

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
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February 2019

Jonathon J. Bakker and Benjamin J. Ulledalen, Pastors

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*'For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord,
with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.'*
2 Corinthians 4:5

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, most people are familiar with the jokes about a pastor's schedule...that he only has to work one day a week and, therefore, has it pretty easy from Monday through Saturday! In reality, few believe the joke and, in my experience, I see that many people actually believe the opposite to be more true; that the pastor is so busy that he should not be bothered. I know this because many people with whom I interact, either in person or on the phone, initiate conversations saying, 'Oh, Pastor, I know you're busy...' or, 'I hate to bother you...'

Here's the truth about my schedule (and the schedules of many pastors, for the most part): it's flexible! A pastor's schedule must be responsive to the needs of the people he is called to serve. Yes, it is true my schedule can easily get filled with visits, meetings, phone calls, or e-mails, and on top of that there is the time I devote to prayer, study, worship, and sermon planning. I am also married, and so is our Associate Pastor, who is a father, as well. Nevertheless, we are your pastors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We may be helping someone else at the moment you call, but there will be time for you, too, so don't be afraid to call, especially when you need a pastor. You might wonder, 'when would I need a pastor?' The following is a reminder for you concerning specific situations when you should call:

– At a hospitalization: In the past, hospitals used to call the church to let us know when a member was in the hospital. That does not happen anymore, even when people list their church on the admittance forms and check the box

requesting a pastoral visit. If you don't want to be visited, that is up to you, but if you want the pastor to visit, don't assume we know you're there, even if you told some people from church. Please call! Sometimes people are anxious about a visit when they don't look or feel their best – do not be concerned. We visit the sick because we want to bring the comfort of God's Word to you when you need it most. God's gifts through Word and Sacrament are just as needed when you are sick as the medicine and therapy that come from the doctors and medical staff.

– At the death of a loved one: It is preferable, if possible, that you call before death occurs, especially if the loved one is a fellow church member. Your pastors have words of comfort from the Gospel for the dying person as well as for family members confronted by the reality of death. Your pastors can also be a resource to help with some of the steps that need to be followed after death (calling the hospice nurse, the funeral director, etc.).

– During medical tests or a difficult diagnosis: It can be difficult to face the uncertainty of waiting for results or coping with bad medical news. Your pastors want to pray with you and for you to help you cast your cares upon the Lord and trust in His faithfulness to endure.

– You will be absent from worship for an extended period of time: Sometimes people cannot make it to church services because of illness, frailty, weather, or job-related issues. Your pastors can come right to your home and bring you God's gifts with a brief service of Word and Sacrament.

– You are experiencing marital/family difficulties: If your marriage is struggling, or you struggle as parents, or if difficult family circumstances emerge, your pastor is trained to apply God’s Word to the challenging situations that arise as sinful people live and interact with one another. Such difficulties could be unemployment, imprisonment, addiction, abuse, mental health struggles, etc. Your pastors are ‘safe’ people to speak with, but we are not professionally trained or certified therapists. Our wisdom and counsel only come from the Word of God. We may even suggest that you seek other professional help alongside the pastoral care you are already receiving. Remember, your pastors pray for you and your family, and you can ask for our prayers, too!

– At a pregnancy or childbirth: Take note – your pastors will not ask you if you are pregnant! Please let your pastors know, though, so that we can pray for you and for your unborn child. Likewise, when the child is born, inform the pastors so that we can offer to visit and make arrangements for baptism. If, Lord forbid it, there are complications or questions about the health of the child, call your pastors. We can come and perform an emergency baptism.

– You are considering becoming engaged, or you just became engaged. Your pastors should be one of the first phone calls you make to seek guidance as you make such important life decisions. Certainly, consult with the pastors before setting a wedding date! A Christian marriage needs to be rooted and grounded in God’s Word and Christ’s love. Part of what we do to assist this is to meet with engaged couples to provide pre-marriage instruction.

– You have spiritual struggles, your conscience is troubled by sin, or you have questions: While these won’t always be emergencies, your pastors both care a great deal about God’s Word and want to help people grow in their understanding of it, especially as that applies to our consciences. We all know that even faithful church members sin. God does not leave anyone alone, however, to struggle with temptation and guilt. The devil loves to use such opportunities to lead even faithful people into despair. God invites you to confess your sins and receive absolution for Christ’s sake. You can

go to your pastors for this pastoral care, knowing that neither one of us will ever reveal what is confessed, nor will either of us judge you. We will speak God’s Word to you so that you will leave knowing that, ‘as far as the east is from the west, so far have your transgressions been removed.’

– Someone you know wants to know more about faith in Christ: Again, this won’t always be an emergency, but one way of spreading the Gospel is to invite others to come and see. Don’t be afraid to invite friends to speak with your pastors, especially if they have questions that you don’t know how to answer.

Please feel free to contact us at home, via e-mail, or even text message, and we will be able to meet you at home, for a cup of coffee, for lunch, or in one of our studies at church. We are here for you! Yours in Christ, Pastor Bakker

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



Preschool Enrollment 2019-2020

Open enrollment begins February 1. Your child must be four years of age on or before December 1, 2019, to enroll in the four-year-old class. You may enroll your child in either the morning or afternoon class. Your child must be three years of age on or before September 1, 2019, to enroll in the three-year-old class.

Sunday School News

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



3rd, 4th & 5th

Richie Keiser - 3

Ryan Zalud - 3

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through December 31, 2018

	2018	2017
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$455,689.30	\$402,116.00
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$457,842.16</u>	<u>\$418,021.66</u>
YTD Balance	\$ (2,152.86)	\$ (15,905.66)
YTD General Fund Income	\$458,094.46	\$ 434,819.93
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$457,842.16</u>	<u>\$ 418,021.66</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ 252.30	\$ 16,798.27

The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, the signs and wonders, of Jesus in the world.

And this made plain to all that Jesus was who He said He was: He was the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only-begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking, enactment of God’s Word.

It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in our hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed.

As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves”

(James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth. In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world.

It is, as Luther wrote of faith: “Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

“Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

“He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures.

“And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

“And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools.” (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.





Holy Scripture: Guided Reading

A month in 2 Kings: Picking up where we left off last month with 1 Kings, we are witnessing the disintegration of what was briefly the greatest kingdom in the world. Idolatry, corruption, and disobedience toward God are just some of the awful things that were taking place in Israel. 2 Kings takes us to the fall of the two kingdoms. If nothing else, these accounts of the history of God's people show us the tragic consequences of idolatry and false doctrine personally and corporately, and they also reveal to us the incredible patience and faithfulness of God. He keeps his promise to send the Savior!



A very big thank you to all of our faithful volunteers at Zion who help to support and carry out the ministry of our congregation in our life together. It is as St. Paul wrote in Romans 12, "We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another." No matter how small or large the effort, the task, or the time, your selfless giving is a witness to the faith and hope you have in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for the forgiveness of your sins – and for the sins of the whole world! Thanks be to God for all of our volunteers! Pastor Bakker

Thrivent Choice Dollars

During 2018, members allocated \$3,592.00 toward programs at Zion as follows,

- CTK - \$586.00
- Zion Preschool - \$986.00
- Zion General Fund - \$2022.00

Thank you to everyone who allocated dollars and if you have not allocated your choice dollars from 2018 there is still time. You have until March to do so.

Mission of the Month

*Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
University
(LCMS U)*



- 2 Kings 1 – Elijah Denounces Ahaziah
- 2 Kings 2 – Elijah taken into Heaven; Elisha Succeeds Elijah
- 2 Kings 3 – Moab Rebels
- 2 Kings 4 – Elisha's Miracles
- 2 Kings 5 – Naaman Healed of Leprosy
- 2 Kings 6 – Chariots of Fire
- 2 Kings 7 – Elisha Promises Food
- 2 Kings 8 – Succession of Kings
- 2 Kings 9 – Jehu Anointed King of Israel
- 2 Kings 10 – Jehu's Exploits
- 2 Kings 11 – Judah's Kings
- 2 Kings 12 – Joash's Reign
- 2 Kings 13 – Israel's Kings; Elisha's Death
- 2 Kings 14 – Amaziah and Jeroboam II
- 2 Kings 15 – Judah's and Israel's Kings
- 2 Kings 16 – King Ahaz Reigns in Judah
- 2 Kings 17 – Israel's Fall and Exile
- 2 Kings 18 – Good King Hezekiah
- 2 Kings 19 – Hezekiah and Isaiah
- 2 Kings 20 – Hezekiah's Illness, Recovery, and Death
- 2 Kings 21 – Manasseh and Amon
- 2 Kings 22 – Josiah and Hilkiah
- 2 Kings 23 – Josiah's Reforms and Death
- 2 Kings 24 – Jerusalem Captured
- 2 Kings 25 – Fall and Captivity of Judah

FAMILY LIFE / YOUTH NEWS ACTIVITIES



Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, February 8

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

@Zion

This wonderful event returns! Those who attended last year know. Those who missed it last year have another opportunity! There will be a freewill offering with proceeds going to our Zion youth program. Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex at Zion and CTK or you may call the office. Join us for some Italian cuisine, fun and fellowship. It proves to be a wonderful evening! **Please sign up in advance so in advance to help with proper planning. Thank You.**

Sunday, February 10



The youth will be sledding from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at a site to be determined. All youth, put this on your calendar and plan to have a great time. You are welcome to invite a friend as well!

This will be in place of the pizza/topic discussion.

Sunday, February 24

The “Kids Club” will host an event at the Jump Station after the 11:00 a.m. service. Cost will be \$5 per person. RSVP to Jeremy Couturier at 810-513-6179 or jc657444@gmail.com. Don't miss out on the fun!

Coming in March!

Euchre Tournament



Friday, March 8



Campus Corner



Pastor Ulledalen and three CTK students attended the national LCMS U conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana, early in January. The topic of the conference was how best to witness to Christ in our day to day lives. Several worship services were held at historic Saint Paul's Lutheran Church and at Concordia Theological Seminary. Conference plenary and break-away sessions took place at Purdue University Fort Wayne as well as at the Seminary. More than 300 students from across the country attended. Chelsea Storms, a CTK alum, attended with 2 other young adults from St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth. Some from our groups roomed together, and also stuck together for much of the conference. Our students also enjoyed a bonfire, euchre, a stop at a local chocolate store, and dinner at a Cuban sandwich shop.

The Semester Kick-off on January 13 drew nine students, including some new faces. Students shared plans, ideas, and requests for the upcoming semester.

Pastor Ulledalen will lead a Bible study for college students on the Book of James, starting on January 27.

LCMS U at CTK also looks forward to a retreat in Frankenmuth over the first weekend of February.

Monday Lunches at CTK

Please consider providing a meal for our students on Mondays at CTK. We have an average of between 5-10 students who attend. Feel free to team up with another church member. With the attendance being down a little this year it might be easier for someone to provide a lunch. Dates that are available include all Mondays in February, March 11, 25, and all of April. You may sign up on the sheet at either Zion or CTK or call Kathy at the CTK church office. Thank you so much.

International Ministry

The International Women's Club is hosting a baby shower at CTK for **Wivine Ambawote** on Monday, March 11, at 1:00 p.m. Wivine is from Congo, and she and her family are active participants in the classes and events at CTK. Wivine is due the beginning of April. She is registered at Target. All women and children are invited to join this event! Please contact Anne Bakker with any questions. Hope to see you there!



Note from the Chairman

I hope this finds you healthy and enjoying winter wherever you might be. If you are like me and my family there is no shortage of things to do or obligations to be met.

The purpose of this note is to remind you that per the bylaws, this April we will be electing a new slate of Zion members to serve on the various boards at Zion. This takes place every two years. In this past October's newsletter Dale Gust wrote an article titled "Are You Called to Serve? Who... Me?" I hope you had an opportunity to read it. In it he referred to an article by Mark Wood from the LCMS Reporter. You can read the article at <https://bit.ly/2NvdcPf>. In short it talked about "service", and how as members we have a duty and responsibility to serve. We can do that in many different ways. We are each blessed by God with different talents and abilities. We also have varying interests.

As chairman of the congregation, and per the bylaws, I have appointed a nominating committee to find willing and able members to serve for the next two years. The committee will consist of myself, Linda Coyne, Dale Gust, Pastor Bakker and Pastor Ulledalen.

Over the years we have been blessed to have had many members serve in various capacities. Now, we would like to see some new faces with some fresh ideas. We need people who will keep things going that are working well, but also be willing to make changes that would serve to benefit our ongoing mission. What are your talents? abilities? interests? I ask that if you have not served on a board in the past, that you prayerfully consider it this time! If you have served on a board in the past, and have taken a needed break, please prayerfully consider giving a little of your time again to serve for a couple of years.

Feel free to reach out to any of the committee members if you have any questions or are interested in serving for a couple of years. Some of you may be contacted by a committee member in the coming months about your willingness to serve. Please prayerfully consider serving in whatever capacity you can. In closing, to those of you who have served, and are serving, thank you! And let us all pray that going forward together we can continue the Lord's work at Zion and Christ the King. In Christ,

Tim Narr, Chairman

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN NEWS

A freshly reconstructed website of Orphan Grain Train went online in the last couple of weeks. Please take a moment and visit www.ogt.org. Last year Orphan Grain Train shipped more than 4.6 million meals in addition to clothing, blankets, household items, and medical and hospital equipment to people in 68 different countries including the USA. The newest humanitarian initiative in this Christian volunteer network affiliated with our Lutheran church is right here near us. The first ever Michigan Branch of Orphan Grain Train is now centered in Sebawaing, Michigan. Learn more at www.ogt.org. You may also contact Orphan Grain Train—Michigan branch manager, Pastor David Reed at 989-600-2264.

FLOWERS NEEDED!

The charts posted at both Zion and Christ the King are in need of names! There are many open dates for you to sign up to buy flowers for the altar at either Zion or CTK. They are just \$20 and can be taken home following the service. Payment (checks) should be made payable to Zion Women's Guild and can be dropped by the church office. See Tim or Kathy at either church office if you have any questions. Thank You



Memorial Service



Our brother in Christ, Marvin Chudej died in Christ in Texas on January 12. His family had a funeral service and burial there on January 18. We will hold a Memorial Service at Zion on

Saturday, February 9 at Zion at 11:00 a.m.

A luncheon will follow the service. Christ is risen; he is risen, indeed. Alleluia

NURSES NOTE:

Hope you are staying healthy during the height of our winter. This is a short article this month as I am south in warmer weather. I will be back in February.

Proverbs 3:13 Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding,

By Mayo Clinic Staff - Most headaches are minor, and you can treat them with a pain reliever. Some headaches, however, signal a dangerous or serious medical problem. Don't ignore unexplained headaches or headaches that steadily worsen.

Get immediate medical attention if your headache:

- develops suddenly and severely
- progressively worsens over the course of a single day or persists for several days
- causes mental confusion or loss of consciousness

Immediate medical attention is also needed if your headache is accompanied by:

- seizures, dizziness or loss of balance
- weakness or paralysis, such as in the arms or legs
- numbness
- difficulty speaking or understanding speech
- a reddened eye

Also seek medical attention if your headache:

- is accompanied by fever, stiff neck or rash
- is accompanied by changes in vision, such as blurring or seeing halos around lights
- is severe and follows a recent sore throat or respiratory infection
- begins or worsens after a head injury, fall or bump
- is triggered by changing the position of your head, coughing, sneezing, bending or physical activity
- is a different type of headache from your usual type and you're older than 50

God Bless, Phillis Daws Parish Nurse RN, BSN
zionparishnurse@gmail.com 989.621.8583

LWML WOMEN TO WOMEN

Pie tasting day is Sunday, February 10.

Bring your favorite pie(s) to share! Pie will be served following both services.



Care Committee for LWML We are in need of a woman to chair this committee. The Care Committee is charged with arranging meals for new parents or other members in need. If you are willing to chair this committee please contact Patty Pickler at 482-9381 or pickl1pm@cmich.edu.

38th Biennial National LWML Convention

Mobile, Alabama, June 20-23, 2019

We are collecting items for health kits for **Gifts from the Heart**. 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 toward these kits will be appreciated. Collection boxes are located at Zion and CTK.

Ladies' Bible Study

Ladies' Bible Study scheduled for February 9 has been cancelled due to the Memorial Service at Zion for Marvin Chudej. The next Bible Study will be Saturday, March 9. Future dates will be April 13 and May 11. If you have any questions please contact Anne.

