

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Jonathon Bakker, Pastor

Garrick "Ricky" Beckett, Pastor

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"O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells."

– Psalm 26:8

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, King David was a man after the Lord's heart. His reign represents the apex of Israel's Old Testament history. Not only did Israel grow and prosper politically during his lifetime, he was also among the most faithful (though certainly not without sin) kings when it came to upholding worship of the one true God. While nothing about him surpasses his place in the house of Judah as an ancestor of Jesus, the Psalms he wrote by the Holy Spirit are incomparable.

Some are joyful, some are full of despair, some speak of confession, repentance, and thanksgiving for forgiveness, while still others cry out against persecution. At the heart of all of the Psalms is Christ, who knew the Psalms as his own hymnal, praying them all his life and even as he died. We hear that in the words of Psalm 22 as it is read each Maundy Thursday while the altar of the church is stripped.

Among the things David longed for but never had (and that would be a very short list, considering his prosperity) was a permanent house for the Lord, a temple. It was hundreds of years after the parting of the Red Sea and the journey up from Egypt and slavery, he lived in a house of cedar, but the Ark still resided in a tent. God would have him delay, however, due to the bloodshed at his hands – David was a conqueror as well as guilty of other deaths, too. His son, Solomon, would be the one to build and dedicate a temple for the Name of the Lord.

Still, David loved the worship of the Lord, even though he never did see the construction of the temple. As he sang in Psalm 26, "Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your

glory dwells." We, on the other hand, have a temple, and we love it. Zion is a beautiful place, set apart for the ministry of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – on earth. We are also blessed with the stewardship of Christ The King Lutheran Chapel. In these places, God comes to us in Word and Sacrament to deliver the fruits of the cross, the foretaste of the feast to come. We hear God's powerful Word in Law and Gospel and we share true fellowship in and as the Body of Christ.

Our gathering together as the Body of Christ has always been under attack by the evil machinations of the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh, and over much of the past two years, has been further impeded by the threat being around others posed from Covid. Whenever these things happen, and when there is a prolonged absence from church, the spiritual danger and temptation are all the greater to habituate to a life apart from hearing the Word of the Lord and receiving his gifts in the Lord's Supper, week in and week out. While we have been able to record and publish our worship for people to view online, it is not a long-term means of receiving pastoral care. The spiritual dangers of growing cold toward Christ and his church are real.

So I implore you as your pastor, please avail yourself of God's good gifts – he wants to give them to you in the church! If you haven't been a frequent attender of church – for reasons related to Covid or for other reasons – please reconsider. There is nothing more important or precious for us Christians than the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation we receive from the Lord in the ministry of the church. And that doesn't mean you must come Sunday morning, even if you are concerned

about Covid, or for any other reason. You have two pastors, ready and willing, who will make it work for you to receive pastoral care, whether it is in church or at your home. Just call us and ask. Finally, as another encouragement to you to keep God at the very top of your priorities and throughout your life, we are planning on making a bigger event this year of what used to be called Rally Day. September 12 will not only kick off the educational efforts at the church for the coming school year; it will also be **Zion Homecoming Sunday**. Both services that day will be at Zion (8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.), there will be Bible Study and Sunday School between the services, and following the second service there will be food and activities for everyone. More details are available elsewhere in this newsletter, but please make plans now to be here and renew your own habit and your family's habit of loving the habitation of the Lord's house, and being in the place where his glory dwells!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Bakker



SCHOOL HAS BEGUN!!!

We thank the Lord that he has kept all our families safe through this summer and brought you all to a new school year.

The teachers are very excited to meet our new students (and remember their names). Name tags are definitely a gift from God.

This month we will focus on the Bible lesson of Creation. We will hear how God created everything from nothing using only His word. We will hear how everything he created was "good". We will finally hear how sin entered His perfect world, and yet He loved us enough to promise us a Savior even then.

We would like to remind parents that should you need additional childcare anytime throughout the school year, we are here to help. Send an email to Zionlutheranpreschool48858@gmail.com and we can make arrangements.

Christian Education

Back to school! Back to school! Stores have been reminding us, some since the Fourth of July.

As parents you are well aware it is the time to get the youngsters fitted out for a new school year. But are their hearts prepared?

Sometimes it seems as though the world goes a bit more insane with every passing day. Our children need to be grounded in God's truth to stand against the secular onslaught of bad ideas now present even in our schools.

Truth, the real truth, God's word – is indeed "A Mighty Fortress, A Trusty Shield and Weapon." We at Zion have, by the grace of God, a wonderful and dedicated Sunday School staff. But a young heart needs to be fed daily, more than once a week!

From Deuteronomy 6: "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads."

In other words, the fight against Satan's lies must begin at home, in the early years of life, to continue through a child's lifetime.

You, as parents, are perhaps the most important member of Zion's Sunday School staff!

Brad Coulson

Sunday School Superintendent



PRESCHOOL PIZZA FUNDRAISER

Goal: \$2000.00 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 are available at Zion, CTK, or the Preschool.*



Paper orders will be due on October 6. Online orders can be placed at pizzakit.com until October 10. Click products, then click shop. Use Fundraiser ID #393100. Customer care is available at (888) 452-5487.

STEWARDSHIP

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through July 31, 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 271,851.54	\$ 265,435.32
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 268,788.41</u>	<u>\$ 247,339.71</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 3,063.13	\$ 18,095.61
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 280,803.31	\$ 222,302.30
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 268,788.41</u>	<u>\$ 247,339.71</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ 12,014.90	\$ (25,037.41)

At the end of the first of his chapters on the virtue of faith in *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis provides a helpful reminder, by way of analogy, for the foundation of stewardship. He wrote: “Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already. So then, when we talk of a man doing anything for God or giving anything to God, I will tell you what it is really like. It is like a small child going to its father and saying, ‘Daddy, give me sixpence to buy you a birthday present.’ Of course, the father does, and he is pleased with the child’s present. It is all very nice and proper, but only an idiot would think that the father is sixpence to the good on the transaction. When a man has made these two discoveries God can really get to work. It is after this that real life begins. (128–129).”

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers – stewards – acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deut. 8:17–18) but also all that we are in this life (1 Cor. 6:20). The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b). And from this comes

blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matt. 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands. On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours – not as stewards but as sons (Gal. 4:1–7). Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

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)

Zion Homecoming

Sunday, September 12

both services will be at Zion

see the flyer included for details





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 early childhood center 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. While we now have a year under our belt with escalated concern about Covid (and now its variants), that doesn't make it any easier. Pray for one another, too, that in the midst of temptations to fear and despair, we may all cling to the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and seek God's good gifts *in person* whenever we can!

Private Communion

Individual pastoral care is *always* available, and no matter how busy you may think your pastors are, there is NOTHING more important for us to do than Word and Sacrament Ministry. If, for any reason, you are unable to make it to church on Sundays, that does not mean that you do not have access to God's gifts in the Means of Grace. Please contact either pastor, and we can schedule a time for you (and your family). We could bring the Lord's Supper to you at home during the week, or you could come to either church, and we will take whatever precautions are necessary for you to feel comfortable. Most important is that you have the opportunity to receive the Lord's gifts!

Eyes of Faith Stewardship Emphasis – Coming in October

On Sunday, October 10 we will begin a three-week stewardship emphasis focusing on God's gifts and our lives as his children who have been created by him, redeemed by him, and who look forward to eternity with him at the resurrection. The final Sunday of the emphasis, October 24, will also be pledge Sunday. It is our prayer that you

will be encouraged in your faith and life through the Word of God during the emphasis so that you will remain faithful all your days. The theme verse is Hebrews 12:2a, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." For those who will not be joining us in person and wish to make a pledge regardless, pledges can be dropped off at Zion's office or mailed in.

Lifelight Returns

Plan now to attend Lifelight bible study this fall as we read through the Gospel of St. Luke – because of its length and the breadth of material it covers, the fall session will cover only the first half of Luke. The second half of Luke will be taken up in the winter. This is an especially good year to be studying Luke as we enter year "C" of our 3 year lectionary in Advent, which features Luke's Gospel almost every Sunday. 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., both at Zion, so that attendees can come to whichever is most convenient. The first Thursday of class will be September 16.



Guided Reading

- 1 2 Chronicles 35; Nehemiah 9-11
- 2 2 Chronicles 36; Nehemiah 12-13
- 3 Psalm 115-118; Mark 1-2
- 4 Psalm 119:1-88; Mark 3-4
- 5 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 6 Psalm 119:89-176; Mark 5-6
- 7 Psalm 120-128; Mark 7-8
- 8 Psalm 129-135; Mark 9-10
- 9 Psalm 136-139; Mark 11-12
- 10 Psalm 140-143; Mark 13-14
- 11 Psalm 145-150; Mark 15-16
- 12 *Hear the Word at Church*



Evangelism News

Thanks to Charolette Mogielski for her help in scheduling members for the new directory. Several people submitted their own picture. The directory is being put together, and we will attempt to use as many of those pictures as possible. As we placed the pictures, we were encouraged by how many new members we have. It's time to introduce and gratefully welcome them. On September 12 we will introduce them during the lunch following the late service. Some have been members over two years now, however COVID restricted our normal welcome activities. The Zion Rummage Sale will be over by the time the newsletter is received, and thanks to Claudia Schimmelman and her team for the fund raising effort. Evangelism is reaching out to the entire congregation to participate in the Red Cross blood drive on September 9. With the recent disasters in Haiti, and elsewhere, there is a world wide need to donate blood, Please consider donating if you can. More information is included in this newsletter. In His service,
Evangelism Board

Zion Lutheran Women's Group

In the Word

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10a)

Of the Word

As adults, we frequently take the attitude of that stubborn two-year old who declares, "I can do it myself!" Why are we often reluctant to ask for help or advice? Do we think it will show we are getting too old, or too weak, or (heaven forbid) too stupid? We sometimes stumble along until finally, when all else fails, we admit we can't do it alone. God didn't create us to go through life without help. He inspired the writer of Ecclesiastes to write, one can help the other. Our loving Father also gives us family and friends to love and care for us, to pick us up and give us support. Knowing God doesn't want us to go it alone, let's not be reluctant to ask for help – or, in turn, give help to someone else.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down... Psalm 146:8b.

A Point to Ponder: Who do I know who may need a lift today?



Walking with my Lord

Lord, I admit I am helpless and can't go through life alone. Thank You for the loved ones You send into my life. Thank You also for sending Jesus to pick me up out of sin and redeem me with His life. In His name I pray. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Women's Bible Study – Saturday, September 11

Please note the change in location! We will meet at CTK at 9:30 a.m. The study will be The Lutheran Bible Study Companion – Old Testament and will meet for 9 sessions. There are no books left. Contact Anne Bakker (989) 773-5050 if you have any questions. October 9 is next month's date.

Volunteer Needed – A chairperson is needed for the Bazaar/Craft Show scheduled for December 4.

Quilting Group – The quilting group meets from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays with lunch from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Come for as much of the day as you wish. We have wonderful fellowship and it can be a joy to work for the Lord. We will be happy to teach you as much as you would like to learn. You can take unfinished quilts home and work on them there. You can also rip sheets, iron and etc. Join us for an hour or two of fellowship.

Quilts will be displayed on LWML Sunday, October 3, and will be for sale (\$50).

Orphan Grain Train – These clothes must be good and clean. Please place in the container at the door at Zion. You can also bring them in a half-filled garbage bag. Please do not bring full bags!

Dishes – There are some very nice dishes in the kitchen at Zion. If you brought something to Zion for a meal there may be a dish for you to pick up.

General Meeting – September 18 – 10:00 a.m. at Zion with a brunch.

Fall Zone Rally – October 30 – Zion, Auburn



National Notes – At the recent National Convention there were 32 grants submitted with 28 being funded for a total of \$2,150,000. Below is the first grant that was funded.

Deaconess Ministry – Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch – \$81,680. The mission of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ. The ranch called Kelly Bristow. This role reflects the exact reason why a vibrant deaconess ministry was envisioned for our church body.

“Serve the Lord with Gladness” Psalm 100:2



Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Saturday, September 18
8:00 a.m. at Zion



Zion is hosting a blood drive on Thursday, September 9!

Phillis Daws is in need of just a few volunteers to help the day of the drive and more importantly to help advertise this important event to the community. **It will be from 10:00 a.m. until 3:45 p.m.** Perhaps you are a member of a committee and your committee is willing to help in some way. The more hands the less the burden. **To make an appointment call 1-800-773-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code, ZION.**

Please contact Phillis Daws for more information and details of what is needed at zionparishnurse@gmail.com or 989-621-8583. No one will have a huge job!

URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE ELDERS—Your Help--Needed!

Our congregation will be participating in the Congregational Assessment of Development/Decline Status (CADDs). It is a survey-based self-assessment tool designed to provide our congregation with a consistent and objective way of answering the question “**Where are we . . . really?**” **This is especially important now with the aftermath of COVID.** The CADDs is simple, straightforward and nonintrusive. It is a standardized test being used by hundreds of other congregations in our Synod and is designed to measure three critical elements of development and decline—sustainability, adaptability, and balance of focus of the outward and inward focus of our congregations.

We are encouraging all of our elected leaders, pastors, teachers, paid staff, pre-school parents and all other members and friends to complete the electronic online version of the survey. (An offline option is available). It is simply a point and click survey—no written responses required.

Watch your email and/or mail for a special letter to arrive around September 13 that will have the **web link and login code** to access the survey. You will have until October 3 to complete the survey. Other details will be provided at that time. Please plan to participate as a large number of responses will yield a more accurate answer to “**Where are we . . . really?**” (From the Board of Elders)

Lutherans For Life

“The world is not empty when we came into it; we must not leave it emptier for having been here. Our duty is to leave it richer and better because we have shown our gratitude to the Lord by being productive Christians.” *R. J. Rushdoony – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*
www.lutheransforlife.org

