

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



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

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:2

LCMSU Year in Review

Although the 2019-2020 year did not end the way any of us expected, the year as a whole was still filled with amazing spiritual growth, fellowship, and experiences for all members of LCMSU.

Last fall roughly 15 Central Michigan students gathered as a group for the first time together at Christ the King Chapel, not knowing what the year would hold. Of course, some of us had already created friendships with each other through past years, but every year new members spark a new dynamic and an atmosphere filled with energy. For this reason, one cannot and should not ever believe that each year is always the same, even within a tight-knit organization like LCMSU.

With the efforts of a dedicated E-board, devoted pastors, and committed Zion members, I am happy to report that LCMSU thrived this past year and accomplished many of the previously set goals from the end of last year. We first and foremost retained all nongraduating members of the club, and then added six new individuals (5 freshmen and 1 graduate student) to what many of us consider our Mount Pleasant family. The two main areas our group especially excelled in were: strengthening our relationship with God in the presence of a like-minded community of college Christians; and we developed a stronger, more visible connection with the members of Zion Lutheran Church who so graciously support us.

As most LCMSU members are college students, we share a common bond of struggling over assignments and exams, and complaining about the lack of sleep, money, and food. But at

LCMSU we also share a common love for the Lord, and finding new ways to grow that love. One of the best ways LCMSU accomplishes this is through actively planning and participating in social events. In the past year an average of 8-12 individuals attended events such as game nights, a campus scavenger hunt, capture the flag against Saint Mary's (where we won...again), a successful cider and donuts fundraiser, a fall retreat to Holland (MI), a Lions watch-party (even though we all knew they would lose), a "Spirit Month" full of events and competitions, and even online events and get-togethers after we all suddenly left campus. One of the most impactful of our events was an alternative break (over Christmas break) to Camp Restore Detroit, where we aided in the revitalization efforts of inner-city Detroit. Through events like these and of course Bible Studies, regular church attendance, and Sunday night meetings LCMSU and the Chapel not only provide an ability to be involved with a church group, but create a family in Christ that continues to learn to be staunch advocates for the love of God and His mission.

The growth and compassion for Christ could not be realized without the assistance of an immaculate group of people, the members of Zion Lutheran Church. LCMSU understood the wonderful opportunity that we had to grow with the Mount Pleasant area and we enthusiastically strengthened those ties this previous year. Many LCMSU members attended the spaghetti dinner at Zion, Monday lunches, and late-night finals breakfast. We volunteered at the Halloween Party at CTK and some assisted with the preschool trip to Papa's Pumpkin Patch. Zion Sunday, where we went to Zion's 8:30 a.m. service as a group

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

rather than at CTK (waking up is not easy for us), was a hit, and the men joined together in a friendly dodgeball tournament that was loved by all (especially the winners, which was unfortunately not the young guys). One member of LCMSU was even confirmed and became a member of Zion. Ultimately, a stronger connection between LCMSU, the Chapel, and Zion impacted us as young adult Christians greatly and we look forward to growing this more.

This upcoming year will no doubt be different from any year that we have seen before. However, we are not going to let that get in the way of building upon our success from last year and years before that. Our bond with each other is unbreakable, our relationship with Zion is the strongest it has been in my time at CMU, and the love of God is immense within us. With this foundation I expect great things once again this year. We hope to grow in membership and faith again, we desire to maintain a wide variety of highly attended events, and we will continue to participate in church regularly and coordinate more involvement with Zion.

One thing is for sure, the achievement of these goals is not possible without dedicated Zion Lutheran members. LCMSU college students need Zion members as examples of Christian men and women, we need your prayers, and we need your support. This includes telling others about the work we are doing, encouraging young people attending CMU to join us, and even if they are not going to CMU, encouraging them to find a faith-based organization on their own campus. LCMSU needs Zion members to be present physically and spiritually in many ways, and anything that you can do to help is deeply appreciated.

I am thankful to say that once again God has truly blessed us all to be a part of LCMSU and His greater family of Christians. I know that He has a plan for each and every one of us and LCMSU is a part of that plan. For some of us we see God's handiwork right away when we are still at CMU, while others will see it down the road maybe long after we have graduated. One never knows what the year might hold, but we can all have faith and be certain that God has a plan and the Mount Pleasant community is a part of that plan.

Sincerely, Nathan Bublitz President of LCMSU

Vacation Bible School News!

Yes! There is VBS this summer. We are disappointed that current events have required us to cancel our "in church" VBS but are very thankful that we can extend to you an online Vacation Bible School. Lutheran Indian Ministries missionaries, Nathan and Sarah Milan, have created a 5-lesson-guided Bible Study that can be custom-fit to you and your family. There is no age limit on who can participate! Join them and fellow LIM missionaries as they lead you from Creation to Salvation.



How to Begin?

1. Go to lutheranindianministries.org
2. Click on Resources
3. Click on Guided Bible Study
4. Download the PDF for ideas for using the daily videos and activities.

Whether you just watch the videos or listen to the Bible reading from a children's Bible and do the activities, may your time spent in God's word be your joy and blessing!

Sunday School News!

Our Sunday School year will begin on September 13 with Rally Day!



We are looking forward to sharing this day with you in God's Word and fun activities! Additional details will be coming in future bulletins and the August/September newsletters.

Preschool News:

With the arrival of Summer, came the construction phase of our Preschool and Early Childhood Center expansion. We will quickly see the classrooms taking shape. We will be implementing a new security system in the school wing. You may see these additions as they are added in the building. All programs remain open for enrollment. Please share this wonderful news with friends, family, co-workers and "anyone you meet on the street". Brochures continue to be available in the hallway. Take a few and share. Applications are still being accepted if you would be interested in a teaching or support staff position. Please contact the office for an application.

As always, please keep our growing program in your prayers.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through May, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 189,953.80	\$ 197,763.00
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 185,836.46</u>	<u>\$ 198,284.00</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 4,117.34	\$ (521.00)
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 168,385.94	\$ 176,504.60
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 185,836.46</u>	<u>\$ 198,284.00</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ (17,450.52)	\$ (21,779.40)

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.

- We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.

- Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children. But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, his gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life.



Thank You - Update

To say that it has been a strange year to be a volunteer at your church is an understatement. The roadmap for serving on a board or leading a board so far this year simply doesn't exist. We're going carefully in faithfulness to God and in love for our neighbor, and I want to say *thank you* to all of our volunteers at Zion. Some of our boards are meeting and working out how to do things within their areas of responsibility, others are still waiting to meet. As I have said before, the people at Zion are going to reengage in congregational life when they are ready, and nobody – at any level – is required to participate until they are confident to do so. It has been a tremendous joy to see so many of you together in person for worship, but we have not forgotten that many of you are still watching from home, too. We believe we have figured out the majority of the video publication issues, and I pray you're finding them to be helpful while you're not yet coming in person. To help with producing and publishing the videos, it would be most helpful if we had one or two more volunteers who are willing to work with either the recording during the service or the processing/uploading afterward. If you're willing to help in this way, please talk to either Pastor!

Scam Alert

It has happened numerous times in the past six months that Zion members have received emails from someone claiming to be me. They are scam emails, and do not come from me. The messages are short, indicate that I need help of some kind, and that I should only be contacted via a response to the email. Those who have responded have been solicited for money in one form or another. Please do not respond to these emails. Just delete them. I will never ask you for that kind of help via an email. While it hasn't happened here to my knowledge, other LCMS pastors I know have had their members contacted via text message on their cellphones with similar requests. Again, I will not use text messages or email to ask you for anything. If you ever receive such a message and are tempted to believe it, please contact the church office to confirm that it is not from me. Thank you!
In Christ, Pastor Bakker

Mission of the Month

Rev. Charles Ferry/ Indonesia Ministry

Rev. Charles and Cheryl Ferry serve on behalf of the LCMS throughout Asia and are based in North Sumatra, Indonesia. As the Asia Regional Director, Charles is responsible for LCMS work, personnel and relationships in 20 countries. He unites local church leaders and LCMS blessings to strengthen partner churches through theological education, translation and mercy projects. In addition, Charles provides Word and Sacrament ministry and pastoral care to geographically separated Lutherans. Pray for Charles and Cheryl as they serve in Asia. Pray for their family as they continue to live in Indonesia. Pray they are used daily to lovingly minister to the local people with whom they serve and live. Pray specifically that Charles is spiritually guided as he strives to teach, serve and lead. Let us give thanks that the Ferrys are serving in this part of the world.



In memory of Rachel Vrudny

Zion Senior Choir

Regular Quarterly Voters' Meeting



Sunday, July 26

9:45 a.m.

This meeting will take place at Zion in the sanctuary following the 8:30 a.m. service.

Holy Scripture: Guided Reading

We read these words in the June Bible readings: “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...” (Romans 12:2a, ESV). How is a person transformed by the renewing of their mind?



Again, from the June readings: “How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.” (Psalm 119:9). The Holy Spirit urges us to “let” our minds be transformed. That is, don’t get in the way. Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world.

The world tells you to be your own god, to only worry about your own happiness, that if it feels good then do it, and if it doesn’t hurt anyone, then it’s OK. The Bible teaches us differently: “there is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.” (Prov. 14:12)

Instead, “be” transformed. Let the word work on you. God’s word shapes you. God’s word challenges you. God’s word builds faith. God’s word bears fruit. And so that’s a big part of this Summer Bible reading challenge. Let your mind be transformed by God’s word. Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed.

Don’t think the way the world thinks. Don’t live the way the world lives. Don’t believe the lies the world teaches. Instead, take up God’s word and read it. Think about it. Meditate on it. Obey it. Let it bring you back to Jesus again and again.

We’ll read in July “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...” (Col. 3:16). Again, “let” it happen.

Take up the word of God, think about it, pray on it, let it get busy doing its work on you.

There’s a lot of bad news out there these days. It’s far too easy to get overwhelmed by the outrage, anger, chaos, confusion, betrayal, and disappointment. What is a Christian to do? Last month we read “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Rom. 12:21). If you are taking in a steady diet of bad news, you’ll be overcome by evil. If you take in more bad news than good news, you’ll be overcome by evil. If you complain more than you pray, you’ll be overcome by evil. If you laugh at the world’s jokes, if you let the world brainwash your children, if you let the world call the shots, you’ll be overcome by evil.

Another scripture passage coming up in July shows us a better way: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your

reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

What can we do about all the bad news? What can we do if we feel grumpier than we have in a while? What can we do if it seems like everything is collapsing around us? One small but very important thing we can do is take up the Word of God. Scripture gives us wisdom, so we know how to navigate, even in stormy waters.

Scripture gives us cleansing and forgiveness, where the world wants to shame you for non-sins, or sins you’ve never personally committed. And scripture gives you hope, where the world can only give promises it cannot fulfill. Instead, you have a God who’s been there and done that—he’s conquered death, and promises you eternal life. So take up His word, and read more about it.

July 1— Luke 18-21

July 2— Luke 22-24

July 3— Acts 1-4

July 4 & 5— Acts 5-7

July 6— Acts 8-12

July 7— Acts 13-15

July 8— Acts 16-19

July 9— Acts 20-23

July 10— Acts 24-26

July 11 & 12— Acts 27-28; 2 Corinthians 1-2

July 13— 2 Corinthians 3-6

July 14— 2 Corinthians 7-11

July 15— 2 Corinthians 12-13; Galatians 1-3

July 16— Galatians 4-6

July 17— 1 Peter 1-3

July 18 & 19— 1 Peter 4-5; Philemon

July 20— Titus 1-3

July 21— Philippians 1-4

July 22— Colossians 1-4

July 23— John 1-3

July 24— John 4-6

July 25 & 26— John 7-10

July 27— John 11-14

July 28— John 15-17

July 29— John 18-21

July 30—1 John 1-5

July 31—2 John; 3 John; Jude

Update from Your Elders

Thanks to all of you who have responded to our calls. And thanks for your willingness to provide an email address to keep you abreast of events at Zion. If you have not been receiving our emails, please let us know so you may be added to the list. It is a private list and will not be shared outside of Zion. For the past several Sundays, the entire worship service has been video recorded and uploaded to YouTube for viewing. These services will continue in the future but we pray that at some point you may consider returning to worship in person with your other Christians. We realize that this pandemic has raised many questions and concerns as to when it will be safe to return to worship. This decision is entirely up to you so that you will feel comfortable when you do return. Feel free to talk about any concerns you have.

We have heard from our shut-ins and those with other special needs the importance of their being able to join in with the worship service. Our pastor will be posting also the service worship bulletin to enable you to follow along and even participate. Yes, there is nothing wrong with joining in verbally at home with the hymns, prayers, responses, the confessions, the Lord's Prayer, and the confession of our beliefs in the Apostle and Nicene Creeds.

For the time being, we will continue taking your offerings at the Sanctuary door upon entering or leaving. Also, we will continue to not use the red sign-in books to assure we are providing additional protection. However, we have continued taking attendance each Sunday to the best of our ability. Hand sanitizers are provided upon entering the church. The pastors and elders are also continuing to sanitize the communion railing after each serving. And, you are still free to remain standing during distribution. Thanks for continuing to engage in social distancing as we have observed.

During this temporary shut-down, our expenses have continued. Some time back, you were reminded on how you can continue with your contributions to Zion either by mailing them to the church office or using the electronic giving available for all members through Vanco. It enables one to contribute weekly or monthly. Call the church office for more information.

May our loving Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continue to bless each of you and we pray that soon you will feel comfortable and safe to attend worship services in person at either Zion or CTK.

Submitted by Dale Gust, Director of Elders

Nurse's Note

If you have any questions or health concerns regarding the Covid virus or anything else please feel free to contact me.

Phillis Daws RN, BSN
zionparishnurse@gmail.com 989.621.8583

Part-time Custodian Needed at Zion

There is a need at Zion for a part-time custodian. This is a paid position and will require 10-15 hours per week. If you are interested or know of someone who would be, please contact Joe Claybaugh (989) 621-3896 or Tim at the church office (989) 772-1516. The position needs to be filled by September 1. Training will be provided.

LÓÓK
at **THIS!**

Men's Breakfast Bible Study
Saturday, July 25
8:00 a.m. at Zion





2020 Michigan District Convention

July 11 - ONLINE

The convention text is John 20:20b! Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the convention in Gaylord is cancelled... but... a ONE-DAY VIRTUAL Convention will take place online on Saturday, July 11. Final details are still being discussed by the executive committee as we approach the convention. Pray for your executive committee - this is new territory and they ALWAYS ask for the Lord's GUIDANCE as they make decisions and move forward. John 20:20 "When Jesus said this (Peace be with you!), He showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were overjoyed when THEY SAW THE LORD.

Please refer to the www.lwmlmichigan.org for login information.

Looking Ahead

Possible tea in early fall.

October 4 - LWML Sunday

June 24-27, 2021 - LWML Biennial Convention
in Lexington, Kentucky



CTK MONDAY LUNCH FOOD DRIVE

CTK is having a food drive for staple items for the preparation of meals on Mondays where no one has signed up to provide a lunch. A sign-up sheet is on the LCMS U table at both CTK and Zion. The sheet lists common, every day food items for making simple, home-cooked meals. Please help us continue to provide lunches for our CMU students.

Please also continue to support our Campus Ministry by signing up to provide a Monday Lunch. If you can only provide just a portion of the lunch, I will take care of the rest.

We are also accepting monetary donations which will help purchase these staple items on the sign-up sheet.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the CTK church office (773-5050).



You are invited to an

**Open House
on Saturday, August 1
from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Join Gary and Ann Hayes to celebrate the MPHS graduation of Dana Hayes.

1604 East Gaylord, Mt. Pleasant

Thank you so much.
Kathy Nims