

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool  
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel  
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Jonathon J. Bakker and Benjamin J. Ulledalen, Pastors

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*"Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Jacob rejoice, let Israel be glad." Psalm 14:7*

Martin Luther once wrote concerning the horrific conditions surrounding the plague:

"If Christ shed his blood for me and died for me, why should I not expose myself to some small dangers for his sake and disregard this feeble plague? If you can terrorize, Christ can strengthen me. If you can kill, Christ can give life. If you have poison in your fangs, Christ has far greater medicine. Should not my dear Christ, with his precepts, his kindness, and all his encouragement, be more important in my spirit than you, roguish devil, with your false terrors in my weak flesh? God forbid! Get away, devil. Here is Christ and here am I, his servant in this work. Let Christ prevail! Amen." – Martin Luther, Luther's Works, Vol. 43

Our Lord gives us these words through David in Psalm 18: *I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.*

These words from Luther and the Scriptures remind us of God's strength amidst great troubles that press upon us. The devil fights against us but our Lord fights for us. The Lord will prevail. He is our constant guide, our rock and our salvation. In these unsettling times, we rely on the comfort and peace that comes only from the Lord who loved us such that he gave his only begotten Son to die for our eternal life. We are confident that the Great Physician of body and soul will not abandon us.

We are living in a situation that is very strange and unfamiliar. We have gone from hearing about a virus on the other side of the world that might one day arrive here, to the state ordering gatherings no larger than 250, and now to federal guidelines of groups no larger than 10. Anyone over age 60 or anyone with an underlying health condition is also considered to be at a higher risk.

**In order to help mitigate these circumstances, and to take care of our people, I have made the difficult decision to cease all congregational activities until March 31. This means there will be no church services, no Bible studies, confirmation classes, meetings, preschool, campus or international ministry, until at least March 31. We will be considering when to resume congregation activities in the weeks ahead.**

I did not make this decision lightly, but because of the number of families we have with members over 65 and the recommendation of groups no larger than 10, I feel that this is the most prudent and responsible thing for us to do as a congregation. In the meantime, it is my hope and intention to offer various resources to you at home in print and online. Some of these offerings may change along the way, but for starters:

- Sunday morning and Midweek Lenten service sermons will still take place, but will be recorded and published on YouTube and/or Facebook.
- Preschool chapel will be on Facebook live once/week for those who are in Zion's private preschool group (only parents and grandparents of children enrolled in our preschool have access to this private group).
- Occasional devotional videos will be on Facebook and/or YouTube

– Concordia Publishing House has made several resources available at [cph.org](http://cph.org) for free. Some are for personal Bible study, and others are for home worship. The liturgical portion of ‘Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families’ will be sent to you, but I encourage you to print a copy for each member of your family to assist you in daily devotions. Pastor Ulledalen and I will be working to present devotions with these orders in mind. Zion’s Facebook page? Once you’ve logged in to Facebook (you need a facebook.com account), search for ‘Zion Lutheran Church, Mount Pleasant, MI’ or enter: [fb.me/zionlutheranmp](https://fb.me/zionlutheranmp) Zion’s YouTube page? They will be available in a link from Zion’s web and Facebook pages Please know that while we use these technologies regularly for communicating and watching videos, neither Pastor Ulledalen or I are experts at creating this kind of content. Please be patient with us while we learn as we go – we will get better.

Although we are not having Sunday services for the time being, you still have your church and your pastors. We are available on a limited basis for home visits or for you to make an appointment to see us at Zion or Christ The King. Please contact us, especially if there is a pastoral emergency. Note that the current regulations at the hospitals, assisted livings, and nursing homes mean that it is almost impossible that a pastor will be permitted to visit someone in one of those buildings in person.

The question rose about weekly offerings during this time, and a communication from Zion’s Stewardship Board will soon follow.

At this point, I am still working on contacting our members over 60 to see whether any are in need of shopping/medication pickup assistance. Several of you have volunteered to help in this way, and I cannot thank you enough for your love and care for one another. Please reach out to one another and keep connected via the telephone and through other means. People suffer in isolation, and isolation from God and one another at Zion can create physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges. Our work is to help fight that isolation in creative ways to keep you connected while we all try to stay healthy. God grant us his wisdom as we do this. While I hope this is the only such letter I have to write in this situation, I do not even know what tomorrow will bring. Please continue to watch

your email, Zion’s website, Facebook page, and your mailbox. We will do our best to communicate with you in whatever ways we can, and remember to pray for the Lord’s mercy and peace in all things.

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Bakker

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

### Preschool Expansion Special Voters’ Meeting Update

On Sunday, March 15 thirty-eight of our eligible voters passed a resolution to expand our preschool program by a vote of 35-3. The expansion will include offering an all-day option for preschool/childcare for children eighteen months old through age four. It will also include adding a storage area off the southeast corner of the gym. Updates will be provided as the project moves along. There will likely not be any visible signs of change until at least May and maybe June. Please keep the preschool ministry in your prayers during this time of transition.

### Preschool Enrollment 2020-2021

Open enrollment continues for preschool. Please help us promote this ministry by telling your friends about us!



### Little Caesar Pizza Fundraiser

*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 is currently still scheduled 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.

## Holy Scripture: Guided Reading

Deuteronomy: The fifth, and final, book of Moses, Deuteronomy is the Lord's reminder to Israel that they are his treasured



possession. The people have been punished for disobedience, and God has enticed them with grace. Moses repeats the whole Law, repeating also the story of the people of God, including the good and the bad. Moses' death is included at the end, indicating that another took up the pen to provide the last chapter of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 1 – Leaving Horeb; Rebellion

Deuteronomy 2 – Wilderness

Deuteronomy 3 – Moses Forbidden to Enter the Land

Deuteronomy 4 – Moses Commands Obedience

Deuteronomy 5-6 – Commandments

Deuteronomy 7-8 – Chosen People; Remember the Lord

Deuteronomy 9 – Golden Calf

Deuteronomy 10-11 – Stone and Heart; Serve and Love the Lord

Deuteronomy 12-13 – Place of Worship; Against Idolatry

Deuteronomy 14 – Food and Tithes

Deuteronomy 15-16 – Sabbatical Year; Passover and Festivals

Deuteronomy 17-18 – Priests, Judges, Kings, Abominations, New Prophet

Deuteronomy 19-20 – Laws Concerning Cities and Welfare

Deuteronomy 21 – Laws; Cursed is the Man who Hangs on a Tree

Deuteronomy 22 – Laws; Sexual Immorality

Deuteronomy 23 – Exclusion from the Assembly

Deuteronomy 24 – Divorce and Other Laws

Deuteronomy 25 – More Laws

Deuteronomy 26 – Offerings and Tithes

Deuteronomy 27 – Mount Ebal

Deuteronomy 28 – Blessings and Curses about Obedience

Deuteronomy 29 – Covenant Renewed

Deuteronomy 30 – Repentance and Forgiveness; Life and Death

Deuteronomy 31 – Joshua Succeeds Moses

Deuteronomy 32 – Song of Moses

Deuteronomy 33 – Moses' Blessing of Israel

Deuteronomy 34 – Death of Moses

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report  
through February 29, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 80,781.52	\$ 82,525.20
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 88,440.76</u>	<u>\$ 78,153.09</u>
YTD Balance	\$ ( 7,659.24)	\$ 4,372.11
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 69,940.89	\$ 66,376.64
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 88,440.76</u>	<u>\$ 78,153.09</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ (18,499.87)	\$ (11,776.45)

## Women's Guild News



*The Prayer Day/Spring Rally scheduled for Saturday, April 4 has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 25 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Midland.*

We are still in need of women from our zone to help at the Michigan District Convention. The **LWML Michigan District Convention is being held in Gaylord July 10-12**. 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**.

## Future Updates

- Keep an eye on your email and social media for updates on church activities as well as services after April 1.

- If you are not receiving emails regarding church activities and would like to, please email the church office at [Zion@winntel.net](mailto:Zion@winntel.net) or call the office (772-1516).



## **NURSE'S NOTE:**

*Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! 1 Chronicles 16:11*

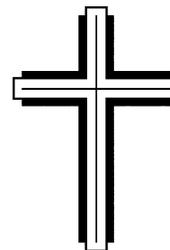
COVID 19 has changed our world, and it will continue to have a presence for months to come. All reports indicate that our efforts to diminish the number of infections will only be effective if everyone follows the Mitigation Measures for COVID-19.

- Closed schools do not mean playdates for children – this counteracts the social distancing the school closures are meant to create in the first place.
- 6 feet: The COVID-19 virus spreads through droplets. They can move 6 feet before gravity brings them to earth. Stay 6 feet away from people if you need to go outside.
- Meticulous hand washing: Wash thoroughly all surfaces of your hands and wash often. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer works well if your hands are otherwise clean.
- Do not touch your face. This is hard. This is a learned skill: Practice often.
- Clean doorknobs, toilets, cellphones, countertops, refrigerator handles, and so on many times each day. The virus could live on certain surfaces for 4-72 hours.
- If you can work from home, work from home. Cancel all business travel.
- Cancel vacation travel.
- Cancel weddings/birthday parties, and so on.
- If you are over 60 years old, you should stay home. You should only go out if there is a critical need.
- If you feel sick, stay home. It doesn't matter if you don't feel too sick. Going to work will put countless other people at risk of suffering or dying.
- Expect supply chain issues: Work with your doctor to try to get a three month supply of medication.
  - Many grocery stores have order ahead options with either pick up or delivery. Wash your hands thoroughly after unpacking groceries.

This is a novel virus, which means that no one has their own antibodies to it. You only have antibodies after you have the disease. When the COVID-19 virus invades our body, everyone is at risk for becoming ill, and spreading the virus so that it can infect those around you.

Vaccines help us build our own antibodies. However, it will probably take at least 18 months for a vaccine to be tested and made available.

Pray for all people to be safe from this disease, especially those who are at greatest risk of becoming infected. Pray for skillful workers to help diminish the risks for all of us, and for diligence of all to carry out the Mitigation Measures for COVID-19.



## **DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES**

The following pages can be copied, reprinted from the Zion website or CPH's website, or you can call Zion's office and request a few additional copies for your family as well. They form a very handy prayer guide for you to use while we aren't gathering together at Zion for worship. The majority of the video resources our pastors will be putting on YouTube and Facebook will refer to these and follow them. You are invited to speak and pray along with us even as you watch the videos as you are able at home. If you are unable to watch a video, a close family member with a smartphone or tablet and internet should be able to share a video with you while visiting. You don't need a video, though, to use it. Pray often with your family using these resources every day. Read from the Scriptures together and pray together.

Also, we continue to reach out to members to ascertain whether anyone is in need of assistance with grocery shopping or picking up medications. If you need such help, because of your age or a health condition, please let the church office know and we will connect you with Zion members willing and able to help you minimize your exposure. God bless and keep you all!

In Christ, Pastor Bakker