

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

April 2022

Jonathon Bakker, Pastor

Garrick "Ricky" Beckett, Pastor

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"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." – Romans 6:3-4

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, there's an old adage you've probably heard about April showers bringing May flowers. Many times, the month of April also brings with it the celebration of Easter and our Lord's resurrection from the dead. That reminds us to think of the life-giving gift of Holy Baptism.

There is a strong connection between Easter and baptism, but this connection is much stronger than the month of April and the springtime rains. What St. Paul proclaimed above in Romans 6 tells you that baptism brings both Good Friday and Easter Sunday right to you! In other words, the significance of those days lies not in the historical events of 2000 years ago, but in the fact that through baptism you, too, have died and been brought to life! When Jesus' resurrection was given to you, you walked out of death and into new life. You are raised with Jesus in baptism and you are a new creation.

This is why we often remember and speak of Holy Baptism at Easter. We do this at every Divine Service when God's triune name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is invoked, but at Easter there are other remembrances, too, in our singing, our prayers, and our creeds. As you gather for the worship services of Holy Week, remember your baptism, and who your baptism makes you to be. Jesus' Easter resurrection blessings are poured out on us richly in Holy Baptism and we live as his baptized children, forever. We are heirs, having been justified by God and we give thanks that he has included us in Good Friday and Easter. Rejoice, dear friends, for Christ is risen and lives!
Yours in Christ, Pastor Bakker



April 10 – Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship Service at Zion
9:45 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class
11:00 a.m. Worship at CTK

April 14 – Maundy Thursday

5:30 p.m. Worship at Zion
7:30 p.m. Worship at CTK

April 15 – Good Friday

1:00 p.m. Worship at Zion
3:00 p.m. Worship at CTK

April 17 – Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship Service at Zion
8:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast
9:45 a.m. Sunday School & 10:15 a.m. Egg Hunt
10:00 a.m. Worship at CTK - *high precaution service*
11:00 a.m. Worship at CTK



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Welcome Spring! I can assure you that children and staff are thankful for its arrival. To say that it's been a long winter, would be an understatement. Praying that our change of season brings renewed health along with the expectation of the Easter Resurrection. *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me will live, even though he dies."* John 11:25

Little Caesar Pizza Spring Fundraiser !

Paper Orders due Monday, April 18

Goal: \$1500.00



Order forms are available at both Zion and CTK. Orders can also be placed online using our group ID 401109. Funds raised will be used for classroom equipment, supplies, field trips and financial aid. Delivery will be the week of May 2. Some help will be needed on delivery day to sort orders. As soon as we know the delivery day we will let you know.

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year

continues this month with open enrollment. Children must be four years of age on or before September 1, 2022, to enroll in the four-year-old class. Children must be three years of age on or before September 1, 2022, to enroll in the three-year-old class. Parents may choose from two days up to five days of morning preschool. Preschool childcare is available again this year. Many of our days are full for the fall. Please do not wait long to enroll.

Summer Camp enrollment has begun.

Summer Camp will operate from June 13 to August 12. Camp is available to children from 3 to 12 years of age. Children do not have to be enrolled in our Preschool and Early Childhood Center to attend. Full and half day camp options are available. Summer Camp may be utilized every day or may be used throughout the summer as needed. Brochures are available in the school office or on our website:

www.zionlutheranpreschoolecc.com

On-line enrollment may be found at the link below: <https://enrollments.smartcare.com/ZionLutheranECCSC2022>

Planning has begun for Vacation Bible School this summer. **The dates are July 11-15.** Helpers will be needed in many areas. A flair for decorating, teach or assist, crafts, snacks, childcare, music, recreation, we have something for you! Contact Tim in the office, Cori Bingham, Courtney Ross, or Jill Davis to volunteer, or with any questions. Watch for upcoming newsletters and bulletins for more information as it approaches.



"How big is God?" A child asks.
"What does heaven look like?"
"Will my kitty that died be in heaven with me?"

So many Questions! (1 Corinthians 2:9 might help a little.) As children grow in faith (as well as we "older" kids), our hearts draw nearer to the Lord. Our curiosity grows as to the nature of what awaits us in God's glorious eternity.

One of the joys of reading scripture is learning more of the character of our creator. We can only piece together the picture of heaven from our knowledge of Eden, passages from Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Revelation in particular.

Most important of all, God is Love. Period! An uncaring God would have simply started over from scratch after the fall, but not our loving creator, even though he certainly has the power. Read your children from John 3:16: "... For God so loved the world he sent His only son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life." He loves us so much he died for us, and will be back (soon we pray!) To take us up to live with Him forever on His re-created heaven-on-earth.

Our new bodies will be like Superman compared to the ones we have now! No more boo-boos, no crying, no hurts of any kind! Would you like to have a dinosaur for a friend? Ride on a T-rex? Maybe you will! Even that toothy monster started out as a vegetarian (Genesis 1:29-30)

A story: A man had a dream he walked with Jesus. He asked him: " How much do you love me?" Jesus replied: " This much", and He spread his arms wide, and died on the cross!

God is Love! (Nuff said!)

Brad Coulson

Sunday School Superintendent

STEWARDSHIP

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through February 28, 2022

| | <u>2022</u> | <u>2021</u> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| YTD Budgeted Expenses | \$ 90,601.04 | \$ 82,500.44 |
| YTD Actual Expenses | <u>\$ 133,692.12</u> | <u>\$ 88,763.63</u> |
| YTD Balance | (\$ 43,091.08) | (\$ 6,263.19) |
| | | |
| YTD General Fund Income | \$ 126,327.18 | \$ 90,628.82 |
| YTD Actual Expenses | <u>\$ 133,692.12</u> | <u>\$ 88,763.63</u> |
| YTD Income Less Expense | (\$ 7,364.94) | \$ 1,865.19 |

Blessed Shall You Be

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.” (Deuteronomy 28:3-6)

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground, their wombs, their flocks, or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.” (Deut. 28:2b) If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you.” (Deut. 28:2a). If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and “walk in his ways” (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh and fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ died for us – in our place and for our benefit. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon his work, not ours. All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes

us His children, His heirs, and His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and it thereby becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor. For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve, and obey Him. This is not in order to receive the blessings but because in Christ we already have. With this in mind, we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst. (1 Cor. 16:2).

Mission of the Month Women’s Aid Service

Women’s Aid Service of Isabella County is a private, nonprofit agency dedicated to the intervention and prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault. Domestic violence and sexual assault cut across all racial, social, economic and educational groups. Each year, in this local service area alone, the agency responds to over 1000 crisis calls and provides services to hundreds of victims. The agency strives to interrupt the abusive cycle and provide assistance to all victims – women, children, and men – in the family. A representative of Women’s Aid Service is available to speak to organizations about the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. Women’s Aid Service is strongly supported by a volunteer staff for crisis intervention services after business hours. Volunteers are also needed for special projects. Although the agency receives state and federal grants, it cannot maintain its level of service without community dollars. Consider making a contribution to this month’s mission, and if interested in volunteering your time, call the Women’s Aid Service business office at 989-773-0078.



In memory of Michael Yount

Al & Jan Block

Roger Cole

Ruth Giffin

Dale & JoAnn Gust

Lynn & Audrey Laskowsky

Dan & Sharon Milan

A big thank you to our altar guilds, who have been going above and beyond for well on two years, now, to prepare the altar and elements. Thank you, also, to our ushers and elders whose roles in our worship have been impacted by the concerns and precautions. All of you have stepped up and your service is appreciated, especially as we head into the extra worship services of Holy Week. The Lord bless your ongoing service to your Lord and Zion!

Higher Precaution Service for Easter

There will be a service at 10:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday, (April 17) at Christ The King with higher precautions as we had on Christmas Eve. Masks are expected to be worn by all in attendance, and there will be an opportunity for a hymn to be sung by all at the end of the service – those who do not wish to sing may depart after the benediction.

Precautions during Worship

I have been thankful to see so many of our members attending church in person more regularly, and would encourage those who have not been attending in person to consider doing so. I consulted with our parish nurse as to any updates to our precautions when it comes to masks and communion distribution. Current masking recommendations include the unvaccinated, those with compromised immune systems, and finally those who choose to wear a mask. Our elders will be discussing this at our April 5 meeting, and my best guess as to the most likely decision is that it will be up to each pastor and elder whether or not to wear a mask during communion distribution going forward. If this becomes an obstacle to you receiving the Lord's Supper during worship, please contact me or an elder, and remember that both of your pastors are available for private communion services which can be scheduled any time upon request.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study Continues

Saturday, April 9, 8:00 a.m.



Guided Reading



Leviticus: One of the more difficult books, Moses' third book is a bloody one, full of sacrifice, outlining the worship of the Lord at the Tabernacle. It is also about the appointment of the priesthood, which was instituted, according to Luther, only because of sin, to disclose sin to people and make atonement before God, so that its entire function is to deal with sin and sinners. Give thanks to God as you read Leviticus for the forgiveness he gives us through the once and for all sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, which we will celebrate during Holy Week this month, culminating in resurrection joy of Easter!

- Leviticus 1 – Laws for Burnt Offerings
- Leviticus 2 – Laws for Grain Offerings
- Leviticus 3 – Laws for Peace Offerings
- Leviticus 4 – Laws for Sin Offerings
- Leviticus 5 – Laws for Sin and Guilt Offerings
- Leviticus 6 – Priests and Offerings
- Leviticus 7 – Holiness and Offerings
- Leviticus 8 – Consecration of Aaron and Sons
- Leviticus 9 – Aaron's Offering Accepted
- Leviticus 10 – Nadab and Abihu
- Leviticus 11 – Clean and Unclean Animals
- Leviticus 12 – Purification after Childbirth
- Leviticus 13 – Laws about Leprosy
- Leviticus 14:1-32 – Laws about Cleansing Lepers
- Leviticus 14:33-57 – Laws for Cleansing Houses
- Leviticus 15 – Laws about Bodily Discharges
- Leviticus 16 – The Day of Atonement
- Leviticus 17 – Sacrifice and Blood
- Leviticus 18 – Unlawful Sexual Relations
- Leviticus 19 – Holiness of God and Statutes
- Leviticus 20 – Punishments for Transgressions
- Leviticus 21 – Holiness and Priests
- Leviticus 22 – Offerings
- Leviticus 23 – Feasts
- Leviticus 24 – Lamps, Bread, Blasphemy, and Retaliation
- Leviticus 25 – Sabbath and Jubilee Years
- Leviticus 26 – Blessings and Punishments
- Leviticus 27 – Laws about Vows

Zion Lutheran Women's Guild



Michigan District LWML Convention 2022

The convention has been changed to be held at Frankenmuth, Michigan, July 7-9. We will need two delegates to represent our society with all expenses paid.

CONVENTION TITLE:

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE
2022 LWML MICHIGAN DISTRICT
39TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

CONVENTION LOCATION:

St. Lorenz Worship and Event Center, St. Lorenz Sanctuary and Bavarian Inn all in Frankenmuth, Michigan

CONVENTION DATES:

July 7-9, 2022

REGISTRATION FEES:

Early Bird Registration Fee:(before April 15) \$125
Registration Fee: \$130
Late Registration: (after June 5) \$150
Pastor Registration FREE
Accompanying Spouse/Teen: \$75

CONVENTION MEALS:

-Thursday Night Dinner: Pasta Buffet \$30
-Friday Continental Breakfast: Bagel, Coffee Cake, Fruit, Eggs, Coffee/Tea \$15
-Friday Boxed Lunch: Choices:
Turkey/Swiss/Cheese Croissant;
Ham/Cheddar/Cheese Croissant;
Tuna Croissant: \$20
-Friday Night Dinner: Chicken Buffet \$35
-Saturday Breakfast Sandwich: Choices:
Croissant Sandwich with Eggs.
Bacon and Cheese; Croissant, Sandwich with Egg, Spinach, Asiago and Sun-dried tomato \$15

NOTE: All meals will be served at the Bavarian Inn with the exception of the Saturday morning breakfast sandwich.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2022

Orphan Grain Train –Thank you to all of you who came through with donated items to the Orphan Grain Train for the Ukraine relief effort. In the past week, a van, and 2 SUV's went to the Orphan Train to deliver those items. Financial donations to the relief efforts are still being accepted and will be sent to the Missouri Synod/Ukraine Relief. Checks should be made out to Zion and labeled "Ukraine Relief."

Bazaar – 2022– We had some requests to once again have our bazaar for 2022. However, if we do, we will need a volunteer to chair the Bazaar and for the Cookie Walk. If you are interested, please contact Kathleen Nims at (989) 294-1373.

Women's Bible Study – We will meet next on Saturday, April 9 at 9:30 a.m., at CTK.



Spring Tea Date Change – Our Spring Tea date has been changed to Sunday, May 15, at the Bakker's from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mid-Michigan Prayer Day Service – Saturday, April 23 along with the General Meeting at 9:00 a.m. at Prince of Peace, Clare. Cars will leave from Zion at 8:30 a.m.

Hostesses - We are looking for volunteers to serve as hostesses at the District Convention. Please contact Kathleen Nims (989) 294-1373.

MITES – We are \$37,000 short for the District's mites collections. DO YOU HAVE POCKETS OF CHANGE? REMEMBER OUR MITE BOX IS LOOKING FOR LOOSE CHANGE.

"Serve the Lord with Gladness" Psalm 100:2



NURSE'S NOTE:

Deuteronomy 5:33 You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.

It's spring and time to get moving! Please consider using the following guidelines to get moving. It starts out slow if you have been sedentary all winter and eases into beneficial levels of activity. This walking schedule can help you meet recommended guidelines for physical activity. Checking with your doctor before starting an exercise program is always recommended. For most healthy adults, the Department of Health and Human Services recommends these exercise guidelines: (minutes)

| Week | Warmup | Brisk walking | Cool-down |
|------|--------|---------------|-----------|
| 1 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 5 |
| 3 | 5 | 9 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 11 | 5 |
| 5 | 5 | 13 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 15 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 18 | 5 |
| 8 | 5 | 20 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 23 | 5 |
| 10 | 5 | 26 | 5 |
| 11 | 5 | 28 | 5 |
| 12 | 5 | 30 | 5 |

Brisk walking is a great way to fit in regular physical activity. To get more out of your walking routine, simply try picking up the pace. If you are in good shape, add short bursts of jogging into your regular brisk walks. If you are less fit, alternate leisurely walking with periods of faster walking. For example, if you're walking outdoors, you could walk faster between certain mailboxes, trees or other landmarks.

You can also make your walk more challenging by hiking or walking up hills and carrying heavy loads such as backpacks.

It's a good idea to include strength training in your fitness routine, too. You can use hand-held weights, but there are plenty of options you can use besides

weights. For example, consider resistance tubing – these elastic-like tubes offer weight-like resistance when you pull on them. Your own body weight counts, too. Try pushups, pullups, setups, squats and lunges.

God Bless, Phillis Daws RN, BSN

989-621-8583 or zionparishnurse@gmail.com



Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, May 19 – at Zion

12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE More details coming soon!



Quarterly Voters' Meeting

&

Zion Lutheran Foundation Meeting

Sunday, April 24

12:15 p.m. – CTK

Youth Pizza Topic – Sunday, April 10

Join us at Zion, 4:00 p.m. for pizza, topic discussion and some dodgeball !

Do you need help with some spring cleaning, maybe some yard work? Contact Luke Eppe Jr. and he will schedule some of our youth to help you out. Luke can be reached at 989-944-5426 or talk to him at church.

MUSIC EDUCATION FOR ZION / CTK A BIG PICTURE

Have you noticed the absence of an adult choir on Sundays, the children's choir or any brass instrumental music? Why not? Yes, we do have beautiful string players occasionally. The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod church traditionally has a rich heritage in music. Martin Luther is quoted as: **"Next to theology I give to music the highest place and honor. And we see how David and all the saints have wrought their godly thoughts into verse, rhyme, and song."**



Why aren't Zion and CTK buzzing with the sound of music? Maybe it is because we have not purposefully and deliberately made a commitment to advance our music endeavors to a new level within our church. Imagine youth, children's, and adult choirs, a pre-school music emphasis, instrumental and string involvement, bell choir, perhaps music lesson for piano/organ, a boys' choir also involving the community, special fundraising events such as an Oktoberfest, and whatever else your imagination reveals. We are missing out on a great opportunity to enhance all of our music efforts which also integrates with our worship services. It starts with a small dedicated group and will grow as God wills. Can you see the big picture?

All this sounds like a full-time church musician who can work with us at various levels. In an open meeting at the Bible Study hour on March 20, the elders presented some preliminary thoughts on the possibilities for music education and budget costs. The discussion was positive. ***We need to hear from you, especially those who could not be present at that meeting.*** We know there are many in our congregation already possessing music talents and maybe many more waiting for us to provide the opportunities. Express any thoughts you might have to any or our elders. On April 24, the voters of Zion will meet for our quarterly voters meeting and this topic will certainly be on the agenda. We currently support \$15,000 in our budget for music. More will be needed. We need a strategic plan for development of this Music Education emphasis. Help us by providing your feedback. Board of Elders

It's an Engagement Party! Sunday April 3



Zion members and students, please join the campus board in collecting gift cards to give to newly engaged LCMSU students Kenny and Julia. Kenny and Julia have dated for many years and have been active student members at the chapel. Kenny is also this year's LCMSU president. This is a wonderful way to show support for Kenny and Julia, and help them purchase items they will need as a married couple. Gift cards, cash, cards, - anything you can donate would be great! (I asked the couple where they plan to register and they said Bed, Bath, and Beyond and Amazon.) Collection boxes and printed invitations to the party are in the narthex at Zion and also at CTK. Whether or not you bring a gift, please join us after church that day for a cookie and punch reception! See Anne Bakker with any questions.

SPRING DINNER - Guest Speaker Sunday, April 24 at CTK

Zion members and students are invited to our annual Spring Dinner. Hamburgers, hot dogs, salads and desserts will be provided. Following dinner Rev. Charles Schultz from Concordia Ann Arbor will be giving a presentation on Psalm 82. The dinner will be at 5:00 p.m. followed by the presentation. Plan now to join us!

Easter Breakfast is Back! Sunday, April 17



Everyone is invited to join our youth for breakfast on Easter Sunday following the 7:30 a.m. service. This breakfast is a fund-raiser for the youth. A free-will offering will be taken. **There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at Zion for items needed.** We thank you for your support.

Breakfast Setup

On Saturday, April 16, preparations and set-up for the breakfast will take place. Youth will be needed to help. On Sunday morning ALL youth grades 4-12 will be needed to ensure all goes smoothly. We look forward to seeing all of our youth and many of our members!