

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



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

July 2021

Jonathon Bakker, Pastor

Garrick "Ricky" Beckett, Pastor

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"Do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" Galatians 5:13

What is Christian Freedom?

"As American patriots, freedom is our highest value, and the bald eagle is our icon for freedom. Yet what does it mean to be free? Lack of slavery? That is, a lack of forced subjugation and labour to tyrannical authority? The ability to do whatever you want when you want without any consequences? The ability to do as our conscience allows without the hindrance of an opposing party? America is arguably the freest nation in the world, yet there are some who question whether we're truly free. We still have to obey laws, some of which we don't like, so some argue we're not totally free in this sense and thus argue for an anarchical society.

So, what does St. Paul mean when he says "freedom" in this verse? For this, we need context. Whenever you're reading the Scriptures, context is your best friend! Earlier, he wrote, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery" (v. 1). What has Christ set us free from? Is he talking about a political freedom from slavery or a spiritual freedom from slavery? For this, we need more context. The theme of Galatians is Paul's contrast between works and faith, so it is one of spiritual slavery—slavery to our works, that is, the Law. Before faith came, Paul says, "we were held captive under the law" of God (3:23). In other words, we were enslaved to it. Previously, we were enslaved to the Law to do the works of the Law in order to earn God's favour.

But no more. "But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian [the Law], for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith" (3:25-26). And this faith is for everyone

regardless of race, socioeconomic status, or gender (3:29). By faith in Christ, we have been set free from the works of the Law and are now free to live as holy creatures. Does this mean we no longer have to obey the Law? No. We still do good works because our neighbour needs them, but good works are no longer necessary to earn God's favour since we receive that favour by Christ's perfect obedience alone, by grace through faith. As Paul continues, he comes to say we should not use this freedom from the Law as an excuse to sin, or "an opportunity for the flesh." What Paul is referring to is *licentiousness*, which is the licence to sin without fear of the consequences. **Christian freedom does not mean we have to freedom to sin but freedom from sin;** therefore, we are free to love and serve one another. If our liberation in Christ meant we have freedom to sin, would that not render His death and resurrection meaningless? For Christ died to set us free *from* sin, not free to live in sin without conscience and regret.

Even with freedom, there are still boundaries. And there must be—at least on this side of the eschaton—for as sinners we are bound to hurt one another, and lawful boundaries help to prevent the evil we cause one another and it punishes those who do hurt others (cf. Romans 13:1-7). In America, we are free to live to our heart's desires—or as the Constitution says, the right to the pursuit of Happiness—but even this right comes with boundaries.

In America, we have the right to pursue happiness—whatever that means for someone—without prevention from the government, but not to the extent that we prohibit

good living for others (just think about the 8th and 9th Commandments) and neither does it promise the government needs to make it happen. (Government is not supposed to be involved in any way, excluding harm of human life and well-being.) It is the right to the *pursuit* of happiness, not the legislation of happiness. What this right does *not* mean is some high, emotional state of perpetuity but rather the right to seek “prosperity” or “well-being in the broader sense. It include[s] the right to meet physical needs, [and] it also include[s] a significant moral and religious dimension” (Rogers, James R.). Again, think the 8th and 9th Commandments.

In the same way, freedom from sin does not mean we are free to live in it (for sin injures our spiritual and even physical well-being as well as that of others). Although we are free from sin, as Christians we still live with boundaries—that is, not to sin. In other words, being free from the Law does not mean we no longer have to obey it; being free from the Law means we are free from obeying it *for the purpose* of becoming right with God. We are made right with God (reconciled, justified) by faith in Christ, whose death and resurrection has set us free from the Law. Now that we are free from the Law, we are free to do its works not to become right with God since Christ has done that for us but for the love of our neighbour who needs our good works.

In Christ,
Pastor Ricky

Regular Quarterly Voters’ Meeting



Sunday, July 25

12:15 p.m.

***This meeting will take place at CTK
in the sanctuary following the
11:00 a.m. service.***

Christian Education



Our 2020-2021 school year has come to a close. We are extremely thankful to God for His protection through this past year. There were many challenges this past year, but God was right there showing us the way (usually before we even realized it). The blessings that were showered upon us were also amazing. Our God is so good!!

Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year continues. We currently have limited availability on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays in both our Three- and Four-Year-Old Class. Should you know someone still looking for a preschool or childcare program be sure to share one of our brochures on the table in the hall.

The Early Childhood center is in summer mode. The staff is very excited by our first year of summer camp enrollment. The Lord has blessed us with a wonderful group of children to share His word with. I can honestly say, camper and staff are all exhausted at the end of our day.

Our Toddler classroom continues to grow and change. They are so excited to learn and explore their environment. They are truly enjoying their Water Wednesday too.

Zion Church Members who are Thrivent account holders, the Early Childhood Center is still looking for one or two more Thrivent Action Team grants. We are looking for support for additional supplies and equipment for summer camp. Please let Tina Roe or the church office know. Thank You.

Gourmet Popcorn Fundraiser

Fliers with ordering information are on a table in the narthex at Zion and also available at CTK. The sale has begun and runs through July 14. Funds raised will support our year-round Early Childhood Center programs.

You can also order online!

1. Go to www.reg.fundraisingshoppingcart.com
2. Scroll down to “Sellers Register Here!”
3. Use School ID PS4308767 and click “Go”
4. Fill out the form and click “Next”

You will receive a unique Seller ID to share with family and friends!

STEWARDSHIP

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through May 31, 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 196,551.10	\$ 189,953.80
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 188,123.56</u>	<u>\$ 185,836.46</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 8,427.54	\$ 4,117.34
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 209,148.12	\$ 168,385.94
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 188,123.56</u>	<u>\$ 185,836.46</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ 21,024.56	\$ (17,450.52)

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1).

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties – the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age have devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness – a license to do what we want, when we want. This license is a submission again to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires and slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity. In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the Church. God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves. God calls the

government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel, repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.



In memory of Lois Miller

Dale & JoAnn Gust
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer
Richard & Darlene Palmer

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.



Thank you to all who volunteer on Zion's Parish Planning Committee and to all of you who serve on our various boards at church. Thank

you also for all of the congregational volunteers' service, including our treasurers, financial secretaries, directors, and everyone else who contributes so faithfully to our life together. Welcome to those newly serving in their positions, and a huge thanks to those of you whose terms of service in your current position are coming to an end; your service and sacrifice are appreciated! Thank you all, additionally, for your great kindness shown to me and Anne while Anne's been recovering from her broken wrist. The meals have been a Godsend and we are so appreciative of your care! Thank you!

Thank you all, finally, for the wonderful celebration of my fifteenth year in the ministry and for fifteen years at Zion! It is a joy to serve the Lord with you and to be an undershepherd called by the Good Shepherd to preach his Word to you. Thank you for being a forgiving, supportive, and faithful congregation, and above all, thanks be to God for the gifts he gives to all of us through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Higher Precaution Service Pause

We have been holding special services with higher covid 19 precautions in place for our members who desire it since February. These served a good number of our people, particularly on Easter Sunday, when nearly 50 gathered together to celebrate Jesus' resurrection! As covid concerns have dropped considerably in society, more and more of those attending the Wednesday services regularly have become comfortable enough to attend Sunday morning services. **With the advice of our Parish Nurse, the elders and I have decided to pause this Wednesday night service beginning in July.** When or if the need arises to bring it back, we will be ready and able to do so on very short notice. There will also always be the option for members uncomfortable with attending Sunday worship to arrange as families or individuals to receive the Lord's Supper privately. Our Sunday morning precautions with regards to distancing and those distributing the Lord's Supper wearing masks during distribution will continue for the foreseeable future. Please reach out to me, your elders, or the Parish Nurse with any questions.

Guided Bible Readings



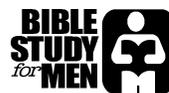
- 1 2 Kings 19-21; Amos 8
- 2 2 Kings 22-23; Amos 9
- 3 2 Kings 24-25; Lamentations 1
- 4 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 5 Lamentations 2-3; Phillipians 1-2
- 6 Lamenatations 4-5; Phillipians 3-4
- 7 Psalm 90-94; Proverbs 26
- 8 Psalm 95-101; Proverbs 27-28
- 9 1 Chronicles 1; Daniel 1-3
- 10 1 Chronicles 2; Daniel 4-6
- 11 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 12 1 Chronicles 3; Daniel 7-9
- 13 1 Chronicles 4; Daniel 10-12
- 14 1 Chronicles 5; Esther 1-2
- 15 1 Chronicles 6; Esther 3-4
- 16 1 Chronicles 7; Esther 5-6
- 17 1 Chronicles 8; Esther 7-8
- 18 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 19 1 Chronicles 9-10; Esther 9-10
- 20 1 Chronicles 11-12; Jeremiah 1-2
- 21 1 Chronicles 13-14; Jeremiah 3-4
- 22 1 Chronicles 15-16; Jeremiah 5-6
- 23 1 Chronicles 17-18; Jeremiah 7-8
- 24 1 Chronicles 19; Jeremiah 9-10
- 25 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 26 1 Chronicles 20-21; Jeremiah 11-12
- 27 1 Chronicles 22-23; Jeremiah 13-14
- 28 1 Chronicles 24-25; Jeremiah 15-16
- 29 1 Chronicles 26-27; Jeremiah 17-18
- 30 1 Chronicles 28-29; Jeremiah 19-20
- 31 2 Chronicles 1; Jeremiah 21-23

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, July 24

8:00 a.m.

at Schimmelmann's
2266 W Blanchard



Zion Lutheran Women's Group



And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God (Acts 3:8).

Running — that's something I haven't done for years. And being part of a race? Well, that's out of the question! Yet in just a week, Lutheran women from across the country will be **"Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus"** as they gather with gladness in Lexington.

Prayers have been offered, and countless hours have been spent in preparation for this event. While we may not actually be "running" to Lexington, as the opening worship begins, many will be mentally walking and leaping and praising God for this opportunity and blessing.

Unable to attend convention in person? Join us online to worship, hear the mission speakers, praise the Lord in song, and look to Jesus with Lutheran Women from around the country. Encourage others to watch and praise along with you! Go to www.lwml.org/2021-convention and join in prayer for a safe and joyful convention as we praise the Lord together!

Joy in Jesus

Sherry Burger, President

LWML Nebraska South District

LWML ZION LUTHERAN WOMEN'S GUILD - CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2021-22

Women's Bible Study – September 11, 2021 – Saturday, 9:30 a.m., at CTK. Our Women's Bible Study has concluded for the year and will begin again in September. The study will be The Lutheran Bible Study Companion – Old Testament and we will be meeting for 9 sessions. If you ordered a book and paid for it, you may pick it up at Christ the King Chapel. If you still wish to have a book ordered for you, please contact JoAnn Gust at gust1jd@cmich.edu. The books cost \$17. Make your check payable to Zion Lutheran Women's Guild. Contact Anne Bakker (989) 773-5050 if you have questions about the Bible Study.

EC Meeting – August 21, 10:00 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church. Watch for the LWML calendar on the web for scheduled events for 2021-2022

Volunteer Needed – Someone to chair the Bazaar for December, 2021. (Cookie Walk/Craft Show)

Officers for 2021-2022 – President, Kathleen Nims; Vice President, JoAnn Gust; Secretary, Janah Aldrich; Treasurer and Historian, Charolette Mogielski; Christian Growth, (Vacant).

Quilting Group – Meets on Tuesday from 9:00 – 3:00 pm. All volunteers welcome

Flowers for the Altar – There are a number of open slots for flowers to be donated at Zion Lutheran Church and Christ the King. The cost is \$20, and you may take the flowers home after the service. They usually last two weeks and are a nice addition to your dinner table or wherever. Make checks payable to Zion Lutheran Women's Guild. Label an envelope to Charolette Mogielski and place it in the LWML Box in the Library or give to Tim Narr at the church office.

"Serve the Lord with Gladness" Psalm 100:2



"The Monday lunches sign-up sheet will be set out at CTK in July. Please think about signing up for one of our Monday lunches. Just call Kathy at CTK (773-5050) to reserve a Monday. If you need help providing a meal, please let Kathy know. We also have a food pantry if people need items for preparing lunches. We have a great bunch of CMU students and they really enjoy the lunches that our members provide. Thank you so much."

New Board Leadership Begins July 1

Every two years, Zion holds elections for the seven boards: Elders, Evangelism, Christian Education, Family Life/Youth, Stewardship, Trustees, and Campus Ministry. Also included are the Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. These are for the members who have agreed to serve two years by serving the Lord in a manner that benefits our church as a whole. Our Constitution and By-Laws appear on Zion's website. As a member of Zion, become knowledgeable of what is expected of each of these boards and individuals when carrying out their respective responsibilities and reporting to the Voters. They report at the Voters Assembly meeting quarterly and you, as members of Zion, need to become a part of the Voters. It is here at this meeting that the voters make decisions relative to the ongoing operation of our church.

Each board has a Director who serves two years and can be re-elected for two more years. For board members, there is no limit on the number of years you may serve. Be aware that these boards provide the means whereby Zion continues to function. All of them serve on a volunteer basis. Should you have a question, complaint, concern, or compliment/thanks, please know which board or individual you need to approach. A list of individuals has appeared in the Sunday Bulletins and will be posted on the bulletin board at both locations. If you are not sure who to speak to, just ask one of the directors or any of the board members, the Executive Director, or Pastor Bakker.

For those members who will not be returning, a big thank you is in order. And, for the returning and new members, welcome. Be sure to check with your board director for information as to your duties, etc. They will be willing to give you the training you need.

All of these boards work in harmony with one another each with assigned responsibilities. It is like a wheel with spokes. Each board, or spoke, is necessary for the proper functioning of the church. One weak spoke, and the wheel is in jeopardy. Christ remains as the hub of everything.

However, if you are not on one of the boards, that does not exclude you as a member. There are many ad-hoc groups and committees with specific assignments that members do behind the scenes. Many never think about the service they perform. They do it out of love for their Lord and Savior.



A few of these committees include the communion committee (setting up and cleaning up), the funeral committee, the candle replenishing, the flower person, the quilting group, the kitchen committee, the Cradle Roll, the Christmas decorations committee, the paraments (changing with the church seasons), the banners (changing and making), cleaning and polishing all the brass candles holders and chalices. Some other tasks include planting and maintaining the flower containers outside at Zion, washing dishes left in kitchen sink, and weed picking in the pre-school play area. Many individuals have volunteered to do these tasks and have done them for years. Some work is done spontaneously. We need new members to step forward and commit even if for a month, weeks, or a year. Let your interests be known to the church office.

Our Pastors have been called to provide Word and Sacrament Ministry. We are thankful for the Lord sending them to us. We just recognized Pastor Bakker for 15 years in the ministry and here at Zion. With the ordination and installation of Pastor Beckett, we can continue with our major mission commitment—providing ongoing Word and Sacrament ministry to our CMU students and International students. Deaconess Anne Bakker was called to serve the international ministry and other roles as assigned. We provide Monday lunches to the students over at Christ the King Chapel. Here again, you can volunteer to provide a meal. It is a great experience. A warm welcome to Pastor Beckett and Emilia. Be sure to introduce yourself to them. (Submitted by Dale Gust)





NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY!

FINAL REMINDER!

Times still available July 19-24

The last directory was printed in 2016. It is time to update it, and we need you to be in it! **There are still openings the week of July 19-23.** Sign up on the link provided via email or call Tim at the church office 772-1516 to sign up. This will be a wonderful tool for our members if we get most people to participate. You will receive a complimentary picture as well as a directory. Thank you for participating!

Love Letters



When was the last time you took a moment to write a love letter? How about a love note to your spouse or a loved one? In today's world of texting, email and Facebook we often send communication out without a second thought, but our words still have great impact.

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, formerly of the Lutheran Hour, inspired me to look at that a little closer, with a devotion he wrote. Several months ago, my siblings and I were preparing my parents home of 65 years to be sold. As we cleaned out closets, sorted through boxes and checked every nook and cranny, we found memories going all the way back to when my parents first met in college. We discovered yearbooks, cards and letters written many years ago.

What makes these pieces of paper and ink so special? They weren't just read and deleted. They weren't glanced at and thrown out. They were cherished. There was much care that went into crafting the prose that found its way to the page. The words and the punctuation needed to be perfect. When received, it was read in its entirety, over and over again. This was the way

thoughts and feelings were communicated when we couldn't talk face to face. As evidenced by our finds, they were treasured and saved.

There is power in the words of loved ones who wrote to you. Those letters and notes of long ago bring up a myriad of emotions when read again. There are even older words that are dear to each of us. Isaiah writes in 43:1, "But now this is what the Lord says- He who created you, Jacob, He who formed you, Israel: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine".

Isaiah says that God's Word is a love letter, written by God Himself, to each one of us. He is calling you by name. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to bring you life and salvation. Do you cherish the love letter from God as dearly as the love notes found in the box in the closet? Do you read them again and again with anticipation of what you will find in the words? His are no ordinary words; they make true life possible for you.

The loving and comforting words continue in verses 2 and 3 of chapter 43. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; The flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord your God."

We invite you to partner with Church Extension Fund to share the hope and love of God with the people around you. Together, we can help build God's Kingdom.

Call us today.
Bill Burmeister 800-242-3944

