

# Engaging Moments

with Pastor JD Zischke, Church Planter

JULY 2018

## Send ME, Lord!

June was a busy yet fun month. We celebrated and gave thanks to God for the many gifts and pledges that were given for the ministry of Restoration Lutheran Church. Your gifts allow us to continue this ministry. Your gifts allow us to keep doing this work that God has called us to.

We continued our small group gathering—focusing our attention on the book of Revelation.

We had community get-togethers in our home where people who have lived on the same street for years finally met one another for the first time.

District Convention, preaching and leading Bible studies at Circuit congregations, and, of course, cheering on the Hogs during the College World Series.

Did any of you follow the College World Series? If you didn't, here is a quick recap:

The Arkansas Razorbacks won a trip to the National Championship—something they had never experienced before. A best of 3 series, the Hogs won game 1 and then were winning in the top of the ninth inning, only needing 1 out to seal their first national championship in school history. The opponent swings at a pitch, it pops up into foul territory, 3 players run towards the ball—they catch it, they win, game over! Second baseman Carson Shaddy sprints to catch the ball, overruns it, and drops the ball—drops the chance to win the College World Series. Hogs lose Game 2 and get crushed in Game 3.

They missed their chance.

That night, while in Memphis for Convention, I wondered what it must've been like to be Carson Shaddy: an opportunity to be a hero, a legend in his hometown of Fayetteville, AR, playing for the team he has dreamed of playing for since he was a little boy, leading them to their first championship, only to literally drop the ball.

Wouldn't that be a dark place? I sure thought so. So I prayed for him. I prayed that God would send someone into his life that would share with him that despite his mistake, despite his feelings of letting down his community, there is a God who loves him more than he could ever imagine and has sent him with more purpose than he ever realized. I prayed that God would send him someone who would remind him that brokenness transcends, yet Jesus restores. I prayed that in his brokenness, Carson Shaddy would be pointed to the One who makes all things new.



Church Planter JD Zischke

“For I am not  
ashamed of the  
gospel, because  
it is the power  
of God that  
brings salvation  
to everyone  
who believes”  
Romans 1:16

*MORE ...*

*CONTINUED ...*

Sunday, following Convention, I had to fly from Northwest Arkansas to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in order to meet up with my wife and babies and help them journey home from a family wedding in Dubuque, Iowa.

I boarded my first flight to O'Hare and the gentlemen next to me boarded carrying two baseball gloves. I thought, "That's interesting, I've never seen that before!" The lady across the aisle jokingly asked, "You playing catch with the pilot?" He smiled and politely replied, "No ma'am." When he sat down, it hit me... that's Carson Shaddy! Holy smokes! Am I the only guy who knows who this is? What are the chances?

Then I heard that voice again, "It is not by accident that we are here." So, by a totally God ordained event, we spent some time talking about brokenness—what it feels like to go from hero to zero, from community legend to public enemy number one, from memorable to unforgettable. God gave me the opportunity to share with Carson that it is in the moments of brokenness that Jesus restores us. My prayer is that that truth would continue to go with him as he continues to recover from his brokenness. We took a picture, said our goodbyes, and he thanked me for talking to him, saying he was thankful we got to meet. We parted with one final question, "So, what church do you Pastor?" "Restoration Lutheran Church—where we introduce people to the Jesus they've never met and provide His promises to those who gather in His name." "Next time I'm in town, I'll have to look you up," he said.



Can't wait Carson, can't wait.

Please continue to pray that God would open doors in order to share the Gospel. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

May the Lord bless you as we continue to introduce Jesus and provide Jesus to the people of Northwest Arkansas.

In Christ,  
*Pastor JD Zischke*

RESTORATION  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH 

**FRIENDS,  
Please Pray -**

- *For those who are being introduced to the Jesus they've never met.*
- *That our application would be approved by the Fayetteville Superintendent in order to rent Holcomb Elementary for worship.*
- *That the Lord would send persons of peace who can serve alongside me, my family, our core group, as we provide the promises of God to the Fayetteville community.*