

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool  
3401 E. River Road  
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel  
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February 2020

Jonathon J. Bakker and Benjamin J. Ulledalen, Pastors

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*"Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart."  
Psalm 37:4*

In Psalm 37:4 we read "Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give yourself the desires of your heart." Delight yourself in the Lord, and by definition the desires of your heart will change. This scripture does not promise easy and guaranteed riches. It does not promise worldly pleasures. It does not promise cheap happiness. Read on a little further and find: "be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him..." (Ps. 37:7a). Patience implies waiting. Patience implies enduring unpleasant things. And so this scripture is not a false promise. Delight yourself in the Lord, and that delight in the Lord changes you. Desire for God never disappoints.

God's very nature demands our love. He created us and the world around us, He provides for our needs, He sustains the universe and our very being, and so we should love him. He sent His Son to die for us so that all who believe in Him will not die eternally in Hell. And so we should abound in love for God in light of such an amazing salvation. The Holy Spirit makes us more and more godly by driving out sinful, worldly loves and replacing them with proper love for God above all.

This process can be painful, hence the charge to wait patiently for the Lord. Sinful attachments, obsessions with the things of this life, lusts, addictions, greed, indulgence, and other sinful loves only leave us hungry for more. They make us unhappy. They make promises they can never keep. And so we have trouble, sadness, frustration, and difficulty in this life. And again, the Lord tells us to delight ourselves in him. To

love him above all things. To wait patiently for him. Patiently, because we're not there yet. We're not there yet because our love is misdirected to the creature rather than the Creator. Created things can never fulfill us the same way the Creator can. Hence the sadness, disappointment, and need to wait patiently on the Lord while he remakes us.

How does the Lord remake us? By means of his word and by means of trials, hardship, and testing. The word creates faith within your heart; the word keeps that faith alive as well. And that living faith produces fruit. But the Lord causes you to produce even more fruit by means of hardship. A pruned apple tree is more productive. Refined metal is stronger, more beautiful, and more useful than raw ore. A Christian who undergoes hardship hopes against hope, like Abraham and Sarah. A crucified Christ ultimately results in the shattered tomb on Easter Sunday, and the calling of all to faith and renewed relationship with God.

Delight yourself in the Lord. Love him more and more. Love him above all things. Love him as the giver of every gift; as your Heavenly Father; as the one who sent Jesus to lay down his life for you. Wait patiently for him when he seems distant or when things seem hard. Trust in him, call upon his name, and draw near to him. The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply (Ps. 16:4), but in the Lord's presence "there is fullness of joy" and "pleasures forevermore." (Ps. 16:11).

Pastor Ulledalen



## Preschool Enrollment 2020-2021

Open enrollment has begun for preschool. 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.



## Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, February 15

8:00 a.m. at Zion



## Ladies' Bible Study

Saturday, February 8

9:30 a.m. at CTK

Our monthly Ladies' Bible study will meet on Saturday, February 8, at CTK. All ladies, confirmation age and older are welcome to attend. We're continuing our study of CPH's "One Christ, Many Creeds: A Lutheran Perspective of Christian Denominations." Every month we discuss a different denomination. This month we'll take a look at Anglicans/Episcopalians. As always, childcare can be arranged at the chapel with advance notice. Please contact me with any questions. Hope to see you February 8!  
Anne Bakker



## Vacation Bible School

July 13-17

This year's theme is "Rainforest Explorers"! Mallory Zalud is directing what will be an amazing week this summer at Zion! Mallory, along with the board of Education, has started to line up volunteers for the different areas where assistance is needed. This includes teachers as well as people to help with crafts, recreation, music, and more. *There is a place for you to help. If you are willing and able, contact Mallory, or you can also contact the church office.*

We are looking forward to a great week!

## ATTENTION MEN!

### Dodgeball & Devotion

All Zion men confirmed and older are invited to join the Campus Ministry men for lunch, a devotion led by Pastor Ulledalen, and as much dodgeball as everyone can handle on **Sunday, February 23** at 1:00 p.m. in Zion's gym. Even if you don't think you can handle dodge ball, all men are invited to join us for the food and fellowship.



Welcome Guests

The Evangelism Board is looking for a few people who would be willing to greet members and guests before either of the services on Sunday. If you are interested in helping or have any questions, contact Delores Morford 644-5200, John Schimmelmann 866-2512, or the church office 772-1516.



**Are You Able?**

# STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report  
through December 31, 2019

|                         | 2019           | 2018           |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| YTD Budgeted Expenses   | \$ 449,001.21  | \$ 455,689.30  |
| YTD Actual Expenses     | \$ 428,438.44  | \$ 457,842.16  |
| YTD Balance             | \$ 20,562.77   | \$ ( 2,152.86) |
| YTD General Fund Income | \$ 403,100.10  | \$ 458,094.46  |
| YTD Actual Expenses     | \$ 428,438.44  | \$ 457,842.16  |
| YTD Income Less Expense | \$ (25,338.34) | \$ 252.30      |

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below. The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth: *"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."* (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship. That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as

those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in a helpful and orderly way.

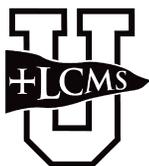
Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors: *"In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel."* (1 Cor. 9:14) *"Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows."* (Gal. 6:6–7) *"Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, 'You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,' and, 'The laborer deserves his wages.'"* (1 Tim. 5:17–18) *"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves."* (1 Thess. 5:12–13) *"Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."* (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people in how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

## Mission of the Month

*Lutheran Church  
Missouri Synod University*



### Thrivent Choice Dollars

During 2019, members allocated \$ 4,654.00 toward programs at Zion as follows,

CTK - \$ 419.00  
Zion Preschool - \$ 2,611.00  
Zion General Fund - \$ 1624.00

**Thank you** to everyone who allocated dollars and if you have not allocated your choice dollars from 2019 there is still time. You have until March to do so.

### A Message From Your Elders

The Angels were singing at the birth of Jesus. We were singing and so pleased to see so many of you and your friends attending the Advent and Christmas Eve services. You received the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ and heard the message of Jesus' birth. It is only through HIS birth, death, and resurrection that we all can be assured of everlasting life with HIM. Now that the Christmas season is in the past, let's keep rejoicing in Christ and include in our weekly schedule a plan to continue in our worship to our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is looking for you and we are looking for you. At the end of February, the Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday services--two times offered. Then, the weekly Wednesday Lenten Services follow with one service leading up to Maunday Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Let's look again to our confirmation vows and our membership vows to this church to see the promises we made. See you in church.



## 2019 Missions of the Month

|             |                |                                  |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| \$ 214.00   | January        | Life Choices of Central Michigan |
| \$ 243.00   | February       | LCMS U                           |
| \$ 292.00   | March          | LCMS Armed Forces Ministry       |
| \$ 163.00   | April          | Women's Aid Service              |
| \$ 203.00   | May            | Concordia Seminary - Fort Wayne  |
| \$ 90.00    | June           | Lutheran Hour Ministries         |
| \$ 170.00   | July           | Rev. Charles Ferry / Indonesia   |
| \$ 210.00   | August         | Concordia Seminary - St. Louis   |
| \$ 165.00   | September      | LCMS Mercy/Human Care            |
| \$ 130.00   | October        | Concordia University - Ann Arbor |
| \$ 85.00    | November       | Christmas Outreach               |
| \$ 335.00   |                | John H. Goodrow Fund             |
| \$ 158.00   | December       | Lutheran Child & Family Service  |
| \$ 2,458.00 | Total for 2019 |                                  |



## 2020 MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

|           |                                    |
|-----------|------------------------------------|
| January   | Life Choices of Central Michigan   |
| February  | LCMS U                             |
| March     | LCMS Armed Forces Ministry         |
| April     | Women's Aid Service                |
| May       | Concordia Seminary - Fort Wayne    |
| June      | Lutheran Hour Ministries           |
| July      | Rev. Charles Ferry / Indonesia     |
| August    | Concordia Seminary - St. Louis     |
| September | LCMS Mercy/Human Care              |
| October   | Concordia University - Ann Arbor   |
| November  | Christmas Outreach                 |
| December  | Lutheran Child and Family Services |



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

**Lent**

The holy season of Lent will be upon us beginning February 26, Ash Wednesday. Please avail yourself of the additional opportunities to worship on Wednesdays, and please also consider taking up an extra challenge or sacrifice for yourself. It may involve reading your Bible together as a family every day (the reading plan below is a great place to start), forgoing something for yourself to give more to your church, volunteering to help with something at Zion or CTK, leading your family in devotions every day (ask your pastors for resources to help with this), or simply getting to church and Bible study/Sunday School every Sunday. God bless you in your faithfulness to the Lord throughout the month and always in Christ.



**Ash Wednesday  
Divine Services**

**February 26**

**4:30 p.m. at Zion**

**7:30 p.m. at CTK**

There will be a light meal served at 5:30 p.m. at Zion.

**Holy Scripture: Guided Reading**



Hebrews, James, and Jude: These three books share the common trait in that, because of their either unknown or uncertain authorship, their status as Scripture was in some places historically disputed. Since they teach no new doctrines not found elsewhere in Scripture, and since they were still widely used in the church early on, they are included in the Bible and we confidently acclaim them to be the Word of God. For our purposes, they also form a nicely sized unit to tackle in a shorter month (even in a leap year). 19 days worth of reading will allow you to catch up on past months, to reflect on what you are reading, and to tend to yours and your family's needs in this busy month!

Hebrews 1 – God's Son: Supreme over the Angels

Hebrews 2 – Do not Neglect Salvation

Hebrews 3 – Jesus: Greater than Moses

Hebrews 4 – Sabbath Rest

Hebrews 5 – Great High Priest

Hebrews 6 – Maturity and God's Certain Promise

Hebrews 7 – Melchizedek

Hebrews 8 – Jesus: High Priest of a Better Covenant

Hebrews 9 – The True Holy of Holies

Hebrews 10 – Christ's Sacrifice and Assurance

Hebrews 11 – By Faith!

Hebrews 12 – Jesus: Author and Perfector of us All

Hebrews 13 – Sacrifices and Benediction

James 1 – Testing Faith

James 2 – Faith and Works

James 3 – Taming the Tongue

James 4 – Warning against Worldliness

James 5 – Patience and Prayer

Jude – Beware of False Teachers

## Women's Guild



Ladies, if you are able please plan to bring a pie of your choice on **Sunday February 9, for Pie Tasting Sunday**. Pie will be served to the congregation following both services.

Our **Women's Guild meeting** will be held at Zion on Saturday, **February 29**, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We hope to see many in attendance. **Pastor Bakker will be our guest speaker**, followed by a brief business meeting. Brunch will be served.

The positions of **Women's Guild President and Vice President** will be voted on at the **May Women's Guild Meeting (Spring Tea)**. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions please contact JoAnn Gust to have your name added to the ballot.

The LWML Mid-Michigan Zone is co-hosting the **LWML Michigan District Convention being held in Gaylord July 10-12, 2020**. We are in need of women from our zone to help with this event. If you have questions or would **like to volunteer** please contact **Kathy Nims at CTK**. Also, we **need two delegates to attend this convention**. If you are interested or have any questions about the delegate position please contact **JoAnn Gust as soon as possible**.

### Women's Guild Looking Ahead

- April 4 LWML Mid Michigan **Spring rally and Prayer Day services** at Our Savior Lutheran in Midland
- May 2 Women's Guild **Spring Tea**
- June 13 Lunch at the **Herrick House** in Clare at 1:00 p.m.
- July 10-12 LWML Michigan District Convention in Gaylord.



## Youth / Family Life



### Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, February 7

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

@Zion

*This wonderful event returns! Those who have attended know what a treat this is. There will be a freewill offering with proceeds going to our Zion youth programs / Higher Things Conference. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex at Zion or you may call the church office at 772-1516 to sign up. Join us for some Italian cuisine, fun and fellowship. It proves to be a wonderful evening! Please sign up in advance to help with proper planning. Thank You.*

### Youth Pizza / Topic / Activity

Sunday, February 9

12:30 p.m. at Zion

ALL youth are welcome and encouraged to join us.



## NURSE'S NOTE

So are you still working on that new year's resolution to lose weight? Thinking about trying one of the fad diets? Here's some information on one of the current diets out there. Next Month I plan to discuss concentrated sugars, and simple sugars. Phillis Daws RN. BSN

*Hebrews 5:14 But solid food is for full grown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.*

The Internet and television abounds with diets to help us lose weight. Some talk about high protein low carb diets or the Keto diet. Some claim that with this diet your metabolism increases and you burn fat. Here's the reality. Metabolism is the process by which your body converts what you eat and drink into energy. Even when your body is at rest, you are still using energy for basic functions such as breathing, circulating blood and repairing cells. The energy your body uses for these basic functions is called your basal metabolic rate. Throughout the day, about 5 to 10 percent of your total energy expenditure goes to digest and store nutrients in the food you eat. Now, the Keto diet is not new, remember the Adkins diet? "We've known for a long time that when you decrease carbohydrate intake markedly, the body starts to use fat, and when you burn fat, you produce ketones, and the body goes into ketosis." Thus the name "Keto Diet" With many of these diets people lose weight, but we are restricted to a few foods. We miss fruit and grains, and when we start eating those again the weight comes back on. Following extreme diets that promote eating only a few foods can cause you to miss out on important nutrients. The key to successful weight loss is adopting a healthy lifestyle that includes a balanced diet and regular exercise. Simply stated, we need to take in fewer calories than we burn to lose weight. Information obtained from Mayo Clinic.

## Service Times

The Board of Elders is always interested in your input regarding the service times at Zion and CTK. Many different factors are considered before setting the service times and locations. For midweek services, CCI and choir practice on Wednesdays have to be considered. After trying a new schedule for the Advent services in December (one service at Zion at 5:30 p.m.) we are now preparing to move into the season of Lent. Please talk to an elder and give them any thoughts or suggestions you might have regarding the schedule of services. We look forward to seeing you in church.



## Voters' Meeting Update

The Voters' Assembly met on Sunday, January 26 at 12:15 p.m. at CTK. I am pleased to say that 48 members were in attendance. It is the largest number of voters at a meeting in quite a few years. I pray that the interest of our members in our work at Zion and CTK continues and that others become more involved as well.

Christina Roe shared an update on the possible expansion of our preschool. In addition to the preschool we would add a childcare component to the program. Some renovation would be needed to our existing facility as well as some new equipment and some security upgrades. A small committee will be formed to finalize the plan and look at financing the project. Look for a Special Meeting in late February or early March.

Chairman Tim Narr and Treasurer Gary Hayes shared some thoughts regarding church attendance, participation, finances and budgets. It is incumbent upon all of us to do our part for the work of God at Zion and CTK. This starts with coming to church on a regular basis. If we are to continue the many missions we are currently doing at Zion and CTK we need to be faithful in our attendance as well as our giving of time and treasures.

