

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
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Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Jonathon Bakker, Pastor

Garrick "Ricky" Beckett, Pastor

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"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." – Jeremiah 1:5

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
As you have surely learned by now, last month the Supreme Court of the United States issued a ruling in a case regarding an anti-abortion law in Mississippi, and that ruling has also resulted in the overturning of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision and the 1992 Planned Parenthood v. Casey decision. I have to admit to being surprised that this came to pass – it is an answer to nearly 50 years of prayers. While the ruling is cause for joy, as this allows states to limit or ban abortion at some level according to each state's legislature, there are several things to keep in mind.
First, this decision does not ban all abortion throughout the United States. It doesn't even prevent the federal government from funding organizations like Planned Parenthood. It simply opens the door for states to pass laws that limit, restrict, or ban abortion.
Second, this decision does not change our position on abortion as a church. After receiving Christ's gifts in Word and Sacrament, our focus as the church is always the love of our neighbor. Love of neighbor is why we teach and preach against abortion. God calls it sinful. Being "pro-life" is less about speaking against something and more about being proactively for something. So, while we do need to speak boldly against the practice of abortion, it is important that our motive is love and not hatred. We are opposed to abortion because we love both the children yet to be born and the mother carrying them. Loving our neighbor moves us not to condescend toward, or berate, or mistreat, women who have had (or are choosing to have) an abortion, but to pray for them, and come alongside

of them to offer our support. We seek to support those who have had an abortion and are feeling the weight of guilt, and we also seek to support the pregnant mother in the hopes that she would choose to allow the baby to come to term, be born, and be cared for by her (with any help we may be able to provide), or given away in adoption.
Third, legislation and court rulings do not change hearts. That is only accomplished by Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit through the Means of Grace. This means that our work as the Christian church in this matter will never be over. With Peter, we must always be ready to give reason for the hope that we have in Christ, and he also reminds us that we do so with gentleness and respect. We bear witness for what God's Word teaches and confesses about the precious gift of each life, born or unborn. And we demonstrate the preciousness of that gift of life by treating our neighbors – including those who believe differently than we do when it comes to abortion – with kindness and care, even as we do speak the truth in love. We hope and pray that the Word of God would reap a harvest and bear fruit through many hearts being turned. And while we are at it, we also pray that our own hearts would continue to be conformed more and more toward Christ Jesus, our Lord, and his Word, in all that we say and do. We give thanks, we pray, and we wait for the Lord.
Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bakker





Our preschool and early childhood center is making it's change from Summer Camp to the beginning of Fall Preschool this next month. Summer camp ends August 12. The first day of our fall schedule will be August 22. As always, we thank God for his continued blessing on all our programs.

Our preschool will hold its Open House/Meet the Teacher event on Thursday, August 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Families may come and go at your convenience. Our staff will be welcoming all our new and returning families into the classrooms. Families will be able to view the classrooms, meet the teaching staff, and make sure all paperwork is ready for fall.

We will be having our Little Caesars Pizza fundraiser again this fall! The sale will begin August 29 and the final day of orders will be October 23. Pizzas will be delivered the week of November 7. Brochures will be available in the church narthex. Preschool parents, your brochures will be included in your Open House folder.

Please continue to pray for our program, our families and our staff as we embark on a new school year.

Vacation Bible School

Thank you to all the volunteers who contributed to this year's VBS! The gracious contributions from the staff, teachers, helpers, as well as from those who made donations, are very much appreciated and we are grateful to you. Thank you also to the children who attended this year and to the parents who made the effort to bring your children to learn of God's love. Offerings received of \$413.00 will be sent to the LCMS in support of the mission work of Caitlin de Ramirez in the Dominican Republic.

Special thanks to Cori Bingham and Courtney Ross for directing this year's VBS. It takes many hours to pull it all together and your efforts are truly appreciated!



Welcome Back Sunday – August 28

Music Director Expectations—What You Need to Know!

Luther once said, “**Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.**” Being a hymn composer himself, Luther was of the strong opinion that music is a gift of God, it creates joyful hearts, it drives away the devil, it creates innocent delight, and it reigns in times of peace and turmoil. In our efforts to raise money to call or hire a full-time music director, we are not just talking about the current Sunday morning services but a focus on a total comprehensive music program. If you could only imagine what it would be like with a Music Director at Zion/CTK. Below are several ideas as to the possibilities that were taken from the June 2022 Newsletter written by Pastor Bakker.

Reactivation of an Adult choir, a junior choir, and building a children's choir. Consider our pre-school children and the possibilities of fostering them a love of music. Perhaps a community children's choir based out of our congregation where the music selected would reflect our Lutheran faith. There could be private music lessons for our members, or hosting musical recitals at our church. Special worship events could be organized that would bring together our fellow Lutherans from area congregations to celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, or Ascension, or All Saints Day, etc.; or, small instrumental ensembles as many of our church members already play instruments in school or community groups. The college students and youth would also be included with soloists and making use of their musical talents. The possibilities are endless.

The emphasis is on expanding the ministry of the Gospel at Zion through musical leadership. Recently, you were sent a letter explaining the funding of this position. We are beginning to receive both cash and pledges to raise an initial \$50,000 as seed money so that a search can begin. Your monetary gifts can be placed in the envelope received in the mail or use those in the pews marked “MD.” You may also submit a pledge using the card that was sent with a deadline for receipt of the pledge by December 31, 2022. We humbly ask that you prayerfully consider going above and beyond your regular tithe to fund this campaign

In Christ's Service,
Your Pastors and the Music Director Campaign Committee

STEWARDSHIP

Monthly Income & Expense Report through June 30, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 262,973.12	\$ 234,301.32
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 331,880.79</u>	<u>\$ 224,808.52</u>
YTD Balance	(\$ 68,907.67)	(\$ 9,492.80)
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 312,182.94	\$ 246,097.19
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 331,880.79</u>	<u>\$ 224,808.52</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	(\$ 19,697.85)	\$ 21,288.67

The Ceremony of the Offertory

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony involved in receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? After all the offerings have been collected, they are brought forward and given to the pastor or one of his assistants. The pastor then turns toward the altar, and as he slightly bows his head, the collection plates with the offerings in them are raised slightly to the Lord and then placed either on the altar or a table for the offerings. Why do we do have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does; it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us, what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion—the bread and the wine—were brought forward along with the offering plates. As the offering plates and the elements were lifted toward the Lord, and placed upon the altar, the elements would be put in the center and the altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

These gifts brought to the altar came from the sweat of the people's brow. It is the bread and wine, the fruits of the peoples' labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people would bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. It was set upon the altar and offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into His service for His gracious work in and among them.

For what they offered to the Lord from the sweat of their brow, the bread of anxious toil, came back to them as the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup would receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows, and He receives this from us in the first fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise. He receives and turns it into spiritual bread, heavenly bread, the bread of eternal life and gives it back to us so that we might have joy. So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder, that the Lord gives back to us, what we have given to Him so that we may rejoice in the salvation He has won upon the cross and gives to us in His supper.



Mission of the Month

Concordia Theological Seminary St. Louis

Concordia Seminary serves 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.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make Zion's Vacation Bible School happen for the first time since 2019! Our teachers, decorators, classroom helpers, directors, those who took care of the various stations the children visited each day, those who contributed snacks and other gifts, those who prayed for this outreach, and all of our students who came and learned are all gifts from God! Thank you, all, for your tireless work!

Thank you also to the Youth and Family Life Board for the work you do to provide opportunities for Zion's youth to be involved in our life together as a congregation, and to grow in their faith and fellowship. Thank you to all of the youth (and their faithful parents!!) for participating and giving of your time to your church. Your visits to our shut-in church members around Christmas and Easter are so very appreciated, as are you. A special thank you to Pastor Ricky and those who helped chaperone for the Higher Things trip at the end of July. In Christ, Pastor Bakker

Welcome Back (8/28) AND Zion Homecoming (9/11) Sundays Coming Soon

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 28 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 CTK.

September 11 will be Zion Homecoming 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 (present AND past) to come back to church and recommit to regular, in-person attendance. As we shared last year in the lead up to the first Zion Homecoming Sunday, the importance of worshiping 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 11 in this space next month, and please plan to "Come Home" for Zion Homecoming Sunday!



Guided Reading

Job: We all struggle with human suffering in the world, but few can compare with the strife faced by God's servant, Job. There are a full 31 days of readings for August, but there are several short days to balance out the longer ones. Job's unrelenting faith in God is inspiring in the face of extraordinary suffering, and reminds us to keep focused on the most important things. Thanks be to God, we know that our Redeemer lives!

- Job 1 – The Test Begins
- Job 2-3 – Job Attacked
- Job 4-5 – Eliphaz Speaks
- Job 6 – Job's Complaint is Just
- Job 7 – My Life has No Hope
- Job 8 – Bildad Speaks
- Job 9 – There is No Arbiter
- Job 10 – A Plea to God
- Job 11 – Zophar Speaks
- Job 12 – The Lord has Done this
- Job 13-14 – Hope and Death
- Job 15 – Eliphaz' Accusation
- Job 16-17 – Misery and Depression
- Job 18 – Bildad Speaks again
- Job 19 – I Know that My Redeemer Lives
- Job 20 – Zophar Speaks again
- Job 21 – The Wicked Prosper
- Job 22 – Eliphaz Speaks again
- Job 23-24 – Where is God?
- Job 25 – Bildad's Speech
- Job 26 – God's Majesty is Unsearchable
- Job 27 – I Will Maintain my Integrity
- Job 28 – Where is Wisdom?
- Job 29-30 – Job's Summary Defense
- Job 31 – Job's Final Appeal
- Job 32 – Elihu Rebukes Job's Friends
- Job 33-35 – Rebuke and Condemnation from Elihu
- Job 36-37 – Elihu Extol's God's Greatness and Majesty
- Job 38-39 – The Lord Answers Job
- Job 40-41 – Silence and a Challenge
- Job 42 – Restoration

Zion Lutheran Women's Guild



Confidence in Christian leadership is being grounded in the Word.

NOW, there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

These Bible verses encourage us to remember that each of us has different gifts and God has knit them together for a specific purpose in this place at this time. As a leader, use every opportunity to encourage your team members to excel. Pray for each member of your team and the individual talents you have seen in them. Ask God for guidance to help each team member reach his or her full potential. Allow Him to lead the delegation of duties to the team member with gifts most compatible to the activity. Be supportive and help when asked. Above all, trust Him for the completion of each task for His purpose and to His glory. It may be that the finished product is not as important as the leadership skills taught by example while working on the job together.
God's Blessings,

2021-2023 Group and Leader Development
Committee Members

Christina Bean
Elaine Engelman
Jennifer Gierke
Brienne Stahlecker, Chairman
Marie Chow, Vice President of Organizational Resources, advisory

Calendar of Events

Cookie Walk / Bazaar Update !

Charolette Mogielski will be the chairperson for the Craft Show this year. You may contact her at 989-773-0312 or charolett@yaho.com to reserve a table, or for information. You are also encouraged to refer any of your friends that may be interested in a table to her.



Women's Bible Study returns in September!

MITES: Do you have pockets of change?

Remember our mite box is looking for loose change. These mites are collected for the grants that are funded at each convention. Our goal new goal for the next biennium is over \$389,000. We funded all of our mission grants this year. Next month we will have the new list and total.

What's our 80? The LWML was established in 1942 as an official auxiliary of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. In thankfulness for 80 years, The Lutheran Women's Missionary League, is requesting each member, group, zone and district remember events from the last 80 years, or share legacy concepts for carrying forth the LWML mission. Our own group has adopted for our 80's goal to donate 40 adult coloring books and 40 sets of colored pencils for a dialysis center and CTK. God Bless you as we wind down the summer!

Who We Are

Have you often wondered who we are and what do we stand for? In the following months, there will be little inserts about LWML. Did you know that because we are an auxiliary of LCMS, you are a member? That means that for this group to function, we invite you to come to our meetings and events. We need you! We want to hear your input.

THE LWML MISSION STATEMENT

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.
—Adopted January 2021

"Serve the Lord with Gladness" Psalm 100:2

Family Life/ Youth

Great Lakes Loons – August 27

Take me out to the ball game. Make plans to come cheer on the Great Lakes Loons in Midland on Saturday, August 27, at 7:05 p.m. This is an affordable outing and we would love to have a big group to sit together. Tickets are just \$5.00. **Look for sign-up sheets at both Zion and CTK. Signing up in advance is necessary so a group of seats together can be purchased.**

