

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool  
3401 E. River Road  
(989)772-1516



Christ The King Lutheran Chapel  
1401 South Washington  
(989)773-5050

May 2022

Jonathon Bakker, Pastor

Garrick "Ricky" Beckett, Pastor

Volume 58, No.5

*"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever."  
Isaiah 40:8*

*The Word of the Lord Stands Forever*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as the modern rhyme goes, "April showers bring May flowers." Many of us are longing for spring. Some of you have even marked the first day of spring on your calendars, which was March 20. But as every Michigander knows, we go through Second Winter before Spring finally hits (that's a *Lord of the Rings* reference, by the way). We got a lot of rain in April, and even some snow (it is Michigan, after all), and now that it's May we are expecting May flowers from all these April showers. But alas, the flowers will not last. Once autumn arrives, the flowers will fade as the grass withers and the leaves fall off the trees as we cross the chilly threshold into (First) Winter with coffees and pumpkin spice lattes in hand.

The flowers are a reminder for us of what Isaiah writes, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever" (40:8). By itself, this verse can seem pessimistic or cynical—that Isaiah was a glass-half-empty kind of guy. But in its immediate context, Isaiah writes this as a comfort for the people of Israel. In fact, this isn't Isaiah speaking, but they are the words of the Lord Himself. God begins this chapter, "Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins" (40:1-2), and so on. God's comfort for Israel is this: She has received double for all her sins, but just as all grass withers and all flowers fade, so the payment for their sins is only temporary. It is the Word of the Lord that lasts forever, and it is His Word that will grant them pardon—will grant them forgiveness.

Everything on earth is temporary, even your sins,

but the Word of the Lord stands forever. It is God's Word into which you were baptised (indeed, God's very name, Matthew 28:19); therefore, your sins have been washed away forever, and you are God's child forever. It is God's Word that delivers to you forgiveness of sins in Christ's true body and blood in the Eucharist; therefore, your sins are pardoned/forgiven forever. In Absolution, your pastors forgive your sins with God's Word, just as we read in the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter, "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.' And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld'" (John 20:21-23). Therefore, your sins are absolved forever. Together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, God the Father spoke all things into existence, and they came to be (John 1:1-18)—the Word is efficacious; and it is with this same Word that God speaks forgiveness into your life—your very body—in the Sacraments, and they do what He says (cf. Isaiah 55:10-11).

The grass becomes greener, and the flowers grow this May, and they will again wither and fade away, as will all kingdoms of the earth—even America. But God's Word, and God's kingdom, stand forever. His Word baptised you; He has made you His own as a member of His family—His kingdom. Although this earth shall pass away, you have the eternal inheritance of God's kingdom and the new heavens and the new earth that will come down with Christ's glory at His final revelation. Here, the grass shall never wither and the flowers shall

never fade, where you shall rise and never die again just as Christ is risen and shall never die again (Romans 6:1-11).

Pastor "Ricky" Beckett



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As we enter our last full month of school, the staff members are marveling at the growth that we have seen this year. Not just the physical changes from fall school pictures to spring school pictures, but their spiritual growth. Each week as we attend chapel, the children hear God's Word from Pastor Bakker. Each week the children hear how Jesus died on the cross and three days later He rose again to take away our sins. As the school year ends, be assured this wonderful message of redemption has taken a strong root in their hearts.

The staff at Zion would like to express our great appreciation for all the families who collected orders for the Little Caesar's Pizza Fundraiser. The preschool received \$966 in profits. *The orders will arrive on Tuesday, May 3, and should be ready for pickup about 11:30 a.m.* We will need volunteers to help with orders on that day. Please let our staff members know if you are able to help. Let us celebrate our top sellers. Great job James Duthie, Anthony Welsh and Leyton Cary!!!



**Last Day of School:** The last day of classes will be Wednesday, June 1, for the four-year-old class and Thursday, June 2, for the three-year-old class. We will hold a short program in the church beginning at 10:00 a.m. If this is not your child's normal day of preschool, please plan to bring your child. There will be a fellowship time immediately following the program. We will be posting a sign-up sheet if you would be willing to provide cookies, treats, or kitchen help.

**Mark Your Calendar:** Zion will be holding **VBS July 11-15**. Pastor Bakker will be teaching the pre-K class for the week

**Registration for the 2022-2023** school year continues. Children must be four years of age on or before September 1 to enroll in the four-year-old class and three years of age on or before September 1 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. Our three-year-old class is on a wait-list-only status and many of our days are

full for the four-year-old class as well. Please do not wait to enroll.

**Summer Camp returns** and 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](http://www.zionlutheranpreschoolecc.com). On-line enrollment may be found at the link below: <https://enrollments.smartcare.com/ZionLutheranEC/CSC2022>



One phrase that often pops up when matters of childhood arise is "the sense of wonder". God's Word is full of wonder. It should always be emphasized that the Bible is truth. It all really happened. From the awe inherent in the creation of all reality in Genesis, through the mystery of God's love shown in His plan of salvation in the gospels, and His promise of eternal life in Revelation. His power and caring for His world shines through.

A child's world resounds with the creator's wonder. The simple elegance of a pollywog or caterpillar morphing into something so different. The complex geometry of a dandelion or sunflower. An egg, cracking open to reveal a baby bird. Clouds! Have you ever stopped to realize how many tons of water float over your head every day? (Hey! That one looks like a fish!) Snowflakes: every one is a six-sided engineering marvel.

The Lord spoke to Job out of a thunderstorm: "What is the way to the abode of light? Where does darkness call home? Have you entered the storehouses of the snow? Does the rain have a father?" Job 38:19-30

"Daddy, where does rain come from?"

Spring is such a wonderful time to walk through His creation with your children. Take the time to poke around in the tall grass. Turn over a rock or two. Look for bird nests, beetles and tadpoles. Listen to a thunderstorm and the rhythm of the drumming rain. Fire up your child's sense of wonder. Introduce them to God's real world. Chances are, they'll end up taking you for a ride! Let all creation Praise the Lord!

Brad Coulson  
Sunday School Superintendent

# STEWARDSHIP

Monthly Income & Expense Report  
through March 31, 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 132,676.56	\$ 120,750.66
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 187,883.74</u>	<u>\$ 123,148.70</u>
YTD Balance	(\$ 55,207.18)	(\$ 2,398.04)
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 180,134.94	\$ 125,912.60
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 187,883.74</u>	<u>\$ 123,148.70</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	(\$ 7,748.80)	\$ 2,763.90

## Living Sacrifices

Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church. It includes this, to be sure, but it is not limited to it. Stewardship involves our whole life – everything we have and everything we are.

- Let us not, though, fall into the trap of thinking that because we give of ourselves in one area then we can neglect giving in another. Stewardship is not stealing from Peter to pay Paul. It is not a game that we play whereby we justify ourselves in not giving a tenth of our income because we have given in some other way.

- This is why our Lord warns: “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.” (Matthew 23:23) We are given to do both – tithe of ourselves and what we have.

- And so it is that St. Paul makes his appeal to us: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2)

- We are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God. We are not to have the mind of the world, where we exchange equal weight of this for an equal weight of that and think that we have done what God has required. Our whole life is given over for service in and for the Church of God. This is to be done in thanksgiving for what God in Christ has accomplished for us. This is our spiritual worship, the reasonable response to what He has done for

us. Not one for the other but all in all.

But what does this look like? St. Paul never lays down a general principle without also giving us some practical application of what shape that principle is to take concretely. He gives the general principle that our bodies are to be living sacrifices to God. And, after admonishing those who have been given particular gifts of grace to serve the church, St. Paul then speaks generally of what is expected of all. He says: “*Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*” (Romans 12:9–13)

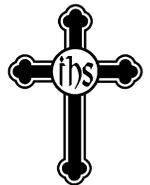
- This is what it looks like to present your bodies as living sacrifices. This is how we live out the grace of God here in time.

- Let us then heed the apostle’s teaching. Let us present our bodies – everything that we have and everything that we are – as living sacrifices to God, our reasonable response to what God in Christ Jesus accomplished for us by His death and resurrection. Through this, we have forgiveness of sins, a new life in Christ, and eternal salvation. And through this worship, the grace of God is made manifest in His saints – for the church and the world.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

## Mission of the Month Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne

The Concordia Theological Seminary is an institution of theological higher education of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) located in Fort Wayne, Indiana and dedicated primarily to the preparation of pastors for congregations and missions of the LCMS and its partner churches. It offers professional, master’s and doctoral degrees affiliated with training clergy and deaconesses for the LCMS. The seminary exists to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. Consider a gift this month to help in this important mission.





## Guided Reading



The academic year at CMU is coming to a close and we will soon be saying farewell to many of the college students, including some who will be graduating! Graduating CMU students active in the campus ministry will be honored during the 11:00 a.m. service May 1. Please pray for our college students as they finish the year and in many cases move elsewhere. Pray above all that they would remain faithful to Christ!

A very big thank you to all of our elders for all of their hard work in making sure all of the extra services during the Lenten season and Holy Week go smoothly, including their participation in Maundy Thursday's Stripping of the Altar at both locations. Your work during the busy seasons and throughout the year caring for the members of the church and caring for the staff, pastors, and our families is very much appreciated!

MANY THANKS!

A very big thank you to our teachers, aides, and everyone who helps make our early childhood center so successful at teaching the Christian faith to children in our community. In just our second year of this expanded program, the growth has been incredible, and it has all gone extremely well, thanks be to God! Thank you, also, to all of the families who have chosen Zion for your children's education – please know that you are always welcome here, and we would love to see you on Sundays as well!



Ascension Day Service

Thursday, May 26

5:30 p.m. at Zion

**Men's Breakfast Bible Study**

**Saturday, May 21, 8:00 a.m.**



Paul's Shorter Letters: Paul's epistles, or letters, comprise about a quarter of the New Testament, and provide an important picture of the problems, solutions, and joys among the very first Christians in the very first congregations. His advice is still taken seriously to this day. You will note the style in which Paul writes includes greetings, thanksgivings, admonitions, theological explanations, warnings about false teachers and false theology, and blessings, just to name a few. Hear the Law he proclaims and even more, take to heart the words of the Gospel in his letters. Jesus Christ's redemption is yours, and Paul proclaims it with power!

Philippians 1 – Greetings and Thanksgiving

Philippians 2 – Exhortations

Philippians 3 – Warnings against Judaism and Antinomianism

Philippians 4 – Final Exhortations and Benediction

Colossians 1 – The Supremacy of Christ

Colossians 2 – Christ over all Heresies

Colossians 3 – Saints and Sinners: Holy lives

Colossians 4 – More instructions and Greetings

1 Thessalonians 1 – Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians 2 – Defense of Paul's Ministry

1 Thessalonians 3 – Paul's Absence

1 Thessalonians 4 – Exhortations

1 Thessalonians 5 – Christ's Return and Conclusion

2 Thessalonians 1 – Thanksgiving and Prayer

2 Thessalonians 2 – The Man of Lawlessness

2 Thessalonians 3 – Request for Prayer and Final Greetings

Philemon – Plea for Onesimus



**Sunday, May 8**

# 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

**Cookie Walk / Bazaar – 2022.** A chairperson is needed for Christmas Cookie Walk and also for the Bazaar. If you are interested, please contact Kathleen Nims at (989) 294-1373.

**Women's Bible Study – Saturday, May 14, at 9:30 a.m. at CTK.** Before class, each participant should read Lutheran Bible Companion pgs. 795-96,824, 895, 382 and explore LBC timeline pp. lxxxvii-lxxxviii at the front of the book. Our final study in this series will be in June.

**Spring Tea – All ladies are invited to my house for a TEA PARTY Sunday, May 15, from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.** Please consider carpooling if you are coming from town. Ladies wishing to carpool should meet at CTK at 1:45 p.m. When you arrive at the house, use the Pickard Rd. entrance. If you are planning on attending, please contact me or the chapel office so I can get an approximate number. If you need directions, please contact me directly. Hope to see you on May 15! Anne Bakker

**EC/General Meeting – May 21, at 10:00 a.m., with Phillis Daws, Speaker, Topic "Reading Grocery Labels."** Please bring an item for the brunch.

**Luncheon – June 14, 1:00 pm – at Olive Garden Italian Restaurant – All ladies invited.** Please try to bring a friend and RSVP to Kathleen Nims at (989) 294-1373 so she has the correct numbers.

**Hostesses - We are looking for volunteers to serve as hostesses at the District Convention.** We need 50-60 hostesses. Please contact Kathleen Nims (989) 294-1373.

**YWR – Our Mid-Michigan Zone is looking for a YWR (21-35 – flexible) to attend as the zone YWR at the District Convention, Frankenmuth, MI, July 7-9.** The deadline is past, however, they are still accepting applications. Fun activities are planned and all expenses are covered except special things.

**MITES: THE DISTRICT IS STILL SHORT IN COLLECTION OF MITES. DO YOU HAVE POCKETS OF CHANGE? REMEMBER OUR MITE BOX IS LOOKING FOR LOOSE CHANGE.**



**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***

## NURSE'S NOTE:

### Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, May 19

Zion Gym – 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Not sure you can donate? Requirements may have changed since you last checked. Go to this site to learn more about your eligibility.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/faq.html#eligibility-medications>

This site will allow you to check on several different questions you may have. Lives are depending on you!

*Not everyone can give blood...but everyone is eligible to volunteer.*

Only 38 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate, but 100 percent can volunteer to help host a successful blood drive. Even if you are not eligible to give blood, please say “yes” to volunteering your time to participate in saving lives. There are many opportunities to volunteer—even if it’s only for an hour or as little as 30 minutes.

*Listed below are ways for you to volunteer.*

1. Recruit others, such as friends, co-workers and family members. Use face-to-face and peer-to-peer recruitment efforts, which are most effective
2. How about managing a challenge between the college students and Zion members?
3. Bake homemade cookies for the canteen for nourishment after giving. Free homemade food delights donors and volunteers (The Christmas cookie walk gave you away..... you do know how to make cookies!)
4. Volunteer to assist with the canteen area.
5. Volunteer to assist with registration the day of the drive or help with internet activity.
6. Greeting donors and showing them where to start helps a great deal.

Thanks to those who helped last time! Please consider helping again.

Please contact me at email:

zionparishnurse@gmail.com text or call:  
989-621-8583 with the time you can help!

**Let's increase the number of units donated from our last drive!**

The American Red Cross is testing all donation for COVID-19 antibodies for a limited time. Results may indicate an antibody response after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine or possible past exposure to this coronavirus – and may identify donations with antibody levels necessary to potentially help COVID-19 patients with a weakened immune system.

*All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:2*

God Bless, Phillis Daws RN, BSN



### Congratulations to our LCMS U graduates!



Rachel Braun  
Aaron Gillengerten  
Kenny Morgensai  
CallieAnn Schneider



Thank you for being a part of our Zion church family!

### Festival Ascension Eve Divine Service



On **Wednesday, May 25**, at 7:00 p.m. Grace Lutheran Church in Auburn, will be hosting a Festival Ascension Eve Divine Service. The preachers for this service will be Rev. Christopher Vossler of St. Paul, Sanford, Rev. Phillip Baerwolf of Zion, Bay City, and Rev. Aaron Schian of Grace, Auburn. The organists will be Jon Eifert of St. Michael, Richville and Nathan Beethe of Grace, Auburn. There will be a Mass Choir made up of members from area congregations, brass, and organ. Anyone who wishes to participate in the mass choir should contact Nathan Beethe at [kantor.graceauburn@gmail.com](mailto:kantor.graceauburn@gmail.com). Please mark your calendars for this exciting event! We hope you will join us!

## Broken Pots

Kintsukuroi, translated to mean “Golden Repair”, is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery using lacquer mixed with powdered



precious metals like gold, silver or platinum. Once the object is repaired, cleaned and dried, its former cracks are highlighted by veins of the metal running through its form.

To the Japanese, the breakage and repair become part of the history of the object, transforming it from something to discard to a new creation. Rather than trying to disguise the repair, some feel the art of repairing the pottery with gold or silver lacquer make the piece more beautiful and valuable for having been broken.

That sounds remarkably like the message in 1 Peter 5:10. “And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”

God created us to be perfect reflections of Him, but because of sin we all could have been cast aside as damaged, smashed vessels. Instead of throwing us out, God picked up the pieces of our broken lives. He put His plan into motion, sending Jesus to pay the price for our shortcomings. He transforms us into a new creation, something more valuable than we could ever imagine, a work of art adorned with grace.

And that’s still not the end of the story. I’m reminded of the woman meeting with the pastor to preplan her funeral service. She wanted to be holding a fork in her hands as she lay in the coffin. When asked why, she confidently replied, to remind people that the best is yet to come, just like at the church dinners with all the wonderful desserts. Heaven awaits us. And one day Christ will return to make all things new.

Church Extension Fund may not be able to repair all the cracks or dents that appear, but since 1901 CEF has offered competitive loans to assist congregations make repairs, expand or build new facilities to grow the Kingdom. More recently CEF has offered grants, for upgrading technology, enhancing property appearance with paint or landscaping and becoming more energy efficient. A recent grant was to assist congregations and schools to protect their people with a Security Grant. We look forward to working with you for another hundred years to help spread the Good News of the Gospel.

Call us today. Bill Burmeister 800-242-3944



## **U.S.A.—Citizenship has Arrived**

### **Reception May 8**

After many, many years of waiting, Pastor Bakker, on May 4, will take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States during a formal ceremony to become a citizen of the United States. It truly is a day of celebration for him, Anne, and all of us at Zion. Please join us in a celebration on Sunday, May 8 during the Bible Study hour to recognize Pastor Bakker’s Citizenship.

## **Youth/ Family Life News**

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed to the Easter breakfast this year. The donations, both food and monetary were much appreciated. Also thank you to those that helped with setup, cooking, serving and cleanup. It was a job well done by all involved.

SPECIAL  
THANKS



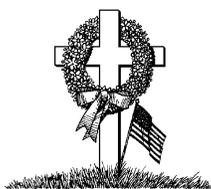
### **Saturday, May 21**

### **4:00 p.m. at Zion**

Join us for some food, fun and fellowship at Zion. We will have a bonfire with s’mores and more! (weather permitting) The backup plan will be a movie (with popcorn) in the gym. Put it on your calendar and spread the word!

## **Do you need help with some spring cleaning, maybe some yard work?**

Contact Luke Epple 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.



### **Memorial Day**

### **May 30**