

Zion Lutheran Church & Preschool
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Christ The King Lutheran Chapel
1401 South Washington
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November 2023

Jonathon J. Bakker and Garrick "Ricky" Beckett, Pastors

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"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings to closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us..." Hebrews 12:1

All Saints' Day

The holy feast day of All Saints' Day is unfortunately obscured by the previous day's holiday, Halloween. It used to be called All Hallows' Eve, the day before All Hallows' Day, or what we today call All Saints' Day. Just like Christmas and Easter, All Hallows' Eve has been turned into a money-making gimmick that All Saints' Day seems entirely forgotten by Christians. Why is this feast day on the liturgical calendar so important to us Christians? As the Hebrews verse above tells us, All Saints' Day reminds us that we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, which is where we get the word "martyr" from in Greek (μάρτυς [*martus*]). A martyr is not only someone who is murdered for the faith. *Martyr* literally means "witness/testimony"—one who witnesses, or testifies. In this sense, then, all Christians are martyrs—we are all witnesses. And we have witnesses who have gone before us—saints who have suffered just as we have, and who know the joy of the Lord that is set before them. On All Saints' Day, we not only remember our dearly departed saints (which we typically practice on New Years' Eve here at Zion), but it also reminds us to ask ourselves, "What can I learn from the saints who've gone before me?" What can we learn from the faith of our departed parent, or grandparent, or friend, or from Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, other Lutheran theologians, the Church Fathers, the Apostles, the Prophets? German Lutheran pastor and theologian, Herman Sasse (1895-1976), once wrote, "Whether Christians have found themselves in the loneliness of a Siberian prison camp or the

isolation of the diaspora or suffering inner alienation within the great secularized 'churches' of our century, it has become ever more the consolation of those who have suffered for the sake of the church and whom God has led on a 'lonely path' to know that they are not alone in the one true church of God. They who have been removed from every error and sin of the earthly church stand with us in the seamless fellowship of the body of Christ" (*Treasury of Daily Prayer*, p. 870).

All Saints' Day reminds us that whatever it is we're going through—whether in our personal lives or in our culture—we are not alone, for the saints who've gone before us have gone through it too. There are millions of saints before us who have run the race. What they've written, prayed, and preached can help us run the race of our faith. The faith is not a sprint; it is a marathon. It requires patient endurance and spiritual nutrition in the Word of God.

Most of all, we know we will join the departed saints in that incalculable multitude at the new creation "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" Along with these saints, it will be said of you and me, " 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb' (Revelation 7:9-10, 14).

The Feast of All Saints further reminds us that "the sufferings of this present time are not worth

comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Romans 8:18). This doesn't mean that whatever we're going through is trivial. It means that whatever it is we're going through, we find our joy and strength in the Lord with the help of our fellow martyrs who stand as exemplars of the faith—that we who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb will stand before the throne of God with all the saints, no matter what obstacles we face on the race that is set before us.

In Christ,
Pastor Beckett

Early Childhood Center News

Closing out the month of October, we look back to see the many Bible lessons that are found in Genesis - the creation, the fall into sin, the flood and Noah's ark, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Each of these Bible stories have allowed the children to look ahead at the promised Savior and the resurrection we received through Him.

We have one scheduling change that we will be making during the month of November. **Zion ECC will be closed Wednesday, November 22.** This will allow us to match up with the area public schools which are also closed that day.

Zion Lutheran ECC will be making an operating software change. Prayerfully by the first week of December we will be moving from Smartcare to our new system Procure. We are anticipating many wonderful changes to communication between school and home. Procure will be a more user-friendly platform for parents and the staff.

The Board of Christian Education and the preschool staff would like to thank all our church and Early Childhood Center families for your overwhelming support through our fall pizza fundraiser. The profit of \$940.00 will be used for playground equipment, toys, and our tuition assistant program. Pizza delivery will take place the first week of November. The Early Childhood Center will celebrate our top sellers in the classroom this next month.

The Advent and Christmas season is quickly approaching. The children will be preparing for a couple of Christmas services. The four-year-old children have been invited to participate again this year in our Children's Christmas Service here at Zion. This service will be on Sunday,

December 10, at 11:00 a.m. Families will be invited for birthday cake and fellowship immediately following the service. Please mark your calendars.

The three-year-old children will be preparing a short Christmas song service Tuesday, December 19, at 10:30 a.m. We are planning a small fellowship time following in the gym. Please be sure to make a note of this important date too. Further details will be coming soon as well as sign-up sheets for parent assistance.



Christmas Program Jesus - God's Greatest Gift Sunday, December 10 11:00 a.m. at Zion

One of the basic tenants of teaching we teach from the Bible is this: everything in it really happened. Everyone involved actually lived, with all the same loves, fears, hopes and dreams we experience in our lives. God works through everyday people just like us. Whether we are farmers, teachers, kings, fishermen or parents, we are expected to "make disciples of all nations". Our hearts must be engaged in God's earthly mission. When we read or teach His Word both our hearts and minds must be focused. To do this we must be willing to 'revel' in the awe and wonder of the Living Word. In Ecclesiastes 12:13 we learn "it is the whole duty of man" to fear God and keep His commandments until it becomes our very life, 24-7. To live one's life in Christ becomes "a teachable moment". The way we live will show God's purpose to our children and everyone we meet. We are living in God's Word, and in a way, we are continuing the Bible Story every moment. We and our children are just as much a part of the Living Word as Adam, Moses and the disciples!

Brad Coulson
Sunday School Superintendent



Saturday
November 4

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Monthly Income & Expense Report
through September 30, 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$ 486,895.72	\$ 396,469.68
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 573,062.95</u>	<u>\$ 497,872.31</u>
YTD Balance	\$ (86,167.23)	\$ (101,402.63)

YTD General Fund Income	\$ 540,999.76	\$ 452,816.29
YTD Actual Expenses	<u>\$ 573,062.95</u>	<u>\$ 497,872.31</u>
YTD Income Less Expense	\$ (32,063.19)	\$ (45,056.02)

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's

providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

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. 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



Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, November 22

5:30 p.m. at Zion

Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 19

The Campus Board will host a Thanksgiving Dinner for students, Zion members, and internationals at CTK on Sunday, November 19 at 5:00 p.m.

Please join us!





MANY THANKS!

Holy Scripture: Guided Reading



Romans, Galatians, and Ephesians: Paul's Epistles are tremendous sources of hope and solid teaching for us in the Christian church, which also makes them tremendously comforting for us to read. They feed both soul and mind with the depth and power of his preaching. These three letters, written to the Christians living in three areas, show the passion Paul has for the truth of the pure Gospel along with his pastoral concern for the people to whom he has delivered that Gospel. Rejoice with Paul that what he believed, taught, and confessed is still believed, taught, and confessed among us!

Many of you have sent gifts, cards, and words of appreciation during Pastor Appreciation month, and we are humbled by your generosity. You've heard me say it before, but 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! "So far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." (Romans 12:18) Thank you! Your Pastors

Michigan March For Life

[From the Lutherans for Life of Michigan publicity:]

Join Us for the MI March for Life on November 8!

On Wednesday, November 8, thousands of people from across the state will descend on the Capitol lawn in Lansing to participate in the Michigan March for Life! The morning begins at 10:00 a.m. with a pre-rally concert on the lawn, followed by the rally at 11:00 a.m., then the march to the Hall of Justice at 12:00 p.m.

The one-year anniversary of the passage of anti-life, anti-women Proposal 3 is an opportunity to look forward and advocate for women and the unborn – to peacefully, publicly and enthusiastically stand for life.

We invite Michiganders from all political persuasions and backgrounds to participate in the November 8, March for Life in Lansing. Help us ensure a huge turnout on behalf of women and the unborn!"

Additionally, Lutherans For Life of Michigan will be hosting a brief event following the March at Hope Lutheran Church, Dewitt. All are welcome to share in refreshments as well as hear Rev. Michael Salemink from our national Lutherans For Life speak. Pastor Bakker is planning on attending, leaving Zion at 9:00 a.m. and returning by 4:00 p.m., so speak with him to coordinate transportation.

- Romans 1 – Those Justified by Faith Shall Live
- Romans 2 – God's Righteous Judgment
- Romans 3 – Justified by Faith, Apart from Works
- Romans 4 – Abraham Justified by Faith
- Romans 5 – Faith Triumphs through Christ
- Romans 6 – Dead to Sin, Alive to God
- Romans 7 – Freedom from Sin
- Romans 8 – Nothing can Rob us of God's Love
- Romans 9 – Israel's Rejection and God's Justice
- Romans 10 – Faith Comes by Hearing
- Romans 11 – God's Mercy for Israel Remains
- Romans 12 – Sacrificing Ourselves
- Romans 13 – Submit to the Authorities
Established by God
- Romans 14 – The Law of Liberty and Love
- Romans 15 – Bear One Another's Burdens
- Romans 16 – Greetings and a Warning
- Galatians 1 – One Gospel, Apostolic Credentials
- Galatians 2 – Defending the Pure Gospel
- Galatians 3 – Justification by Faith in the
Changeless Promise
- Galatians 4 – Freed by Christ from Slavery of the
Law
- Galatians 5 – Christian Liberty is True Liberty
- Galatians 6 – Glory in the Cross, Final Blessing
- Ephesians 1 – Redemption in Christ
- Ephesians 2 – By Grace Through Faith
- Ephesians 3 – The Mystery Revealed
- Ephesians 4 – Walk in Unity
- Ephesians 5 – Walk in Love
- Ephesians 6 – Walk in Christ

Zion Constitution and Bylaws - Followup!

In the October newsletter, you all were invited to our October quarterly Voter's assembly meeting, now past, with explanations about our various organizational structure. Here are a few memories as to how the various seven boards were established or history for our more recent members. Originally, our church's officers consisted of several elected men along with the pastor to serve on our Church Council with responsibilities to fulfill relative to education, elders, trustees, stewardship, evangelism, youth, treasurer, and secretary.

In January 14, 1981, a revised Constitution was adopted with a new set of Bylaws adopted April 5, 1981. What changed from the original Church Council? Zion decided to reorganize how more of our membership should actively participate in carrying out the mission of the church. Under a program adopted by Don Abdon, Zion reorganized how to carry out our mission by electing many more members to serve. This is the organization we have today.

With our current type of organization, many more church members are recruited. Our Bylaws identify the minimum number of members required for each board—not the maximum.

They outline explicitly what each board's responsibilities are on behalf of the members of Zion. Some boards have set times for meetings but if new members are recruited to attend, the various boards may need to assess their meeting times to assure all new members can attend.

However, as elected board members, you have the option to recruit non-elected members to assist you with the responsibility to which you have been assigned as a coordinator. Just call, explain what you are asking them to help with, how long it will be—one time or otherwise. For example, currently serving by being asked are ushers, greeters acolytes, altar (communion setup, cleanup, banners and seasonal clothes, candelabras), witness, kitchen committee and supplies, funeral dinner committee, visitation, quilting, custodians, fellowship events, and more. These volunteers serve to help keep Zion's worship services orderly and by providing support services. These committees exist because they fall under various board responsibilities.

Our congregation has many members who may be willing to serve if they are asked. It may need an explanation from you. Many members

represent the next generation who will have to step up to serve and continue to carry out the mission of our church. Look around to see members who are not serving. Ask them. Explain to them how they may help you. We need to continually involve and recruit more of our members for board service or to serve as you ask them. They represent the future generation, those who will need to carry on for many of us. Thank you all for serving the Lord as called! Also, thank your Called Pastors! (Dale D. Gust, Executive Director)

Campus Ministry Activities

All women and children are invited to the next International Women's Club gathering on *Saturday, November 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.* at the chapel. Feel free to bring food to share. If you're interested in learning about different cultures, trying new food, or connecting with other moms of young children, this is the group for you! We will try to meet at the chapel the second Saturday of the each month during the school year from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Each month, we hope to offer different activities. Please consider joining us!



Ladies' Bible Study

This month's Bible study will be **Saturday, November 11**. At that time, we will finish our study of Jonah. Please contact me if you missed September's study and would like the materials. All ladies are invited to attend, and as always, childcare can be provided with advance notice.

Anne Bakker annebakker@gmail.com



Men's Breakfast Bible Study
Saturday November 18
8:00 a.m. at Zion



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 4. Youth are reminded to help set up for Pie Day on Friday, November 3 at 6:00 p.m. **All pies ordered need to be picked up on November 4 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!

Dicken's Parade - Saturday, December 2

We are asking youth and preschool families to join us in the parade this year with our float. There will be a signup sheet out soon. See Luke Epple Jr. or Tina Roe with any interest or questions. More details will be in upcoming bulletins and the December newsletter.

FAMILY LIFE – EUCHRE TOURNNEY

Friday, November 10

Everyone confirmation age and older is welcome for an evening of cards, fun and fellowship at Zion! It will begin at 6:00 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.



Friday, November 17 Haven't had a date night with your spouse in a long while?

On Friday, November 17, 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 8:30 p.m. at Zion. Pizza will be provided. There will also be games, activities and movies for the kids. Sign-up sheets will be located at Zion and CTK. Donations are appreciated but not required.



NURSE'S NOTE:

What's the latest super food we should be eating? Here's what I found, not just one, but several of the top contenders. Of course we need to eat a diverse, balanced diet containing the following. This information was taken from "Good Food Is Good Medicine"

1 Corinthians 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

FISH: Eat plenty of fish, which are high in healthy omega 3 fatty acids, and smaller portions of red meat to reduce your risk of diseases like stroke, heart disease and cancer.

Broccoli and similar: These foods in the cabbage family are rich in nutrients including glucosinolates, which are key in detoxification processes. These are best served raw or quick-steamed for five to ten minutes.

Beets: No matter which color – red, yellow, golden – or which part – root or greens – they contain a wonderful variety of protective carotenoids. Evidence suggests their dietary nitrates can be converted to nitric oxide and improve endurance exercise.

Spinach and other leafy greens: These are packed with lutein and zeaxanthin: nutrients that can help protect against macular degeneration.

Almonds and nut butter: Almonds have a lot of vitamin E, which protects against macular degeneration as well as cataracts. Peanut butter is rich in a variety of nutrients. For the best health benefits from peanut butter, look for all-natural products without added ingredients.

Blueberries: They contain resveratrol protecting the body against damage that can put you at higher risk for things like cancer and heart disease. Like red wine without the alcohol, hangover or extra calories.

Chocolate: There is nothing wrong with an occasional dietary reward, which is why chocolate is so often thought of as a 'health food' as long as you don't get into the habit of comfort eating. The recommended "dose" is approximately 1 to 2 ounces or 30-60g. of dark chocolate.

God Bless,
Phillis Daws RN, BSN
989.621.8583 or zionparishnurse@gmail.com



NO coffee/dessert hour this month

**The Word: Wisdom for Living
... Listen Up!**

In the Word

“And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways. Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.” (Proverbs 8:32–33).

Of the Word

“Turn. That. Thing. Down!” came Dad’s sharp words when the radio blared. “Change the channel! Now!” was Mom’s direction when the TV show was too steamy for young minds. Today’s noises come from more sources — movies, video games, and social media. Some noises are so loud they even cause eardamage.

How can the world’s noises be turned off before they cause even more damage: heart and mind damage? God’s instruction is... listen to me (Proverbs 8:32). He directs His people to think ... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable... (Philippians 4:8b). When these good things fill hearts and minds, God promises His blessings.... the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7). A Point to Ponder: What noises are interfering with my time for listening to God?

Walking with my Lord

Dear Heavenly Father, help me to avoid the noises and distractions that pull me away from You. Give me wisdom to choose what is good and right for me. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Calendar of Events

NOTE: Our group is trying to generate different activities and speakers, but we need your input. If you have ideas, please contact Kathy Nims at 989-294-1373.

MITES, MITES. MITES: Do you have pockets of change? Remember our mite box is looking for loose change. Dig in those pockets and pull out that extra change. Our new goal for the next biennium is over \$386,000. Wow! We can DO it!

LWML Veterans Day fellowship and Coffee Hour – November 12 after the first service. This fellowship will honor our veterans that have served. LWML will provide a cake!

Bazaar/Cookie Walk – Saturday, December 2
Decorating will be at 4:00 p.m. on December 1. Cards will go out soon regarding the number of decorated Christmas cookies needed. These are Christmas decorated cookies which are sold to the public. If you have questions, please call Kathleen Nims at (989) 294-1373, Chair of the Cookie Walk.

Quilting Group Every Tuesday at Zion 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon; 12:00 – 1:00 (lunch) and 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. come as you wish!
THANK YOU – to Mike Walton and Dale Gust for taking our 110 quilts and clothes up to Orphan Grain Train. It is greatly appreciated.

GENERAL MEETING – NOVEMBER 18
9:30 am. (brunch) with meeting to follow
Servant event: clipping stamps, bring scissors!

Orphan Grain Train - Continue to place clothing that is clean and in good condition in the containers at Zion. Please put items in small bags or garbage bags. However do not overfill large bags.

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

