

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

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

June 2019

Jonathon J. Bakker and Benjamin J. Ulledalen, Pastors

Volume 55, No.6

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10

The world is after you. Yes, that certainly could sound alarmist, and the world would label it as an extremist position, but it is the truth. The world does want you. It wants your heart.

The world is not alone, of course. The allegiance of your heart is valuable. Where your heart goes, your treasure will follow. Along with your love, your attention, and your faith. So it should not surprise you that the more you engage with the world in your workplace, your school, and even in casual social groups, the more the world will work through these things to win your heart. To win you. Whether it is to turn you into a workaholic, to make you believe that politics is the most important thing, or simply to influence your mind, the world wants you.

Along with the devil and our own sinful flesh, the world is listed by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism as being one of our enemies in this valley of sorrows – this sinful life. In the Lord’s Prayer, we pray, “Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.’ When asked how God’s will is done, Luther wrote (and we believe): ‘God’s will is done when he breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God’s name or let his kingdom come; and when he strengthens and keeps us firm in his Word and faith until we die. This is his good and gracious will.’

There’s much more to unpack there than there is space in this newsletter, but if you took just one thing away from reading what your church sends you in the mail, it should be this: the goals of the world are simple; the world does not want you to hallow God’s name or let his kingdom come. Anything that distracts you from those things is an example of the world (working in concert with the devil and your sinful nature) going after you.

Now, the world may look like it is doing a very good job of winning people. Evil things condemned in God’s Word are practiced and promoted everywhere. Sins against all of the Ten Commandments are rampant – not just the ‘biggies’ like all kinds of killing (abortion, euthanasia, etc.) and adultery (divorce, promiscuous behavior, pornography, etc.), but also misuse of the Lord’s name, dishonoring preaching and the hearing of God’s Word, gossip, avarice, covetousness, and idolatry – you name it, it’s happening. And are we in the church guiltless? Certainly not.

I know that comes as no surprise, because we confess our sinfulness and our sinful deeds week in and week out, but the world will use even this to lull us into complacency or a false sense of security. The world will try to fool you into believing that as long as you think the right way about something, and maybe even told others about it, you can be assured that you have done your duty. As if holding or sharing an opinion were a virtue in and of itself. On all kinds of media, for instance, opinion seems to be the gold standard currency for determining virtue. From talking heads on television to Facebook and Twitter, you cannot escape the posturing. But opinions are not virtues. Being for or against something fulfills no commandments. Having an opinion about something does nothing for your neighbor who is in need. It is as useful as faith without works, as St. James reminds us: ‘If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that?’ (James 2:15-16)

So what do we do? Worldliness would lull you into an equal, yet opposite kind of false security, that by *doing* something you are now virtuous.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Thank You Sunday School Teachers!

This past Sunday School year we have been blessed with teachers who have answered God's calling to use their spiritual gifts to work, serve, and teach God's children among us. This task is not always easy or rewarding, but what a joy to answer God's call to "make disciples" and share the Good News of their Savior with the youth of Zion!

Thank you parents for answering God's call to bring your children to Sunday School to learn more about their God, His work in them, and their purpose in this daily life.

June 9 will be the last Sunday School class until Rally Day September 8.

Thank-you Teachers!

Janah Aldrich	Beth Brostrom	Dara Brown
Monica Brown	Reyna Brown	Mitzi Chaffer
Kyle & Sherry Camp	Brad & Marsha Coulson	
Julie Courtney	Jill Davis	Linda Emery
Luke Epple Sr	Luke Epple Jr	Karen Grossnickle
Sharon Milan	Christine Narr	Maggie Polley
Chad & Tina Roe	John Schimmelmann	

Preschool Enrollment

Open enrollment continues for all classes beginning in September. The 4 year-old morning class is nearly full. Information is available on the table outside of the library at Zion or contact Tim at the church office with any questions.



Spring Little Caesar's Pizza Preschool Fundraiser

The Zion Preschool thanks everyone who contributed to the recent pizza fund-raiser. We exceeded our goal and raised \$1,648! This will be used for tuition assistance, equipment and supplies. Congratulations to our top sellers. They were Kyleigh Koons, Anistynn Shaw, Abigail Fowler and Grace Welch. Well done!

Thank you for your continued support of our preschool here at Zion!



It's an even stronger temptation, because it takes much more out of us to help someone who is struggling in some way than it does to have an opinion, especially a stranger. But works, even virtuous works, will not earn God's favor any more than opinions; so...what do we do?

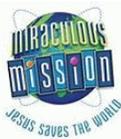
Do we avoid doing good, especially for a young woman or a young family struggling through a pregnancy? Do we avoid caring for those who struggle with temptation, or greed, or slander? Do we retreat from the world around us? No, of course not. Paul wrote in Galatians, 'And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.' (6:9). And the author of Hebrews encourages us, 'And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.' (10:24-25)

We listen to God's Word. We come to church. We hear the commands of the Lord and fight against our own flesh, the world, and the devil to follow those commands. We confess our sins and our sinful nature and we receive absolution. We live in our baptism, daily drowning the old Adam and rejoicing in the new man who emerges and arises to live before God in purity forever. We partake of the Lord's Supper. It is the body and blood of Jesus, instituted by Christ himself for us Christians to eat and to drink, for the forgiveness of our sins. Indeed, Christ has died and rose from the dead for us, and as he taught us to pray, 'Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,' he will strengthen and keep us in his Word and faith until we die. That is his good and gracious will.

In Christ, Pastor Bakker

Vacation Bible School July 8-12

This year's VBS is only a month away! A registration form is included with this month's newsletter, and they are also available at Zion. We would appreciate if you have children that plan on attending that you pre-register them. It helps us to organize class size, crafts as well as other things. This year's theme is "Miraculous Mission"! If you have any questions contact Mallory Zalud or Tim Narr in the church office.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through April 30, 2019

	2019	2018
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$159,350.40	\$161,813.18
YTD Actual Expenses	\$162,777.09	\$164,553.71
YTD Balance	\$ (3,426.69)	\$ (2,740.53)
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 148,178.43	\$ 158,853.92
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 162,777.09	\$ 164,553.71
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ (14,598.66)	\$ (5,699.79)

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Some disciples of John the Baptist were questioning him about the baptism and preaching of Jesus. Many disciples were going to Jesus instead of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist answers: "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven" (John 3:27).

John the Baptist says this to show that Jesus, His teaching, and His baptism are from heaven. God provides everything we have in body and soul.

We are taught this in the meaning of the Apostles' Creed in the Small Catechism.

In the First Article of the Creed, we learn that God has made us and everything in the universe. "He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him."

In the Second Article of the Creed, we learn that God sent His Son, Jesus, to humble Himself by taking the form of a servant. In so doing, He "has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity."

In the Third Article of the Creed, we learn that the fruits of what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did are given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church. "That I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."

Indeed, "a person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven."

But how easy is this for us to forget? How easy is it for us to think that what we have in life is because we have earned it?

How easy is it for us to forget that all our skills – the abilities of our hands and minds, the ethic to work diligently, and the desire to improve – is given to us from heaven, just as John the Baptist said?

How easy is it for us to forget that it is Christ alone, and the work of the Holy Spirit, that reveals His salvation to us, delivers it to us, and that none of this is our doing?

Sure, we have responsibility for coming to church, for delving into God's Holy Word, and for praying without ceasing.

But even these responsibilities are given to us from heaven. These duties are not earned; they are given in response to what He has accomplished for us.

Everything we have, and everything we are – in both body and soul – are gifts from God in heaven.

Let us then respond in thanksgiving and give back to Him as He asks – with a first-fruits, generous proportion offering of what He has given to us.



Men's Breakfast/Bible Study

Saturday, June 22

8:00 a.m. at Zion



As May moves into June, so also we come to the conclusion of another year in Zion's Sunday School. Many thanks to all of the Sunday School teachers, the superintendent, the Zion board of Christian education, and everyone else who gives so generously of their time so that children can be taught about their Savior and his love for all – your gifts and service are so very, very appreciated. Thank you to parents as well for bringing your children to learn of their Savior.

Thank you also to all who have contributed in any way to our preschool over the past year, most especially our teachers. We thank God for the opportunity to teach the faith to children and their families, and pray that they would remember that they are always welcome here at Zion.

Finally, thank you also to all who have volunteered for the past two years to serve as officers at Zion! An extra thank you to those of you who are stepping down from service (many of whom have tirelessly served for a very long time) for all of your hard work in leadership and service. You are appreciated!

Pastor Bakker

Fundraiser - June 8 – 6:00 p.m. at Zion

In the middle of March Chris and Maggie Polley suffered significant water damage when outside water broke through a basement window and flooded their finished basement. Their home owner's insurance will not cover the loss because the water came from outside the house. Thrivent Action Team Funds have been received to purchase food for a fund-raiser dinner. **A Swiss Steak Dinner will be held at Zion on Saturday, June 8. The dinner is free and will begin at 6:00 p.m.** All donations will be given to the Polley family to help them with the expenses incurred from the flood. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex at Zion. Please sign up so that the appropriate amount of food can be prepared. If you would like to help the Polleys, but are unable to attend the dinner, you may leave a cash contribution with Tim in the church office or with Wayne Kiefer.

There will also be a silent auction during the dinner. Items such as gift cards, gift baskets or any item of value are welcome. Contact Krista Claybaugh at (989)400-2876 or KristaClaybaugh@gmail.com with any questions.

Holy Scripture: Guided Reading

A Month in 1 Samuel: The books of 1 and 2 Samuel cover some incredible moments in the history of God's people. The transition from judgeship to a monarchy, and the lives of two of Israel's most prominent kings, Saul and David. Saul's reign and fall are covered in 1 Samuel. Next month we will see David's reign. The readings are manageable, but sticking to the daily plan will make it easier to keep up!

- 1 Samuel 1 – Samuel's Birth
- 1 Samuel 2 – Hannah's Prayer; Eli's Sons
- 1 Samuel 3 – Samuel is Called
- 1 Samuel 4 – The Ark Captured
- 1 Samuel 5 – The Ark and the Philistines
- 1 Samuel 6 – The Ark Returned to Israel
- 1 Samuel 7 – Israel Judged
- 1 Samuel 8 – Israel demands, and receives, a King
- 1 Samuel 9 – Saul Chosen King
- 1 Samuel 10 – Saul Anointed and Proclaimed King
- 1 Samuel 11 – Saul Defeats the Ammonites
- 1 Samuel 12 – Samuel's Farewell Address
- 1 Samuel 13 – Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice
- 1 Samuel 14 – Jonathan Defeats Philistine
- 1 Samuel 15 – God Rejects Saul as King
- 1 Samuel 16 – David Anointed
- 1 Samuel 17 – David and Goliath
- 1 Samuel 18 – David and Jonathan's Friendship
- 1 Samuel 19 – Saul tries to kill David
- 1 Samuel 20 – Jonathan Warns David
- 1 Samuel 21-22 – David Hides; Saul Punishes the Priests
- 1 Samuel 23-24 – David Saves Keilah; Spares Saul
- 1 Samuel 25 – Samuel Dies; David and Abigail
- 1 Samuel 26 – David Spares Saul Again
- 1 Samuel 27 – David Flees to the Philistines
- 1 Samuel 28 – Saul Consults a Medium
- 1 Samuel 29 – The Philistines Reject David
- 1 Samuel 30 – David Defeats the Amalekites
- 1 Samuel 31 – Saul and Jonathan Die

LWML Women to Women

June 8, 2019 we will meet for a 1:00 p.m. **LUNCH at THE HERRICK HOUSE** in Clare, Michigan.



Carpools will leave from Zion at 12:30 p.m. **Zion's LWML General Meetings for the upcoming year** will be held quarterly on the 4th Saturday of the month. We will have a brunch for each meeting, along with a devotional and short program, project or activity. If you have **suggestions for programs please share** them with JoAnn Gust or Patty Pickler.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Ladies' Bible studies throughout this past year, and for the lovely flowers and card I received at our last study. The Ladies' Bible Study will begin again on the 2nd Saturday in September. All women, confirmation age and older are welcome to attend. Childcare can always be arranged with advance notice. Please contact me with any questions. Anne Bakker

38th Biennial National LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama will take place June 20-23, 2019. Thank you to all that have donated so generously for the health kits for Gifts from the Heart.

2020 Michigan District Convention will be held in Gaylord. The Mid-Michigan Zone will be co-hosting this event and will be in need of several women to volunteer. More information will follow as it becomes available.

Recipe of the Month

Strawberry Rhubarb Crisp

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 50 minutes
Cooling time: 20 minutes
Yield: 6 to 8 servings

INGREDIENTS

For the topping:

- 1 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

- 12 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, melted and cooled

For the filling:

- 4 cups strawberries, stemmed, hulled and, cut in half if large
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon chopped candied ginger
- 2 tablespoon cornstarch
- Zest from 1 medium orange
- 4 cups sliced rhubarb (1-inch chunks) from about 5 to 6 thick stalks or 10 to 12 skinny stalks

Special equipment

- [10-inch cast iron skillet](#)

•Preheat oven to 350°F

Combine the oats, flour, both sugars, cinnamon, and salt in a medium-sized bowl. Whisk until consistent in color and all the ingredients are evenly distributed. Break up any chunks of brown sugar.

Drizzle the melted butter over the dry ingredients, tossing with a fork until the topping starts to clump together and the dry ingredients are moist. Place the bowl in the refrigerator to chill while you prepare the fruit.

Combine the strawberries, 1/2 cup of the sugar, candied ginger, cornstarch and orange zest in a large bowl, tossing to make sure the strawberries are coated with the dry ingredients. Set aside. Spray a 10-inch cast iron skillet with cooking oil, and add the rhubarb and remaining 1/4 cup of sugar. Cook over medium-heat, stirring constantly, for 5 to 7 minutes, or until the sugar has dissolved and the rhubarb juice starts to thicken. Cook off some of the liquid, but don't allow the rhubarb to get mushy.

Add strawberry mixture to the hot pan with the rhubarb, covering the rhubarb evenly.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes.

Remove pan from oven and sprinkle the crisp topping over the fruit filling. Return to the oven for an additional 15 to 20 minutes, or until the top of the crisp is golden brown and the fruit filling is bubbling hot.

Let the crisp cool at least 15 to 20 minutes. Serve with vanilla ice cream.



Mission of the Month

Lutheran Hour Ministries

Lutheran Hour Ministries began at the grassroots level as the Lutheran Laymen's League, a group of 12 lay people who came together to support the church in word and deed. What began with 12 has become a movement of tens of thousands of volunteers and supporters around the globe. In 1930, "There is a God" were the first words spoken on The Lutheran Hour radio program broadcast over the airwaves to thousands of listeners. Today the Gospel message reaches over 51 million people on a weekly basis through ministry efforts such as Bible Correspondence Courses, Outreach Training, Bible Studies, Daily Devotions and, of course, for nearly 100 years, God has used the Lutheran Hour Ministries to bring the changeless Christ to a changing world. The communication methods have shifted, but the message has remained the same.

Zion's Kitchen Cleaning Day

The kitchen is in need of some love and attention. Men and women are welcome to join us to clean and organize things!

The fun will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 5.

Come whenever you can, and stay as long as you wish.



Graduation Open House

You are invited to join us for Tyler Claybaugh's Open House on Sunday, June 30 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Our address is 8131 W River Rd. Weidman, MI 48893.

Joe & Krista Claybaugh



A Message from Your Elders

Your Board of Elders is responsible for "the care of the pastor(s), the spiritual welfare of the members of the congregation, and all matters pertaining to the public worship of the congregation" (from our Bylaws). The Board has been studying the Lutheran Confessions and its meaning for us, as elders, in maintaining a confessional Word and Sacrament ministry for you. If you have questions, issues, or concerns about the worship services, the times, or our ministry, etc., please contact an elder and share them. We are here to serve all members of Zion. Talk to God first in prayer, then an elder or pastor. Choosing other avenues to share your concerns may only lead to misunderstanding, confusion, or disorder. At the annual meeting of the Voters' Assembly in April, a detailed report was given as to what the Board has accomplished and what it has yet to do. We are accountable to God first and then to this congregation. You have elected us to serve in this capacity. We are here to listen. At the end of June, Kenneth Johnson, Wayne Reister, and Lynn Laskowsky have decided to retire from the Board. We thank them for their many years of service in the Lord's work. The elders that will be serving you for the next two years are Rod Dent, Wayne Kiefer, Brian Tice, Richard Harless, Ryan Rollin, Luke Epple, Todd Greenlee, Kyle Camp, and Director Dale Gust. Please present to them, or our board in person, your issues/concerns which will be considered at our next meeting. "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

Dale Gust



Sunday

June 16

Nurses' Notes will be back in September.

Have a wonderful summer!

God Bless, Phillis Daws RN, BSN



Some numbers from this past semester (and academic year):

3: the number of college students confirmed into the Lutheran faith.

4: the average number of college students who attended each Monday Lunch throughout the year.

5: the number of Lutheran denominations (or independent Lutheran churches) represented among our students.

6: the average college student attendance at our Sunday night meeting and Bible Study.

9: the number of Sunday worship services which had at least 10 college students in attendance.

10: the average college student Sunday attendance this semester.

14 students attended worship 10 times or more this school year

19 students attended worship at least 6 times this school year (that is, about once per month)

20: the number of college students who attended CTK on Sunday, February 17

21: the number of college students who attended CTK on Sunday, January 27

0: the number of college students who attended on Sunday, March 3 (Spring Break).

61: the number of students who attended worship, visited our building, attended an official event, visited Pastor, or stopped in to pray throughout this academic year.

This academic year we were blessed with a strong core group of students. Many of them were new to our campus ministry as of this year. The group dynamic has been strong. Our student leaders have shown great drive, initiative, responsibility, and creativity. Thanks to these leaders, CTK was open on many Thursday evenings or parts of weekends for various parties or social events. We were blessed with first-time visitors at worship throughout the school year—not just at the beginning! Many of them returned, or joined us again for other events.

Although our guest speaker, Ed Riojas, was not able to make it here due to a snow storm, many people did still enjoy dinner and fellowship. The father, grandmother, and grandfather of a CTK student were able to make it, and enjoyed their time with us. The grandmother is a CTK alum, and this was her first time back in a while.

On Sunday, April 28, Pastor Ulledalen and 7 students celebrated the end of the year with lunch at the Italian Oven after Sunday morning worship. During the service we recognized our graduating seniors with a gift and blessing.

Student leaders already have goals for the summer as well as plans for next year. They have several ideas in place in order to welcome new students into the group next year. They have also suggested adjusting the Monday lunch time to better accommodate student schedules. Next year they plan to open each fellowship event with prayer and a brief devotion. They also hope to dedicate more time and energy towards service events in the community as well as at Zion.

This year we were also blessed with a noticeable influx of new students. Most important of all: we saw a sizeable increase in the number of students worshipping with us any given Sunday. We give glory to God alone for all of this. We all know that the culture around us, including—especially!—the university culture, tempts Christian students in many different ways. There is much for us to find disturbing and angering all around us. And yet the Lord has preserved this group of young people who enter His house for worship at Christ the King. Here we have Christian young people who take the responsibility to fellowship with other Christians. They desire to grow in their knowledge of the Lord; they desire to serve others with Christian love. We can all be thankful for all of that. We should be thankful for all of that. We as a congregation can all continue to strive to foster that environment. Thank you, dear members of Zion, for supporting another academic year of campus ministry in many different ways. And above all, Thanks be to God who does all things well.

Pastor Ulledalen

