

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
3401 E. River Road
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
1401 South Washington
(989)773-5050

'Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.'

– Philippians 1:27a

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, there is no depth to which God's enemies – and yours – will go to sow doubt, despair, and hopelessness in Christians. We've been so focused on that reality during a period where we perceive so much pressure on us from the world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh, that we can be tempted to forget that this is nothing new. We have not traversed from one cosmic epoch to the next, we don't live in a new era, and Jesus' return to judge the living and the dead is as imminent as it ever has been since his ascension to the right hand of the Father. As the angels said in Acts 1, Jesus will come in the same way as the disciples saw him ascend to heaven. We prepare, we pray, we wait.

We do not know the day or the hour, yet there is so much that fills our days until it comes. We have been given treasure upon treasure from God in his Word, in our livelihoods, and even in our lives. All that we are and have has been placed into our care and keeping by God so that we can fulfill our vocations of being faithful to God and loving one another, especially those closest to us in our families. The management of all such things is what we call *stewardship* in the church, and we take several Sundays every year to review what God's Word says about stewardship. In the most basic way of understanding it, we can think of Paul's words to Timothy: "We brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world." (1 Timothy 6:7) Since everything belongs to God, all of it should be used for his purposes in one way or another. God reveals that for you in your vocations – husbands and wives take care in the

stewardship of one another in their marriage; mothers and fathers take care in the stewardship of their children; workers and employers take care in their stewardship of their time and efforts in service to their business and how it serves their neighbor. We all have several vocations and each provides Godly ways to seek to obey the Lord and serve your neighbor.

Aside from that, we also belong to this church and this congregation. How we use our income, our time, and the gifts and skills the Lord has provided is a question of our stewardship, our management. God teaches us about this in his Word, as we return a portion of what we have been given in order to further the ministry of the Lord.

"Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ." (Philippians 1:27) This passage is our theme verse, and along with an emphasis from Ezekiel to "Turn, and live", we will spend three Sundays in September focusing on Stewardship while also celebrating some important Sundays and events at Zion.

The three Sundays of the emphasis will concentrate on the following themes and corresponding events:

September 13: Stewards of Debt
(this will also be Rally Day)

September 20: Stewards of Worth
(this will also be Confirmation)

September 27: Stewards in Repentance
(this will also be Pledge Sunday)

The Scriptures already appointed for these three Sundays were the source for these themes and this Stewardship emphasis as a whole. We will once again see and be reminded of how our

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Sunday, September 13



Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 13 at Zion. This is our annual kick-off of the Sunday School year. Sunday School will begin at 9:45 a.m. (following the early service). Grades 1-7 will meet in the choir room for an opening. Preschool - K will meet in the newly renovated classroom in the southeast corner of the gym. Following Sunday School there will be some games and activities, (outside weather permitting) followed by a lunch provided by the Family Life/Youth Board. *If you would feel more comfortable, please wear a mask.*

ALL ARE WELCOME !

We thank our teachers and Sunday School staff this year !

*Preschool -K – Brianna Empie
Grades 1-7 – Sharon Milan, Luke Epple Sr.,
Luke Epple Jr., Jill Davis & Brad Coulson*

*Sharon Milan – SS Superintendent
Julie Courtney – SS Assistant Superintendent
Music – Janah Aldrich, Mitzi Chaffer*

Confirmation Sunday

September 20

8:30 a.m. at Zion



heavenly Father cares for us and teaches us from his Word about every aspect of life. Please join us, as you are able, for this stewardship emphasis, while will conclude September 27 when you will have the opportunity to bring pledges forward in a sealed envelope. Those not worshiping with us in person who would like to make a pledge this year may mail it to Zion or drop it off during the week. As always, your pledge will be between you and the Lord, and the envelope will remain in the sanctuary at Zion until it is returned to you, sealed, next fall. God bless and keep all of us at Zion as we seek to live faithfully as God's children and rejoice in the forgiveness and life he won for us!
Yours in Christ, Pastor Bakker

Preschool News

The last six months have certainly been one for the memory book. We have undergone quite a change here at Zion. I know that our staff and volunteers are very excited to be back in the classroom. We welcome two new staff this year! Mrs. Greenacre will be teaching in our Toddler Classroom and Mr. Coulson has joined the staff as our floater as we get settled in with our new schedule. The staff would like to thank all our parents for your understanding and patience as we continue to follow COVID-19 protocol's and adapt to our new routine. The children have been amazing with their daily temperature checks and face masks in the hallway. Their excitement for learning continues to bubble over into the classroom. We will have updates each month, so be on the lookout for those as we move through the school year! We are so happy and blessed to be underway! Thanks be to God!



PRESCHOOL PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Goal: \$1800.00 from Little Caesar Kit sales

Money will be used for classroom equipment, supplies, field trips and financial aid.

Help us reach our goal!

Order forms for pizza kits and cookie dough will be available at Zion, CTK, or the Preschool very soon.



Online orders can be placed at pizzakit.com until October 4. Click products, then click shop. Use Fundraiser ID #376443. Customer care is available at (888) 452-5487.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report

through July, 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 265,435.32	\$ 262,804.98
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 247,339.71</u>	<u>\$ 258,359.85</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 18,095.61	\$ 4,445.13

YTD General Fund Income	\$ 222,302.00	\$ 237,096.06
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 247,339.71</u>	<u>\$ 258,359.85</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ (25,037.41)	\$ (21,263.79)

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). God bids us to be faithful in the tasks He calls us to do. He calls us to be members of a family (husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; sons and daughters). He calls us to be members of society (those who govern and those who are governed). And He calls us to be members of His family, the Church (those who preach and teach and those who hear and learn). Each of these callings from God places a duty on us. As members of a family, husbands are given the duty to die for their wives as Christ gave His life for His bride, the Church; while wives are given the duty to respect their husbands and submit themselves to them as the Church does to Christ. Fathers and mothers are to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord, teaching them the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Scriptures concerning Baptism, Confession, the Office of the Keys, and the Lord’s Supper. Children are to honor their parents throughout their lives, and even when their parents are no longer alive, serving and obeying them, loving and cherishing them, and speaking well of them. As members of society, God calls those who govern to bear the sword, that is, to punish those who do evil (those who live contrary to God’s will) and to reward those who do good (those whose lives are lived in conformity with God’s will). Those who are governed are to obey their leaders as to the Lord Himself, for their leaders bear the sword of God’s temporal justice for a purpose. As members of God’s own family, the Church, He calls those who preach and teach to do so in faithfulness to His holy Word. To preach and teach the Law of God to convict the hearts of hearers of their sin and to encourage, admonish, and exhort them to

do good works in accordance with God’s will. They are to preach and teach the Gospel, the full forgiveness of their sins accomplished by Christ and received through faith, not by works. They are to administer the means of grace in accordance with the Gospel and the Word of God. They do all this for the young and old alike, for those who are near and far off. Those who hear and learn are to submit themselves to their preachers and teachers. They are support them by their prayers and their gifts. Each of these callings from God place a duty on us. They make a claim on our presence; on our prayers; and our time, talents, and treasures. So, “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might” (Eccl 9:10). Pray for your family, your government, and your church. Give of yourself by means of your time, your talents, and your treasures to your family, your government, and your Church. That is what it means to be faithful in the tasks that God has given us. That is what it means to do it with all your might.

Mission of the Month LCMS Mercy/ Human Care

LCMS Mercy and Human Care is the synod’s mercy arm providing physical and spiritual care in the wake of disasters and needed health care in the name of Christ and His Gospel and according to our Lutheran confession of faith.

LCMS Mercy and Human Care depends largely on donor support to fund this mercy ministry.
“[Http://worldrelief.lcms.org](http://worldrelief.lcms.org)”



In memory of Ron Reister
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer

In memory of Julie Witkowski
Wayne & Karyn Kiefer

In memory of Marcia Wegner
Jodi & Julie Courtney
Shirley Hopp



SPECIAL THANKS

A huge thank you this month to all who have worked so hard and gave so much of their time to help get things going for another new year in our preschool and daycare, and in our campus ministry. For our preschool teachers, students, and their families – thank you. For our Campus Ministry board and all who volunteer and help with International Student Ministry and the campus ministry – thank you. Please consider how you might be able to help and support these ministries in the coming school year. Begin by praying for these ministries and those who are involved in leading them. This is a school year that's starting unlike any other, and so we pray that the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection goes forth in all of these ministries in spite of the challenges we face.

Lifelight Returns

Plan now to attend Lifelight bible study this fall as we dive into the book of Isaiah – because of the length of Isaiah and the breadth of material it covers, the fall session will cover only the first half of Isaiah. The second half of Isaiah will be taken up in the winter. The study guides are available in Zion's office and the readings for each week have been compiled and published on Zion's website in the Bible study section for your use. As we have done in the past, we will offer the same class at 10:30 a.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. so that attendees can come to whichever is most convenient. The first Thursday of class will be September 10. We will do our best to meet either outside in the pavilion (weather permitting), in the big room, or even in the sanctuary so that we can be a bit more distant.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, September 19
8:00 a.m. at Zion



Elders Update

It has been wonderful to see more and more members gradually making their way back to our services. We continue to practice safe distancing. I know most of you have attempted to leave at least one pew between members which is a good practice and may make others feel more safe. Also, masks are also encouraged. We have at different times received feedback from members along with suggestions. The elders have always discussed any suggestions and attempted to respond in a timely manner. Communion practices continue with approximately five to the rail except for families who have been together previously. You may stand or kneel. The common cup will continue to be offered along with the individual servers. It is your choice as to how to receive Christ's Blood. For the common cup, our Pastors use a strong alcohol product to insure sanitization. Again, collection plates remain at the entrance to the sanctuary. For convenience, please consider electronic giving. Information is available in the church office, or call Tim at 772-1516. Usher teams will continue to be assigned weekly for both locations. If there are individual ushers who would like to move from ushering at one location to the other, please call Dale at 989-506-6489. Also, if you wish to be added to the usher schedule or dropped, also call this number. Our services on our web site and on YouTube will continue.

Campus Corner

Thank you to everyone who helped stock our cupboards, fridge, and freezer at CTK for lunch items! This helps us cut costs, and allows us to be prepared and proactive. Thanks also to those who have signed up to provide a meal. The students and staff truly appreciate the support. Even with the disruptions brought on by COVID, we had 10 students worship with us on Welcome Back Sunday, and 8 joined us for the Monday lunch the next day. Our students are glad to be back, and are looking forward to another year of worship, fellowship, service, and growth together as Christian college students.



Nurse's Notes

Covid -19 Information

1. When we are in a group of people, at least one person must have the virus to infect others.
2. To know the daily number of cases by county in Michigan, visit MDHSS.gov
3. An infected person can be contagious even when they have no symptoms, but is most contagious when symptoms are present.
4. If you do not feel as healthy as you normally do, and especially if you have some of the known symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and do not come to church. Contact your primary healthcare provider for advice. It may be nothing, or it could be the start of COVID-19.
5. Wearing a mask may help to slow the transmission/transfer of the virus from person to person if a person has COVID-19. As stated above, a person can be infected by the virus and not know due to a lack of symptoms.
6. Sitting beside someone who has COVID-19 (with or without symptoms) for 45 minutes will most likely allow for enough particles of the virus to leave that person's body via droplet transmission and to enter another person and cause them to be infected. Other behaviors such as not wearing a mask, speaking, singing, coughing, and sneezing are all more likely to increase the odds of virus transmission via droplets.
7. Singing and loud talking will increase the number of droplets exhaled as well as the likely distance of their dispersion, which can be anywhere from 6 to 15 feet.

Steps you can take which may reduce your risk for contracting COVID-19:

1. Wash your hands frequently with running water and soap using friction to all hand surfaces for at least 20 seconds.
2. Hand sanitizers can be substituted a few times, but running water and soap are more effective for washing hands. When using sanitizer, be sure to obtain enough sanitizer to wet all hand surfaces and apply friction.
3. Avoid touching surfaces others have touched. Cleaning/disinfecting commonly touched areas with a disinfecting wipe is best and wearing disposable gloves while cleaning is recommended.

4. Practice social distancing by staying at least 6 feet apart from others with whom you do not ordinarily have any contact.

Steps you can take which may reduce the risk to others:

1. Wear a surgical or cloth mask. This can trap droplets of moisture leaving your body, one of the main means by which the virus is believed to travel. Remember, an infected person can still be contagious while also being asymptomatic.
2. Practice social distancing by staying at least 6 feet apart from others with whom you do not ordinarily have any contact.
3. Avoid touching areas that others may touch after you.

Here is my contact information: email: zionparishnurse@gmail.com or cell phone: 989-421-8583. Please let me hear from you if you have any questions or concerns.
God Bless, Phillis Daws, RN, BSN

September Guided Readings

Here's a new Bible Reading Challenge. This one takes us through the entire Bible over the course of one year. This time, you'll read *no more than 4 chapters* on any given day. Each week has at least one day with only 3 chapters. Every Sunday is a blank space in terms of the plan—come to church and hear the Word there! This also gives you a chance to catch up if you fall behind. I was mindful of holidays (big and small), either treating them like the Sundays, or assigning lighter amounts of reading on the days surrounding them. The plan takes you through the Old Testament largely in historical order—but *without reading straight through from Genesis to Malachi*. There's some variety. Finally, the plan harmonizes with the Church year in some places—especially in Advent and Christmas, and also towards the end of the liturgical calendar in November with End Times readings. If 3-4 chapters is too much for you to read each day, I'd encourage you prayerfully to consider how you might be able to make it work. You could simply customize the schedule—maybe read only the 2 or 3 Old Testament chapters each day, or the 1-2 from the New Testament. Take every thought captive to Christ by meditating on His Word day and night (2 Cor. 10:5; Psalm 1:2).



Guided Readings for September

- 1 Proverbs 1-4
- 2 Proverbs 5-7
- 3 Proverbs 8-10
- 4 Proverbs 11-13
- 5 Proverbs 14-15
- 6 ***Hear the Word at Church ***
- 7 Proverbs 16
- 8 Proverbs 17-19
- 9 Proverbs 20-22
- 10 Proverbs 23-25
- 11 Proverbs 26-28
- 12 Proverbs 29-31
- 13 *** Hear the Word at Church ***
- 14 Gen. 1-2; John 1-2
- 15 Gen. 3-4; John 3-4
- 16 Gen. 5-6; John 5-6
- 17 Gen. 7-8; John 7-8
- 18 Gen. 9-10; John 9-10
- 19 Gen. 11-12; John 11
- 20 ***Hear the Word at Church ***
- 21 Gen. 13-14; John 12-13
- 22 Gen. 15-16; John 14-15
- 23 Gen. 17-18; John 16-17
- 24 Gen. 19-20; John 18-19
- 25 Gen. 21-22; John 20-21
- 26 Gen. 23-24; Gal. 1
- 27 ***Hear the Word at Church ***
- 28 Gen. 25-26; Gal. 2-3
- 29 Gen. 27; Gal. 4-5
- 30 Gen. 28-29; Gal. 6



Zion Lutheran Women's Society

Living in Praise

Courageous in Praise

In the Word

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. (Acts 16:25 KJV)

In the Word

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. (Acts 16:25 KJV)

Of the Word

“Hey, wait a minute, God! It’s not supposed to happen like this!” At one time or another, we’ve all had that feeling. Our godly hopes and plans shatter in the reality of job loss, financial woes, disabilities, divorce. We’re not at all where we want to be. In response, we can either dismiss God and sit down and pout, or engage Him in serious conversation as we continue to walk His way.

The latter choice takes courage. First, courage to set aside our expectations — no matter how reasonable and well-founded they were — and listen to what God tells us in His Word. Second, courage to separate our preferences from God’s plans, discerning His will in our present situation. Third, courage to invite His Holy Spirit to fortify our faith. Only in Him can we find courage to accept reality, control what we can control, and identify new ways to serve Him and His people.

When it’s not supposed to happen like this — but it does — keep walking. The scenery has changed, but your Companion remains the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Walking with my Lord

When things aren’t going my way, let me go in Yours...

Walk with me, Lord Jesus, in these troubled hours. In Your name I pray. Amen.

LWML Sunday

October 4

Mark on your calendar.

Events:

General Meeting: Saturday, September 19, 10:00 a.m. at Zion Please bring a dish to pass as we will have a potluck. Our speaker will be Phillis Daws, "Maintaining Good Mental Health during Covid-19." Bring a friend! Invite them and offer a ride. The more people, the more discussion;

Women's Bible Study: Saturday, September 12, 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 to attend.

LWML Service: Would you like to serve in the LWML? There are two positions that are open and they 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 JoAnn Gust or Kathleen Nims about this.

Flower Calendar – It looks like Covid-19 hit our flower calendars. The charts posted at both Zion and Christ the King are in need of some names! There are some open dates for the remainder of the calendar year for you to sign up to buy flowers for the altar at either Zion or CTK. They are just \$20 and can be taken home following the service. Payment (checks) should be made payable to Zion Women's Guild and can be dropped by the church office or mailed to Charolette Mogielski, 11561 S. Lakeside Trail, Shepherd, MI 48883. See Tim or Kathy at either church office if you have any questions. Thank You

"Serve the Lord with Gladness"
Psalms 100:2



Covid Update

Thank you all for your patience with me and with one another so far as we've worked to provide Word and Sacrament ministry at Zion during this pandemic. There is not a roadmap for what we are doing that takes into consideration all the issues.

If bodily safety were the only thing that mattered, the answer would be simple: do nothing. Shut down, stay home, hope the virus passes. There is more to our lives in Christ, though, than bodily safety (not that this isn't important). We live not by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord; we are therefore called to the Divine Service, where our Lord gives his gifts through the Means of Grace. Our sins are forgiven, we are fed by his word, and we receive his body and blood in the Lord's Supper. We all want this, and dearly wish that the circumstances were different, and that there was no risk in gathering together around God's Word and Sacraments. That is not the case, unfortunately; gathering is risky. That fact is complicated by additional circumstances that vary widely among our members. For some, employer requirements place strict limits on activities in their personal lives. For others, they are in regular necessary contact with people who are potentially extremely vulnerable to a bad outcome if they end up being infected with Covid. Still others are exhausted from hearing about little else for six months, and long for a place set apart from that. On top of all of that, every single member has a different (and changing) comfort level with gathering together for worship. There is no way to straddle the line and find any sort of happy medium. We cannot guarantee safety, and so we make no such promises - to do so would be to give false assurances. All we can do is provide you what we have been called to provide: the gifts of God. The precautions we've taken have received mixed responses, but they are a compromise, and we have been reluctant to make any significant changes so that church members can at least know and rely on what to expect if they do decide to gather for church. We will continue to put services online as the technology cooperates (a volunteer is needed). I do thank you for your patience with me, and I beg of you to be patient and understanding toward one another, always putting the best construction on what you see and hear. The church is open for you when you are ready, and if you ever want a private visit with either pastor, please just call us and we will arrange it.

In Christ, Pastor Bakker