

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
3401 E. River Road
(989)772-1516



Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
1401 South Washington
(989)773-5050

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

It is hard to miss the darkness in the world around us. Cruelty, selfishness, shameless displays of sexual excess, obsession with material possessions, violence, crime, family breakdown—the list goes on. The Sunday morning scripture readings in November touched on similar themes—the destruction of Jerusalem, wars, rumors of wars, hearts turned cold, faithlessness, the End Times and the Final Judgement. The darkness will not last forever.

Advent brings with it the hope of God's deliverance. His ancient people, the Jews, had been through war, captivity, and destruction. They awaited God's salvation in darkness and silence. Silence, because no prophet had come for hundreds of years. And darkness, because they were small, scattered, and humbled—a shadow of their former glory.

And yet, "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." (Galatians 4:4). On the first Christmas, while the shepherds watched their flocks by night, the angels appeared, announcing the Good News to them, and the glory of the Lord shone upon them. Christ's mission was to bring light and life to a dark world: "in him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:4-5). In the deep darkness of Good Friday, the Light of the World overcame the Prince of Darkness.

Christ came into the world as a baby on that first Christmas. He will come again on the Last Day to end earth's darkness completely. And yet, even now, in that in-between time, The Light of the World still shines. If you fear or despise the darkness in the world around you, then come into the presence of Christ, who is the Light of the World. If the darkness of your own heart bothers you, then seek the light of his redeeming grace. Come into his presence. Step into his light. Draw nearer to him this Christmas season. Let his light shine deeper into your heart. Come to church on Sundays; come on Wednesday evenings; come on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve. Open the Bible in your home and with your family, so that the bright rays of Christ's saving light may shine there too.

Receive the Light of the world through faith. Believe in Christ, believe in his life-giving work on the Cross, believe and live. The newborn Savior of Bethlehem comes to make his home with you. Receive the newborn king through faith, because "to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13).

Pastor Ulledalen



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The following Sunday School students received an attendance certificate for completing 13 Sundays in October & November:



Grades N - K

Elizabeth Avery
Benjamin Ulledalen
Magdalena Ulledalen

Children's Christmas Program

"What Child Is This"

December 15, 11:00 a.m. at Zion

Come join in celebrating our Savior's birth with Zion's Sunday School children and Preschool children! Following the service there will be Birthday Cake and refreshments in the gymnasium / fellowship room.



Christmas Program Practice times:

Sundays, December 1 and 8 following Sunday School.

Sunday, December 15 at 9:45 a.m. with the program to follow.

There will be NO Sunday School on December 22 & 29. Sunday School classes will resume on January 5.

There will be no Bible Class on December 15, 22 & 29. Bible Class will resume on January 5.



Advent/Christmas/New Year Schedule

The Sunday morning schedule will be:

December 1 8:30 a.m. Zion 11:00 a.m. CTK

December 8 8:30 a.m. Zion 11:00 a.m. CTK

December 15 8:30 a.m. Zion

11:00 a.m. Zion Children's Christmas Program

December 22 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Zion

December 29 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Zion

Advent Wednesday Services

December 4, 11 & 18 5:30 p.m. Zion

Christmas Eve Services

Both at Zion 4:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service Zion 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Service Zion 7:30 p.m.

January 5 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Zion

January 6 **Epiphany Service** 5:30 p.m. Zion

Christmas Candlelight Service Message

Christmas Eve candlelight services will once again be conducted in celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior at Zion Lutheran Church at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on December 24. Regretfully, we have had some instances in the past where young children have obtained burns or have hair singed because of the flame or wax coming from the way they are handling the candles. In addition, wax tends to be dripped on the pews and carpet in the sanctuary. The Elders have had several discussions about this and do not want to eliminate the lighting of the candles which has become popular for our members when these services are held. We also need to acknowledge that these services are attended by many visitors who may be family members of our congregation and some are not. Understanding that this is also something our children do enjoy as well, the Elders will be asking the Ushers for these services to not hand out these candles to young children and we want to urge parents to use all precautions if they let their children hold a burning candle. Your assistance in the supervision of our children is greatly appreciated. Please join us for all the services during this Christmas season which are announced in this newsletter. – Zion Elders

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through October, 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 371,776.17	\$ 377,532.94
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 359,727.96</u>	<u>\$,372,117.42</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 12,048.21	\$ 5,415.52
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 320,898.85	\$ 345,252.42
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 359,727.96</u>	<u>\$ 372,117.42</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$(38,829.11)	\$(26,865.00)

Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, is teaching those who follow Him that worrying about the necessities of life is idolatry: worshipping a false god. This is because worry and anxiety show what we care about. Our anxiety reveals what we love and to what we're devoted. It reveals what we trust in.

This is why our Lord begins this section with an overarching principle: "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

But you say: "I must eat and drink. I must have clothing to wear and have a home in which to dwell." Yes, all these things you need. And Jesus says that your Father in heaven will ensure that you have them. He demonstrates this with a simple argument.

Your Father in heaven feeds the birds of the air, who neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns. He clothes the lilies of the field, who neither toil nor spin but are arrayed more luxuriously than Solomon in all his glory. If, then, your Father in heaven feeds the birds and clothes the lilies, how will He not also feed and clothe you when you are worth more than they are?

For you know that you are worth more than them. You are worth infinitely more. You are worth the price of the eternal Son of God. Did the Son of God come down from heaven and become a lily? Did he descend and take on the form of a bird? No!

He came down from heaven and became a man: flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone. He is one of us, our brother. And what did He do when He became flesh to dwell among us? He gave His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death, that you might be His own and live under Him in His kingdom forever.

God became man in Christ Jesus. He lived the life we failed to live, and He died the death we deserve because of it. He was raised again on the third day to overcome sin and death ... for us. He was crucified for our transgressions and raised for our justification. So, if your Father in heaven has given His Son to die for us in order that we might live with Him eternally, how will He not also give us all things to support this body and life?

To be anxious about the necessities of life, to devote yourself to food and clothing, to care about this and find security in it, is to serve another god.

It is to deny that you will live forever because Jesus, the Son of God is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. It is to believe that God – who created you, redeemed you by the death and resurrection of His Son, and sanctifies you by His Spirit – will not keep His promises of sustaining you in this life.

Jesus says this: Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness. God's kingdom is His rule among us. His rule among us comes when our Father in heaven gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity. This is what we ask God to do for us in the prayer Jesus taught us.

Your Father in heaven knows what you need – food and clothing, house and home, etc. – and He promises to give it to you. Chief of the things you need is His grace and mercy in His Son, Jesus Christ. So, seek after that. Those who seek will find. And all the necessities of life, our Lord says, will be added to you.



Christmas Outreach News

Thanks to all who applied for Thrivent grants and purchased men's, women's and children's coats for Christmas Outreach and those who donated additional coats. There was also a Thrivent Action Team grant for children's book and an outpouring of donations of books. All totaled we received \$1000.00 from Thrivent. Thank you all for your giving hearts.



Mission of the Month

Lutheran Child and Family Services Wellspring Lutheran Services

LCFS of Michigan is a not-for-profit corporation that provides a range of services for children and families. Services are available through multiple service sites located in the lower peninsula of Michigan. Programs incorporate prevention, intervention and treatment components to provide a continuum of care. By joining Lutheran Child & Family Service of Michigan with Lutheran Homes of Michigan under the **Wellspring Lutheran Services** brand, we will be able to serve people and communities in new ways. We'll be able to engage them at every stage of life to help them discover and embrace their own potential. So together, we can bring more of God's love to a world in need. From foster care and adoption to a complete line of senior services, you can be confident that as we work together, you will experience a life-changing difference. www.wellspringlutheran.com
Information quoted from their website and brochure.

Subscribe to The Lutheran Witness

It is time to order your subscription to The Lutheran Witness for 2020. It is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, published 11 times a year, providing stories and information that complements congregational life, fosters personal growth in faith, and helps interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. A Michigan District Supplement will be included in each issue. This supplement will contain stories, news, and events along with content that awakens, connects, challenges, and inspires through stories of hope. The new subscription year begins March 2020. Contact the church office by Tuesday, December 10, to take advantage of the discounted rate of \$12.00 a year. Leave your \$12 payment in the church office marked "Lutheran Witness". (Individual subscriptions ordered directly from Concordia Publishing cost \$19.99 a year and do not include the Michigan District supplement.)



In memory of Joyce Willis

Adella Bergey
Al & Jan Block
Roger & Sally Cole
Lori Cooper
Julie Courtney
Dorne & Jill Davis
Roger & Nancy Dent
Luke & Sue Epple
Yvonne Fitzgerald
Richard & Diane Fleming
Ruth Giffin
Dale & JoAnn Gust
Shirley Hopp
Kathleen Huber
Ken & Doris Johnson
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer
Bonnie Mauk
Dan & Sharon Milan
Bill & Nancy Whitehead
Fred & Christina Zalud
Jim & Bryn Zalud



DECORATING AT ZION

Thursday, December 5

Anyone interested in helping with the decorating at Zion may come on Thursday, December 5 during the day. If you have questions see Claudia Schimmelmann.

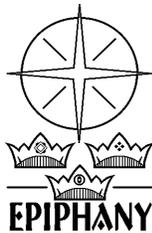


A big thank you to all of our volunteer ushers and greeters at church! With so many extra services in the coming month, please know that your help and leadership is a real gift to your church family, and we thank you. Thanks also to the teams of student ushers who have been serving us faithfully this year at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel!

Thank you, also, to all who serve Zion as our treasurers, financial secretaries, and also to our counters – you render very important services to the congregation and rarely receive any recognition. Know that your work is not in vain and that you are all appreciated!

Epiphany Service coming Monday January 6

We will be having an Epiphany service this year at Zion! We have not tried a special Epiphany Service in recent memory, but it is an important festival that takes place early in the Church Year. The word 'epiphany' means *manifestation*, and in the church we celebrate on Epiphany the manifestation of Jesus as the divine Son of God. If we celebrate that the Father has *given* us the gift of his Son at Christmas, then we celebrate all the more at Epiphany that this gift is *unwrapped* before us as Jesus is revealed to be our Savior, the Holy One of Israel, promised of old. **Join us Monday, January 6, 5:30 p.m. at Zion for this special service.**



New Year's Eve Worship

New Year's Eve worship at Zion is Tuesday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m. During the worship service on New Year's Eve, our tradition is to read the names of members who have passed away during the year. Also read are names of members' relatives who have passed away during the year. Contact the church office if you would like to verify that we are aware of your relative's name.



Holy Scripture: Guided Reading

Pastoral Epistles & Jesus' Birth:

Paul's letters to pastors are of great value not only for clergy but for all of God's people. After all, if everyone is not aware of what is expected by God of their pastors, how can pastors be held accountable if they err? Paul's advice and encouragement should therefore be eagerly read and studied by all. As usual for December, the final readings will prepare you further for the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas!



- 1 Timothy 1 – Warnings and True Teachings
- 1 Timothy 2 – Pray for all
- 1 Timothy 3 – Qualifications
- 1 Timothy 4 – Falling away, Faithful service
- 1 Timothy 5 – Instructions for the Church
- 1 Timothy 6 – Fight the good fight
- Titus 1 – Qualifications
- Titus 2 – Teach Sound Doctrine
- Titus 3 – Be ready for good works
- 2 Timothy 1 – Guard the deposit of faith
- 2 Timothy 2 – A good soldier and worker
- 2 Timothy 3 – Godlessness vs. reliability of Scripture
- 2 Timothy 4 – Preach the Word
- Matthew 1:1-17 – Genealogy of Jesus
- Matthew 1:18-25 – The Birth of Jesus
- Matthew 2 – Magi, Egypt, Herod, Nazareth
- Luke 1:1-38 – Annunciation
- Luke 1:39-80 – Magnificat, John the Baptist
- Luke 2:1-21 – Jesus' Birth, Shepherds
- Luke 2:22-52 – Presentation of Jesus and his Youth
- John 1:1-18 – The Word Became Flesh

Women's Guild

Please plan to make cookies for our annual
Cookie Walk being held on **Saturday,**
December 7!



Cookies can be dropped off in the kitchen beginning Wednesday, December 4.

Cookies that go the fastest are decorated sugar cookies, Snowballs, Buckeyes, Crinkles, Thumbprints, Peanut-butter Blossoms, Christmas Crack, decorated cut-out Gingerbread, Pinwheels, Crockpot candy, or any specialty holiday cookie. Cookies that do not go fast are the plain peanut butter, oatmeal, and chocolate chip cookies.

Trina Palmer has organized a large group of vendors for the Craft Show and our youth group will preparing a lunch at a very reasonable price.

Cookie Walk &



December 14 - **The Women's Guild will be hosting a** Christmas Brunch and White Elephant exchange from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Zion. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend. If you need a ride please contact Patty Pickler at 989 482-9381.

Upcoming Dates

December 7 - Christmas Cookie Walk and Craft Show at Zion from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

February 29, 2020 -Women's Guild General Meeting 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

July 10-12, 2020 - LWML Michigan District Convention in Gaylord



Youth / Family Life



"WATERMARKED" Higher Things Conference

The Higher Things Conference next year will be at Calvin University in Grand Rapids from July 21-24. **Youth interested in attending should talk with Jeremy Couturier as soon as possible.** You can also contact Jeremy with any questions at 810-513-6179.

Youth are encouraged to help with lunch during the Cookie Walk/Craft Show on Saturday, December 7. Please see Jeremy Couturier about helping.

Parade On Saturday, December 7, the youth and children will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Methodist Church to line up for the annual Christmas parade in downtown Mt. Pleasant. The parade starts at 6:00 p.m.

Caroling On Sunday, December 8, after the 11:00 a.m. service at CTK, we will be going caroling to some of our shut-ins. We will return to Zion for some pizza and a topic discussion to be held by Pastor Ulledalen. All youth are encouraged to participate. It will be fun and rewarding. See Mr. Epple if you have any questions.

Thank you to everyone who participated with the apple pie fundraiser in all capacities. Your generosity is much appreciated. Special thanks to Dick and Jan Harless for picking up the apples. We couldn't have done it without all of you!

Christmas Lights

Rod and Nancy Dent invite you to see their huge Christmas light display on **Friday, December 20.** For those who wish to carpool to the farm, we will meet at Zion at 5:45 p.m. Otherwise you can meet us at the farm at 6:00 p.m. We will enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and fellowship! We hope to see you all there!



1132 S Brinton Rd.

NURSE'S NOTE:

We often think we are at a higher risk of dehydration in the summer than winter. That may not be true. Mayo Clinic recommends paying attention to your body and learning when you are hydrated. Water is the best liquid to rehydrate a healthy person.

Did you know you're already dehydrated when you start to feel thirsty? Don't wait to take a drink. Thirst isn't a helpful indicator of hydration. In fact, when you're thirsty, you could already be dehydrated, having lost as much as 1 to 2 percent of your body's water content. And with that kind of water loss, you may start to experience cognitive impairments — like stress, agitation and forgetfulness, to name a few. In theory, a liquid that boosts mood helps the body function properly and gets rid of excess toxins. This should be the go-to strategy for better health. But despite the fact that it's essential to survive — and that the body's made up of 60 percent of it — water often becomes a forgotten nutrient.

Experts say a quick urine check could be the most effective DIY way to tell how hydrated you are. Simply look at the color of your urine. If it's pale yellow, you're hydrated. If it's a darker yellow, it's time for a glass of water (or two). The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recommends that men drink 15.5 cups of water a day, and women drink 11.5 cups a day. But this is just a guideline. How much water you need depends on a number of factors, such as what you eat and the way you move your body. Adequate hydration can even change based on climate and what the weather's like on any given day. Remember cold weather also can dehydrate us.

Phillis Daws RN, BSN 989-621-8583 or
zionparishnurse@gmail.com

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

International Ministry

Ladies, you're invited to...

*The International Women's Club of
Mid-Michigan's Annual Christmas Party!*

It is Wednesday, December 4 at 1:00 p.m.
at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel –

1401 S. Washington. You may bring food to share and also a gift (\$5-\$10, new or used) for our *white elephant* gift exchange. If you can't bring anything, don't worry! We will have extra gifts available, so everyone will receive something. Children and friends are always welcome! Hope to see you there! Anne Bakker



Preschool Christmas News

The preschool children will again be celebrating Christ's birth throughout the month of December. Each week our story themes will touch on Angels, Shepherds, and of course our coming Messiah. On December 15, the four-year-old class will join the Zion Sunday school children with songs and recitation. Children will arrive at 9:45 a.m. for one final practice and service time begins at 11:00 a.m.

This year our three-year-old class will be holding a "Christmas Tea" on Tuesday, December 17 at 10:00 a.m. The children will be hosting parents, grandparents, and those special adults in their lives in a morning of devotion, songs, tea, cookie decorating and treats.

