

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
1401 South Washington
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April 2019

Jonathon J. Bakker and Benjamin J. Ulledalen, Pastors

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‘But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.’ – 1 Corinthians 15:20

Dear friends in Christ, what if it didn't happen? What if there were no resurrection? What if Jesus didn't rise from the dead on the first Easter? What would that be like? What would life look like? In 1 Corinthians 15, St. Paul wrote that, 'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.' According to Paul, our faith would be futile and we would remain in our sins. He went on: 'If in this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.' We would be pitiable. Apart from the resurrection of Jesus – body and all – that first Easter Sunday, would there be any Christians? What would we be?

Indeed, it's hard to imagine a world *not* centered on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. How would the years be numbered? Would Rome have fallen when it did? How long ago would the new world have been discovered?

Or, to think about it on a more personal level, what would we believe and how would we live according to that faith, or lack of faith? I imagine we would probably begin by not going to church, and then...

If Christ had not been raised, parents wouldn't bring children for baptism, nor would they bring their children to Sunday School or to Confirmation instruction. They would spend the time instead focusing on sports, school events, and other activities every day and every night of the week. If Christ had not been raised, adults wouldn't come to Bible studies on Sunday morning or any other day of the week, either.

If Christ had not been raised, men and women would live together without the Lord's blessing of holy marriage. Indeed, every aspect of the human life and body would fall under the

sovereignty of the individual (if nations without any historical Christian influence even permitted such a thing).

If Christ had not been raised, there would not only not be any baptisms, confirmations, or weddings; there would be no funerals, either. Instead there would simply be 'celebrations of life' or other means of marking the deaths of those in our lives. We could certainly go on, and we will never know if I was right (I would not want to be right about any of those things – Lord, have mercy!), but that would be a truly pitiable existence. Thanks be to God, however, that Jesus Christ *is* risen from the dead, and lives and reigns eternally. Because he is alive, our whole life has meaning. Baptized into his name, we are a new people; he is the bridegroom who makes us his bride. He rescues us from every sin, and feeds us and our faith with the life-giving gifts he gives through the Means of Grace, in preaching, absolution, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper.

In this life and world, we are tempted in every way and at all times to believe it isn't true that Christ has been raised and lives. We are tempted in every way and at all times to live as if Christ had not been raised. Lord, have mercy on all of us! How many of us find ourselves fighting against these temptations? Where can we turn? Where can we go? To Christ! Go to Christ – turn to him! He is your Savior who forgives you when you are tempted and forgives you when you have given into temptation. His blood is the price that was paid for you, and do not take it lightly that he deemed you worthy of his death. Even though it is freely given, it is the most precious thing. Repent of sin and believe that Christ is risen from the dead for you!

You might ask where you could go to hear such a radical message, one that the world will not tell you even as it tempts you and tries to rob you of your hope and everlasting joy, and I have the answer – come to church! Yes, come on Easter Sunday – it’s a glorious and joyful day that celebrates Jesus’ victory over the grave – but so does every other service at Zion, whether it is a Lenten midweek service, Palm Sunday, or Maundy Thursday. Even Good Friday is a service that proclaims that Jesus Christ has defeated death through his own death on the cross and resurrection from the dead!

There is no time like the present to refocus and refresh your faith and life in Christ’s resurrection from the dead. It is as Paul said so stridently and joyfully to his beloved Corinthians: ‘But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.’ Christ is risen, Alleluia! He is risen from the dead and as the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep, his resurrection is simply the first of the rest to follow, including yours. You, yes YOU, are his chosen, his beloved. He will raise you, too, unto life everlasting! See you at church!

To Christ, our risen Lord, belongs all the glory,
Pastor Bakker

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Sunday School News

The following Sunday School students received an attendance certificate for completing 13 Sundays in February and March 2019:



6th, 7th & 8th

Alton Bailey - 7th

Vacation Bible School

July 8-12

Save the dates and plan to participate in this year’s VBS. This year’s theme is “Miraculous Mission” ! If you would like to help, see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at Zion or contact either Mallory Zalud or Tim in the church office.



Preschool Enrollment

Open enrollment continues for all classes. Information is available on the table outside of the library at Zion or contact Tim at the church office with any questions.



Spring Little Caesar’s Pizza Preschool Fundraiser

This fundraiser will run until April 26. Pizza kits will be delivered on Wednesday, May 8. Order forms are on the table outside the library. Funds raised will be used for classroom equipment, supplies, field trips and financial aid. You may also order online.



Our Group ID is 359521.

Thank you for your continued support of our preschool here at Zion!



April 14 – Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship Service at Zion

9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class

11:00 a.m. Worship at Christ The King Chapel

April 18 – Maundy Thursday

4:30 p.m. Worship at Zion

7:30 p.m. Worship at Christ The King Chapel

April 19 – Good Friday

1:00 p.m. Worship at Zion

3:00 p.m. Worship at Christ The King Chapel

April 21 – Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship Service at Zion

8:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

9:45 a.m. Sunday School and 10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

11:00 a.m. Worship at Christ The King Chapel



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through February 28, 2019

	2019	2018
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 82,525.20	\$ 83,556.59
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 78,153.09</u>	<u>\$ 84,994.31</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 4,372.11	\$ (1,437.72)
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 66,376.64	\$ 76,604.13
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 78,153.09</u>	<u>\$ 84,994.31</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$(11,776.45)	\$ (8,390.18)

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out” (Deut 28:3-6).

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground or their wombs, their flocks or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the Lord your God” (Deut 28:2b). If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you” (Deut 28:2a).

If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and walk in His ways (Deut 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh, fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit; died for us – in our place and for our benefit; and is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon His work and not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, His holy people. And so it

is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and thereby it becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is not in order to receive blessings but because in Christ we already have.

It is with this in mind that we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).



In memory of Joseph Keating

Adella Bergey
Yvonne Fitzgerald
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer
Denise Isenbarger

In memory of Philip Milan

Rich & Diane Fleming



**Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
at CTK**

Sunday, April 28

12:15 p.m.

After many positive comments and a great turnout in January we will once again hold the quarterly voters’ meeting at CTK following the 11:00 a.m. service. All confirmed Zion members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

On the agenda will be 2019-21 board elections as well as some bylaws discussion.

A big thanks to all of the members that volunteered to help with the Lenten meals this year on Wednesday evenings. It was an excellent opportunity for fellowship and surely made it easier for busy families and individuals to be at the church services, as well as CCI and choir! Thank you, also, to all who have come to the services and stayed for the meals and fellowship.

Preschool Chapel

This is just a note to remind you that we have chapel services for our preschoolers, their teachers, their family, and anyone else who is interested – including you – every Wednesday and Thursday morning at approximately 9:00 a.m. when preschool is in session. We also have chapel on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. for our afternoon four-year old class. Our preschool is a big effort that we undertake together here at Zion so that we may proclaim the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection to these children and their families. Please feel free to join us for chapel services whenever you are able!



Holy Scripture: Guided Reading

A Month in the Gospel of Mark: During this season of Lent leading into Easter, I thought it appropriate to return to the New Testament. Mark is often considered by modern 'scholars' to be a primitive Gospel, but as you read through it you will find some nuances here that are not found elsewhere. The pace is a bit slower this month, permitting you more time to pray as this Lenten season concludes. Easter will arrive before the end of the schedule, but these readings are designed to allow you time to focus on the portions of Mark related to Jesus' Passion as we celebrate them as his church.

- Mark 1:1-20 – John Baptizes Jesus; Jesus' Temptation
- Mark 1:21-2:12 – Jesus' Healings
- Mark 2:13-3:6 – Jesus Answers Questions on Fasting and the Sabbath
- Mark 3:7-21 – Jesus' Followers and Apostles
- Mark 3:22-35 – A House Divided; Jesus' Mother and Brothers
- Mark 4:1-34 – Parables
- Mark 4:35-5:20 – A Miracle and a Demon Possession
- Mark 5:21-43 – Jesus Rescues Two Women
- Mark 6:1-29 – Rejected at Nazareth; the Death of John the Baptist
- Mark 6:30-56 – Jesus Performs Amazing Miracles
- Mark 7:1-37 – Traditions and Commandments; More Healings
- Mark 8:1-21 – Gentiles and Pharisees
- Mark 8:22-38 – Jesus Speaks to his Future
- Mark 9:1-29 – Transfiguration and Healing
- Mark 9:30-50 – Jesus Again Foretells his Death and Resurrection
- Mark 10:1-31 – Marriage, Children, Riches, Discipleship
- Mark 10:32-52 – The Third Prediction of his own Death and Resurrection
- Mark 11:1-33 – Entry in Jerusalem and the Temple; Fig Tree; Jesus' Authority
- Mark 12:1-27 – Tenants; Caesar; Resurrection and the Sadducees
- Mark 12:28-44 – The Great Commandment
- Mark 13:1-36 – The Destruction of the Temple Predicted; The Coming of the End
- Mark 14:1-42 – Plot to Kill Jesus; Passover, the Lord's Supper, Prayer at Gethsemane
- Mark 14:43-72 – Betrayal, Arrest, Trial before Chief Priests
- Mark 15:1-20 – Jesus and Pilate
- Mark 15:21-41 – Crucifixion and Death
- Mark 15:42-47 – Jesus is Buried
- Mark 16:1-20 – Alleluia, He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed, Alleluia!



April Mission of the Month *Women's Aid Service*

Women's Aid Service of Isabella County is a private, nonprofit agency dedicated to the intervention and prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. Domestic violence and sexual assault cut across all racial, social, economic and educational groups. Each year, in this local service area alone, the agency responds to over 1000 crisis calls and provides services to hundreds of victims. The agency strives to interrupt the abusive cycle and provide assistance to all victims – women, children, and men – in the family. A representative of Women's Aid Service is available to speak to organizations about the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. Women's Aid Service is strongly supported by a volunteer staff for crisis intervention services after business hours. Volunteers are also needed for special projects. Although the agency receives state and federal grants, it cannot maintain its level of service without community dollars. Consider making a contribution to this month's mission, and if interested in volunteering your time, call the Women's Aid Service business office at 989-773-0078.

Guest Speaker at CTK

Everyone is invited to a presentation by professional artist Ed Riojas on **Sunday, April 14 at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel**. Mr. Riojas attends an LCMS congregation in Grand Rapids. Some of his work has been featured at ArtPrize as well as in various Lutheran publications. The annual Spring Dinner will take place at 5:00 p.m. and the presentation will start at 6:00 p.m. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us! Learn more about our guest speaker, and see some of his work, at: edriojasartist.com.



Ladies' Bible Study

Ladies, join us on Saturday, April 13 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at CTK for a discussion on "Old Testament Prophecies – Fulfilled in Christ". All women confirmation age and older are welcome to attend. Childcare can be provided upon request. Contact Anne Bakker with any questions.



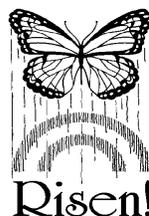
2019 *Kantorei*

**Concordia Theological Seminary,
Fort Wayne , Indiana**



**Saturday, April 27
10:00 a.m. at Zion**

We are fortunate to have the Kantorei from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana lead us in a service as part of their Easter Tour. Join us on Saturday, April 27 at Zion for a service of Matins beginning at 10:00 a.m.



**YOUTH Easter Breakfast
Sunday, April 21**

Everyone is invited to join the youth for breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 21, following the 7:30 a.m. worship service. This breakfast is a fund-raiser for the youth. A free-will offering will be taken. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at Zion for items. We thank you for your support.

Time to prepare for the Easter Breakfast!

On Saturday, April 20, preparations and set-up for the breakfast will take place. Youth will be needed to help. On Sunday morning ALL youth grades 4-12 will be needed to ensure all goes smoothly. We look forward to seeing all of our youth and many of our members!



Sunday, April 14

Pizza and topic discussion will be at 12:15 p.m. following the 11:00 a.m. service at CTK. We will then head over to the SAC at CMU for our activity. See Jeremy Couturier with any questions. Parents, please encourage your youth to join us.

NURSES NOTE:

You're not doomed to toss and turn every night. Consider simple tips for better sleep, from setting a sleep schedule to including physical activity in your daily routine.

John 11:12, His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Think about all the factors that can interfere with a good night's sleep — from work stress and family responsibilities to unexpected challenges, such as illnesses. It's no wonder that quality sleep is sometimes elusive.

Know when to contact your doctor.

Nearly everyone has an occasional sleepless night — but if you often have trouble sleeping, contact your doctor. Identifying and treating any underlying causes can help you get the better sleep you deserve. While you might not be able to control the factors that interfere with your sleep, you can adopt habits that encourage better sleep.

Start with these simple tips. Many are common sense, but it's good to be reminded.

1. Stick to a sleep schedule

Set aside no more than eight hours for sleep. The recommended amount of sleep for a healthy adult is at least seven hours. Most people don't need more than eight hours in bed to achieve this goal.

Go to bed and get up at the same time every day. Try to limit the difference in your sleep schedule on week nights and weekends to no more than one hour. Being consistent reinforces your body's sleep-wake cycle.

If you don't fall asleep within about 20 minutes, leave your bedroom and do something relaxing. Read or listen to soothing music. Go back to bed when you're tired. Repeat as needed.

2. Pay attention to what you eat and drink

Don't go to bed hungry or stuffed. Avoid heavy or large meals within a couple of hours of bedtime.

Your discomfort might keep you up.

Nicotine, caffeine and alcohol deserve caution, too. The stimulating effects of nicotine and caffeine take hours to wear off and can wreak havoc on quality sleep. And even though alcohol might make you feel sleepy, it can disrupt sleep later in the night.

3. Create a restful environment

Create a room that's ideal for sleeping. Often, this means cool, dark and quiet. Exposure to light might make it more challenging to fall asleep.

Avoid prolonged use of light-emitting screens just before bedtime. Consider using room-darkening shades, earplugs, a fan or other devices to create an environment that suits your needs.

Doing calming activities before bedtime, such as taking a bath or using relaxation techniques, might promote better sleep.

4. Limit daytime naps

Long daytime naps can interfere with nighttime sleep. If you choose to nap, limit yourself to up to 30 minutes and avoid doing so late in the day.

If you work nights, however, you might need to nap late in the day before work to help make up your sleep debt.

5. Include physical activity in your daily routine

Regular physical activity can promote better sleep. Avoid being active too close to bedtime, however. Spending time outside every day might be helpful, too.

6. Manage worries

Try to resolve your worries or concerns before bedtime. Jot down what's on your mind and then set it aside for tomorrow.

Stress management might help. Start with the basics, such as getting organized, setting priorities and delegating tasks. Meditation also can ease anxiety.

2019-2021 Board Positions

The nominating committee is wrapping up the process of filling open positions on the various boards at Zion. A slate of potential board members and officers will be posted on April 7. At the April 28 Voters' meeting the voters will elect our new board members and officers. If you have just a little bit of time and an area of interest, we can surely find a spot to utilize your gifts. With a few more hands the work will be less for everyone. It would be nice to give some of the people who have served for a number of years a little break. However, in order to do that we need a few that have not served, or have taken a break, to come in and help. The nominating committee would love to hear from you in the next week or so. Please contact Linda Coyne, Dale Gust, Tim Narr or either of our pastors.

Thank You!



Are You Able?

LWML Women to Women

LWML Spring/Prayer Day Service will be at St. John's Lutheran Church, Midland on Saturday, April 27, at 9:00 a.m. There is a \$5.00 registration fee. Please consider attending this event. If you are interested in car-pooling to Midland, contact Patty Pickler at pickl1pm@cmich.edu or at 989-482-9381.

Soap for Lutheran World Relief is collected year round. There is a box under the mailboxes at Zion.

LWML Easy Recipe of the Month Club

We have started an Easy Recipe of the Month Club with the thought of meeting multiple times throughout the year for a Women's Potluck. We will be using some of these recipes and possibly have a short program or activity.

More information will follow as we develop this new plan. In the meantime if you have a recipe that you would like to share, please send it to Patty Pickler at pickl1pm@cmich.edu.

Crock Pot Mac and Cheese

Ingredients:

12 oz can evaporated milk
16 oz box of elbow macaroni
3 cups shredded or cubed sharp cheddar cheese

8 oz cream cheese
2 1/2 cups milk
1 cup plain yogurt
1 crushed garlic clove (or 1/2 tsp garlic salt)
1/2 tsp pepper
1/4 tsp salt
Optional- add 1/2 cup bacon bits or diced ham

Combine all ingredients in crock pot and cook on low for 3 hours. Stir after 3 hours and check for pasta tenderness. If it appears too dry add more milk a half cup at a time until desired consistency. Cook for an addition 30 minutes or until all the liquid is absorbed. ENJOY!

Submitted by Patty Pickler



38th Biennial National LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama will take place June 20-23, 2019.



Thank you to all that have donated so generously already for the health kits for **Gifts from the Heart**. We are continuing to collect items. Needed for each kit is a washcloth, bath towel, full-size bar of soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, women's stick deodorant, comb/brush and Mustard Seeds, Devotional book or track. Any of these items that you are willing to contribute will be appreciated. Collection boxes are located at Zion and CTK.



UPDATE

We have continued to update our library. If you have a book that you think will be great for our library and want to donate this book, please put it on the Library cart and we will proceed from there. Our committee goal is to keep our library available for our readers and in good shape. However, we have found that books are still being lost and not returned. We do not want to discourage anyone from checking out books. However, we would request that more care be taken.

The procedure for checking out books is: Find the book on the shelves and open the inside cover, pull out the library card and fill out. **(Please fill out this card before removing the book from the Library.)** If there is no library card, it means you cannot check out the book. If you do not remember or understand what the procedures are, please look at the instructions that are posted in various places around the library.

Return policy: books are to be returned within **30 days** after check-out. If you have not finished the book, please check it out again for another **30 days**.

Returning books: Simply put the book back on the top shelf of the library cart and you are done. The rest is up to the Library Committee to keep track of the books.

If you do not remember or understand what the procedures are, please look at the instructions that are posted in various places around the library. The committee appreciates everyone returning books on the scheduled dates to the Library.

We are still looking for the following books, "Heaven is for Real" and "The Fellowship of the Rings." JRR Tolkien. Anyone have these books?

The Library Committee