

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool  
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Jonathon Bakker, Pastor

Garrick "Ricky" Beckett, Pastor

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*Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26:26-28*

Every Sunday, we partake of the Lord's Supper—also called the Eucharist—during the Divine Service. Why do we do this? Well, as Luther phrases the question in the Small Catechism, "What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Answer: It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink." The Gospel writers Matthew (26:26-28), Mark (14:22-24), and Luke (22:14-20) record the history of this institution, and the Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthians of the Words of Institution and to properly distinguish the body and the blood (1 Corinthians 11:23-29).

Besides the fact that the Lord commanded us to eat and drink of His body and blood in the elements, why do this? Or as Luther phrases the question, "What is the benefit of this eating and drinking? Answer: These words, 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation."

How is this possible? Or, again, as Luther phrases the question, "How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Answer: Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written there: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.' These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament." Christ's Word is what makes this possible. The same Lord who said, "Let there be light" and there was light is the same Lord who said, "This is My body and blood for the

forgiveness of sins." Therefore, "whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: 'forgiveness of sins.'"

There is a reason why the Eucharist is the centre of the Divine Service. Besides Absolution and Baptism, the Supper is where you receive absolute assurance that your sins are forgiven—that you are cleansed by the blood of Jesus. I really love preaching but distributing the Lord's body and blood to you during the Divine Service is my favourite, God-fearing thing I get to do for you. I know the same will be true when I baptise my first child of God, whether that be an infant or an adult. It is a God-fearing thing for me to handle Jesus' very body and blood in the bread and wine; it is also an honour and a privilege to give this Holy Supper to you.

So, that I may know who prefers to receive the chalice over an individual cup and so I can better serve you in this manner as your new pastor, I ask that while you're kneeling/standing at the altar rails that you please raise your arm a little bit to signal to me that you prefer the chalice. I'm still learning all your names and I'm still learning who prefers the chalice. Because I'm your new pastor and don't yet know everybody's names and eucharistic preference, I ask that we adopt this practice for a while so I may better serve you.

Lastly, in the Small Catechism, Luther teaches: "Who receives this sacrament worthily? Answer: Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" And he gives a warning from St. Paul in

Scripture, "But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words 'for you' require all hearts to believe."

How do you know you're worthy of receiving this true, holy body and blood of Jesus? You can fast if you so desire, preparing your body and soul for Christ's body and blood as your first meal of the day. Yet no amount of works can make you worthy. It is not a perfect, sinless life that prepares you for the Supper; it is simply faith in Jesus' words, "given and shed for you," that makes you worthy of receiving. If you believe Jesus' words, you are worthy to approach the Table, and you receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation because Christ died for you and He is bodily raised for you. Christ extends the invitation; and if you believe His words, welcome to the Lord's Table.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ricky



*"Suffer the children to come to me and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."  
Mark 10:14 and Luke 18:16*

The time has come! After the tumult of last year, the time is upon us to consider returning to God's home here at Zion, especially to bring His word to our young people. Those of us gifted with the joy of raising children would never neglect to provide the essentials of clothing, shelter or food and we will need to remember the words of our Lord. That "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." The living word of God is essential! Our kids need to know God in their personal lives, at home as well as at Zion. He has provided us with wonderful teachers and a wonderful place to get to know our Savior Jesus as the loving friend who gave His life that we will live with Him forever!

**Welcome Back Zion Day is set for September 12!**

There will be Sunday School, fun, games and a potluck meal with grilled hot dogs and brats to enjoy. However, most of all, the Lord will be with us to train up (your children) in the way they should go; "even when they are old they will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6

All God's children say: Amen!

Brad Coulson

Sunday School Superintendent

## Christian Education



Zion Lutheran Preschool and Early Childhood Center is in transition!

Summer Camp will be ending on August 18! Praise God for a wonderful first year of Summer Camp. Our campers and staff had a wonderful time learning and growing together. Having the chance to share the love of Jesus everyday has truly been a gift.

Fall 2021 is looking to be another year of growth too. We would like to welcome all our new families that will be joining us. We have been incredibly blessed by the number of returning families. Thanks be to God! We have very limited availability in all our classrooms. Should you know someone looking for a Christ-centered Early Childhood Center, and they can be flexible with their days, please send them our way. Classes will begin August 23.

### Preschool & Early Childhood Center

#### Open House

**Tuesday, August 17**

**5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

This will be a very informal event. Families may come meet the Teaching staff, view the classrooms, and check to make sure paperwork is set for the fall. All families are welcome.

Zion Preschool would like to thank the congregation members who applied for Thrivent grants for us. We were able to purchase summer camp craft and food supplies, outdoor fun equipment, and teacher supplies for the beginning of our new school year. We thank God for all of you! Please keep our entire program in your prayers always.

Christina Roe  
Early Childhood Center  
Director



# STEWARDSHIP

## Monthly Income & Expense Report through June 30, 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 234,301.32	\$ 226,194.56
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 225,315.52</u>	<u>\$ 211,967.14</u>
YTD Balance	\$ 8,985.80	\$ 14,227.42
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 246,097.19	\$ 198,124.63
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 225,315.52</u>	<u>\$ 211,967.14</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ 20,781.67	\$ (13,842.51)

When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3). And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures; who gave her everything she had; who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil; who called her by the gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament; would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts, it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us. We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given. We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Galatians 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of

adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands. So, what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide.

We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, 2 Corinthians 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7)!

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, and without resources for the poor and needy.

In short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us. For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matthew 22:34-40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us.

Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.

## Mission of the Month

### Concordia Theological Seminary St. Louis



Concordia Seminary serves the church and world by providing theological education and leadership centered in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ for the formation of pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, scholars, and leaders in the name of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.



Thank you to all of you at Zion for coming and welcoming Pastor Ricky and Emilia as they have moved to Mt. Pleasant and he has begun his service to the Lord among us. It is an exciting time for all of us as we work together to proclaim the Word of God and Jesus' victory over death and the grave on the cross throughout our community and on campus at CMU. Thanks to our elders and other leaders who coordinated and contributed to provide for the service, the meal, and the fellowship. It was a memorable day for us in which we give thanks to our Lord, Jesus Christ, for answering our prayers and sending us another pastor.

### Welcome Back Sunday AND Welcome Back Zion Sunday

Please watch your newsletter and the bulletins as we approach two big Sundays for our congregation at the end of August and in mid-September. Welcome Back Sunday, the Sunday before CMU classes begin, will be **August 29** this year. All are invited to attend and get to know our new and returning CMU students and any internationals who join us at Christ The King. There will be a meal after the 11:00 a.m. service that Sunday at Christ The King. **September 12** will be Welcome Back Zion Sunday – this will expand our traditional educational emphasis on Rally Day as the Sunday School kickoff to a broader invitation for all of our members to come back to church regularly and in person. While COVID has not completely disappeared and precautions continue in the services on Sundays, the importance of worshipping in person and receiving the Lord's gifts regularly and in person is unsurpassed for Christians. Our faith grows and lives only in the Body of Christ; he is the Vine and we are his branches. Our pastors are always available for Word and Sacrament ministry on an individual/family basis, but the best of all is corporate worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. Watch your newsletter for more details about September 12 in this space next month, and please plan to join us in person as we "Welcome Back Zion!"

### Lifelight Bible Study

This fall we will continue our Lifelight Bible Study with a Gospel! We're more than a month away, but our topic will be Luke, which will stretch through both the Fall of 2021 and the Spring of 2022. The first class will be Thursday September 16, and as usual two sessions will be offered each week so that you can attend the one that fits your schedule. Morning sessions will start at 10:30 a.m. and the evening sessions at 6:30 p.m. Once they're prepared, the compiled Scripture readings for each session will be published on Zion's website. We will first meet in the fellowship hall and then attendees can decide whether or not they prefer that or the Library for subsequent weeks.

### Men's Breakfast Bible Study

We will continue our study of Judges and Samson in particular when we meet at Zion this month Saturday August 21 at 8:00 a.m. For those who want to read ahead in preparation, you can read Judges 15.



### Picture Perfect

The Evangelism Board thanks all those who participated in having a picture taken for the new directory. All that took a picture will receive a free directory and picture. The new directory will also be updatable to reflect the current membership. It will still be a few months away before the directory will be distributed. Pictures of staff, and layouts still have to be completed. Again, many thanks.

The Board of Evangelism  
Charolette Mogielski, Directory Chair  
Claudia Schimmelman, Delores Morford,  
Linda Coyne, John Schimmelman

### Zion Rummage Sale

The answer to your question is YES we are going to have a **Rummage Sale at Zion August 26,27 & 28**. We will need lots of helpers so keep those dates open. More information will be coming your way as it approaches. We will NOT be taking clothes for the sale however we will be taking clothes for the Orphan Grain Train Collection. For more information on that project see the LWML article in this newsletter.

## August Guided Bible Readings

- 1 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 2 Psalm 102-105; Proverbs 29
- 3 Psalm 106-107; Proverbs 30
- 4 2 Chronicles 2; Jeremiah 24-25
- 5 2 Chronicles 3-4; Jeremiah 26-27
- 6 2 Chronicles 5; Jeremiah 28-29
- 7 2 Chronicles 6; Jeremiah 30-31
- 8 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 9 2 Chronicles 7-8; Jeremiah 32-33
- 10 2 Chronicles 9; Jeremiah 34-36
- 11 2 Chronicles 10; Jeremiah 37-38
- 12 2 Chronicles 11; Jeremiah 39-40
- 13 2 Chronicles 12; Jeremiah 41-42
- 14 2 Chronicles 13; Jeremiah 43-44
- 15 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 16 2 Chronicles 14; Jeremiah 45-46
- 17 2 Chronicles 15; Jeremiah 47-48
- 18 2 Chronicles 16; Jeremiah 49-50
- 19 2 Chronicles 17; Jeremiah 51-52
- 20 2 Chronicles 18-19; Ezra 1
- 21 2 Chronicles 20-21; Ezra 2
- 22 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 23 2 Chronicles 22-23; Ezra 3-5
- 24 2 Chronicles 24-25; Ezra 6-8
- 25 2 Chronicles 26-27; Ezra 9-10
- 26 Psalm 108-114; Proverbs 31
- 27 2 Chronicles 28-29; Nehemiah 1-2
- 28 2 Chronicles 30; Nehemiah 3-4
- 29 *Hear the Word at Church*
- 30 2 Chronicles 31-32; Nehemiah 5-6
- 31 2 Chronicles 33-34; Nehemiah 7-8



price for our sins on Calvary's cross. When we confess Him as our Savior, we are assured there are no lies or half-truths in His Word.

*"If you abide in my word...you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31b,32)*

***A Point to Ponder: Which of God's wonderful promises can I share with someone today?***

### Walking with my Lord

Father God, thank You that in this day and age of false promises I can rely on the truth of Your everlasting Word. In the saving name of Your Son Jesus I pray. Amen.



### Calendar of Events

**Women's Bible Study – Saturday, September 11,** 9:30 a.m. at Anne Bakker's, 2990 West Pickard, and ending with a potluck. The study will be The Lutheran Bible Study Companion - Old Testament and will meet for 9 sessions. If you ordered a book you may pick it up at the chapel. If you need a book contact JoAnn Gust, [gust1jd@cmich.edu](mailto:gust1jd@cmich.edu). The coat is \$17 and checks can be made payable to Zion Women's Guild. Contact Anne Bakker, 773-5050, with any questions about the study.

**EC Meeting – Saturday, August 21,** 10:00 a.m. This meeting will take place at Zion.

**Volunteer Needed** – A volunteer is needed to chair the Craft Show/Bazaar in December. If one is not found there will just be a Cookie Walk.

**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 while working for the Lord and will teach you everything we know. You can also take unfinished quilts home and work on them there. You can also rip sheets and or iron. Join us for an hour or two of fellowship. Quilts will be displayed on LWML Sunday and will be for sale with those not sold going to the Orphan Grain Train.

**Rummage Sale** – The LWML will be helping to sort, mark and display rummage sale items this year. We need men and women of Zion to volunteer a little time. Depending on the success of the sale the LWML will receive some of the profits.

**Orphan Grain Train** – The Rummage Sale will not be selling clothing, however you may put your "good and clean" clothes in the barrel marked Orphan Grain Train located in the narthex at Zion. You can also bring them in a half-filled garbage bag, but do not fill because they become too heavy.

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

## Zion Lutheran Women's Group

### A Truth, A Half-Truth and a Lie?

#### In the Word

*Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment (Proverbs 12:19)*

#### Of the Word

Who to believe? What to believe? Is it the infomercial for the skin care product that promises to make our faces wrinkle-free or the one that promises to restore hair to a bald head? Can truth be found in political ads or in all we read on the internet or hear on television news? Maybe these things aren't outright lies, but aren't the half-truth promises just as deceiving?

As Christians we are blessed to have God's Word. Full of truth, the Bible tells us of God's ultimate promise – eternal life! Jesus has already paid the