Each child was handed a sensory pop tube to hold at each end in front of them without stretching it out. They were shown what it did when it was stretched out and the fun sounds it made but were told to just hold it. We counted down from 10 very slowly making sure we kept them still and weren't tempted until it was okay. Every student made it and all stretched them out together. They fought the temptation!

Lastly, we had our preview night for the 2024-2025 school year where parents and children that plan to attend next year were able to visit the classroom and meet the teachers. It was a great turnout and we are already almost full for next school year!

Blessings,  
Miss Amy & Miss Melanie



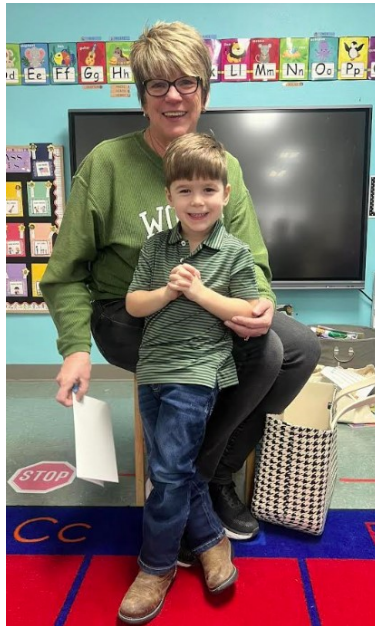


Child Centered... Child Focused... Family Connecting

Thank you, Zion, for  
enabling us to share Jesus  
with children and families!









## March Fellowship

The Fellowship Club will meet on Monday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m. The topic will be local history. On his return to Manning, Tim Weibel has actively researched the history of the hausbarn and farmstead at our Heritage Park. Tim has prepared slides of our local attractions and shared them around the region, especially with Rotary clubs. Tim is also one of the Heritage Park tour guides. Guests and friends are welcome to join us in learning more about our local history.

The Fellowship Club will organize another Orphan Grain Train clothing drive beginning April 7. Good, clean, used clothing or all sizes and seasons (women, men, and children) is needed. As you clean out your closets or transition to spring and summer clothing, begin bagging cloths for OGT.

**Leading Evening Prayer at Zion**  
**Tuesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m.**



**THE KANTOREI**  
**Concordia Theological**  
**Seminary, Ft. Wayne**



**All welcome!**





# Amigos en Cristo

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

*Friends in Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**Pastor Pedro Lopez**, Denison, Iowa

March 2024

Things are gearing up for the new sequences of ESL, Worship Services, Bible Studies, and Praise and Prayer in the different areas of our Hispanic Ministry outreach.

At St. Paul in Carroll, we are going strong, for the glory of God. We meet every Wednesday morning for Bible Study and on Saturday evenings for Praise, Prayer, and Bible Study. We are also making new friends by participating in the life and future of making Carroll a more welcoming community for new people moving into the area. We continue to grow in numbers and quality thanks to the many willing volunteers who are always ready to help and support. Our plan is to start ESL classes in April.

Our ministry in Denison continues. We are struggling because many families have moved out of the area and others are dealing with their own struggles. We still have Bible studies with different people in a personal way and continue to have our worship service every Sunday afternoon. Bringing new people into the ministry is our priority here. We still have several members who are traveling. Please pray for their safe return.

In Storm Lake, we have been blessed by the ongoing participation of our families and newcomers making this ministry stronger. We have our Bible study every Wednesday evening. We often meet in people's homes or at Grace Lutheran Church. Our worship services are still the same on Sunday mornings.

At Hartley, we now have a Bible Study in Spanish with Deacon Noel's assistance. He also helps in meeting the spiritual needs of our new members and contacts. We plan to have our ESL classes start again in April and pray that we meet new people to make them part of our growing ministry there.

In Fort Dodge, we are paying personal visits to some of the people we met through the ESL program last year. We are growing friendships and keeping in touch with them. This gives us the opportunity to have personal Bible studies and to meet their personal spiritual needs. We are hoping to have another ESL class there soon.

We have been blessed to be part of events around the district making sure people get to hear about what God is doing in the Hispanic ministry. We thank LWML groups who have sent their support, and the many individuals and churches making sure we have the support and finances to continue this special ministry in the evergrowing Hispanic community. Please continue to pray for us and feel free to get in contact with us for any questions or suggestions. We are ready to come to your churches or any of your events, if you want to learn more about us.

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



Gracias y Bendiciones a todos.  
Pastor Lopez

## Zion Ladies Guild February Secretary Report

### Zion Ladies Guild March 2023 Secretary Report

The regular meeting was held on March 8@1 pm. Pastor Conner opened with prayer and devotion. Readings from John 3:3 was read and discussed. DCE Kathryn joined us for the meeting. President Ehlers called the meeting to order with Name of the Triune God. League Pledge recited. Roll call was answered with a giving a characteristic trait you appreciate from your parents with 12 members present.

Birthdays: Shannon Walters, Myra Luetje, Joelle Puck. Anniversaries: Ken and Joelle Puck. The secretary notes were read and approved. Thank you notes were read from Lutherans for life. The Treasurer's report was handed out for review. Darlene had no kitchen report to give.

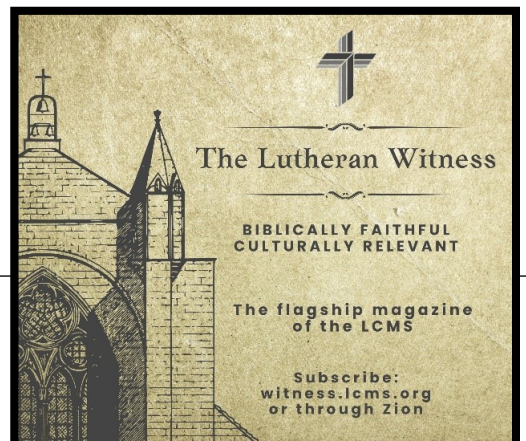
Circle has had no activity. Human care reported they are continuing to quilt. 2 quilts were donated to the Hausbarn rib/soup cookoff along with some other items for their silent auction. 6 quilts are ready for Orphan Grain Train.

Old Business: Bingo at Accura was discussed. Susie will check with DeEtte if they would like us to take a turn helping with bingo on one of the Thursdays of the month. Kitchen cleaning is on hold until after the Lenten season. Darlene cleaned the freezer this past week. Becki brought up that Shannon is working on the pamphlet for the guild. Anyone wanting to look at it and help get the information needed into it are welcome to talk to Shannon.

New Business: Audrey brought up Camp Okoboji quilt auction coming up on June 17<sup>th</sup>. All funds will go to playground equipment updates. Camp Okoboji is asking for donations, requesting pledge be in by 5/15/23. Cynthia made the motion to give \$100.00 from the kitchen fund to the Activity Zone for speakers at conference. Darlene second the motion, motion passed by all present. Joene made a motion to donate \$100.00 from kitchen fund for the Camp Okoboji playground fund. Second by Susie, passed by all present. Susie made motion to pay \$35.00 to Orphan Grain Train, second by Mary, approved by all present. These funds are used for transportation needs. Becki presented an idea from a church member on getting a water filtration system for the kitchen for coffee making. Discussion tabled until quotes are obtained. Discussion about the 2005 bylaws were discussed. Gloria will contact Deb Schmidt at Carroll on the updated bylaws for a copy, as well as reporting the changes of the officers.

The Lord's Prayer and table prayer were recited. Meeting was adjourned. Lunch was served by Cynthia Genzen and Joann Thomas. Next meeting will be April 12 2023, with Joene Bohlman and Margaret Kuchel serving.

Gloria Ewoldt, Secretary





### Guided to the Cross

*"When the woes of life o'er take me, Hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy." LSB# 427, vs. 2*

The midweek Lenten services (Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.; Meal at 5:30 p.m.) will continue to guide us to the cross for peace, trust, and perseverance. A SUNDAY service will be held on Palm SUNDAY, March 24. The Sunday school children (and friends) will lead our journey with palm branches from the streets of Jerusalem to the cross on Mount Calvary. The service will be a special FAMILY worship experience. The service will be at 9 a.m.

Holy Week services will continue with the "Guided to the Cross" theme on Maundy Thursday (Service) and Good Friday (Sacrifice). Both services will be at 6:30 p.m. Services will be held on Easter SUNDAY, March 31 at 9 a.m. The service will celebrate the NEW LIFE that is ours through our risen Savior.

Saturday services through the month of March will continue to be held at 4 p.m. The transition to a 5 p.m. worship time will take place on April 6. Bible study continues to take place an hour before the service.

### Moving Forward in the Cross

Melodie Boell began serving as Trinity's secretary in 2006. After 18 years of service, she plans to "move forward" from this position while continuing her job at the IKM-Manning school district and spending time with family. She has agreed to continue to serve the next months until the position is filled. Thank you, Melodie!

The "office assistant" position is a part-time position (hours flexible). Duties include preparing worship materials (print and electronic), developing print and social media communication, maintaining church records, and assisting the pastor and congregation in other capacities. Individuals interested in the position and wanting more information should contact chairman Jason Ferry, head-elder Mike Lorenzen, or Pastor Riggert.

The process for calling a candidate moves forward as the seminary placement directors and District presidents begin to "slot" candidates. More information on the April placement service will be shared in the next newsletter. Continue to pray for the Spirit's direction. The process of preparing the parsonage for the next pastor continues. Thanks to the MANY donors and to the volunteers who have worked diligently. Financial and Thrivent donations continue to be needed.

### Call Update:

On Tuesday, February 20, Mike Lorenzen, Jason Ferry, and Pastor Conner interviewed (via Zoom) three pastoral candidates from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne. They have now completed the round of interviews. Trinity's Call committee will meet and select their top candidates. These candidates will be shared with the seminaries (in Ft. Wayne and St. Louis) as they begin assigning candidates to congregations in advance of Call Day. Concordia Seminary St. Louis will celebrate their Call Day on April 23 and Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne will celebrate theirs on April 24.

Mike, Jason, and Pastor Conner were thoroughly impressed with the candidates they interviewed and are optimistic that Trinity will receive a candidate. Please keep this process in your prayers. Pray that God sends a loving, honorable, and faithful shepherd to the people of Trinity (and Zion). If you have questions, you are welcome to speak with Pastor Conner.





## Working in Both Hemispheres

The Ferry Family enjoyed greatly the opportunity to gather with the rest of the LCMS Asia team for our annual Family Retreat, this year held in our former base of Indonesia. It was the first chance for us to return to Medan in more than five years, and for Chloe and Charlotte to return to their birth country. We loved getting together with the rest of our team: to reminisce, collaborate, and catch up.

Immediately following the retreat, Charles began traveling again: visiting Hong Kong, mainland China, and Taipei. Then it was time to visit Fort Wayne for several days of meetings with our dear partners in Australia who are finding a new way forward as faithful Lutherans.



### THE FERRY FAMILY

Rev. Charles Ferry serves the LCMS as the Regional Director for Asia. He is responsible for all the LCMS 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 the planting of Lutheran Churches.

Charles and Cheryl are the parents of seven children, three of whom were born overseas during Asia missionary service.

- Caleb (18)
- Caitlin (14)
- Carissa (11)
- Cassandra (10)
- Chloe (7)
- Charlotte (6)
- Caylee (2)

Before moving to Taiwan in 2018, the Ferry Family was based in Indonesia for over four years.



Above: The LCMS Asia families gather with partners from GKLI in Medan



Above: Cheryl and Carissa help introduce hand chimes to the local congregation in Chiayi, Taiwan.

Left: Charles preaches for the Divine Service at Ascension Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, IN, USA.

Below: The Australian delegation in Fort Wayne with LCMS President Matthew Harrison and assorted LCMS participants (Ferry in back on Left).



SERVING THE LORD IN

# Taiwan and All Over Asia

NEWS FROM THE FERRY FAMILY



February 2024

## Ferry Family Update

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *The faithful proclamation of the Word of God around the globe as it remains often under assault and persecution.*
- *Lutherans in Australia as they make decisions about what path to follow regarding their confession and church.*
- *Safe travels for all missionaries, especially for Charles as he begins his visits again.*

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Caleb's graduation from USAF Basic Training and his relocation to California for language training.*
- *The friends and colleagues who have been placed around us for collaboration and support.*
- *Rev. Dr. Cory Rajek who has accepted the call to serve as our OIM Executive Director.*

### PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *Churches, partners, and friends who open to us their congregations, homes, and lives.*



Left: Cheryl and the Ferry girls return to a GKLI church in North Sumatra with our dear Sitio friends after the family retreat.

Below Left: Caleb and his fiancée Katrina celebrate Caleb's graduation from USAF Basic Training in January.

Below Center: Cassandra turns ten years old, loving being "double digits" in age.

Below Right: Charlotte turns six years old. Cheryl was very busy this month making birthday cakes for her daughters!



*Even as our family grows and changes, we are so grateful for your enduring partnership.*

*Thank you for your trust, care, prayers and continued support.*

*— The Ferry Family*







# lcms INTERNATIONAL MISSION

SPREAD THE GOSPEL. PLANT LUTHERAN CHURCHES. SHOW MERCY.



News from [TIRZAH KREY](#) Serving in Latin America

Contact me:  
[Tirzah.Krey@lcms.org](mailto:Tirzah.Krey@lcms.org)

Become a mission partner through financial donations: <https://www.lcms.org/tirzah.krey>

Greetings from the “winter season” of the Dominican Republic with temperatures in the 70s and 80s! My first six months as a commissioned deaconess have been filled with travel, teaching and a good amount of learning. As of September, I was asked to become the Dominican deaconess mentor to our five deaconess students. This is the deaconess program through our DR seminary. Mentoring these students includes walking alongside these dedicated women who are in their second year of study (of three.) I also assist in teaching classes with pastors and deaconesses and am a liaison between the students, their pastors and the seminary. In the fall we taught an intensive class on the Divine Service while they also did their practical “fieldwork.” Their practical work includes going on visits with their pastor, learning how to prepare the Lord’s Supper, preparing a lesson to teach and more. Currently, I am co-teaching their Old Testament class alongside Pastor Krey. We just reached our halfway point in the class. Additionally, the deaconess program has expanded, and we currently have 71 women studying in nine different countries. Each country has a mentor and pastor that works with the group of ladies. We look forward to our next intensive later this spring on the Theology of Mercy.

LAC Travel & New Missionaries: Last fall I was able to see our missionaries in Belize (5 families), Peru Rico (4 families) and Uruguay (2 families.) It is always wonderful to connect with my fellow missionaries, hear about their families in person, and see firsthand the work and how the Lord is working in and through each of them. These visits are meant to support and boost our missionaries, check in with them and see if there are ways in which we can support them and their ongoing ministry. We also had a bit of a baby boom in 2023 for LAC – Five new babies were born (and one more on the way for 2024!) We praise the Lord for these new little missionaries and ask for continued health for each one. (William, Anaiah, Elena, Matheo, and Ian.)

Short-term Volunteer: This fall I had a young woman, who is a nurse, come and shadow me for a week. She wanted to witness our work firsthand and see if it was where the Lord was leading her to serve. During the week she learned about what a human care coordinator does, as well as many of the other roles of missionaries in the DR. This opportunity is called “shadow a missionary.” This is just one example on how you, dear supporters, can connect with us here in Latin America. However there are many ways to be an active part of the mission of the church; whether it’s through sharing about our work, praying for us or contributing financially. If you’re looking for an opportunity to serve visit here: <https://servenow.lcms.org/>.

Short-term Team: Each year we also have many short-term teams that come to a variety of our countries to be involved in different activities. From eye glass clinics and construction projects, to supporting youth retreats or Vacation Bible Schools there are lots of opportunities to become involved. We have many teams that also come down for what is called “mission education.” These teams come specifically to the DR to learn about what mission is, meet our missionaries, get involved in local ministry and have the chance to see how the Lord is working in many many different ways. One of my favorite things about these teams is being able to share firsthand about the work and meet other mission minded people!





# lcms INTERNATIONAL MISSION

SPREAD THE GOSPEL. PLANT LUTHERAN CHURCHES. SHOW MERCY.



News from **TIRZAH KREY** Serving in Latin America

Become a mission partner through financial donations: <https://www.lcms.org/tirzah.krey>

Contact me:  
Tirzah.Krey@lcms.org

Want to be a missionary?: On that note, we are looking for another person to work alongside me in human care! If you know someone who is looking to serve and is medically trained (nurse, social work etc.) send them here to inquire: <https://servenow.lcms.org/opp/career-missionary-opportunities/> or email: [sandy.kohlmeier@lcms.org](mailto:sandy.kohlmeier@lcms.org).

Conference: Just last month, we hosted our second annual FPH conference where our online pastoral students came to the DR for a week of learning. What a blessing it was to support this endeavor and see how the Lord is using the seminary to train these men to be pastors, evangelists and teachers in order to bring the Word back to their home countries.

Panama: I was also blessed to attend the rededication of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Panama at the beginning of this month. What a blessing it was to see five of the Lutheran congregations in Panama come together to celebrate after the church was restored. Many hours, hands and short-term teams supported the restoration of this beautiful church. It was a blessing to see ~200 people worship and rejoice together. We pray that the Lord would continue to use His servants to reach out to the people of Panama.

## Upcoming

New Missionaries: The Lord has blessed us and we are excited to have three new families joining our LAC family later this spring/summer. Please keep the Weber, Stigdon and Shaver families in your prayers as they prepare to transition to the mission field. In addition to those three, another three families have received calls/appointments from the Office of International Mission and are in the deliberating phase. Please keep them in your prayers. All new LAC missionaries pass through the DR for on-field orientation before heading to their respective fields. As I run our on-field orientation, alongside our regional team, I look forward to hosting these families here soon! Orientation consists of many things but some of the overarching goals include: Language acquisition, learning how to learn a culture, establishing relationships with the regional team, and learning about the mission of the church and specifically about LAC.

## Home Service:

As many of you know, I go on home service every 22 months. Home service is typically 6-8 weeks of reconnecting with mission partners [churches, schools, individuals] and updating them on the work here in LAC. Due to needs here in the DR, I'll be splitting my time this year. If you'd like to hear from me from April 19 – May 13, I'll mostly be in Indiana and Michigan. I will then do another few weeks in September. Let me know if you, your congregation or school would like an update, I'd love to come by! (Tirzah.krey@lcms.org.)





## Snapshots of Zion



Brian L. and Zion youth assist with Lenten meals while Zion kids enjoy them.



Adam A. (left) and Jase H. (right) share their one things during Zion's midweek services.



Kari and Ellie R. (left) and Mike G. and Gregory C. (bottom left) enjoy Zion's Family & Friends Game Day.



Bary K. and Kent V. delivered Deere assistance to Zion's roofers.



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



Bible Study

Saturday before worship at Trinity  
Sunday after worship at Zion



March 2

VBS Best Practices Workshop at Zion (9:30 – 12:30)



March 5

Kantorei (from Concordia Theological Service, Ft. Wayne)  
Leading Evening Prayer at Zion (6:30 p.m.)



March 6, 13, 20

Midweek Services  
5:45 w/ supper following at Zion  
5:30 meal, 6:30 service at Trinity  
Wednesday services continue until March 20



March 18

Fellowship Club (1:300) at Zion



March 21

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



March 24

Palm Sunday  
Trinity: 9:00 a.m.  
Zion: 9:00 a.m.



March 28

Maundy Thursday  
Trinity: 6:30 p.m.  
Zion: 7:00 p.m.



March 29

Good Friday  
Trinity: 6:30 p.m.  
Zion: 7:00 p.m.



March 31

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



# March Birthdays and Anniversaries @ Zion & Trinity

## *Birthdays* (T=Trinity)

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

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

## *Anniversaries*

4. Thomas & Susie Ulrickson
8. Nels & Stephany Olson (T)
29. Kenneth & Joelle Puck

## *In Our Prayers*

Kristin Webb, Bruce Rutz, Steve Rutz, Jamie Osterbuhr (Amy Hull's sister-in-law), Denny Backhaus, Athena Bess, Kau Jenkins, Gary Schroeder, John Bexten (father of Beth Alexander and Amy Blackwell), Jim Deevers, Rick Spack, Justeen Schwieso, Sherri Steffes, Karen Deboth, Ron Brus, Roger Wiederien (Bonnie Witt's brother), Judy Reinke (Ernie's sister-in-law), Lynn Kruse, Darlene Vollstedt