

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool  
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel  
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November 2020

Jonathon J. Bakker and Benjamin J. Ulledalen, Pastors

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*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God..” – Philipians 4:6*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, more often than not, when Thanksgiving comes around I have gravitated to one particular hymn to sing at the conclusion of our Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service. We sing, “Now Thank We All Our God” as the pastors recess and the acolyte extinguishes the candles. And we are thankful, and have much for which to thank our God. Food and drink, house and home, land, animals, family, possessions, income; it all belongs to God and he gives it to us. Even in a tough year – and this has been a very challenging year – there is still much for which to give thanks.

The author of the hymn, Martin Rinkart, was a Lutheran pastor in Germany during the 1600s. He was initially prevented from entering a track of education leading to ordination as a pastor because his bishop believed that Rinkart was too strong a musician. He felt that those gifts meant Rinkart should focus on music, so Rinkart was offered positions as Kantor of the church in Eisleben (the birth and death place of Martin Luther), and then as deacon. When he was 31, he became Archdeacon in his hometown of Eilenburg. There he would serve as pastor for the rest of his life.

During that time, Rinkart lived through two devastating cataclysms. The first was the 30 Years War (1618-1648), a religious war fought between Roman Catholics and Protestants. This war crippled Europe, especially Germany. In Eilenburg, people from the countryside fled into the city for protection. It was in 1637, when the city was overcrowded with refugees from the war, when the second cataclysm came along – the black plague broke out in Eilenburg. The majority of the town council, the clergy of the neighboring parish, and about 4,000 others all died in and around Eilenburg.

It was in the midst of visiting the sick, burying the deceased, acting as a town councilman, and serving as pastor to two very large congregations that Rinkart penned the hymn, “Now Thank We All Our God.”

*Now thank we all our God, with hearts and hands and voices, Who wonderous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; Who from our mothers’ arms has blest us on our way with countless gifts of love and still is ours today.*

*Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us in His grace and guide us when perplexed and free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven, the one eternal God, Whom earth and heaven adore; for thus it was is now, and shall be evermore.*

There is nothing shallow about such thankfulness, especially in the midst of such overwhelming circumstances. They make our days of comparable wealth and health (even in the midst of a new contagious virus) pale in their sight. Indeed, Rinkart teaches us in this hymn to give praise to our God for all the blessings of this life, even when we are afraid and face uncertainty. No matter what, there is much for which to be thankful. Life and daily bread, certainly; but more than that, God has had mercy on us sinners in Jesus Christ, his Son, who has redeemed us through his death and resurrection. We are forgiven; thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Bakker



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



We are heading into our busy holiday seasons, and before we do the Preschool and Early Childhood Center staff would again like to thank all our school and church families for your support, donations, and kind words.

Enrollment continues and we are blessed to be adding children each month. Keep in mind that you are welcome to change the number of days that your child attends anytime throughout the year. Parents often find that their child would benefit from an extra day or two of preschool. Please feel free to contact the church office with any questions.

We are currently working out details for our Preschool Christmas Celebration. The Preschool Children will be working on a Christmas Service, but tentatively we are looking at a virtual performance. The three and four-year-old classes will each prepare their own program and they will be video taped and placed on Facebook or some internet platform. Keep an eye out for more details.

## Pizza Fundraiser

The Zion Preschool thanks everyone who contributed to the recent pizza fund-raiser. **We raised \$1,272.00!** This will be used for tuition assistance, equipment and supplies. Well done!



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

## Preschool T-shirts & Sweatshirts



Just a reminder that T-shirt and Sweatshirt order forms are due November 13th. Orders should arrive back in two weeks. Order forms and samples are on the preschool table at Zion by the library.

## Greetings!

2020 has brought to our Sunday School a few notable changes. The most visible changes are no surprise...masks and smaller class sizes.



Parents—if you have chosen to keep your child at home but would love the materials, to “home Sunday School,” give me a call.

Also, as a result of the small class sizes, it has been decided to celebrate Jesus’ birthday differently this year. Instead of the Children’s Christmas Program, we will reflect, prepare, celebrate, and worship in a Children’s Message on each Sunday of Advent.

An Advent Daily devotional will be available to you to help you celebrate Jesus’ birth. Sharon Milan, 989-506-8253

## Men’s Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, November 21  
8:00 a.m. at Zion



## Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 25

5:30 p.m. at Zion



SATURDAY

October 31

# STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report  
through September, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 341,199.84	\$ 333,363.57
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 313,060.35</u>	<u>\$ 325,540.42</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 28,139.49	\$ 7,823.15
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 284,862.95	\$ 293,489.91
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 313,060.35</u>	<u>\$ 325,540.42</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ (28,197.40)	\$ (32,050.51)

## LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, His death for our sins, and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water – combined with His Word, promise, and Name – the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And, being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure is that we belong to the most Holy Trinity, and everything that is His – righteousness, peace, eternal life – also belongs also to us. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as a sacrifice.

Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him. We eat to nourish our bodies. We share with our family, neighbors, fellow Christians, the poor, and even our enemies as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and they bring blessings upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom.

Thus, we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us. He pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but, giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all – even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

## Mission of the Month Christmas Outreach

Christmas Outreach provides assistance for needy families in Isabella County. Financial donations are needed to purchase items that are difficult to collect and to cover the purchase of food. More information on what we are also doing is in the article below.

We have been asked by Christmas Outreach to participate in the coat drive portion of Christmas Outreach again this year. We are being asked to provide winter coats for adults and coats and snow pants for children. Please consider helping again this year as you have in the past. You may purchase new coats or raid your closet for like new coats that you are no longer using. I have been successful in obtaining a \$250 grant from the Thrivent Action Team program. Please consider applying for an Action Team grant if you are a Thrivent member. Zion members have received multiple grants in the past. You can also make a cash donation at the church office or to Wayne Kiefer. Checks are also welcomed, but should be made out to Wayne Kiefer, not Zion. The coats will be hung on the north coat rack at Zion. I need to deliver them to Christmas Outreach on November 24 for distribution on December 10, 11, & 12. I have a Tax Exempt number from Wal-Mart and would be happy to accompany anyone who wants to buy coats at Wal-Mart so that we can take advantage of not paying sales tax. Thank you in advance for supporting this effort again this year. Contact me or Tim in the church office if you have any questions. Wayne E. Kiefer



In memory of Donald Ulrich

Yvonne Fitzgerald  
Wayne & Jan Reister



This has been the most challenging pastoral year in my career – canceling six weeks’ worth of services, including Holy Week, and then reengaging in in-person services with precautions – and through it all, the faithfulness of Zion Lutheran Church members has been resolute. Whether you’ve been watching faithfully online or coming faithfully to church in person, thank you. Many of you sent gifts, cards, and words of appreciation during Pastor Appreciation month, and we are humbled by your generosity. Thank you! As we’ve said before, we say again – the best appreciation is to take advantage of the ministry of the Gospel at Zion. Come to church, attend Bible Study, help out with the youth group, the campus ministry, the early childcare center; that’s the best appreciation we could ask for! Thank you! Pastors Bakker and Ulledalen

You haven’t heard them yet, but our choir has begun rehearsing to sing occasionally in the coming months for our Worship services. Thank you for beautifying our worship! Thank you, also, to our organists for continuing to provide faithfully the music to adorn the liturgy as we sing praises to God. You are all appreciated!

### Adult Instruction Class Offered

Pastor Bakker will be holding an Adult Instruction class on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. in Zion’s Library, starting November 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 refresh themselves in the basics of Lutheran theology.



### Bible Reading Challenge

November brings us to the end of the Church Year— and so does the Bible Reading Challenge, with readings from 1 & 2 Thessalonians and Revelation. At the end of the month, we’ll begin Isaiah, and continue through Advent in preparation for Christmas. The Readings from Exodus and Leviticus keep us on our historical read-through of the Old Testament. Leviticus presents various challenges to modern readers—blood, sacrifice, rules, obscure vocabulary, and many practices which are now obsolete in the New Testament. And yet, the Book of Leviticus is necessary even today, and even for Christians. One of the chief blessings of this book is to drive home the fact that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. Sin necessitates separation from God. And yet, even in the Old Testament—even in the bloody book of Leviticus—the Lord, in his merciful wisdom provides sacrifices, rituals, and liturgies by which his sinful children may be gathered back into his presence. Through the blood of Jesus, every New Testament Christian actually has greater privilege and greater access to God than the Old Testament High Priest. Ponder that truth, dear Christian, and delight in your God’s love.



### November 2020

- 2 - Exodus 31-32; Hebrews 8-9
- 3 - Exodus 33-34; Hebrews 10-11
- 4 - Exodus 35-36; Hebrews 12
- 5 - Exodus 37-38; Hebrews 13
- 6 - Exodus 39-40; Jude
- 7 - Psalm 13-17; Proverbs 4-5
- 9 - Leviticus 1-2; Revelation 1-2
- 10 - Lev. 3-4; Revelation 3-4
- 11 - Lev. 5-6; Revelation 5-6
- 12 - Lev. 7; Revelation 7-8
- 13 - Lev. 8-9; Revelation 9-10
- 14 - Lev. 10; Revelation 11-12
- 16 - Lev. 11-12; Revelation 13-14
- 17 - Lev. 13-14; Revelation 15
- 18 - Lev. 15-16; Revelation 16
- 19 - Lev. 17-18; Revelation 17-18
- 20 - Lev. 19-20; Revelation 19-20
- 21 - Lev. 21; Revelation 21-22
- 23 - Lev. 22-23; Ruth 1-2
- 24 - Lev. 24-25; Ruth 3-4
- 25 - Lev. 26-27; 1 Thessalonians 1-2
- 26 - Psalm 118 & 144
- 27 - Isaiah 1-2; 1 Thessalonians 3-4
- 28 - Isaiah 3-4; 1 Thessalonians 5
- 30 - Isaiah 5; 2 Thessalonians 1-3

# Zion Lutheran Women's Society



## In the Word

*For he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility... Ephesians 2:14.*

## Of the Word

A wall is being built on the edge of Bethlehem. Armed soldiers man the checkpoint. The wall is a sign of hostility, mistrust, and fear between peoples. The wall in Bethlehem is made of steel and stone. The walls we sometimes build between ourselves and others may be made of fear, prejudice, pride, or selfishness.

In Christ, however, these walls crumble to dust. St Paul reminded the early Christians: *You are all God's children by believing in Christ Jesus. Clearly, all of you were baptized in Christ's name and have clothed yourselves with Christ. There are neither Jews nor Greeks, slaves nor free people, males nor females. You are all the same in Christ Jesus... Galatians 3:26-28.*

Faith in Christ is the glue that holds believers together. Gone are the distinctions of race, gender and economic status. Now we relate to fellow Christians with love, acceptance, and forgiveness. We are dearly beloved children of one Heavenly Father.

## Walking with my Lord

Lord Jesus, You died for the sins of all people. Now all who believe in You are one family. Forgive me when I'm tempted to set myself apart and look down on others. Help me understand and reach out an open hand. In your name I pray. Amen. Printed from [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) in Daily Devotions.



## Events

**General Meeting: Saturday, November 21** at 10:00 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, with brunch. Nathan Milan will join us via Zoom and will talk about the Lutheran Indian Ministries as well as doing a Bible Study. He lives in Alaska and does mission work there. Bring a friend! Invite them and offer a ride. The more people, the more discussion;

**Women's Bible Study: Saturday, November 14,** 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at CTK (continuing on our study of the "One Christ, Many Creeds: A Study of Denominations from a Lutheran Perspective.") Every woman in the congregation is welcome!

## December 5 – Bazaar (Craft Show)

Cancelled because of Covid – 19.



## Saturday, December 5 – Cookie Walk

The **Cookie Walk will be held** with all the Covid-19 precautions taken. You can bake cookies or you can send a donation to the LWML at the Church Office. We are opening it to the public, will require masks, social distance and any other precautions that have been put into place. More details will be in upcoming bulletins and emails.

**LWML Service:** Would you like to serve in the LWML? There are two positions open, which are Christian Growth and Historian. Do you like to do photography and scrapbooking? Do you like to do devotions? Do you have any one of these talents and would love to serve the Lord in this way? Speak to Kathleen Nims, President, about this and any other questions you might have.

**"Serve the Lord with Gladness" Psalm 100:2**

## SERVANTS FOR GOD

In the Bible, Jesus speaks of how “He came to serve, not to be served.” This is exactly the same attitude He wants us to have as Christians. There are many, many ways at Zion in which our members and pastors are serving. *Here is a short list—Bible classes for men and women, Bible classes for digging into the scriptures, Sunday School for the children, Pre-school and Day care, youth activities, family activities, activities in the gym and fellowship hall, visitation of shut-ins with communion, weddings, funerals, baptisms, confirmation classes, hospital visits, Christmas programs, providing for worship services, stewardship activities, the Lords Supper, library, evangelism events, ushering, choir, pastoral assistants, communion setup/cleanup, quilting, decorating for Christmas, LWML events, care and maintenance of worship facilities, cemetery, CMU student ministry, international ministry, Lutheran Women’s Missionary, cookie sales, pie making, pizza sales, church cleaning, etc.* We need more leaders/servants. Our Pastors and our Deaconess have been called to provide specific services—not all of the above. We are all called to serve—not just 20 percent of our membership, but all adults.

Zion’s Bylaws have been written to provide a foundation and list of responsibilities for lay individuals. All of these are designed to help our members to grow in the knowledge of their Lord and to respond in love to Him who has assured us of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Check out our Bylaws at [www.zionchristtheking.org](http://www.zionchristtheking.org).

Discover where your talents are waiting to be used.



Our congregation has an Executive Director, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and several boards—elders, evangelism, stewardship, education, family life/youth, auxiliary boards, and trustees. Start now to ask yourself as to how you may best respond in Love for your Lord by serving on one of the boards or an ad hoc committee (short term). All of us have been given special talents that can be used in serving. New members bring new talents, new ideas, and new energy. We have many new and current members who may not have been asked in the past. We need you to step forth—say **“Yes, I will gladly serve.”** You are needed. Our church needs leaders. Just indicate to Tim Narr, 989-772-1516 or Dale Gust, 989-506-6489 your intentions. Pray about it.

If you are doubting your ability to lead or serve, we can mentor you. Your enthusiasm will be contagious, your zeal to keep learning, your asking and listening to God, and being appreciative will all help. The possibilities for Zion are endless with you, the additional leaders and with God’s help. Let us hear from you soon.

## Campus

The Lord blessed us with nice weather in October, and LCMS U took full advantage of that opportunity for outdoor fellowship. The Kiefers hosted 10 students and Pastor Ulledalen for a one-day retreat at their home on Windover Lake. The Group rode ATVs, enjoyed a bonfire, boat rides, s’mores, and fellowship outdoors all day long. Students also took a hike in Veit’s Woods, participated in Trunk-or-Treat, and enjoyed the yearly capture the flag game against the students at St. Mary’s. Monday lunches have proven to be a great atmosphere for students and pastor to discuss various hot button issues in a way not allowed by the politically correct culture at CMU. Sunday night meeting attendance has remained high—upwards of 15 students each evening. The students have appreciated the monthly Candle Light Evening Prayer as a bonus worship opportunity (thank you to John Schimmelmann for joining us on the piano). Looking into the future, students are contemplating creative ways to raise money for our trip fund in light of Coronavirus. The Lord has truly blessed us this semester with high quality students, great fellowship, and a growing group.





## Apple Pie Day / Sale

**Saturday, November 7**

**Final Opportunity to order Apple Pies!** *If you have not ordered your apple pies please do so ASAP.* You may call the church office at 772-1516 or contact a youth member. Pies are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00.

**Pie making will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 7.** Youth are reminded to help set up for Pie Day on Friday, November 6 at 6:30 p.m. **All pies ordered need to be picked up on November 7 between 10:00 a.m. and NOON.** The youth group is most appreciative of your continued support.

If you are interested in helping in any way on Pie Day please contact Jeremy Couturier 810-513-6179 or call Tim at the church office 772-1591. It is always a fun and enjoyable time!

*Covid precautions will be taken.*

## Next Youth Pizza/Topic/Activity

**Sunday, December 6**

**at Zion**

**time to be determined**

*All confirmed youth are encouraged to participate !*

## The Little Things

Have you ever noticed that little things, often unnoticed on their own, can result in a much bigger thing as they are added together? Each night remove the spare change from your pocket and drop it in the change jar. Do this every day for a year; you might be surprised how much money has been accumulated.

Clean up days at church can have a similar effect. Dozens of people working together, even small children picking up paper or sticks, can over the course of a day, result in the entire property being spruced up. Some paint here, some elbow grease there and before you know it all the small jobs make the church look much more inviting to your guests and members.

Jesus reminds us in Mark 4:30-32 that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds. Yet when planted, it grows into the largest of all garden plants. Luke 13:21 describes a small amount of yeast that is used to leaven the entire batch of dough. Both are small things that have a big impact.

Each of us have opportunities every day to do little things that can make a huge difference. Will we have a positive or a negative influence? A rude comment, impatience or bad habits not addressed can lead to frustration that eats away at relationships. But a helping hand, a genuine smile, picking up the mess you didn't make or just listening intently can build into a stronger bond that cements relationships that are difficult to break.

God used little things to reach out to us. A helpless infant became the Savior of the world. Rough wood and nails were tools used in His death but also lead to His glorious resurrection. Simple water, with the Word, generates a relationship with Him through Baptism.

What little things can you do that can change the world? You may never know the difference that simple word of encouragement had on the grandchild, the co-worker or your spouse. A heartfelt greeting could make all the difference in whether a visitor feels welcome or never returns to church.

Join with Church Extension Fund to help grow God's kingdom, right there in your Michigan District congregation. Local CEF Representatives help insure that your church is aware of CEF and the various ways we can support your ministry. Call us today to find out how a little of your time can make a big difference in Kingdom work with CEF. Andy Sohn and I would be happy to speak with you.

Call us today.

Bill Burmeister 800-242-3944



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