

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
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January 2020

Jonathon J. Bakker and Benjamin J. Ulledalen, Pastors

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*“And he who was seated on the throne said,
‘Behold, I am making all things new.’” – Revelation 21:5*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, by the time you receive this, another Christmas Day will have come and gone, along with all the services, carols, and family gatherings. Even though the Christmas season lasts 12 days, the public decorations soon disappear and the world’s attention turns to the changing year. 2019 is a big one because it’s a “rollover year” – nineteen rolls over into twenty. Although the strict mathematicians will (rightly) disagree – the ‘zero’ year is the tenth, the last of the decade – it will be celebrated far and wide as the start of a new one. There will be new everything – hats, streamers, noisemakers, balloons – even the plastic “2020” sunglasses will have a marvelous symmetry. And the newness doesn’t stop with the calendar – as the world will tell you, 2020 is going to be the time for you to renew yourself!

You’ve heard it before: “New Year; New You!” Make a resolution. Improve your beauty. Lose some weight. Learn a new language. Travel. That’s what the world will suggest - and the only thing keeping you from becoming that better you, is your fear, or your lack of confidence. Maybe I have overstated it, but that is the message of the world in a nutshell. New Year; New You! So...how do you think that will work out for you? Will every promise the world makes come true? Certainly not. And it shouldn’t surprise anyone. “Change and decay in all around I see...” says the hymnwriter, and it happens to each of us. Even when we do learn something new, or experience something that changes us for the better, it does not ultimately change the big picture. It doesn’t undo the work of the devil, and sin, and death. Sin’s wages always come due, and we all pay.

It seems dark and depressing, but there is hope for everyone. There is hope for every person because God, our Father, has sent his Son in human flesh to rescue us from all the evils of this world, from the devil, and even from our own sinfulness. He has sent Jesus Christ in human flesh to defeat death, to take the penalty for our sin and our sinfulness upon himself. Christ did that, dying on the cross, and three days later he rose from the dead! And the Father and Son together send the Spirit to call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify us in the one true faith along with all other believers in Christ, his holy church. And this hope is not for this life only, it is a promise of even better things to come. On the Last Day, Christ will raise each and every one of you and all the dead, and give eternal life to you and all believers in Christ. Behold, he will make you – and all things – new. It will be unlike anything we’ve ever known and better than anything we’ve ever imagined. The world exhorts you to make yourself into a ‘new you’ every New Year, but the Lord’s promise to you, delivered by his gifts of Word and water, body and blood, promise a *forever you*. Forgiven of all your sins by Jesus, you have life and salvation, and that means you have the hope of everlasting life. No matter the disappointments of this broken world, no matter the things others have done that have hurt you, no matter even the things you have done to yourself, you are forgiven by the blood of Christ, and you have hope.

New Year; New You? No thanks...in Christ, you have new life as his beloved children, forever.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Bakker

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

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



Grades N - K

Charlotte Polley - N

Elliott Wyse - K

Grades 1 - 3

Henry Polley - 3



The Preschool staff would like to wish our families a very Merry Christmas. We pray that Christ's Birth is the center of your Christmas celebrations. We would like to thank our families for your support throughout our Christmas season. The children did an amazing job preparing for and then completing their Christmas program and tea.

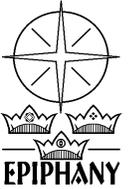
With January's arrival comes registration for the 2020-2021 school year. Applications will be available in the office beginning January 6 for church families and returning families. We will be registering for the Three-year-old program (Tuesday and Thursday morning), the AM Four-year-old program (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings), and the PM Four-year-old program (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons). The fees will remain the same as this year: The registration fee is \$40.00, 3 yr. old fee is \$90.00 per month, and the 4 yr. old fee is \$120.00 per month. Open registration will begin on February 1.

The Board of Education will be proposing to the Zion congregation in January possible expansion to our preschool. Please watch for further news and registration options in February.

Epiphany Service

Monday, January 6

5:30 p.m. - Zion



Join us for 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.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting at CTK

Sunday, January 26

12:15 p.m.



Sunday School and Bible Class will resume on January 5. On Sunday, January 12 we will resume our regular schedule with the 8:30 a.m. service at Zion, Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:45 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. service at CTK.



Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, January 18

8:00 a.m. at Zion

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through November 30, 2019

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 410,588.77	\$ 416,636.23
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 393,176.32</u>	<u>\$ 409,237.38</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 17,412.45	\$ 7,398.85
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 352,441.32	\$ 380,221.71
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 393,176.32</u>	<u>\$ 409,237.38</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$(40,735.00)	\$(29,015.67)

2020 Offering envelopes are in the narthex at Zion. If you have not done so please pick them up as soon as possible. If you do not have envelopes and would like them contact Tim in the church office.



Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that

our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means. This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philipians:

I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

"For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ]," St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His "yes" to you, but others will find it, too, through you. "But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also" (2 Cor. 8:7).

January

Mission of the Month

Life Choices of Central Michigan

January 19 is Life Sunday



Holy Scripture: Guided Reading



31 Days in Ezekiel: In two months we will read Jeremiah, one of the longest books of the Bible, and this month we turn to the prophecy of Ezekiel. It is fitting to read these big books close together because the events and prophecy concern similar events; the exile of the children of Israel and the problems of idolatry and unfaithfulness. Ezekiel closes with a lot of hope, however, as the restoration of the temple is promised for God's people. The readings are lengthy, but sticking to the daily plan will make it easier to keep up!

Ezekiel 1 – Ezekiel beholds God's Glory

Ezekiel 2-3 – Ezekiel's Call

Ezekiel 4-5 – Prophecy against Jerusalem

Ezekiel 6-7 – Judgment against Idolatry; Day of Wrath

Ezekiel 8-10 – Temple Idolatry: God's Glory departs

Ezekiel 11 – Judgment on Wicked Counselors

Ezekiel 12 – Judah's Captivity Symbolized

Ezekiel 13-14 – False Prophets and Idolaters Condemned

Ezekiel 15-16 – Satire against Jerusalem

Ezekiel 17-18 – A parable; the soul who sins shall die

Ezekiel 19 – Lament for Israel's Princes

Ezekiel 20-21 – Israel's Rebellion and the Lord's Response

Ezekiel 22 – Shedding of Blood

Ezekiel 23 – Oholah and Oholibah

Ezekiel 24 – Siege of Jerusalem; Ezekiel's wife dies

Ezekiel 25-26 – Prophecy against Ammon, Moab and Seir, Edom, Philistine, and Tyre

Ezekiel 27-28 – More about Tyre

Ezekiel 29-30 – Prophecy and Lament for Egypt

Ezekiel 31-32 – Prophecy and Lament over Pharaoh

Ezekiel 33 – Ezekiel, Israel's Watchman

Ezekiel 34-35 – More Prophecies

Ezekiel 36 – Prophecy to the Mountains

Ezekiel 37 – The Valley of Dry Bones

Ezekiel 38-39 – Prophecy against Gog

Ezekiel 40 – Vision of a New Temple

Ezekiel 41-42 – Inside the Temple

Ezekiel 43 – The Glory of the Lord fills the Temple

Ezekiel 44 – The Gate for the Prince

Ezekiel 45 – The Holy District

Ezekiel 46 – Princes and Feasts

Ezekiel 47-48 – Water flowing from the Temple

Thank you all so very much for the kindnesses shown to both of your pastors and their families at Christmas! Thank you, also, for all of the cards and gifts given to us. We are blessed by our church family. In Christ, Pastor Ulledalen and Pastor Bakker

Thanks to all of our elders and ushers for all of the work they do to ensure the services happen smoothly throughout the year, but especially in the Advent and Christmas seasons, when there are so many extra services.

Children's Christmas Service

An enormous thank you to our Sunday School and preschool children, our teachers in the Sunday School and preschool, all of the parents, and the Senior Choir, and other musicians involved in the Children's Christmas Service – thanks be to God for your contributions to this joyous service! This was the fourth year in which the four-year-old class from our preschool participated in the Sunday program, and it provided a fantastic opportunity for us to welcome these children and their families to a service at our church and invite them to join us in the future. A huge thanks, again, to all involved, and to our preschool teachers and families as well! Please continue to pray for the ministry of our preschool and Sunday school!

Lifelight Bible Study Begins January 9

In our winter sessions of Lifelight, we will be continuing our study of the book of Genesis. New people are always welcome to attend and participate in this in-depth 9 week Bible study. The readings for each week have been compiled and are available for download on the church website under the 'Bible studies' link. The class will be offered at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday (come at whichever time is most convenient for you) beginning January 9. Please check the calendar each month closely as there will be an occasional Thursday where Pastor Bakker will be out of town, and we'll simply pick up where we left off. Speak with Pastor Bakker or Tim Narr if you have any questions about Lifelight or need the study materials.

Women's Guild



The LWML Michigan Convention is July 10-12, 2020 Two delegates will be needed -all expenses paid - room shared. Once you serve as a delegate, you will want to serve again. The Zone needs to have a Young Women's Representative to serve (expenses paid by the zone). You must be between 21-35 years of age. If interested or have questions, please contact JoAnn Gust at 989-506-6027.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked at the Cookie Walk & Craft Show. Thank you to the vendors who bought table space, youth that helped with the luncheon, and bakers who donated dozens of great cookies. The LWML Ladies' Guild greatly appreciates the tremendous efforts that made the event so successful!

Looking Ahead

February 9 will be the annual Pie Tasting following both services.

February 29 is the Women's Guild General Meeting from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Pastor Bakker.



Volunteers Needed

The Altar Guild is looking for a couple of ladies interested in filling the candles at CTK and/or at Zion. Please contact JoAnn Gust 506-6027 if you are interested in serving in this way.



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 Pizza / Topic / Activity

Sunday, January 12, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(Parents of youth, please encourage your children to participate)



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. Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex at Zion and CTK in the next week or so. 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.

NURSE'S NOTE:

The following information was copied from the LCMS Domestic Violence and Abuse Task Force. Human Trafficking is real and it is in our community even though you do not want to think about it, or believe it. Please start the new year by praying about this issue and seek out information. Please contact me for assistance in obtaining more information.

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

Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services also provides an in-depth analysis of demographics at risk for trafficking:

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which victims are subjected to force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of commercial sex, debt bondage, or involuntary labor. Victims of human trafficking can be young children, teenagers, men and women. They can be U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) or foreign nationals, and they can be found in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Minors (under the age of 18) who are induced to perform commercial sex acts are victims of trafficking, regardless of whether their traffickers used force, fraud, or coercion.

The easiest way to get involved in the fight against modern-day slavery is to educate yourself and others, and look for the signs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services advises individuals to search for the following:

- › Evidence of being controlled either physically or psychologically;
- › Inability to leave home or place of work;
- › Inability to speak for oneself or share one's own information;
- › Information is provided by someone accompanying the individual;
- › Loss of control of one's own identification documents (ID or passport);
- › Have few or no personal possessions;
- › Owe a large debt that the individual is unable to pay off; or
- › Loss of sense of time or space, not knowing where they are or what city or state they are in.

Finally, report tips to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center line at 888-373-7888, or send a text to "BE FREE."

What Inheritance???

What do you want to leave to the kids when you finally receive the best gift, Eternal Life? How much is enough? How much is too much? Is a lump sum the best way for them to receive it? Studies consistently show that winning the lottery or receiving an inheritance has the same result. Regardless of the amount, the average length of time before the money is all gone is 18 months. All that we have is a Gift from God! Job reminds us in chapter 1:21 that we can't take any of our earthly blessings with us. You are the steward, the caretaker of everything you have been blessed with over the years. You are charged with deciding how to divide your estate.

What goals do you have as you set up your plan? For many families a primary goal is reducing the amount of taxes that have to be paid. It's been said that all we have will go to one of three families: Your family, God's family or good old Uncle Sam. But you can have some impact by decisions you make. If you have a tax-deferred account, like an IRA, and leave it to your children, guess what happens; when they take a distribution - they have to pay income taxes on the amount taken out. If they take a distribution before age 59.5, they will pay income tax plus a 10% penalty. That could turn \$100,000 into \$70,000 in the blink of an eye. Use tax-deferred money to make a Charitable Gift to your favorite ministry, avoid the income tax hit and give other assets to the children.

One tool used to overcome the temptation of heirs spending everything very quickly is to create an income stream for the kids, spreading out their inheritance over several years. A Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) is often called the "gift that gives twice". It can pay out recurring payments for up to 20 years to your family, along with leaving a Charitable Gift from the remaining principle, to your favorite ministries when the CRT matures.

Contact Gift Planning Services of Michigan Church Extension Fund to work with you to establish your Estate Plan. How can you bless your family and still leave Charitable Gifts to your most cherished ministries? There is no cost or obligation to talk with us, discuss ideas that fit your desires and get your Plan in place. Call us today. *Bill Burmeister, Church Extension Fund, Michigan District, 800-242-3944, bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org*



2020 Marks 100 Years of Campus Ministry for LCMS



Recently Zion celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Christ The King Lutheran Chapel. However, campus ministry, Synod wide in the LCMS, is now 100 years in the making. In a recent research of campus ministry here in Mt. Pleasant, the following was written for the 50th Anniversary History:

“Evidence of Campus Word and Sacrament Ministry traces back as early as 1930. Students would travel some six miles from campus to worship at Zion Lutheran Church located on the corner of Meridian and Baseline Roads. Students also visited a daughter congregation of Zion Lutheran, Trinity Lutheran, located in Mt. Pleasant. The fifty some Lutheran students who attended Central State Teachers College (CMU) were served by Zion’s pastor.”

As the campus population grew and Lutheran students increased in numbers, the LCMS Michigan District saw fit to build a chapel in the heart of CMU’s campus. A full-time pastor was called—in fact, three during the years leading up to 1990—who served the students at the chapel. Eventually, the Michigan District decided to cease ministry to students at CMU. The following is an excerpt from the history booklet:

“The chapel closed in 1990 for two years when the Michigan District could no longer provide financial support for the chapel. Rev. Edwin Mueckler of Zion Lutheran Church began negotiations with the Michigan District to turn the chapel to a “town-gown” model for providing Word and Sacrament ministry to the students at Christ the King. “ In fact, the original ministry model for students was the “town-gown” model.

Zion first utilized vicars from the Fort Wayne Seminary to fill the pastoral needs of students. Then Zion called a full time pastor to serve the campus ministry needs. The second pastor was Pastor Bakker followed by our current campus Pastor Ulledalen who is continuing with providing

on-going ministry to current LCMS students at CMU as well as reaching out to the un-churched. The ministry at the Chapel represents Zion’s major outreach mission ministry efforts.

In addition, Zion has also committed to an international mission outreach through the calling of Deaconess Anne Bakker to work with international students. The harvest field is here and ready. Zion has recognized the call and is responding through its mission ministry to all students. Praise and Thanks to God for the blessings he gives each and every one of us so that our mission goals can be achieved as we now enjoy 65 years of campus ministry provided by Zion. Dale Gust

International Ministry

The **Ladies' Bible study** will meet on Saturday, January 11 at 9:30 a.m. at Christ the King. We will continue our study of other denominations from a Lutheran perspective. All women, confirmation age and older, are invited to join us. Childcare can be arranged with advance notice. Please contact Anne Bakker with any questions.



The Spring Semester begins Monday, January 13, and so do our classes for internationals. If you would like to volunteer as a teacher or conversation partner, please contact Anne Bakker.



Are You Able?

Monday Lunches at CTK

With the new semester starting on January 13 we will also begin providing a lunch to students on Mondays. Consider providing a main dish for about 20 people? No frills necessary. Being away from home, the students love and appreciate a delicious home-cooked meal. You don’t even need to be there to prepare it, although it would be great to have you eat with us. *Please call the CTK office or speak with Kathy Nims to find a slot not yet taken.* There are sign-up sheets at both Zion and CTK. Thanks so much!