

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool  
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel  
1401 South Washington  
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April 2021

Jonathon J. Bakker, Pastor

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*“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received:  
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried,  
that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,  
1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is with no small amount of joy that I am looking forward to observing Holy Week together *with* you. It has always been the highlight of the church year, but having shut down last year as a precaution against COVID, I had no idea how much I would miss it. I remember how much work it was putting the videos together, preparing for them, recording, editing, and uploading them, and how eerie it was to be sitting in an armchair with a laptop at 7:30 a.m. on Easter to watch our service...in my living room. Many of you were watching it together in your own homes at the same time – some of you even sent pictures to me of your viewing setup, complete with coffee! It wasn't the same as being together, but it was better than nothing.

While, Lord-willing, we will have the opportunity to be together again this Easter, what will not change is the glorious good news Easter brings to us. It is as Paul wrote to the Corinthians. Christ died for our sins. He did not go to the cross for any other reason. He died to take away our sins. He died so that the punishment for our sin would fall upon him, and not us. He died facing the wrath of his Father for the sin of the whole world. He paid for that sin with his life, and when he was shown to be dead – they pierced his side just to be sure – he was buried. They made the tomb as secure as they could with an enormous stone, and even set a guard in front of it to be doubly sure.

As it turned out, the grave could not hold Jesus. When the women arrived, the stone was moved, and the tomb was empty. It was three days later,

and the angel at the tomb revealed it to them. The apostles who came later heard the same thing. Jesus, who had died, was alive! The promises he'd made – that he would suffer, be mocked, spat upon, beaten, and crucified all came true. And so did the other promise – he rose from the dead three days later.

And it all happened *in accordance with the Scriptures!* Twice in just two Bible verses, Paul said that. It sounds like a routine phrase for us. We speak it as part of the Nicene Creed, and indeed, Paul's writing here is very likely the reason it is in the Creed. One question may come to mind, though – when we think of the Scriptures we point to our modern Bibles, but to which Scriptures were Paul referring? There was no Holy Bible with 66 books from Genesis through Revelation available when Paul was carrying out his missionary work and writing his epistles; Paul himself wrote 13 of those books as he was carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1). Indeed, Paul was not confused, he was simply referring to the Scriptures that had come before – long before the Gospels or any other book of the New Testament had been written.

We may be tempted to downplay the Old Testament since it precedes Jesus' earthly ministry, but to do so would miss the whole point. Jesus himself referred to the Old Testament in key places to predict his death. He spoke of it as his Exodus at the Transfiguration. He spoke about being lifted up just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness. He also quoted Psalm 22 as he was dying on the cross. The whole book of Isaiah is full of prophecy about Christ, especially

in chapters 52 and 53, which describe the Passion of Jesus for our sins in such detail that you would think those words were written after witnessing Jesus' crucifixion, rather than 700 years before he was born. So yes, he died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, but that is not the end of it - he was raised from the dead on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures! And where in the Old Testament do we find such teaching? Again, in many places, but the place to start would be the words of Jesus. He spoke of the sign of Jonah – who spent three days and three nights in the belly of the fish when he ran from God's call to preach repentance and faith to the Ninevites. He also spoke of the anticipated resurrection of all on the Last Day with Mary and Martha right before he *raised their brother Lazarus from the dead!* Even Job, a man associated with great suffering, confessed faith in the resurrection. He knew that his Redeemer lives!

And so do we; at Easter and always. And that will never change! It will be particularly joyful to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus in person this year – if you're able and willing, please come. The 7:30 a.m. service at Zion and 11:00 a.m. service at Christ The King will follow our normal Sunday morning level of precautions, and we will also have a 10:00 a.m. service at Christ The King following the higher precautions we normally observe on Wednesday nights. At the end of that Easter Sunday morning higher precaution service, attendees will have the opportunity to stay and sing together an Easter hymn, or if they do not wish to be exposed to singing, to depart before the singing occurs. I am thankful for those who suggested this and for our willing musicians who are making it possible. It is the high point of our Church year, and I hope to see you, for Christ is, indeed, risen, and lives! Death is defeated. The victory is ours. We have hope forever!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Bakker



## Christian Education

Do you like Easter? I do! The warming temperatures, melting snow, robin sightings, and colorful Easter eggs hanging from bushes and trees remind me that Easter will soon be here.



Once again, enjoy the many fun traditions of Easter that your family celebrate. Do not forget, however, the very best part of Easter...Jesus...God's own Son! I'm so glad that God sent his Son to die and live again for you and me! It's true because He loves us.

This is love: not that we love God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10

In Sunday School, we continue to be in God's Word. It continues to look a little different with masks and distancing, but we are blessed to gather together.

Happy Easter Everyone!  
Sharon Milan



## Little Caesar Pizza Fundraiser !

**Paper Orders due April 14**

**Online Orders due April 19**

**Goal: \$1800.00**

Order forms are available at both Zion and CTK. Orders can also be placed online using our group ID 389184. Funds raised will be used for classroom equipment, supplies, field trips and financial aid. Delivery will be the week of May 3. Some help will be needed on delivery day to sort orders. As soon as we know the delivery day we will let you know.

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

## Enrollment for our Summer Camp and the 2021-22 school year continues!

Forms and information can be found at Zion as well as the preschool website.

[www.zionlutheranpreschoolecc.com](http://www.zionlutheranpreschoolecc.com)

Tell your friends and help us spread the word!

# STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report  
through February 28, 2021

	2021	2020
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 82,500.44	\$ 80,781.52
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 88,763.63	\$ 88,440.76
YTD Balance	\$ (6,263.19)	\$ ( 7,659.24)
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 90,628.82	\$ 69,940.89
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 88,763.63	\$ 88,440.76
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ 1,865.19	\$ (18,499.87)

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood. As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For “without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine” (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack. A common counterpoint is: “But that’s from the Old Testament!” Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: “For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance” (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: “One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that

which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money” (Luke 16:10–13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:19–21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need” (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don’t give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?”





A big thank you to our altar guilds, who have been going above and beyond for well on a year, now, to prepare the altar and elements for Sundays and Wednesdays. Thank you, also, to our ushers and elders whose roles in our worship have been impacted by the concerns and precautions surrounding COVID. All of you have stepped up and your service is appreciated, especially as we head into the extra worship services of Holy Week. The Lord bless your ongoing service to your Lord and Zion!

### **Men's Breakfast Bible Study Continues**

Any confirmed man in the congregation is welcome to join us at 8:00 a.m. on the third Saturday each month at Zion for a tasty breakfast and Bible Study. We meet in the gym to allow attendees to seat themselves comfortably far apart, and the whole thing is usually finished by 9:30 a.m. The food and fellowship are great, but the highlight is the time we get to spend in the Word of God. Our current topic is the book of Judges – we'll be looking at chapters 4 and 5 April 17, so it's a great time to join us if you haven't come before.

### **Associate Pastor Call Update**

There is not much news on this front as we remain in the stage of waiting and prayer. The call services for our seminaries will take place April 27 and 28, in Fort Wayne and St. Louis, respectively. They will be live streamed on each seminary's website so members may watch if they are so inclined. Note that St. Louis is in the Central time zone. We do not know yet if we will receive a candidate or from which seminary we would receive one if one is placed here at Zion. If the past holds true, though, our Michigan District office staff will contact me the weekend before to let me know whether or not a candidate has been assigned, and from which seminary he will be coming. If that happens again, I will pass the information along to the congregation as soon as possible so you may watch the service. Please continue to pray for our call for an associate pastor to be answered according to the Lord's will, and for me as I juggle the load of campus ministry in addition to everything else.

Fort Wayne seminary website: [www.ctsfu.edu](http://www.ctsfu.edu)

St. Louis seminary website: [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu)

- 1 Psalm 22 & 83
- 2 Psalm 69 & Psalm 89
- 3 Psalm 68 & 82
- 4 *Hear the Word at Church - EASTER*
- 5 1 Samuel 18-19; Mathew 28
- 6 1 Samuel 20-21; Hosea 1-2
- 7 1 Samuel 22-23; Hosea 3-4
- 8 1 Samuel 24-25; Hosea 5
- 9 1 Samuel 26-27; Hosea 6-7
- 10 1 Samuel 28-29; Hosea 8
- 11 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 12 1 Samuel 30-31; Hosea 9-10
- 13 Psalm 44-49; Proverbs 17
- 14 Psalm 50-55; Proverbs 18-19
- 15 Numbers 1-2; Hosea 11-12
- 16 Numbers 3-4; Hosea 13-14
- 17 Numbers 5-6; Ephesians 1
- 18 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 19 Numbers 7-8; Ephesians 2
- 20 Numbers 9-10; Ephesians 3
- 21 Numbers 11-12; Ephesians 4
- 22 Numbers 13-14; Ephesians 5
- 23 Numbers 15-16; Ephesians 6
- 24 Numbers 17-18; 2 Samuel 1
- 25 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 26 Numbers 19-20; 2 Samuel 2
- 27 Numbers 21-22; 2 Samuel 3-4
- 28 Numbers 23-24; 2 Samuel 5
- 29 Numbers 25-26; 2 Samuel 6-7
- 30 Numbers 27-28; 2 Samuel 8-9



### **Quarterly Voters' Meeting**

**Sunday, April 25**

**12:15 p.m. at CTK**

*On the agenda will be voting for new officers and board members. A slate of tentative names is in this newsletter and an updated list will be posted mid-April.*



**HOLY WEEK  
WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**

**April 1 – Maundy Thursday**

5:30 p.m. Worship at Zion

7:30 p.m. Worship at CTK - higher precautions

**April 2 – Good Friday**

1:00 p.m. Worship at Zion

3:00 p.m. Worship at CTK - higher precautions

**April 4 – Easter Sunday**

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

*No Sunday School, Bible Class or breakfast*

10:00 a.m. Worship at CTK - higher precautions

11:00 a.m. Worship CTK

**Zion Lutheran Women’s Group**

***Water of Life  
Look Into My Heart***



**In the Word**

*As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man. Proverbs 27:19*

**Of the Word**

What beauty there is in sitting by a body of water—stream, lake, river, or ocean – and watching the sun set. The sky is filled with wonderful shades of reds, oranges and yellows. The water reflects these brilliant colors, making what seems like a double sunset.

The author of Proverbs says that our hearts are just like water. Just as objects and light are reflected by water, the heart of man reflects his whole being. Looking into our own heart can be a scary thought. We are quickly made aware of our sins, faults and evil actions when we compare what we carry in our heart to God’s expectations of us.

But the heart of a believer also shows the evidence of God’s redeeming work of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. God promises us “... I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.” Ezekiel 36:26a Through the waters of baptism and faith in Jesus Christ, God has taken away our stony heart filled with sin, faults and evil actions. He gives us a new heart filled with the Holy Spirit and faith.

**Walking with my Lord**

Faithful God, through baptism You have given me a new heart. Guide me so my heart and actions will always reflect Your love and goodness. In Your holy name. Amen.

**April 10 – Women’s Bible Study**  
Saturday, 9:30 a.m., at CTK.



We are continuing our Women’s Bible Study on “One Christ, Many Creeds: A Study of Denominations from a Lutheran Perspective.” Every woman in the congregation is welcome!

**Quilting Group** – Meets on Tuesday’s from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm.

**Flowers for the Altar** – There are a number of open slots for flowers to be donated at Zion Lutheran Church and Christ the King. The cost is \$20, and you may take the flowers home after the service. They usually last two weeks so are a nice addition to your dinner table or wherever. Make out checks to Zion Lutheran Women’s Guild, put in an envelope marked Charolette Mogielski and place in the LWML box in the Library or give to Tim Narr at the church office.

**National Convention** – June 24-27, 2021, Lexington, Kentucky. Join us in beautiful Lexington as we are “Running the Race... Looking to Jesus.” See you there! All information is in the Lutheran Women’s Quarterly located on the LWML table in the narthex of Zion Lutheran Church. Since the Michigan District is hosting, there are a number of us that have volunteered to help put this convention on. The National and District will contribute some funding for this convention. If interested, please contact Kathleen Nims [kns48617@outlook.com](mailto:kns48617@outlook.com)

***Serve the Lord with Gladness” Psalm 100:2***

## NURSE'S NOTE

Now that the rate of getting vaccinated for COVID-19 has increased, some wonder about the variants. The following information was taken from Livescience.com. Remember to do your part in controlling the spread. Please contact me with questions or concerns.

zionparishnurse@gmail.com or 989-621-8583

*Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.*

Though scientists can't predict which mutations will give the virus an edge, they know those mutations will emerge the more the virus spreads. "You're going to see variants that are selected for greater transmissibility and/or antibody resistance because they're the two biggest selection pressures," Moore said.

Strong selection pressure, such as with very high efficacy vaccines, may reduce the number of chances for the virus to replicate and mutate. Meanwhile a really weak selection pressure means the virus doesn't have to mutate, so any change will provide a negligible advantage, Moore said.

The trouble comes when we put an intermediate level of selection pressure on the virus. For instance, widespread use of weak vaccines, or stretching out the time between the first and second doses of the vaccine, when you don't have a strong antibody response could be a "breeding ground for new variants," Moore said. "We're aware of that."

So to prevent future variants, we need to make sure we are giving people vaccines on schedule, to stop so-called escape mutants from emerging. And we need to stop the spread of the virus, which allows the coronavirus more chances to mutate.

These viruses "haven't suddenly grown scissors that will cut their way through masks, they haven't grown spring-heeled boots that will bounce them 50 yards between people," Moore said. "They're still coronaviruses and they're still stoppable by the standard procedures that we should all be doing."

If the variants become impervious to our vaccines, it's pretty simple to modify Pfizer's and Moderna's mRNA vaccines, to create booster shots by swapping out the genetic sequence used to teach the body to recognize the spike protein with the new mutated sequence.

## 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.



### In memory of Joyce Peetz

Dave & Linda Coyne

Ken & Doris Johnson

Wayne & Karyn Kiefer

Dan & Sharon Milan

Jim & Delores Morford

Tom & Diane Prekert

John & Claudia Schimmelmann

## Message from the Elders

Please join us in worship for the upcoming Holy Week. Service times are listed in this newsletter. Also, on April 25, there is our Annual Voters Assembly meeting. It meets four times a year and is open to all members of Zion 18 years of age and who have signed the Constitution of this congregation. What does this body do?

Here is an excerpt from our Constitution:

**“The congregation as a body, through the voting members, shall have supreme power to administer and manage all its external and internal affairs.”** It is through the Voters Assembly that decisions are made on a number of topics. One such action to be voted upon is the upcoming slate of officers that will serve for a two-year term beginning July 1. We strongly encourage you to go to Zion’s web page [www.zionchristtheking.org](http://www.zionchristtheking.org) and download both the Constitution and Bylaws or ask an elder to send you an electronic copy.

The Bylaws outline the duties and responsibilities expected of each board. The Constitution outlines who we are as a congregation, our name, purpose, standards of confession and teaching, membership, voting members, authority of the congregation, and many other requirements. All churches who are members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) have similar documents approved by the Michigan District. Thus, when visiting other LCMS churches, you can be assured that the church practices such as hymns, prayers, and liturgies used in the service conform to the doctrinal standard as outlined in the Constitution.

We need you, our members, to become a voting member so that you have a say in the administration of its affairs. All you need do is to show up at the meeting and indicate your desire to become a Voting Member. No oath, no pledge, no induction—just a signature to our Constitution. See you at the meeting on April 25.  
(Dale Gust, Elders Director)



## July 1, 2021-June 30, 2023 Nominee List for Zion’s Board Positions (Tentative)

Nominating Committee: Chad Roe, Jill Davis,  
Dale Gust

Praise and Thanks to all, many new and returning members, who have consented to serving on the following boards for the next two years. There are more members who have been asked to join a board who are still praying about it. If you have additional names you want the nominating committee to consider, please pass them along to Chad, Jill, or Dale.

*Executive Director:* Chad Roe

*Assistant Director:* OPEN

*Treasurer:* Gary Hayes

*Assistant Treasurer:* John Schimmelmann

\* denotes director

**Campus Ministry:** \*Deb Goodwin, Anne Bakker, Ryan Rollin, Jon Goodwin, Rachel Rollin, Kathy Nims, Michael Carson, Ann Hayes

**Evangelism:** \*John Schimmelmann, Linda Coyne, Claudia Schimmelmann. Delores Morford, Charlotte Mogielski,

**Trustees:** \*David Coyne, Joe Claybaugh, Dennis Grim, Dan Zalud, Karl Geiger, Bill Brostrom, Jeff Bingham, Lee Aldrich, Mike Walton, John Holland

**Family Life/Youth:** \*Luke Epple Jr., Jeremy Zalud, Rita Zalud, Matt Miller, Jill Miller, Jennifer Geiger, Luke Epple Sr., Jeremy Couturier, Ben Kisse, Jessie Empie, Laurie Gilroy

**Christian Education:** \*Jill Davis, Jonathan Zalud, Sharon Milan, Janice Harless, Brad Coulson, Christaina Roe, Courtney Ross, Brianna Empie, Cori Bingham

**Elders:** \*Kyle Camp, Dale Gust, Richard Harless, Rod Dent, Wayne Kiefer, Brian Tice, Ryan Rollin, Luke Epple Sr.

**Stewardship:** \*Jeremy Couturier, Beth Brostrom, Tim Narr, Jennifer Walton, Anna Gilbert