

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
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November 2021

Jonathon Bakker, Pastor

Garrick "Ricky" Beckett, Pastor

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"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving" (Colossians 2:6-7).

With Thanksgiving being this month, November is usually the time of the year that people begin to practice thankfulness. I jokingly say Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday because of all the food (well, it's mostly true), but it's also my favorite holiday because Thanksgiving supper reminds me of the Lord's Supper, which is a foretaste of the Great Banquet to come. Here, Christ invites us poor sinners to His supper table to partake of His body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Another name for the Lord's Supper is *Eucharist*, which you may have heard me use a lot in my sermons. *Eucharist* comes from the Greek verb that means "to give thanks." This is why Thanksgiving makes me think of the Lord's Supper and why it further reminds me of the promise of the greater banquet to come at Christ's glorious return. So, another reason for Thanksgiving being my favorite holiday is that it teaches us to be thankful people, which is a trait that is all too often undervalued in our culture.

Many Americans hold the tradition of going around the Thanksgiving dinner table saying what they're thankful for, maybe more specifically what they're thankful for this year. This is a good tradition. However, the danger of this is that we are only thankful people a few days out of the year during this holiday season. Ironically, we spend some time saying what we're thankful for, then we go on a large shopping binge the day after Thanksgiving on Black Friday to get the things we don't have enough of. After being full of turkey and our self-congratulations for being thankful people for a few hours, we go to the nearest marketplace to gorge on more *stuff*. Our thankful words don't match our thankless behavior.

As Christians, we need to practice thankfulness every day of our lives because we have a lot to be thankful for, even during such a time as this while we're still dealing with COVID-19. Just think of the Eucharist—the very word that means "thanksgiving." In everything that is involved in this rite—confessing our sins and receiving Jesus' body and blood—it is a tremendous act of thanksgiving toward God. That is, we give thanks to God for sending His only-begotten Son to die for us, three days later rise for us, and to deliver forgiveness of sins to us in something as ordinary as the bread and wine in the Supper we partake. This is our thankfulness to God. Indeed, we sing songs of thanksgiving during the Divine Service after receiving the Eucharist.

We should also practice thankfulness to each other. For example, whenever I go through a drive-through restaurant, I always say "thank you." Would you want that job? I know I wouldn't, but somebody's gotta' do it. God bless them! I'm thankful for their humility to serve me in this way, so I tell them as much with two simple words: "Thank you."

I also say "thank you" to the waiter or waitress who serves me and I always tip generously as a way of showing my thanks. I still tip well even when they might've done a poor job because I don't know the circumstances of their life. Maybe they're having a bad day. Maybe they're overly stressed from school or some personal tragedy in their life. I don't know the circumstances of their everyday lives, so I tip well regardless of their customer service as a way to proclaim the Gospel—as a way of saying, "I forgive you. I get it; we're only human. Sometimes



we suck. Here's a good tip regardless of your service. Next time will be better." Sometimes I even tip better for a poor service than I do for a great service when I notice they're having a rough day as a way to boost their spirits.

I say "thank you" often to people whenever they do seemingly insignificant tasks. For example, when my wife does the dishes or surprises me with dinner or delicious brownies, I tell her thank you.

Whenever my secretary, Kathy, does some menial task for me like making copies of something or some other simple task that I could very well do myself, I say "thank you." With two simple words, I let them know I appreciate their service.

I say all this not to gloat about myself but simply as examples of how simple it is to live a life of gratitude. Thankfulness is a rare quality in our culture. Today, we seem to live in a thankless society. It's a culture of "serve me or else." Not only that, but also, "Be perfect in your service, or I'll tip you poorly, or I'll talk to your manager, or I'll sue you, or I'll damage your reputation." All sorts of commandments are broken there. We can be such ungrateful people at times, and it's sickening.

The church is to be a city set on a hill (Matthew 5:14). Imagine the appeal the church would have if Christians lived thankful lives, even for the most menial of tasks. Nobody really *has* to do anything for you. What harm is there, then, in humbling yourself by saying "thank you" when they've already humbled themselves to do something for you they don't necessarily have to do?

So, this Thanksgiving, let us not only remember the things we are thankful for toward God and man, but also let us consider how we might live lives of thankfulness in our daily lives for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel, the ultimate thing we should be thankful for.

In Christ Our Savior,
Pastor Ricky



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 24

5:30 p.m. at Zion

Christian Education



Happy Holidays! The approach of Halloween/All Saints Day heralds the busy season of 'Holy Days'.

Every family has specific traditions unique to their home, and most include a certain amount of baking. Cookies for Santa, fruit cake, bread... and baking of any kind almost always involves what the Bible refers to as leaven. Leaven, when mixed into the entire loaf, causes the bread to rise evenly.

The Holy Spirit leavens our lives and causes us to 'rise' and come closer to God's righteousness.

The way we talk, act, and what comes across our screens at home is all part of the 'leavening' on our children's lives. We have to keep in mind Jesus' criticism of the pharisees. The Jewish leaders would say one thing and act the opposite.

Hypocrisy. We must be careful that we set the Godly example and 'raise' our children in an even and holy manner! Plans for our Christmas program are proceeding nicely.

Brad Coulson

A Children's Christmas Service for All Ages

Symbols of Salvation

Join us Sunday, December 12, at the 11:00 a.m. service at Zion to celebrate Jesus' Birthday!

Looking out my window, nothing is looking like "Christmas." But, yes, it's around the corner and the planning for the Children's

Program is underway. If you have a Sunday School student whom you would like to have participate in the program, contact me. We would love to have their participation! Instrument players, if you would like to join the celebration and use your talent to make a joyful noise and praise God with your instrument, contact me.

Practices: December 5, 10:45 a.m., at Zion for the Sunday School children

December 12, 9:45 a.m., prior to the program.

this practice includes participating preschool children, SS children, and the musicians.

Contact Sharon Milan at 989-506-8253 with any questions. Thank you!



STEWARDSHIP

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through September 30, 2021

	2021	2020
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 347,201.98	\$ 341,199.84
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 357,485.01	\$ 313,060.35
YTD Balance	\$ (10,283.03)	\$ 28,139.49
YTD General Fund Income	\$ 363,595.33	\$ 284,862.95
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 357,485.01	\$ 313,060.35
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ 6,110.32	\$ (28,197.40)

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it. So, here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10%? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so that they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor 9:14). So if 10% is what it took in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that's how. We shouldn't fool ourselves into

thinking that we've outgiven God's goodness or that we've given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church when he wrote: "I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's Law, and the Law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance. The Law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the Law. So if first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples' seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread. But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.





Many of you sent gifts, cards, and words of appreciation during Pastor Appreciation month, and we are humbled by your generosity. Thank you! As I've said before, I will say again – the best appreciation of us as pastors is to take advantage of the ministry of the Gospel at Zion. Come to church, attend Bible Study, help out with the youth group, the campus ministry, the early childcare center, or any other ministry here; that's the best appreciation we could ask for! Thank you! Your Pastors

Mission of the Month

Christmas Outreach

Christmas Outreach provides assistance for needy families in Isabella County. Financial donations are needed to purchase items that are difficult to collect and to cover the purchase of food. We have been asked by Christmas Outreach to participate in the coat drive portion of Christmas Outreach again this year. We are being asked to provide winter coats for adults and coats and snow pants for children. Please consider helping again this year as you have in the past. You may purchase new coats or raid your closet for like new coats that you are no longer using. Please consider applying for an Action Team grant if you are a Thrivent member. Zion members have received multiple grants in the past. You can also make a cash donation at the church office or to Wayne Kiefer. Checks are also welcomed, but should be made out to Wayne Kiefer, not Zion. The coats will be hung on the north coat rack at Zion. I have a Tax Exempt number from Wal-Mart and would be happy to accompany anyone who wants to buy coats at Wal-Mart so that we can take advantage of not paying sales tax. Thank you in advance for supporting this effort again this year. Contact me or Tim in the church office if you have any questions. Wayne E. Kiefer



Guided Reading



A Month with the Corinthians – This month we will investigate Paul's Letters to the Corinthians. These letters serve to depict for us the church as seen from below – consisting of sinful people with real problems in need of serious Law and serious Gospel. In these two Epistles, Paul teaches much and reminds his hearers that they are beloved by God on account of Jesus Christ!

- 1 Cor 1 - Greetings, Divisions, True Wisdom and True Foolishness
- 1 Cor 2 - Knowing Christ Crucified
- 1 Cor 3 - Divisions in the Church
- 1 Cor 4 - Apostolic Ministry
- 1 Cor 5 - Sexual Immorality?
- 1 Cor 6 - Flee Sexual Immorality
- 1 Cor 7 - Advice for Marriage
- 1 Cor 8 - Food for Idols
- 1 Cor 9 - Christian Freedom
- 1 Cor 10 - Idolatry, One Cup and One Bread, the Glory of God
- 1 Cor 11 - Head Coverings and the Lord's Supper
- 1 Cor 12 - Spiritual Gifts and the One Body: The Church
- 1 Cor 13 - Love
- 1 Cor 14 - Tongues, Women, Orderly Worship
- 1 Cor 15 - Resurrection Victory
- 1 Cor 16 - Final Greetings
- 2 Cor 1 - God's Comfort
- 2 Cor 2 - Forgiveness and the Gospel
- 2 Cor 3 - Ministers of a New Covenant
- 2 Cor 4 - The Gospel and the Mystery of those who Carry it
- 2 Cor 5 - Reconciliation
- 2 Cor 6 - God's Temple
- 2 Cor 7 - Paul's Joy
- 2 Cor 8 - Giving and Exchange
- 2 Cor 9 - Jerusalem's Greed and Cheerful Giving
- 2 Cor 10 - Paul Defends his Ministry
- 2 Cor 11 - False Apostles
- 2 Cor 12 - Paul's Suffering and Love
- 2 Cor 13 - Final Warnings and Greetings



SATURDAY
November 6



Men's Breakfast Bible Study
Saturday, November 20
8:00 a.m. at Zion



Pizza Fundraiser

The Zion Preschool & Early Childhood Center thanks everyone who contributed to the recent pizza fund-raiser. We raised a record \$ 2,016.00! Money raised will be used for tuition assistance, equipment and supplies.

Congratulations to our top sellers, James Duthie, Jaxon King, Harkrader family, and Saylor Halladay. Well done!

Thank you for your continued support of our preschool and early childhood center here at Zion!

Pizza Pickup Day is Monday, November 1

If you can help sort orders please come to Zion at 9:30 a.m. If you can help distribute orders please come between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

ALL orders need to be picked up on Monday, November 1 beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Music



Caroling On Sunday, December 5, after the 11:00 a.m. service at CTK, we will be going caroling to some of our shut-ins. All youth, and anyone else interested may participate. It will be fun and rewarding. See Mr. Epple if you have any questions.

Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 21

The Campus Board will host a Thanksgiving Dinner for students, Zion members, and internationals at CTK on Sunday, November 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Please join us!



Apple Pie Day / Sale

Saturday, November 6



Final Opportunity to order

Apple Pies! *If you have not ordered your apple pies please do so ASAP. You may call the church office at 772-1516 or contact a youth member.*

Pies are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$25.00.

Pie making will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 6. Youth are reminded to help set up for Pie Day on Friday, November 5 at 7:00 p.m.

All pies ordered need to be picked up on Saturday, November 6, between 10:00 a.m. and NOON. The youth group is most appreciative of your continued support.

If you are interested in helping in any way on Pie Day please contact Luke Epple Jr., 989-944-5426 or call Tim at the church office, 772-1591. It is always a fun and enjoyable time!

Covid precautions will be taken.



EUCHRE Tournament

Friday, November 12

Everyone confirmation age and older is welcome for an evening of cards, fun and fellowship at Zion! It will begin at 6:30 p.m. Bring a snack if you wish and remember, you do not need a partner. **Sign up at Zion or at CTK.** LCMS U students are welcome! Call Tim at the church office to sign up or with questions. We do need a minimum of 20 people by November 9.

Haven't had a date night with your spouse in a long while?

On Friday, November 19, the CMU students are offering childcare for your kids so you can have an evening of rest and enjoyment with your spouse! Your children will be in the care of the students from 5:30 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at Zion and will be fed dinner from Little Caesar's. There will also be games and activities for the kids and perhaps a movie. No need to sign up. Simply bring your kids by for as long as needed and enjoy your evening!

Youth Pizza/Topic/Activity

Sunday, November 14

12:15 p.m. at Zion

All confirmed youth are encouraged to participate !

Zion Lutheran Women's Group

In the Word

May the LORD bless his people with peace Psalms 29:11b!

Of the Word

In the hurry-up busyness of our world, the peace and quiet we seek is often impossible to find. The relaxation of a vacation ends and soon we are right back to the daily race. We go as fast as we can, but the to-do list we wrote for ourselves isn't completed before the day ends!

The peace God offers to us is different from the calm and tranquility we seek in our everyday lives. God's peace is an inner peace that assures us of His protection, the peace that promises He will be with us always, the peace of knowing God hears our prayers. It is the blessed assurance that through Jesus Christ we have eternal life. The peace we search for in the world will never be able to offer us that!

"Peace I [Jesus] leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid"
John 14:27.

A Point to Ponder: : How can I make time each day for quiet, peaceful moments with Jesus?

Walking with my Lord

Father, please bless me with the peace that only You can bring into my life, the peace that comes from knowing I am under Your protection. I ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Calendar of Events - 2021-22

Quilting Group - We meet Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. (lunch,) and 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. however you can come any time that you choose. If you do not want to wait for next year to buy quilts, we have them available all year for sale.

Orphan Grain Train – Clothes - These clothes must be in good condition and clean. Please place in the container at the door of Zion Lutheran. You can also bring them in a half-filled garbage bag, but do not fill full because they become too heavy.

Dishes – There are some very nice dishes at Zion Lutheran to be picked up. If you do not remember that you may have brought some for a meal, they are here waiting for you.

Cookie Walk – December 4

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. It is time to start thinking about the cookie walk and making those special cookies. We will be sending out a reminder card so that you can post on your refrigerator to remind you of the date.



November 20 – General Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

NO BRUNCH. After the meeting, we will be going out to lunch at Loafer's Glory, in Blanchard, MI. We can car pool out there so if you would like to do so, please meet at Zion at 11:00 a.m. They do have a gift shop there for purchase of gifts. All are welcome, even though you do not attend the meeting. Just meet us at noon at Loafer's Glory or at Zion Lutheran at 11:00 a.m., if you intend to car pool. If you do not know how to get there, please contact JoAnn Gust (989) 506-6027. Invite a friend!

Thank you – to those that purchased quilts to continue our quilting projects. It will help us to continue funding our quilts. Two grants from Thrivent for \$250, funded our quilts as well.

Women's Bible Study - Saturday, November 13, 9:30 a.m. at CTK.

Thanks to all who came this past month for Bible study. If you missed it and want a copy of the study, come to the chapel Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. I can also give it to you at the late service, or mail it to your house, if you prefer. To prepare for this month's lesson, please read pgs. 60–61, 100, 127–28, 159 and explore timeline pgs. lxxviii-lxxx. I have purchased books for those of you who don't have one yet. New ladies are always welcome to join us. If you want to join us this month and need to order a book, please contact me. They are \$17. Thanks, Anne Bakker

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

3. Thirst to Learn: Bible Books for Africa's Children – Lutheran Heritage Foundation, \$1000,000



"Serve the Lord with Gladness" Psalm 100:2

NURSE'S NOTE:

Type II Diabetes is on the increase in the United States and around the world. Over the next few months I will discuss this disease and the management of it.

Type 2 diabetes has more than doubled since 1980. A full 8% of Americans have Diabetes and 90 to 95% of these are Type 2. The good news is that Type 2 is a lifestyle disease. That means diet and exercise can control it.

How it works: When you eat a meal, the carbohydrates in the food breakdown into glucose or sugar. The glucose enters your bloodstream where it's carried throughout your body to give you energy. Your pancreas releases the hormone insulin to help your cells turn the glucose into energy. If your body has too much glucose on a regular basis you can become resistant to insulin, which means your body stops using the hormone the right way. Your pancreas then releases more insulin. If this continues your pancreas can not keep up and your tissues and organs will not get enough glucose or energy that they need. The glucose gets trapped in the blood cells and damage occurs to nerves and blood vessels. This leads to heart disease, kidney disease, nerve problems, amputated limbs, stroke, blindness, and gum infections. If you have relatives with diabetes, you have a higher risk of having insulin resistance. Environmental factors including weight, activity level and stress level can contribute to type 2 diabetes.

You are at risk if you have 3 of the following:

- 1) a waist that is 35 inches or more for women and 40 + for men.
- 2) A blood triglyceride level of 150 mg/dl
- 3) HDL level of less than 50 mg/dl
- 4) Blood Pressure of 130/85 mm HG or higher.
- 5) Fasting blood sugar of 100 mg/dl

Next month I will discuss Prediabetes (a wake up call), prevention, and dealing with diagnosis

God Bless, Phillis Daws RN, BSN 989-621-8583 or email @ zionparishnurse@gmail.com



In memory of Mary Bennett

David & Linda Coyne

Dale & JoAnn Gust

Wayne & Karyn Kiefer

John & Claudia Schimmelmann

In memory of Alice Helms

Jim & Delores Morford

In memory of Dorothy Myers

Jim & Delores Morford

Thrivent Choice Dollars – Reminder

Thank you to all our members who have Thrivent products and who direct Thrivent Choice Dollars our direction. **Remember you must direct your dollars every year!** Make sure to note the Zion on River Road when directing your dollars. Direct your portion of the Thrivent Choice Dollars online or contact 800-847-4836.

Life Quote

“After you have thought about your earthly blessings, take some time and meditate on your spiritual blessings from the Lord. Think of your baptism where the Lord adopted you into His family and gave you forgiveness of your sins, life and salvation.”



James Schroeder,

LCMS Foundation – A “Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life – www.lutheransforlife.org