

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



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

March 2020

Jonathon J. Bakker and Benjamin J. Ulledalen, Pastors

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“Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” – 1 Peter 2:24

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we certainly live among the trees of the Bible! The Bible reports that God made the first trees on the third day of creation. Disobedience surrounding a tree brought the fall and sin into the world. Gopher wood from harvested trees were formed by Noah into the ark that carried the faithful remnant of humanity – 8 souls – and two of each animal to repopulate the world after the flood. It was under the oaks at Mamre that Abraham and Sarah showed hospitality to God, who repeated his covenant promise.

In the New Testament we hear about trees as well. Jesus saw Nathanael under the fig tree when Philip approached him to tell him about Jesus. Zacchaeus, the wee little man, climbed up a sycamore tree in order to catch a glimpse of Jesus and was not only surprised when Jesus called him down, intending to dine with him that day; he was a changed man, restoring good for any evil he had done. Trees were frequent fodder for illustrations in Jesus’ preaching, too. Unproductive trees were pruned, dug around, and fertilized. They were expected to produce good fruit. Trees producing bad fruit were to be destroyed. The meaning of these trees for Jesus’ hearers was obvious – repent, bear fruit, be changed.

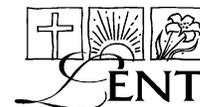
And on Good Friday Jesus hung upon a tree until he died. The apostles took Jesus’ lead, and preached even more about a tree than he did – the tree of the cross! On that tree, Jesus suffered. On that tree he paid the price for our sin. On that tree he died, but death could not

hold him. Three days later he rose from the dead, victorious over sin, victorious over death, and victorious over the devil!

Trees haven’t lost their importance for us, either. We still preach Christ crucified. We still glory in the cross of Christ. We still lift high the cross. And we look forward to the fulfillment of all of God’s promises in the end, when we will see with our own eyes not only the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, the leaves of which are for the healing of the nations, but finally to see the Lord, face to face.

Indeed, the trees of the Bible are of great importance for us and so we will turn our focus to them this Lenten season during the midweek services. Join us Ash Wednesday (4:30 p.m. at Zion; 7:30 p.m. at Christ the King), and every Wednesday afterward at 5:30 p.m. at Zion. It is my prayer that these services help you to focus more during the Lenten season on contrition and faith, so that together we may rejoice in the glory of Jesus’ resurrection on Easter!

In Christ, Pastor Bakker



Services

Wednesdays, March 4,11,18 & 25

5:30 p.m. at Zion

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

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



Grades N - K

Marik Zalud - N

Grades 4 - 7

Connor Buckley - 4



Preschool Enrollment 2020-2021

Open enrollment continues for preschool. Your child must be four years of age on or before December 1, 2019, to enroll in the four-year-old class. You may enroll your child in either the morning or afternoon class. Your child must be three years of age on or before September 1, 2019, to enroll in the three-year-old class. Please help us promote this ministry by telling your friends about us!

Little Caesar Pizza Fundraiser

Begins March 8 Orders due April 14

Goal: \$1800.00



Little Caesars has made some changes in the Pizza Kit Fundraiser that affects the time between the order due date and the delivery day and time. We will not know the actual delivery day and time until after our final order is submitted. Delivery will be sometime during the week of May 4.

Order forms are on the table outside the library at Zion and also available at CTK. Funds raised will be used for classroom equipment, supplies, field trips and financial aid. You may also order online.

Our group ID is 376442

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

Vacation Bible School

July 13-17



Save the dates and mark your calendars !

This year's theme is "Rainforest Explorers"! Help is needed in various areas including teaching, crafts, recreation, snacks and music. *There is a place for you to help. If you are willing and able, contact Mallory Zalud, or you can also contact the church office.*

VBS Decorating Need....we could use your brown paper grocery bags! We will be turning them into Rainforest vines. Just drop them off to the office or, to Sharon Milan. Thank you!

We are looking forward to a great week!

Special Voters' Meeting

*Sunday, March 15 at 9:45 a.m.
at Zion*

This meeting will take place in the gym for the purpose of voting on the preschool expansion proposal. Details of the proposal will be in upcoming bulletins as well as posted on the bulletin board at Zion. *Everyone is welcome to attend however only current voting members will be able to vote.*



Ladies' Bible Study

Saturday, March 14
9:30 a.m. at CTK

Just a friendly reminder that our Ladies' Bible study will meet on Saturday, March 14. As usual, we'll meet at CTK at 9:30 a.m. This year, we're studying CPH's "One Christ, Many Creeds: A Lutheran Perspective of Christian Denominations." Every month we'll discuss a different denomination. In March, we'll take a look at Episcopalians. As always, childcare can be arranged at the chapel with advance notice. Hope to see you there! Ann Bakker

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through January 31, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 44,540.76	\$ 44,112.60
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 50,317.39</u>	<u>\$ 41,349.38</u>
YTD Balance	\$ (5,776.63)	\$ 2,763.22
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 38,587.32	\$ 37,813.01
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 50,317.39</u>	<u>\$ 41,349.38</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ (11,730.07)	\$ (3,536.37)

We are at the beginning of Lent. During the Lenten season, the church calls to our attention the sufficiency of what God gives. It points to the sufficiency of God's grace in the atoning work of Jesus. It shows us the sufficiency of faith in Jesus' work for us. It makes known the sufficiency of God's Word in faith and life. But Lent doesn't just remind us of the sufficiency of God's spiritual gifts, the gifts that pertain to our redemption and salvation. Lent also reminds us of the sufficiency of the physical, temporal gifts of God, those that pertain to this body and life. In other words, it reminds us of the importance of godly contentment and of outward discipline and training of the body. This outward training of the body teaches us not to give in to every desire of our flesh but to learn to say no to them. And it does this in such a way that if you fail, it is no sin. It is a way to practice without putting yourself into a compromising situation. The easiest example of this is fasting. When you fast, you are practicing saying no to the desires of your body. But if you fail in this, if you break your fast, you have not sinned. You have, though, learned something about how your flesh works, how difficult it is to fight against it, and how you need help from above in order to do it. There is another example of this. It is alms-giving. This is an increase in giving to the church and its mission during this time. We all know that our flesh finds security in money and stuff. By committing to give more to the church, you are training your flesh. You are, by this outward discipline, training yourself to be content with what God gives. You are practicing saying "no" to your desires. Again, if you fail, you have not sinned. But you've learned just how powerful

your flesh is in leading you instead of you leading it. You've learned how you need help from above in being content with what God gives. This is why St. Paul instructs young Pastor Timothy in this way: "But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and[a] we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." (1 Tim 6:6-10) Our sufficiency is not of ourselves; it is in God. Let us learn this without sin by training our flesh this Lenten season.

Mission of the Month

LCMS Armed Forces Ministry

MISSION AND PURPOSE STATEMENT

In 1862, Rev. Friedrich W. Richmann volunteered to serve the 58th Regiment of the Ohio Volunteers in the American Civil War. By doing so, he became The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod's first military chaplain. The world has changed dramatically since then, and so has our nation's armed forces. But the ministry initiated by Richmann is one that still holds great purpose in serving the many special needs of United States military personnel serving around the world. Men and women serving in the United States armed forces face times of separation from their families, homes, and churches. There is also stress from frequent moves, fear of combat, and loneliness. To support military personnel as they provide for our nation's defense, the LCMS established Ministry to the Armed Forces to: provide military chaplains to serve on the field; provide chaplains for veteran's hospitals; maintain records of pastoral acts; work with pastors and civilian congregations to provide for the spiritual welfare of their members in uniform; and to provide spiritual resources to LCMS members serving in the armed forces through a "Ministry-by-Mail Program."





We are blessed at Zion with two faithful secretaries who work very hard behind the scenes keeping everything running smoothly in the offices at both locations. Thank you very much, Tim and Kathy, for your faithfulness and your hard work – your cheerfulness and dedication are appreciated and we all thank God for you!

Thank you also to those who serve on the Evangelism and Family Life/Youth boards of our congregation for all of your contributions to our life together, and for all of your hard work in planning fun and educational opportunities for members of all ages to get together and enjoy fellowship. Your talents and gifts are appreciated!

Adult Instruction Class Offered

Pastor Bakker will be holding an Adult Instruction class on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. in Zion's Library, starting **March 2**. This course covers the basics of Lutheran teachings on the Bible, Christian doctrine, and worship. Attendees will have the opportunity at the end of the class to join Zion by confirmation or baptism (if they aren't already baptized), but current members of Zion are welcome and encouraged to attend the class to be refreshed themselves in the basics of Lutheran theology.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, March 21

8:00 a.m.



Holy Scripture: Guided Reading

31 Days with Jeremiah: Jeremiah's prophecy is not the easiest pill to swallow. His call to be a prophet was straightforward, but the message he had to declare is where the challenge began. Israel's infidelity to God would lead to their captivity, and Jeremiah was sent to proclaim this forthcoming exile in complaints, laments, and condemnations. All would not be destroyed, however. He also foretold of the restoration and the New Covenant that God established. While Jeremiah is shorter than Isaiah by 14 chapters, it is actually much longer (more words). Keep up with the reading plan so it stays manageable.

- Jeremiah 1 – The Call of Jeremiah
- Jeremiah 2-3 – Israel Forsakes the Lord and is Called to Repentance
- Jeremiah 4-5 – Disaster, Obstinacy, and Judgment
- Jeremiah 6-7 – Disaster coming to Jerusalem, Evil in the Land
- Jeremiah 8-9 – Sin and Lament
- Jeremiah 10-11 – Idolatry and the Broken Covenants
- Jeremiah 12-13 – Jeremiah Complains; Exile coming
- Jeremiah 14-15 – Famine, Sword, Lies, Pestilence, and the Lord will not Relent
- Jeremiah 16-17 – The Lord will Restore Israel; a Prayer for Deliverance
- Jeremiah 18-19 – The Potter and the Clay; the Broken Flask
- Jeremiah 20 – Jeremiah Persecuted
- Jeremiah 21-22 – Jerusalem will fall; Messages to the House of David
- Jeremiah 23 – The Righteous Branch
- Jeremiah 24-25 – The Figs and Seventy Years of Captivity
- Jeremiah 26-27 – Jeremiah Threatened and Spared; Nebuchadnezzar's Yoke
- Jeremiah 28-29 – False Prophecies and Jeremiah's Letter
- Jeremiah 30 – Restoration for Israel and Judah
- Jeremiah 31 – Mourning becomes Joy; the New Covenant!
- Jeremiah 32 – Jeremiah buys a field; prays to God
- Jeremiah 33-34 – The Lord Promises Peace, but Zedekiah to die in Captivity
- Jeremiah 35-36 – The Obedience of the Rechabites; Jeremiah's Scroll Burned
- Jeremiah 37-38 – Zedekiah Warned; Jeremiah Punished
- Jeremiah 39-40 – The Fall of Jerusalem; Jeremiah remains
- Jeremiah 41-42 – Gedaliah murdered; Warning against going to Egypt
- Jeremiah 43 – Jeremiah Taken to Egypt
- Jeremiah 44-45 – Judgment for Idolatry; Message to Baruch
- Jeremiah 46-47 – Judgment on Egypt and the Philistines
- Jeremiah 48-49 – Judgment on Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus, and others
- Jeremiah 50 – Judgment on Babylon
- Jeremiah 51 – The Utter Destruction of Babylon
- Jeremiah 52 – Jerusalem Remembered

Women's Guild



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

April 4 – Our Savior Lutheran Church in Midland will host the **LWML Mid Michigan Spring Rally and Prayer Day Service**. The **guest speaker for this event will be Tyler Seehafer from MOST Ministries**.

Gifts from the Heart for the Spring Rally will go toward stocking the kitchen and bathroom in each wing of the new Shelterhouse building on Waldo Road which will be open about the same time as the rally. Items needed are hand towels, dish towels, kitchen utensils, oven mitts, pot holders, dish soap and pots and pans. A box will be set up for the month of March at Zion and at CTK where donations can be made to help fulfill this need.

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

Looking Ahead



April 4 – LWML Mid Michigan **Spring Rally and Prayer Day Service** at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Midland

May 2 – Women's Guild **Spring Tea**

June 13 – Lunch at the **Herrick House** in Clare at 1:00 p.m.

July 10-12 – LWML Michigan District Convention in Gaylord.

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

The theme will be "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus."

MAKING DISCIPLES FOR LIFE GATHERING

April 17-18, Ft. Wayne, IN

Now coming to a location in our backyard. Just what is this Gathering of Making Disciples for Life? Please click on the link below and read. It is well worth the \$50 cost and a few nights stay. Think about how it may help you personally and also how it can help Zion's leadership in making disciples. Directors—share this with your boards and encourage them to attend. We need representation from all boards and from lay persons not on boards. <https://bit.ly/3c3STkp> Then, be sure to read HOW TO PREPARE FOR THIS REGIONAL CONFERENCE. It will provide you with "What We're Trying to Accomplish and Why This Conference Is Different".

<https://bit.ly/2uuwn3g>

The web page contains all the information you will need for registering and choosing where to stay. The first gathering reached its seating capacity early and had to be closed. Don't wait to register. See Dale Gust if you need more information.

WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN?

Can you help us? We need to have the address, telephone number, and e-mail of your family members who are not living in your household, have moved out of state, moved somewhere in Michigan or moved down the street. Why the concern? Your children may have been baptized, attended Sunday School, and/or confirmed here. Now they have moved and are employed, married, have children, etc. Surely your prayers for them are to continue in their worship of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. That is our wish also, as elders. With their addresses, we can help them to locate a Lutheran Church (LCMS) in their area and get them connected and engaged on a regular basis to hear God's Word and to be present with Christ in receiving His Body and Blood that assures us of everlasting life. Pass this information along to your elder or give to the church secretary at 772-1516. We thank those who have already done so but there are still many, many more for whom we don't have contact information.

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT:

The LCMS, the Synod, the Synodical Convention, the Michigan District, the District Conventions, the election process, the presidents and vice presidents, our circuit visitors, the Concordia University System, the Theological Seminaries, etc. Stay tuned—these will be coming in the April Newsletter.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

During 2019, members allocated over \$4,600.00 to various programs at Zion including the preschool and campus ministry. If you have not allocated your choice dollars from 2019 there is still time. You have until March 31 to do so. Thank You!



NURSE'S NOTE

Reference to the Coronavirus is everywhere. Please learn and then act appropriately. Many rumors and false reporting is going on. Research credible sources. Here is a little information I obtained from the CDC and Mayo Clinic. *Phillis Daws RN, BSN*

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that can cause illnesses such as the common cold, severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). A new virus called the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been identified as the cause of a disease outbreak that began in China. The disease is called COVID-19.

There isn't much known about this new virus yet. Public health groups, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), are monitoring the situation and posting updates on their websites. These groups have also issued recommendations for preventing and treating the illness.

Prevention: There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

1. *Avoid close contact with people who are sick.*
2. *Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. 3. Stay home when you are sick.*
4. *Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.*
5. *Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.*
6. *Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.*

CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if your hands are visibly dirty.

Symptoms: Signs and symptoms of infection with the new coronavirus may appear two to 14 days after exposure and can include: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

The severity of the new coronavirus symptoms can range from very mild to severe, even death. Although understanding of this disease continues to grow, most people with severe illness have been of an older age or had other significant existing medical conditions. This is similar to what is seen in people who have severe infections with other respiratory illnesses, such as influenza.

When to see a doctor : Contact your doctor right away if you have symptoms of infection with the new coronavirus and you've possibly been exposed to the virus. Tell your doctor if you've recently traveled internationally. Call your doctor ahead to tell him or her about your symptoms and recent travels and possible exposure before you go to your appointment. Your Doctor's office needs to prepare their space to avoid possible transmission if you are infected.

**Daylight saving time begins on
March 8.**



Spring Break reminders

CMU – March 9-13

Mt Pleasant Schools – March 30 - April 3

A Spiritual Estate Plan



What will you pass along to your heirs? Most people are careful to include any stocks, cash, life insurance and real property like their home or vacation cottage. They list all the gifts that God has given them and who they would like to benefit, right down to the godchildren. But is that enough? Will your final plan also express your faith and how it has impacted your entire life? A valuable component of your Spiritual Estate Plan is making sure your family knows how thankful you are for all the ways God has made a difference in your life. How do you handle the challenges that are part of your life? Romans 8:28 tells us, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose". Is that how you live? When sickness or trouble comes your way, are you thankful to God through everything? Do your family and community see you turning these trials over to God? Your attitude, gratitude and reaction to trouble are a testament of your faith. At your funeral many people who have been part of your life are likely to pay their respects. It is another opportunity to demonstrate God's faithfulness and love. What are the Bible passages and songs that mean the most to you? Let your family and pastor know what you would like included in the service. Even your obituary can be a reflection of your faith. Is it a recount of what you have done or reflecting what God has done for you?

Your strong faith will impact how you communicate in your Estate Plan. We all want to leave an inheritance to family. Passing along your courage and strength, which comes through your faith, is more valuable than any financial gift you can leave. As you decide how to bless your family, remember to include a final estate gift to ministries that have blessed you. That is another way to express to family how important those ministries have been in your life. Plus your gift will be a huge blessing to those ministries, allowing them to share God's grace, winning more souls for Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Contact Church Extension Fund - Gift Planning to discuss various ways to create your Spiritual Estate Plan. Share your spiritual and financial gifts with loved ones, while blessing ministry with

an Estate Gift that will help change the world. There is no cost to you for using this ministry of CEF. We want to assist you in getting your personal faith story to your family and friends. Call us today!

Bill Burmeister Church Extension Fund
Michigan District – 800-242-3944
bill.burmeister@mi-cef.org

Youth / Family Life

Euchre Tournament Friday, March 13



This year's "St Patrick's Day" themed Euchre Tournament will be on Friday, March 13. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex at Zion and also at CTK. Plan to join us for a good time and a great fellowship opportunity!



We will need a minimum of 20 people signed up in advance, so if you are interested, sign up the next time you are at Zion or CTK or call the church office.

Youth Pizza / Topic / Activity Sunday, March 8 12:30 p.m. at Zion

ALL youth are welcome and encouraged to join us.

Thank You to Jan Harless, Jeremy Couturier, youth, parents and everyone who contributed to making the Spaghetti Dinner on February 7 such a wonderful event! Almost 100 people attended and over \$600 was donated to our youth program. Thank you also to everyone who attended and donated to help fund upcoming youth conferences and events. It is much appreciated!



International Ministry

I am in immediate need of a female conversation partner for one of our more fluent internationals. Training and conversation materials are available. Please contact me if interested!
Anne Bakker