

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



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

*“And when Jesus had said these things, as they were looking on,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.” – Acts 1:9*

Dear Zion, you are familiar with Santa Claus and you know all about the Easter bunny. They are symbols that show up around Christmas and Easter, and the world uses them to help celebrate those holidays. You might even own a Christmas sweater or an Easter dress. Perhaps you've received a greeting card wishing you a "Happy Easter", and you've probably received some Christmas cards over the years, too. There are Christmas cookies, Easter eggs, and all kinds of other things that go along with those celebrations. As wonderful as all of that is, however, for you there is a more important person involved. Jesus was born at Christmas and he rose from the dead at Easter. Each week, as you confess in the creeds, there is another celebration, too. After Jesus was born and after his death and resurrection, he ascended into heaven. Christ has ascended to the right hand of the Father...yet the world does not seem to care. There is no "Ascension Eagle" or other character associated with this day, nor is there any special clothing that goes with Ascension, and there is no such thing as Ascension candy. But those things do not make a holiday. After all – a holiday is a *holy day*. And the Ascension of our Lord is most certainly a holy day for us. The world hasn't noticed, but for you and for the whole church on earth, the Ascension of Christ is a big deal worthy of its own festival!

On the day of his Ascension, Jesus lifted up his hands and blessed his disciples as he was lifted up to heaven. There, he sits at the right hand of God the Father. The crucified, risen, and ascended Lord rules all things. On the day of Jesus' Ascension, we celebrate that Jesus is just

as present with his church as he always was before he went to the Father, but is no longer visible among us, teaching and performing miracles in the same way. Now, the teaching and the miracles certainly continue, as does the presence of God with his people, but it is not the same. In fact, the church faces the temptation toward despair now that Jesus has ascended to the Father, for we begin to wonder what Jesus is doing during these days.

This despair and wonder is a kind of "holy nostalgia." Just as we like to remember the days of our own childhood and find ourselves longing to return to those simpler times, or like others, reminisce about the "good old days," the church looks off into the distance and remembers what it was like when Jesus called the twelve, when he taught as one having authority, when he performed miracles, and even when he rose from the dead. "Why can't things be like that?" the church wonders. In this time following Jesus' Ascension, do not despair. Do not doubt. Jesus has not left you. He has not abandoned you. He is still working! All the words he taught you are still being taught, just as he instructed. Disciples are still being made from all nations by baptism and teaching. Jesus is present in his body and blood, given and shed for you, for the forgiveness of your sins.

The greeting card companies do not care, and the candy aisles at the stores will not be decked out for Ascension, but as something new here at Zion, we will gather to celebrate the ongoing work of Jesus, who has a rightful place next to God his Father. Jesus continues to work in his church and he continues to work for you.

Come celebrate the gifts of the present Jesus at 5:30 p.m. Thursday May 13 as we have a special service for the Ascension of our Lord.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Bakker

Christian Education



It is extremely difficult to believe that we are coming to the end of another school year. The Lord has continued to bless us with new children through this entire year of Covid challenges. We are currently serving 53 families in our entire program. How awesome is our God! Please continue to pray for the center and all our families.

Our enrollment for Fall of 2021 and Summer Camp continues. Our Summer camp begins June 3 and runs through August 18. This new program is open to children from ages 3 - 12. Camp opens each morning at 7:30 a.m. (but you are welcome to arrive anytime throughout the day). Camp closes each day at 5:30 p.m. (again you are welcome to depart anytime). Should you have any questions please contact the church office (989-772-1516) or look up our website: www.zionlutheranpreschoolecc.com

Enrollment can be completed right from this site. Remember to share our brochures with family and friends. Those brochures are available on the preschool table in the church narthex.

Help Needed !

Zion Lutheran Early Childhood Center is currently seeking enthusiastic and energetic teaching assistants for the toddler classroom and our Summer Camp Program. Ideal candidates should have early childhood experience, however, we are willing to train candidates with a passion for working with children. All positions are part-time to three-quarter time, with hours between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please contact Tina Roe if you have any questions.

Little Caesar Pizza Fundraiser !



Delivery Day is Thursday, May 6

If you have pizza orders don't forget to pick them up on Thursday, May 6 between 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at Zion. Items arrive in a refrigerated truck and must be re-refrigerated within 6 hours. Immediate delivery of kits to customers is recommended.

We need help on delivery day. If you can be of assistance please contact Tina Roe or Tim in the church office.

Our top sellers were Elliana Ward and Payton Ruddle! Way to go!

Thank you to all of our preschool families for your participation and donations as well as Zion members who participated. We raised over \$1100.00 that will help support the programs of our Early Childhood Center.

Thank you for your continued support of our Early Childhood Center!



There will be NO Sunday School or Bible class on Sunday, May 30 due to the holiday weekend.



In memory of Arnold Krueger

Wayne & Karyn Kiefer
Jim & Delores Morford
Patty Pickler

In memory of Thelma Zalud

Adella Bergey
David & Linda Coyne
Yvonne Fitzgerald
Shirley Hopp
John & Claudia Schimmelmann
Lanny Tohm

In memory of Marlene Kinney

Dale & JoAnn Gust
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through March 31, 2021

	2021	2020
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 120,750.66	\$ 117,022.28
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 123,256.95	\$ 122,112.76
YTD Balance	\$ (2,506.29)	\$ (5,090.48)
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 125,912.60	\$ 101,842.29
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 123,256.95	\$ 122,112.76
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ 2,655.65	\$ (20,270.47)

St. Paul teaches us: “Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches” (Gal. 6:6). And again, he says: “Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:13–14). In other words, ministers of the Gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them.

And this is how the church lives even now. It is standard practice. But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not just *that* we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: “In the same way ...”

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices. We’re to support the Gospel ministry “in the same way.” But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites? Moses records this: “You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always” (Deut. 14:22–23). The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry “in the same way?” If it does, ask yourself: Is the church’s job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the

Levites’ job in the Old Testament? Back then, there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham. In Matthew 28, Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations, and there are churches and ministries all around the world! How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry? Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God’s revelation, the fullness of His salvation, and the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do. For we have received Christ, God’s own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism. He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of His Son – our Lord Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts. In the same way – and in response to His fatherly divine goodness and mercy – we gladly give to those who proclaim to us “the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.” For once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).

Mission of the Month Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne

The Concordia Theological Seminary is an institution of theological higher education of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) located in Fort Wayne, Indiana and dedicated primarily to the preparation of pastors for congregations and missions of the LCMS and its partner churches. It offers professional, master’s and doctoral degrees affiliated with training clergy and deaconesses for the LCMS. The seminary exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. Consider a gift this month to help in this important mission.

The academic year at CMU is coming to a close and we will soon be saying farewell to many of the college students, including some who will be graduating! Graduating CMU students active in the campus ministry will be honored during the 11:00 a.m. service May 2. Please pray for our college students as they finish the year and in many cases move elsewhere. Pray above all that they would remain faithful to Christ!

MANY THANKS!

A very big thank you to all of our elders for all of their hard work in making sure all of the extra services during the Lenten season and Holy Week go smoothly, including their participation in Maundy Thursday's Stripping of the Altar at both locations. Your work during the busy seasons and throughout the year caring for the members of the church and caring for the staff, pastors, and our families is very much appreciated!

A very big thank you to our teachers, aides, and everyone who helps make our early childhood center so successful at teaching the Christian faith to children in our community. This is the first year with our expanded program and extra rooms, and it has gone extremely well, thanks be to God! Thank you, also, to all of the families who have chosen Zion for your children's education – please know that you are always welcome here, and we would love to see you on Sundays as well!

Congratulations to our LCMS U graduates!

Nathan Bublitz, Amanda Franklin, Karinna Taylor

Thank you for being a part of our Zion church family!



Guided Bible Readings



- 1 Numbers 29; 2 Samuel 10-11
- 2 Hear the Word at Church
- 3 Numbers 30-31; 2 Samuel 12-13
- 4 Numbers 32; 2 Samuel 14-15
- 5 Numbers 33; 2 Samuel 16-17
- 6 Numbers 34-35; 2 Samuel 18
- 7 Numbers 36; 2 Samuel 19-20
- 8 **Psalm 56-60; Proverbs 20**
- 9 Hear the Word at Church
- 10 **Psalm 61-67; Proverbs 21**
- 11 Deuteronomy 1-2; 2 Samuel 21-22
- 12 Deuteronomy 3-4; 2 Samuel 23-24
- 13 Deuteronomy 5-6; 1 Timothy 1
- 14 Deuteronomy 7-8; 1 Timothy 2-3
- 15 Deuteronomy 9; 1 Timothy 4-5
- 16 Hear the Word at Church
- 17 Deuteronomy 10-11; 1 Timothy 6
- 18 Deuteronomy 12; Ezekiel 1-2
- 19 Deuteronomy 13-14; Ezekiel 3-4
- 20 Deuteronomy 15-16; Ezekiel 5-6
- 21 Deuteronomy 17-18; Ezekiel 7-8
- 22 Deuteronomy 19-20; Ezekiel 9-10
- 23 Hear the Word at Church
- 24 Deuteronomy 20-21; Ezekiel 11-12
- 25 Deuteronomy 22-23; Ezekiel 13-14
- 26 Deuteronomy 24-25; Ezekiel 15-16
- 27 Deuteronomy 26-27; Ezekiel 17-18
- 28 Deuteronomy 28-29; Ezekiel 19-20
- 29 Deuteronomy 30; Ezekiel 21-22
- 30 Hear the Word at Church
- 31 Titus 1-3



**Saturday May 15
8:00 a.m. at Zion**

We will continue our study of Judges. Even though our study is reading through the books of the Old Testament chapter by chapter, each study is designed so that newcomers won't be missing out by joining us in the middle of a book. Join us on Saturday, May 15 – bring yourself and a friend!

Zion Lutheran Women's Group

Daughters of the King

Deborah - Encourager

In the Word

(Deborah's Story: Judges 4,5)

Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah ... and the people of Israel came up to her for judgement (Judges 4:4-5).

Of the Word

"You want me to do what?" could have been Deborah's response when Barak, commander of the army, stated, "If you will go with me (into battle), I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go" (Judges 4:8b). After all, it was Barak, not Deborah, God told to go into battle! Deborah had many reasons not to go with Barak. She was a judge; she was needed by the people. She wasn't a warrior; women didn't go to war. She was a wife; her household came first. But she used none of these as excuses. She went with the troops, encouraging them, and God gave them victory over the enemy. God chose Deborah to support Barak and his troops. God also gives us opportunities to support and encourage others. It may be in a card, a letter, or a phone call. It may be at a food bank or at a health center. It may be praying with someone. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works ... encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:24, 25b).

Walking with my Lord

Lord, help me answer Your call to encourage others, knowing my support is in You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

May 8 – Women's Bible Study – Saturday, 9:30 a.m. at CTK. We are continuing our Bible Study on "One Christ, Many Creeds: A Study of Denominations from a Lutheran Perspective."

Every woman in the congregation is welcome!

May 15 – 9:30 a.m. – Brunch – Volunteers have signed up so if you are not one of the volunteers do not bring anything.

10:00 a.m. – General Meeting

May 22 – 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – LWML Mid Michigan Rally – Our Savior Lutheran

Gifts from the Heart – We will be collecting food, personal care, cleaning and baby items for the Midland County Emergency Food Pantry.

June 12 – 1:00 p.m. – Lunch – Herrick House in Clare – Please bring a friend. All ladies of the congregation are invited.

Quilting Group – Meets every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. All volunteers welcome.

Flowers for the Altar – There are a number of open slots for flowers to be donated at Zion and CTK. 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 counter. Make checks to Zion Lutheran Women's Guild, put in an envelope marked Charolette Mogielski, and place in the LWML Box in the library or give to Tim Narr at the church office.

National Convention – June 24-27, 2021 – Lexington, Kentucky. Join us in beautiful Lexington as we are "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus." See you there! All information is in the Lutheran Women's Quarterly located on the LWML table in the narthex at Zion. Since the Michigan District is hosting, there are a number of us that have volunteered to help put this convention on. The National and District will contribute some funding for this convention. If interested, please contact Kathy Nims, ksn48617@outlook.com

"Serve the Lord with Gladness" Psalm 100:2



Sunday, May 9

Elders Board – An Election Primer

Zion is an organized church around Jesus Christ. It means that we do have our members engaged in assuring that the work of the Lord is carried out here not only by the Pastor but by all members. As with any of our boards, there is always a multitude of activities to be performed. When elected to a board, the bylaws of Zion Lutheran Church outline board responsibilities. Some boards have many, others a few, but the number doesn't diminish the importance of that board. These bylaws provide a roadmap as to what each board should focus upon. One can find a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws on Zion's website. Keep in mind that when a new board is elected, it does not mean everything starts from scratch. Much of the work done at Zion by the boards continue from year to year with refining as necessary. Each board is given the authority by the voters to carry out their respective responsibilities and with the ultimate goal in mind—to assure the Word and Sacrament ministry continues now until Judgement Day. Whether you are elected to serve or not, there is always work or service to be done at Zion and CTK. For example, witnessing is something all of us need to be doing. Introducing others to Jesus Christ as you enjoy coffee, lunch, work, or play can be fulfilling. God is always with you giving you the words to say. Ask them to come to church with you, give them reading material about Christ, about our religion, about what we believe, teach, and confess. Invite them to join a class where Pastor Bakker leads them through our confessions. Church Services will continue throughout the summer as usual—8:30 a.m. at Zion and 11:00 a.m. at CTK. Keep June 13 in mind as the June Newsletter will have a surprise announcement and event.



What will they say?

Our own mortality is often thrown in our face in very dramatic ways. Recently a young man, in college with his entire life ahead of him, died very suddenly, unexpectedly. The reactions were those of shock, disbelief and total devastation for the family. Friends mourned by giving heartfelt testimonies about the young man. They spoke of

what a great friend he was, how he always put them first and reached out to them. But they also recalled story after story about how he lived his faith. They knew about his Christian faith because that's how he lived, not because he went to church. He openly shared his faith with others. Which brings me to the question of the day; What will they say about you, when God calls you home? The details and facts of your life will surface, but what will be the first things remembered? Will they tell tales of great hunting or fishing exploits? Wonderful dinners or delicious desserts may be explained in ways to make your mouth water. Stories of always being available to lend a helping hand are always fondly remembered. But will they also tell how you shared your faith, inviting others to follow Jesus? While doing all those other things is nice, the most important thing is making sure the people you encountered knew about the saving grace of Christ.

I found some interesting definitions recently. A Believer is someone who follows Jesus and will go to Heaven. A Disciple is someone who follows Jesus but will bring others with them when they go.

We do not grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14)

Those verses give comfort to a family that wonders why; why their son left this earth so soon. It doesn't take away the hurt, but brings comfort knowing he is at peace. We all long for the end of the race, but don't wish to say good-bye to those we love here on earth.

He showed me Jesus! What a great way to be remembered. Not just fondly recalling the good things you did for friends or even strangers encountered on your journey, but that you shared your faith, inviting others to join you in eternity. That's the mission of Church Extension Fund. Help the Michigan District congregations and members Build the Kingdom. We invite you to call us and find out ways to partner with CEF to make a difference where God has placed you.

Call us today.
Bill Burmeister 800-242-3944

